



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**BRITISH FASHION COUNCIL AND UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PARTNERSHIPS COLLABORATE ON THE AWARD FOR POSITIVE CHANGE AT THE FASHION AWARDS 2019**

The British Fashion Council (BFC) is delighted to announce a collaboration with the United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP) that will recognise businesses and individuals in fashion that make concerted efforts to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year, this collaborative initiative will celebrate the Signatories of The Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action, convened and facilitated by the UN Climate Change. In 2018, fashion stakeholders worked to identify ways in which the broader textile, clothing and fashion industry can move towards a holistic and ambitious commitment on climate action and other SDGs. As a result, The [Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Industry%20Charter%20%20Fashion%20and%20Climate%20Action%20-%2022102018.pdf) (the Charter) was launched at UN Climate Conference in Katowice, Poland (COP 24) with the mission to align the industry with the goals of the Paris Agreement and drive the Fashion Industry to net-zero emissions no later than 2050. Through the Award for Positive Change at The Fashion Awards 2019, the Signatories are to be recognised today, on the opening day of COP25 in Madrid, Spain. This award will recognize their leadership in addressing one of the most urgent issues of our time – climate change.

The United Nations, including the UN Climate Change have encouraged political and industry leaders globally to act on the SDGs. Earlier this year, French President Emmanuel Macron, ahead of the G7 Summit requested that Francois-Henri Pinault, Kering Chair and CEO, spearhead the Fashion Pact, focusing on science-based targets for the climate, biodiversity and oceans - key work that complements the Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action.

Going forward, each year, the BFC, working with UNOP, will recognise those making a distinct impact with the Award for Positive Change which sits in line with the SDGs.

**Caroline Rush, BFC Chief Executive,** commented: *“This year has been a catalyst to set leadership and industry-wide international collaboration like never before. With the Award for Positive Change, we want to recognise those businesses who mobilised our industry in as little as a year. We know that alongside the signatories of The Fashion Industry Charter, there are many great initiatives globally already in action – and our aim at the BFC is to continue to work in support of the United Nations in celebrating those that are setting new standards upholding the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Celebrating those businesses that have joined the Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action and working collaboratively to find climate solutions is just the start.”*

*“Our Office is proud to collaborate with the BFC and support their valuable work on mobilizing the fashion industry as a driver for positive change. By joining forces, we can leverage the creativity and talent of leaders within the fashion industry to make the Sustainable Development Goals a reality. The Charter, as the first initiative to be recognized by the Award for Positive Change, represents the unprecedented mobilization of the fashion industry on SDG13 – Climate Action. In doing so, we hope that others may follow suit, so that success stories are scaled, and commitment is catalysed to promote models and practice that work for people and planet” -* **Robert Skinner, Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships.**

All attendees at The Fashion Awards will see the SDGs brought to life through #TOGETHERBAND, a non-profit campaign that champions the SDGs for a sustainable future and is a partnership between sustainable accessories brand BOTTLETOP, the UN Foundation and UBS. The #TOGETHERBAND friendship bands for each Goal made from upcycled ocean plastic and repurposed illegal fire-arm metal will be available to guests on the evening.

The Fashion Awards is the main fundraiser for the BFC’s charitable and talent support work. The BFC is a not for profit organisation focused on promoting excellence in British fashion and supporting the future pipeline of creative talent. The BFC’s work is achieved through a range of charitable initiatives which focus on education, business and mentoring schemes that support talent from school level, and emerging designers, to fashion start-ups and established brands. In 2018, the BFC raised over £2.3 million for its charities and business support initiatives, out of which £1.1 million will be allocated directly to scholars and designer businesses. The remaining money will go towards building an endowment to secure support for future generations.

