



At a time of financial crisis the millions of women, who are employed in factories and workshops and make the clothes on sale in supermarkets, are paying for the profits of the gigantic global retailers such as Carrefour, Tesco, Aldi, Lidl, and Walmart.

This is the conclusion from the Clean Clothes Campaign report **“Cashing In: Giant retailers, purchasing practices, and working conditions in the garment industry”**. KARAT Coalition has prepared the Polish version of the report. It is now available both in electronic and in printed format.

The report concerns the clothing industry, in which the giant retailers are big players. For example, one in two German shoppers buys clothing in discounters such as Aldi and Lidl.

Carrefour is Europe’s fourth-largest clothing retailer. Giants have also gained great popularity in Eastern Europe; four of them are present in Poland.

Clean Clothes Campaign research in India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Thailand shows how the discounter model used by these retailers results in serious workers’ rights violations in their supply chains (working excessive hours for poverty wages, lack of job security etc.). But these impacts on workers are not distributed equally. The group most susceptible is women. They constitute the vast majority of garment workers – around 80%. This is no accident, but a result of discrimination. In addition, not only are women more likely to be in jobs where labour rights abuses are common, but also those abuses have a bigger impact on their lives. Productive, reproductive and domestic responsibilities constrain women’s ability to seek other work, to take action to improve their working conditions, or to speak out about the abuse they face. Cultural and economic constraints create obstacles to women workers speaking out about their conditions and joining a trade union.

Far from lifting women out of poverty, the Giants are cashing in on it.

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