

# THE ALLIANCE FOR BANGLADESH WORKER SAFETY

## **Statement of Purpose by Leaders of the Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety**

As leaders in the apparel industry, we understand the complex challenges that surround the garment industry in Bangladesh. Many of our organizations have worked individually to improve safety and training for garment workers. We also know that the Bangladesh garment industry (which employs millions of workers, roughly 80 percent of whom are women) provides invaluable economic opportunity in the country.

The safety record of Bangladeshi factories is unacceptable and requires our collective effort. We can prevent future tragedies by consolidating and amplifying our individual efforts to bring about real and sustained progress.

To this end, we are announcing the establishment of the Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety and the launch of the Bangladesh Worker Safety Initiative. These efforts constitute a binding, five-year undertaking that will be transparent, results-oriented, measurable and verifiable.

Accomplishing the Initiative's rigorous objectives will require an equally significant commitment of leadership, resources and funding. Therefore, Alliance Members have agreed to share our knowledge, experiences and best practices, to collectively contribute to a safety fund that is currently \$42 million and growing, and to also provide access to substantial low-cost capital for factory improvements.

Our common purpose is to move swiftly, minimize bureaucracy and work in collaboration with all interested parties to raise standards across the board. We seek to include the government of Bangladesh, its garment industry and its workers, and other international organizations who share these goals. This shared commitment is evidenced by our adoption of accountability and transparency as our guiding principles. We will use third-party experts to verify Alliance Members' activities under the Initiative, publicly report results and milestones, and engage oversight by a Board of Directors that includes stakeholder members and an independent Chair.

We believe the partnership and collaboration are critical to our success. We are committed to working with other global brands and key stakeholders in order to achieve swift change. We'll use the power of this newly created Alliance to find other sources of funding to support additional infrastructure improvement, including working closely with government agencies around the world.

Together we will significantly improve worker safety and contribute to the long-term viability of this important Bangladeshi industry.

*Signed by the following Members and supporters of the Alliance:*

## Buyers

**Stephen G. Wetmore**

*President and Chief Executive Officer*  
Canadian Tire Corporation, Limited

**Michael D. Casey**

*Chief Executive Officer*  
Carter's, Inc.

**Jane Elfers**

*Chief Executive Officer*  
The Children's Place Retail Stores Inc.

**Glenn Murphy**

*Chairman and Chief Executive Officer*  
Gap, Inc.

**Richard Baker**

*Chief Executive Officer*  
Hudson's Bay Company

**Ronnie Adjmi**

*President*  
IFG Corp

**Myron E. (Mike) Ullman, III**

*Chief Executive Officer*  
J.C. Penney Company Inc.

**Wesley R. Card**

*Chief Executive Officer*  
The Jones Group Inc.

**Kevin Mansell**

*Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer*  
Kohl's Department Stores

**Christopher J. McCormick**

*President & Chief Executive Officer*  
L.L. Bean Inc.

**Terry Lundgren**

*Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer*  
Macy's

**Pete Nordstrom**

*President of Merchandising*  
Nordstrom Inc.

**Dan Shamdasani**

*Chief Executive Officer*  
Public Clothing Company

**Edward S. Lampert**

*Chairman and Chief Executive Officer*  
Sears Holdings Corporation

**Gregg W. Steinhafel**

*Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer*  
Target Corporation

**Eric C. Wiseman**

*Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer*  
VF Corporation

**Mike Duke**

*President & Chief Executive Officer*  
Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

## Associations

**Kevin M. Burke**

*President & Chief Executive Officer*  
American Apparel & Footwear Association

**Bob Kirke**

*Executive Director*  
Canadian Apparel Federation

**Matthew Shay**

*President & Chief Executive Officer*  
National Retail Federation

**Diane J. Brisebois**

*President & Chief Executive Officer*  
Retail Council of Canada

**Sandra L. Kennedy**

*President*  
Retail Industry Leaders Association

**Julia K. Hughes**

*President*  
United States Association of Importers of  
Textiles & Apparel