Dear Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

adidas’ response to research findings published by the Australian Strategic Policy Institution

Thank you for providing adidas with an opportunity to respond to recent media reports and NGO enquiries about the Australian Strategic Policy Institution’s (ASPI’s) research findings.

adidas is treating the allegations detailed in the ASPI report very seriously, as we are the overall situation that is impacting the rights and freedoms of minority ethnic groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) of China.

As a company, we strictly prohibit the use of all forms of forced labor, including prison labor, in our supply chain. Moreover, we do not permit our suppliers to hire dispatch workers, or any other forms of labor, through government-managed schemes in China, including those operated by the XUAR authorities. This has been our approach for more than a decade.

Based on our investigations to date we can confirm that we hold no direct contractual relationship with any of the named businesses.

In spring 2019, we explicitly required our materials suppliers not to buy yarn from the Xinjiang region. That included a prohibition on sourcing yarn from Huafu Top Dyed Melange Yarn Co. Ltd, which produces in that region.

We can confirm that Haoyuanpeng Clothing Manufacturing Co. Ltd is neither an active nor authorized entity in our supply chain. We have engaged directly with the factory’s management team and they have issued adidas with an apology, for having falsely displayed adidas logos on their website and building. These have now been removed.

We do not produce goods in Qingdao Jifa Huajin Garment Co. Ltd. It is not an approved or authorized supplier for adidas. We have reached out to the parent company, Jifa, to understand more.

The above actions form part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that there are no supply chain linkages to XUAR, or to the export of labor from this region. Those efforts include close engagement with the Fair Labor Association, which has called on its affiliates to develop timebound plans to address forced labor risks related to Xinjiang [see Link], and our collaboration with industry associations in North America, who have recently issued a Statement [see Link] on this matter.
We continue to work closely with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, to address the issues raised in the ASPI report.

Sincerely,

William Anderson
Vice President, Global
Social & Environmental Affairs