

# The Global Impact of Fast Fashion

By: Jesse P., 11th Grade, Calhoun School

The background of the image shows a massive, colorful pile of discarded clothing and fabric, likely from fast fashion, overflowing from a building. In the foreground, there is a large, light purple, irregularly shaped text box. At the bottom of this box, there are three stylized green leaves. The overall scene suggests a critique of the fast fashion industry's waste.

# What is Fast Fashion?

The mass production of cheap & trendy clothes in order to meet customer demand. This method uses cheap materials and labor, both often of poor quality.

# The Problem with Fast Fashion

...

From the planet to human rights



# The Facts

The average American throws away 70 pounds of clothing each year.

## Waste



Most fast fashion brands are not paying their workers legal minimum wage.

## Wages

**FALSE**

The average American wears a garment only 7 time before getting rid of it.

## TRUE OR FALSE



Garment workers are often forced to work 14 to 16 hours a day.

## HOW MANY?



# Clothing Materials and Waste



## Materials • • •

- Synthetic fibers can take up to 200 years to decompose
- 700,000 microfibers are released during each wash of a synthetic fabric
- 20,000 liters of water are used to produce 1 kg of cotton
  - 1 kg makes 4-6 t shirts

## Jeans • • •

- One pair of jeans requires up to 8 gallons of water to be made.
- 22,000 liters of toxic waste from clothing production are dumped into the rivers of Bangladesh everyday

### Synthetic

- Polyester
- Acrylic
- Spandex
- Elastane
- Rayon
- Nylon

### Natural

- Cotton
- Silk
- Wool
- Cashmere
- Hemp
- Ramie

- Inexpensive
- Wrinkle-Free
- Moisture Wicking
- Low Maintenance

PROS

Synthetic  
Fiber  
Fabrics

CONS

- Non-Biodegradable
- Man-Made
- Prone to heat damage
- Uses Harsh Chemicals

- Hypoallergenic
- Breathable
- Light Shedding
- Biodegradable

PROS

Natural  
Fiber  
Fabrics

CONS

- Prone to shrinking
- Delicate
- Holds Moisture
- Expensive



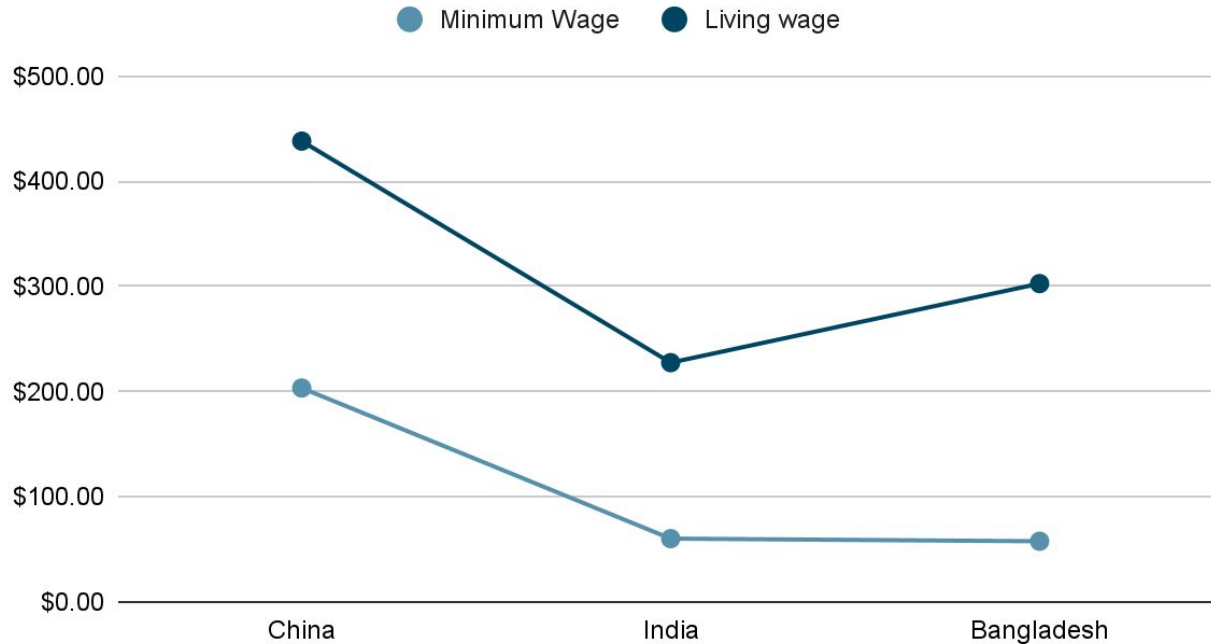
...

# 88,000,000,000

Garments are produced each year

# Living Wage Vs Minimum Wage

## Average Monthly Salaries



## Minimum Wage

The lowest wage that employers can legally pay their employees.

## Living Wage

The minimum income necessary for a worker to meet their basic needs.



# What Can YOU Do?

## Shop Second-Hand

Go to your local goodwill or thrift-shop next time you're looking for clothing. Lots of trends are inspired by vintage clothing!

## Swap Clothing with a Friend

You and a friend may have similar style. Ask a friend if they want your clothing before you throw it away.

## Shop Consciously

Think about how often you are buying new clothing and how that brand makes their clothes.



# My Clothing Swap!

I will be hosting a Clothing Swap for the Upper School on the 27th of October!

- Members of the community are encouraged to bring in clothing without stains and/or holes
- They will receive community service time and the ability to get clothing free of charge at the clothing swap
- If you don't have any clothing to donate, it is pay as you wish for the clothing
  - The money will be donated back into the community

<https://sites.google.com/calhoun.org/clothing-swap/home>

DONATE CLOTHING FOR THE UPPER SCHOOL

## CLOTHING SWAP

To combat the environmental impact of fast fashion

**BRING CLOTHING TO  
OUTSIDE  
ROOM 411 OR THE SENIOR  
AREA**

MAKE SURE IT IS CLOTHING YOU WOULD WEAR YOURSELF  
The swap itself will be on Wednesday, October 27.

### WE ACCEPT:

- Sweaters
- Tops
- Dresses
- Skirts

### PLEASE NO:

- Pants & Jeans
- Holes & Stains
- Accessories

**All clothing should be in one bag with your full name and grade on it.**

**(This is so you can get clothing free of charge and community service time)**

Email [jesse.principe23@calhoun.org](mailto:jesse.principe23@calhoun.org) if you have any questions!

# Resources-

## Donate Clothing!

- <https://www.thredup.com/cleanout>
- <https://wearpact.com/campaign/givebackbox>

## Sell clothing!

- <https://www.depop.com/>
- <https://poshmark.com/feed>

## Sustainable Brands!

- <https://www.aritzia.com/us/en/default>
- <https://cariuma.com/>
- <https://www.glamour.com/story/sustainable-fashion-brands>

## Learn more!

- <https://www.sustainably-chic.com/blog/fast-fashion-brands-to-avoid>
- <https://thriftworld.com/blog/article/how-thrifting-is-helping-the-environment>
- <https://www.treehugger.com/fast-fashion-environmental-ethical-issues-4869800>