**– END –**

Join the conversation: #FashionAwards

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**SIGNATORIES OF THE FASHION INDUSTRY CHARTER FOR CLIMATE ACTION:**

A. P. Møller-Mærsk A/S, A.Ş, Adidas AG, ALDO Group,American & Efird (HK) Ltd., American Eagle Outfitters, Anko, Aquitex S.A., Arc'teryx, Salomon, ASICS Corporation, BerBrand Srl, Burberry, CAPRANEA SPORTS AG, Chenfeng Group Co., Circular Systems SPC, Clover Group International Ltd, Craghoppers Ltd., DBL Group, DECATHLON, Denim Expert Limited, El Corte Inglés, SA., Elevate Textiles, Esprit, Evea Eco Fashion, Farfetch, Lever Style Inc., Fenix Outdoor International AG, GANNI, GANT AB, Gap Inc., G-Star RAW., Guess?, Inc., H&M group, Hanbo Enterprises Ltd., Hong Kong Non-Woven Fabric Ind. Co. Ltd., Hop Lun (Hong Kong) Ltd., Hugo Boss AG, Inditex, John Smedley Ltd, Kering Group, KiK Textilien und Non-Food GmbH, Kmart Australia Limited, Lenzing AG, Levi Strauss & Co, LIMY Inc dba Reformation, Loomstate, Hansoll Textile Ltd., K-Boxing, Mammut sports Group AG, Mantis World, Mulberry Group plc., New Balance Athletics, Inc., NIKE Inc, Otto Group, Pattern SpA., Peak Performance Production AB, PIDIGI S.P.A., Pinneco Research Ltd., PUMA SE, PVH Corp, Re:newcell AB, Regatta Group, Reserva, RT Knits Ltd, S.A., COFREET, Schoeller Texti AG, SKFK-Skunkfunk, Hakro GmbH, SLN Tekstil ve Moda San. Tic. Stella McCartney, Sympatex Technologies GmbH, TAL Apparel Ltd., Target Australia, Target Corporation, Textil Santanderina, The RealReal, The Renewal Workshop, The Schneider Group, TINTEX Textiles, S.A., Tropic Knits Ltd, VF Corporation, Vivida Lifestyle Ltd, Worn Again.

**SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS INCLUDE:**

Amfori, Condé Nast, Apparel Impact Institute, Australian Fashion Council, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA), Better Cotton Initiative, Bluesign, Business for Social Responsibilities (BSR), China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC), China Textile Information Center (CTIC), Earthworm Foundation, Fashion for Good, Fashion Revolution, GCNYC Fair Fashion Center, Global Fashion Agenda (GFA), Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), HSBC Holdings plc, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), International Finance Corporation (IFC), International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF), Łazarski University, Outdoor Industry Association (OIA), Partnership For Sustainable Textiles, Smart Freight Centre, Solidaridad, Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC), Sustainable Fashion Academy (SFA), Textile Exchange, World Wildlife Fund, ZDHC Foundation (Zero Discharge Of Hazardous Chemicals Foundation).

**ABOUT BRITISH FASHION COUNCIL**

The British Fashion Council (BFC) was set up in 1983 to promote British fashion internationally and co-ordinate this promotion through fashion weeks, exhibitions and showcasing events. The BFC now supports designers beginning at college level and extending to talent identification, business support and showcasing schemes to help British designer businesses develop their profiles and business globally and promote British fashion and its influential role in Britain and London. The BFC Colleges Council offers support to students through the BFC Foundation (Registered Charity Number: 11852), BA and MA scholarships, links with industry through design competitions and Graduate Preview Day. Talent identification and business support schemes include BFC/Vogue Designer Fashion Fund, BFC/GQ Designer Menswear Fund supported by JD.com, Inc. and NEWGEN which includes womenswear, menswear and accessories. The BFC also runs and owns the BFC Fashion Trust charity. Showcasing initiatives and events include London Fashion Week, London Fashion Week Men’s, LONDON show ROOMS, International Fashion Showcase and the annual celebration of creativity and innovation in the fashion industry: The Fashion Awards.

**ABOUT THE FASHION AWARDS**

The Fashion Awards celebrate the best if creativity and innovation. 2,500 industry experts are invited to vote on 10 categories. A further 4 special recognition awards are celebrated on the night of which the Award for Positive Change is one. The event raises money for the BFC Foundation supporting young talent access to the best arts education and early stage business development, ensuring a solid pipeline of creative talent to the global fashion industry.

Presenting Partner Swarovski and Official Partners American Express, Bird in Hand, Getty Images, LAVAZZA, Rosewood London and Slingsby Gin. The British Fashion Council thank them all for their support of The Fashion Awards 2019.

**ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PARTNERSHIPS**

The United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP) serves as a global gateway for catalyzing and building multi-stakeholder partnerships to advance the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNOP provides a platform for effective partner engagement and works to leverage the assets and expertise of a broad range of partners in furtherance of the SDGs. The Office oversees the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, the United Nations Democracy Fund, the SDG Action Hub, and the Secretary-Generals’ SDG Advocates. As a member of the UN Fashion Alliance and the founding partner of the Conscious Fashion Campaign, UNOP facilitates awareness, advocacy and engagement to achieve the SDGs within the fashion and textile industry.

**TOGETHERBAND PARTNERSHIP**

At The Fashion Awards 2019, the BFC with UBS are collaborating with BOTTLETOP, a British social enterprise and foundation. Their #TOGETHERBAND Campaign, a non-profit campaign that champions the UN’s 17 Global Goals for a sustainable future. At its heart are friendship bands for each Goal made from upcycled ocean plastic and repurposed illegal fire-arm metal. Since the launch on World Earth Day in April 2019, David Beckham, Naomi Campbell, Doutzen Kroes and numerous others, have all chosen their Goal and shown incredible support. UBS is the world's largest wealth manager and a leader in sustainable and impact investing.