



4. Pass sweatshop-free government procurement policies in your community.

Governments are the largest purchasers of goods and services in the world. We can use the government's buying power to help build the market for green/fair goods by convincing institutional buyers to commit to purchasing sweatfree products. Our tax dollars pay, for example, for police and fire department uniforms, so let's ensure they're not supporting sweatshops!

Three steps to get started:

Step One

Build a Coalition of diverse, established organizations, such as

- Community groups that represent sweatshop workers
- AFL-CIO locals
- Faith-based communities
- Student groups, such as United Students Against Sweatshops



Step Two

Investigate what and from where the government purchases and launders its goods and services, depending on the scope of the proposed ordinance. You can start with the Model Sweatfree Purchasing Policy for US Institutions (see "Downloads" at www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/sweatshops).

Step Three

Meet and Negotiate with Local Politicians. Involve sympathetic elected officials at the beginning. No politician wants to be known for supporting sweatshops! Eventually, you will want to hold a public hearing.

Contact Global Exchange at 415-558-6938 or Valerie@globalexchange.org for a detailed how-to guide and more resources on passing sweatshop-free policies.

National Anti-Sweatshop Organizations:

Global Exchange

www.globalexchange.org 800-497-1994

Campaign for Labor Rights

www.campaignforlaborrights.org 202-544-9355

Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras

www.Coalitionforjustice.net 210-732-8957

Co-op America

www.coopamerica.org 800-58-GREEN

International Labor Rights Fund

www.laborrights.org 202-347-4100

Maquila Solidarity Network

www.maquilasolidarity.org 416-532-8584

National Labor Committee

www.nlcnet.org 212-242-3002

Sweatshop Watch

www.sweatshopwatch.org 213-748-5945

SweatFree Communities

www.sweatfree.org 207-262-7277

UNITE HERE

www.unitehere.org 212-265-7000

United Students Against Sweatshops

www.usasnet.org 202-no-sweat

United Students For Fair Trade

www.usft.org

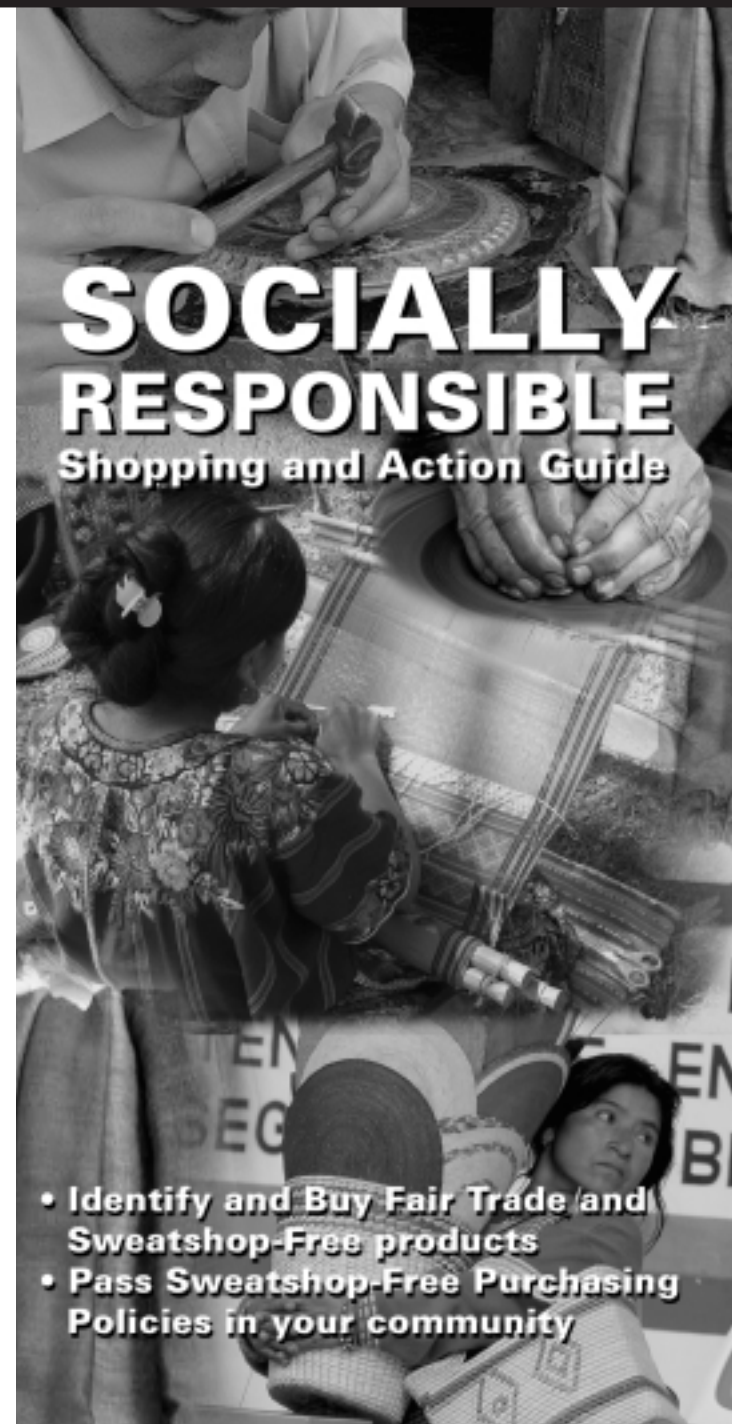
U.S. Labor Education in the Americas Project

