

## KBC Catalyst group

**“Learn to do right; seek justice.  
Defend the oppressed. Take up the  
cause of the fatherless; plead the  
case of the widow.”**  
Isaiah 1:17

<https://baptistworldaid.org.au/faith-in-action/catalyst/>

Catalyst groups and churches come together to learn about, pray about, and act on global justice issues.

They mobilise their communities, and call on consumers, corporations, and the Government, to change their behaviour and policies from ones that exploit communities living in poverty, to ones that protect and empower.



Christian discipleship includes standing with the vulnerable, as Isaiah 1:17 compels us to seek justice for others. But how can we, as disciples and churches, respond to injustice? How can we carry a cry for justice from the foot of the cross to the halls of power, together?

Catalyst is a movement of Australian Baptists committed to seeking justice for all. We help churches and individuals learn about injustice and take action alongside other Christians.

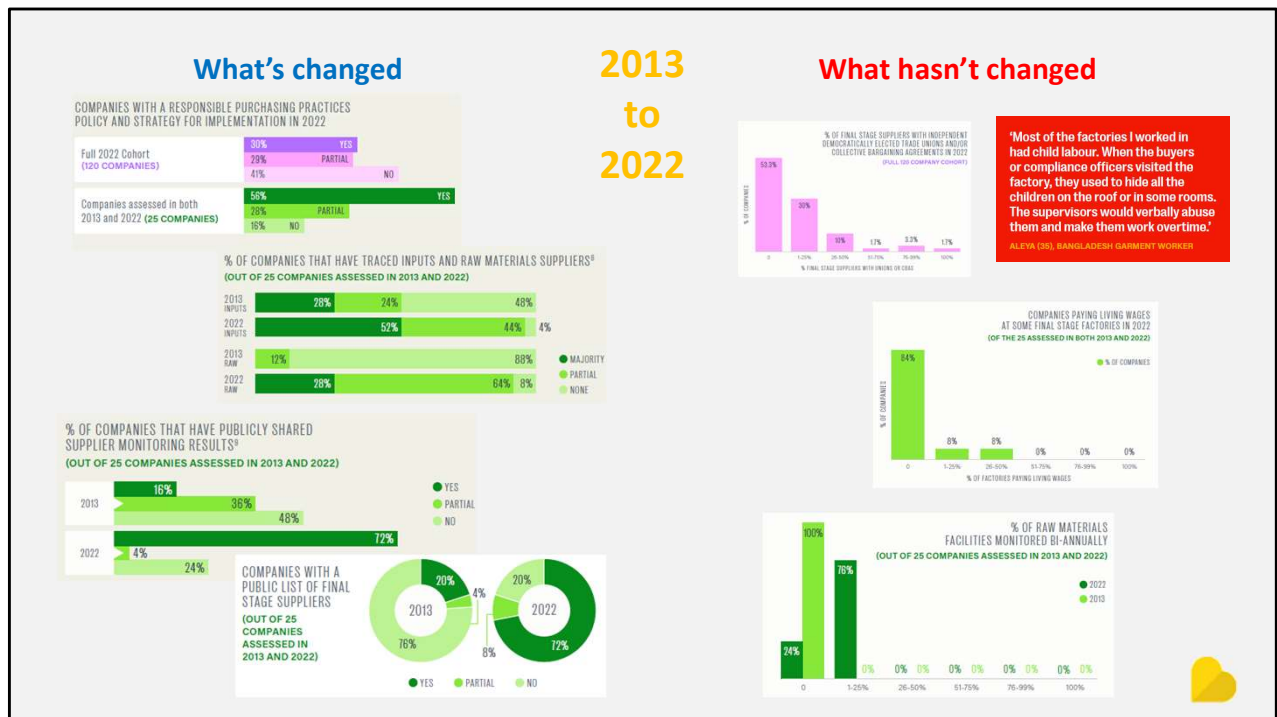
All are welcome to join the KBC Catalyst group so please see one of our pastors or myself to find out more and come along to our next meeting which is at the church every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month.

BWA provides resources, guidance and research for campaigns so now prior experience is required. More information at:

<https://baptistworldaid.org.au/faith-in-action/catalyst/>



As labels of well-loved brands surfaced amongst the dust and rubble, consumers and brands around the world awoke to the daily reality facing the people who make our clothes. This tragic incident catalysed a new wave in the ethical fashion movement. The Ethical Fashion Guide and Report are an initiative of Baptist World Aid who support this movement along with OxFam, ActionAid, USYD Fashion Revolution and many others.



