RESOLUTION ON INDUSTRIALL RESPONSE TO MNC’S INACTION AND VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CORE LABOR STANDARDS IN THEIR RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS

Submitted by Workers United-SEIU

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 crisis, and in spite of public statements and endorsement of the ILO-IOE-IndustriALL statement, COVID-19: Action in the Global Garment Industry, we have witnessed inaction by apparel brands and retailers to alleviate hardships faced by workers in their supply chains, in many cases making matters worse by the cancellation of orders and refusal to pay for orders shipped and in process, and permitting the use of the COVID-19 crisis by brands’ suppliers to fail to pay wages, to dismiss workers en masse, and to target union activists and members for threats, harassment and dismissal;

WHEREAS, the inaction of the brands, the refusal to pay for orders, and the lack of due diligence over their suppliers have caused great hardships including loss of employment and income, destruction of established trade unions, deprivation of basic human rights and violation of core labor standards, for workers who in the best of times are working long hours to make a bare subsistence living;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that IndustriALL Global Union, in accordance with the IndustriAll Global Union’s Charter of Solidarity in Confronting Corporate Violations of Fundamental Rights, will take immediate steps to work with affiliated TGSL unions to identify the brands and retailers that have failed to pay for orders, or exercise due diligence in managing their supply chains, resulting in egregious violations of human rights and core labor standards; and campaign against offending brands, including by appointing an experienced and capable campaign director, seeking meetings with offending brands and the affected unions, convening a meeting of all affected unions to plan campaign strategy, undertaking media actions to publicize the disputes, carrying out coordinated industrial actions and demonstrations, lodging formal complaints in international bodies including the OECD and ILO, EU Parliament, etc., and by these and other actions to bring the brands and their suppliers to the bargaining table with the affected unions to resolve the disputes.

ENDORSED BY: (List in Formation)

Bangladesh: Akota Garment Workers Federation (AGWF)  
Bangladesh Garment & Industrial Workers Federation (BGIWF)  
Bangladesh Independent Garment Workers Federation (BIGUF)  
Bangladesh Revolutionary Garment Workers Federation (BRGWF)  
National Garment Workers Federation (NGWF)
Dominican Republic:  Federación Dominicana de Trabajadores de Zonas Francas (FEDOTRAZONAS)

Pakistan:  National Trade Union Federation (NTUF)

Spain:  Comisiones Obreras de Industria (CCOO de Industria)

Sri Lanka:  Free Trade Zone & General Services Employees Union (FTZ&GSEU)

USA, Canada:  United Steelworkers