

Esprit Response re. Forced labour in factories in Xinjiang, China
26 July 2019

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited Esprit to respond to the following item:

“Cotton On and Target investigate suppliers after forced labour of Uyghurs exposed in China's Xinjiang”, ABC News, 17 July 2019: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/201907-15/uyghur-forced-labour-xinjiang-china/11298750>

Esprit sent us the following response:

Esprit's principle has always been to operate in accordance with the highest social standards. The working conditions within factories in our supply chain are important and we strive to ensure that our products are made under conditions that treat workers fairly and with respect.

Therefore, we take the allegations of forced labor in factories in Xinjiang, China, very seriously and have carried out several investigations. We have concluded that a very small amount of cotton from the Huafu factory in Aksu, Xinjiang was used in a limited number of Esprit garments. Consequently, we have instructed all suppliers to not source yarn from that factory. Esprit does not tolerate the use of forced labor in its supply chain. Such practices are prohibited and are strictly against our Esprit Supplier Code of Conduct.