The report shows that despite the remarkable advancements in areas like tracing, transparency and policies, outcomes for workers have failed to progress. Paper policies will no longer cut it. In many countries around the globe, the people who make our clothes are still living in poverty despite working twelve-hour days, six days per week. Many fail to have their voices truly heard by fashion companies and lack the ability to raise concerns without fear of retribution, as freedom of association, union presence, and collective bargaining agreements are still scarce. Despite abundant chatter from companies, handsome sustainability reports, impressively worded ethical sourcing pages, and formidable graphs—all amongst growing profits and production rates—the reality for garment workers and the environment tells a vastly different story.

### Fire and Building Safety Accord

In August 2021 brands and unions agreed on a new International Accord that would continue the life-saving work of the Bangladesh Accord to make factories safe after the Rana Plaza collapse. This new agreement will furthermore allow for the expansion of the work to other countries.

Which brands have signed the Safety Accord?

<https://cleanclothes.org/campaigns/the-accord/brand-tracker>

## Avoid Low Quality “Fast Fashion” Clothes + Reduce Consumption



**Ghana:** “While 60 per cent of imported fashion items are reused and resold, 40% are rubbish”



**Chile:** “59,000 tons of used clothes are shipped here every year. ... up to 40% of that is dumped”



### **The Environmental Disaster that is Fueled by Used Clothes and Fast Fashion - Foreign Correspondent** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bB3kuuBPVys>)

The dark side of the world's fashion addiction. Many of our old clothes, donated to charities, end up in rotting textile mountains in West Africa. This is a story about how our waste is creating an environmental disaster.

While 60 per cent of imported fashion items are reused and resold, 40 per cent are rubbish, creating an environmental catastrophe for this poor nation.

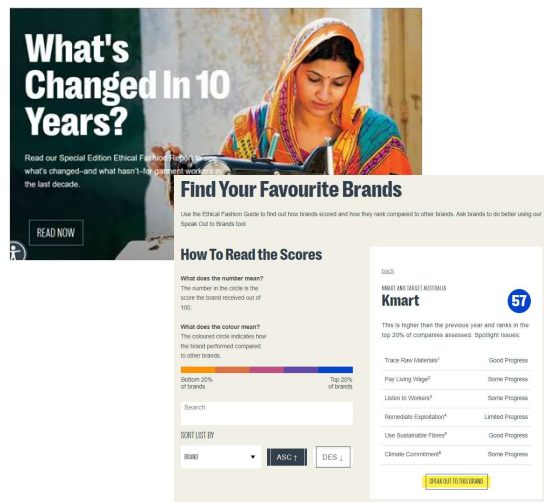
### **Fast fashion - Dumped in the desert - DW Documentary**

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QicSkPNx4Ho>)

Huge heaps of used and unsold clothes have piled up in the Atacama desert in Chile in recent years. A symbol of the hidden cost of fast fashion, they show the industry's disastrous environmental impact.

## What can you do?

- Assess your clothes shopping habits and encourage others to do the same to:
  1. Reduce consumption
  2. Avoid low quality "Fast Fashion" items
- Sign the petition to encourage brands to sign the Fire and Building Safety Accord: (<https://actions.eko.org/a/levi-s>)
- Use the Ethical Fashion Guide and read the Report
- Speak out to brands and encourage them to improve
- Speak out to your social circles
- Speak out to government
- Join an advocacy group to combat Modern Slavery
- Increase your awareness of Modern Slavery
- Pray for:
  - Deliverance for people experiencing modern day slavery
  - Protection for school age children at work
  - Wisdom for politicians addressing modern slavery
  - The hearts and minds of Australian consumers



*"No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8 NLT*



The **speak out to brands link** launches a template you can use as is or modify and send to the selected brands company

Ten years ago, **more than 1000 garment workers in Bangladesh were killed in the Rana Plaza disaster**. Over 190 companies, from H&M to Zara, scrambled to sign a safety accord to stop it from ever happening again.  
**One company that refused to sign? Levi's.**

10 years later and the world's most famous denim brand continues to maximize profit by failing to guarantee basic health and safety rights for its workers.

Details of The Accord and a petition are located at:

<https://cleanclothes.org/campaigns/the-accord/brand-tracker>

Follow our partners at Baptist World Aid reading the latest news on this issue and by listening to:

**Wardrobe Crisis podcast**

<https://baptistworldaid.org.au/2023/05/12/wardrobe-crisis-podcast/>