www.usleap.org 773-262-6502

Workers Rights Consortium

www.workersrights.org 202-387-4884

For a more complete list of Anti-Sweatshop Organizations, please visit: www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/sweatshops/links.html.



SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE

Shopping and Action Guide

- Identify and Buy Fair Trade and Sweatshop-Free products
- Pass Sweatshop-Free Purchasing Policies in your community





What is a sweatshop?

The U.S. General Accounting Office defines a sweatshop as “an employer that violates more than one federal or state labor, industrial homework, occupational safety and health, workers’ compensation, or industry registration law.” Most goods manufactured in poor nations—from electronic equipment to children’s toys—are produced under conditions where workers are subject to extreme exploitation, including absence of a living wage or benefits, poor working conditions, such as health and safety hazards, and arbitrary discipline. To make matters worse, when workers try to stand up for their rights and form independent unions, they suffer harassment and repression.

Sweatshops are also prevalent in the United States where, the U.S. Department of Labor estimates, more than half of the sewing shops violate minimum wage and overtime laws and 75% of garment shops violate safety and health laws. In Los Angeles, 61% of all garment factories that sew on “Made in USA” labels violate minimum wage laws and 75% violate health and safety codes.

Why do sweatshops exist?

Sweatshops exist because transnational corporations are determined to find the cheapest labor possible—no matter what the human cost. With industry pressure to increase profits for shareholders and turn corporate executives into millionaires, corporations claim they are forced to move production to the global south or across state boundaries in order to be competitive. Corporations move jobs to countries with lower wages and bust unionization drives with threats to transfer production to countries where workers are even more desperate.

Wage Examples for Apparel Workers*

	Average Wage/hour	Living Wage/hour
China	23 cents	83 cents
Haiti	30 cents	58 cents
Nicaragua	23 cents	80 cents

* Statistics from National Labor Committee

What You Can Do

1. Buy Fair Trade and Sweatshop-Free Products

Look for:



Fair Trade Federation logo and TransFair USA certification labels guarantee that producers organized into democratic cooperatives receive a fair wage for their products, such as crafts, coffee, chocolate, tea and fresh fruit. Visit www.fairtradefederation.net, www.transfairusa.org, and www.globalexchangestore.org



UNITE!, UFCW, No Sweat and other union made labels certify that the clothing was made in a unionized factory under fair labor conditions. Visit www.nosweat-apparel.com and www.ShopUnionMade.org to select from a list of union-made products (includes business apparel!). Also visit www.sweatshopwatch.org/sweatfree, which includes cooperative-made apparel.

Worker Cooperatives are collectively owned by the workers themselves. Workers have control over their own wages and labor conditions, such as:

- **Maggie’s Organics** www.organicclothes.com
800-609-8593
- **Market Place India** www.marketplaceindia.org
800-736-8905
- **Fuerza Unida** www.fuerzaunida.freeservers.com
210-927-2294

Buy Used Clothing from consignment or thrift stores. Donate unwanted clothing.

2. Host Chie Abad,

former sweatshop worker and powerful speaker, to speak in your community and to activate your Sweatshop Free Campaign! Contact speakers@globalexchange.org or 415-575-5550.



3. Demand Corporate

Accountability from clothing companies and other corporations that are driving the “race to the bottom.” Insist that they pay workers a living wage and support workers’ right to organize!

Join Current Corporate Campaigns Against

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Cintas | www.uniformjustice.org |
| Forever 21 | www.garmentworkercenter.org |
| Gildan | www.workersrights.org |
| WalMart | www.uncw.org/issues_and_actions |



Sign up for more information by sending a blank e-mail to nosweat-subscribe@globalexchange.org or visiting www.globalexchange.org/getInvolved/lists.html