



THOMSON REUTERS
FOUNDATION

adidas, Co-op, Intel and C&A win Stop Slavery Award

Thomson Reuters Foundation confers prestigious award to businesses leading the way in global fight against forced labour

London (November 15, 2017) – The [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#), the philanthropic arm of the world's biggest news and information provider, today unveiled the companies who have scooped this year's [Stop Slavery Award](#).

Now in its second year, the Award recognises businesses that have set a gold standard in efforts to eradicate forced labour from their supply chains. From a shortlist of 15 including Walmart and Nestlé, the winners were announced at the Thomson Reuters Foundation's annual human rights forum, [Trust Conference](#), at a prestigious ceremony on November 15, in London.

adidas was revealed as 'Outstanding Achiever' by the judging panel, while The Co-operative Group, Intel Corporation and C&A were also presented with Stop Slavery Awards – individual sculptures designed by world-renowned artist Anish Kapoor for the initiative.

The Judging Board unanimously agreed that overall winner adidas had excelled in every judging category. In particular its submission stood out in the Transparency and Industry Action and Robust Practices Initiatives categories.

The multi-national sportswear manufacturer was praised for leading a number of corporate engagement initiatives, and the judges commended the transparency of its audits, and its strong responsible sourcing guidelines, as well as its robust tools to trace higher-risk supply chains.

International fashion retailers **C&A** were presented with a Stop Slavery Award for 'going beyond compliance standards in all categories'. It was described by the jury as "exemplary" for the transparency used to address and resolve issues found in its supply chain. In particular, this company also stood out for embedding anti-slavery into its overall business practice.

The Co-operative Group was honoured for having excelled in business partnership engagement and for having demonstrated excellence in supplier engagement and capacity building. It was praised for supporting victims of modern slavery through its "Bright Future" programme, which aims to provide opportunities for employment. In 2017, the programme will offer at least 30 survivors the opportunity of a paid work placement, potentially leading to a job offer.

Finally, US technology company **Intel Corporation** was awarded for its outstanding work in demonstrating and implementing innovation across its programmes. Judges in particular recognised an initiative which leverages the company's analytics and uses Artificial Intelligence to disrupt child sexual exploitation. This initiative is conducted in partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Intel Corporation was also honoured for its open discussion of its anti-slavery efforts, and the company has refused new business with several suppliers who have failed to implement measures to combat slavery.



THOMSON REUTERS
FOUNDATION

In addition to the winners, the Judging Board this year gave honourable mention to security business **FSI Worldwide** for its efforts in preventing slavery through fair and ethical recruitment.

“Fighting slavery is not just a moral obligation. It is a business imperative,” said Monique Villa, CEO of the Thomson Reuters Foundation. *“Our Stop Slavery Award winners this year have demonstrated that no matter how vast and complex your supply chain, and no matter how globally recognised your brand, corporations can indeed take giant steps towards ensuring their company is not tainted by slavery. In doing so, they are blazing a trail for companies all over the world to show the same courage in following suit. Without the might of businesses, we will never win the fight against modern slavery. But in recognising the great achievements of these corporations, we remain hopeful of great progress.”*

“At adidas, our core belief is that through sport, we have the power to change lives. This is what unites us. And it becomes particularly relevant when we talk about the impact we have with our sustainability work,” said Gil Steyaert, Executive Board Member Global Operations, adidas. *“Fair working conditions are imperative and we will continue our efforts to drive positive change in our industry.”*

“We are honoured to receive the 2017 Stop Slavery Award and yet humbled by the challenges that the apparel industry faces in implementing effective measures that tackle the deep-rooted systemic causes of forced and bonded labour,” said Jeffrey Hogue, Chief Sustainability Officer of C&A. *“More collaboration with other brands, industry change makers like C&A Foundation, governments and civil society is needed to implement impactful programmes tailored to the unique challenges in each country and region where apparel is sourced.”*

“This award reflects the important work in this area and we’re very proud to receive it,” said Pippa Wicks, the Deputy CEO of the Co-operative Group: *“We want to go further than our own supply chains in tackling modern slavery. We want to make a difference to the lives of survivors and encourage others to make a difference. This heinous crime will only be stopped by Government, businesses and society working together to tackle the issue.”*

“We are honoured to be recognised for our progress in identifying and eradicating forced and bonded labour in our supply chain,” said Jackie Sturm, Intel Global Supply Management GM and Technology & Manufacturing Group Vice President. *“Since we began our efforts, we’ve helped improve the lives of more than 20,000 workers through supplier and supplier agent reimbursement in excess of \$3.5M in fees, returned passports, better contract terms and improved living conditions. Through our partnerships with other companies and our engagement with the Responsible Labor Initiative, we envision a supply chain where all workers are treated with dignity and respect.”*

“It takes tremendous courage to tackle the issue of slavery in supply chains,” said Christie Constantine, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility at Baker McKenzie. *Every company submitting for these awards is engaging with the issue head on and has made a huge commitment starting at the top to do what is needed.”*

The full shortlist for the Stop Slavery Award 2017 is:

(In alphabetical order)



THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

adidas
Aldi UK
Barclays Bank Plc
C&A
CH2M
The Co-operative Group
Fortescue Metals Group (FMG)
Intel Corporation
Marks & Spencer
Marshalls Plc
MGM China Holdings Ltd
Nestlé S.A.
Shiva Hotels
Waitrose
Walmart Stores, Inc.

The selection process:

All applicants completed an extensive questionnaire developed in partnership with global law firm Baker McKenzie, and experts in the field. It highlights best practice in issues such as corporate commitment and reporting, performance management, business partner engagement, risk assessment and investigation and remediation.

Submissions to the Award have been 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; Britain's Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner Kevin Hyland; Executive Director of Human Rights Watch Kenneth Roth; International Criminal Prosecutor Patricia Sellers; and Thomson Reuters Foundation CEO Monique Villa.

The UN's International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates forced labour generates \$150 billion in illegal profits every year. The ILO, together with international anti-slavery NGO Walk Free Foundation and the International Organization for Migration, estimates 40.3 million people are trapped in modern slavery around the world.

About the Thomson Reuters Foundation

The Thomson Reuters Foundation acts to promote the highest standards in journalism and spread excellence in the practice of legal pro bono across the globe. The organisation runs initiatives that inform, connect and empower people around the world: access to free legal



**THOMSON REUTERS
FOUNDATION**

assistance, media development and training, editorial coverage of the world's under-reported news, and the Trust Conference.

For more information about the initiative:

Antonio Zappulla

Chief Operating Officer

Reuters Foundation

Office: [+44 20 7542 1815](tel:+442075421815)

Mobile: [+44 7778524424](tel:+447778524424)

antonio.zappulla@thomsonreuters.com

To arrange interviews with Monique Villa:

Jenny Vereker

Deputy Communications Director

Thomson Reuters Foundation

Office: [+442075428111](tel:+442075428111)

Mobile: [+447932966331](tel:+447932966331)

jenny.vereker@thomsonreuters.com