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Apple, Unilever and Thai Union among shortlisted candidates for The Stop Slavery Award

Thomson Reuters Foundation names six businesses leading the way worldwide in efforts to fight forced labour

(October 4, 2018) – London, [The Thomson Reuters Foundation](#), the philanthropic arm of the world's biggest news and information provider, today revealed the six companies shortlisted for its annual [Stop Slavery Award](#).

The Award, launched in 2015, is the first global recognition for businesses that have set a gold standard in efforts to eradicate forced labour from their supply chains. Winners will be announced at the Thomson Reuters Foundation's annual human rights forum [Trust Conference](#), on November 14, in London.

Apple, Unilever and Thai Union are amongst the biggest global brands selected from a number of high-profile companies representing a range of industries from fashion to financial services to fossil fuels. The winning companies will receive a sculpture designed by artist Anish Kapoor. The artwork, created by Kapoor especially for the initiative, was first unveiled at the inaugural Awards ceremony at 2016's conference.

Thomson Reuters Foundation CEO Monique Villa said: *"When we launched this award, we were clear about our goal: we wanted businesses to take the lead in fighting modern slavery, a crime that affects most corporations in every continent. This has happened with companies increasing their efforts year after year.*

"The Stop Slavery Award recognises the courage and commitment of corporates going above and beyond what is expected by law. These companies have set the bar high, and by sharing best practices, they are paving the way for a transformation in supply chain transparency and management," she added.

The full shortlist for the 2018 Stop Slavery Award is:

(In alphabetical order)

ABP UK
Apple
Outland Denim
Standard Chartered PLC
Thai Union Group PCL
Unilever



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The selection process:

All applicants completed a questionnaire for either Service Companies or Goods Companies, based on an original questionnaire developed with experts in the field and in partnership with global law firm Baker McKenzie. It highlights best practice in corporate commitment, accountability and transparency, responsible recruitment, supplier/customer/business partner engagement, grievance mechanisms, monitoring and corrective action, stakeholder engagement and innovation.

Submissions to the Award were assessed by an independent third party, Uplift Worldwide, using specific criteria based on existing standards and best practices to score the applicants.

Uplift Worldwide developed a decision matrix to assess the submissions and compared company responses to assessment criteria that identified a company's practice as leading, base compliant, or lagging on a scale of 1-10 with individual weighting per question. The assessment criteria was developed using a combination of existing standards (e.g. UK Modern Slavery Act, US Federal Acquisition Requirements) and best practices (e.g. 2016 Know the Chain Benchmarking Methodology, 2016 Business Authentication Criteria).

The judging panel:

The shortlisted candidates will now be selected by a judging board comprising Nobel Peace Prize Winner Kailash Satyarthi; Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus H. Vance Jr; former UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner Kevin Hyland; Executive Director of Human Rights Watch Kenneth Roth; Professor in Human Rights and International Affairs at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government John Ruggie; International Criminal Prosecutor Patricia Sellers; and Thomson Reuters Foundation CEO Monique Villa.

The UN's International Labour Organization and Walk Free Foundation estimate that today there are 40.3 million slaves. ILO adds that forced labour generates \$150 billion in illegal profits every year.

About the Thomson Reuters Foundation

The Thomson Reuters Foundation acts to promote the highest standards in journalism and spread the practice of legal pro bono worldwide. The organisation runs initiatives that inform, connect and empower people around the world: access to free legal assistance, editorial coverage of the world's under-reported news, media development and training, and the Trust Conference.



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