

Dear [Local MP]

Thank you for your willingness to serve in our nation's Parliament, and for representing me and my community. I'm writing to you because I care deeply about the people working to make the products that we use and consume. Through Baptist World Aid Australia's Ethical Fashion Report and Ethical Electronics Report, I have become increasingly aware of the risks of forced labour, child labour and exploitation in global supply chains.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates that approximately 21 million people are currently trapped in situations of forced labour around the globe - the majority working in industries such as agriculture, fishing, construction and manufacturing (including garments and electronics). As companies pursue lower labour costs, global supply chains are becoming increasingly concentrated in areas that are high risk for slavery and forced labour.

For this reason, there can be no doubt that there are goods entering Australia that have been produced under exploitative conditions.

In response to the prevalence of human rights abuses throughout the supply chain, a number of governments across Europe and the United States have introduced legislation that requires companies to publicly report on the actions they have taken to ensure there is no slavery and exploitation in the production of their goods.

I was encouraged to hear that the Government has launched an inquiry into establishing a Modern Slavery Act in Australia, and I endorse Baptist World Aid Australia's Submission to this process.

Within your party, please champion an Australian Modern Slavery Act that would require companies to publicly report on the due diligence measures they have taken to address slavery and exploitation throughout their supply chains, with an emphasis on those areas of the supply chain that are of higher risk. Please also call for the inclusion of financial penalties for non-compliance, and for false or misleading statements.

I look forward to hearing the outcome of the inquiry, and celebrating the progress Australia makes in helping to end the exploitation of workers around the world.

Kind Regards,

[YOUR NAME]