Fashion and Sustainability: Look Good, Feel Good, Do Good
Using Fashion as a Vehicle for Change

Maher Nasser is the Director of the Outreach Division in the UN Department of Public Information in New York. Maher has over 27 years of work experience in the United Nations System during which he has worked in various capacities. He became Director of DPI’s Outreach Division in February 2011. From April to mid-August 2012 and from August 2014 to February 2015, Maher was Acting Head of the United Nations Department of Public Information. Maher first joined DPI in January 2006 as Director of the UN Information Centre in Cairo. Before joining DPI, Maher worked in various positions with the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Gaza, Jerusalem, Vienna, Amman and New York and with the UNODC in Vienna.

Patrick Duffy is the founder of Global Fashion Exchange (GFX) a global platform and consultancy promoting sustainability in the fashion industry through inspiring forums, educational content and cultural events for consumers and brands. Patrick powers creative teams in New York, Los Angeles, Dubai and London and has produced events, created marketing campaigns around the world for some of the world’s most recognized brands. Patrick’s passion for social impact led to the creation of Global Fashion Exchange in 2013, challenging the fashion industry to create a more sustainable world. In addition to his work with GFX, Patrick also manages global partnerships for Common Objective (CO) which is an intelligent business network for the fashion industry based in the United Kingdom.

Andrea Reyes is a fair trade advocate, educator, and small business owner. She is currently the Chair of the NYC Fair Trade Coalition, a group which brings together small fair trade business owners to host educational and shopping events. Her next hat is as the Founder of A. Bernadette which works with artisans in Uganda creating accessories, home goods, and apparel from recycled/up-cycled materials. She also organizes fair trade educational trips to Uganda. Lastly, she is a professor teaching a variety of fashion marketing, international trade, and business development classes at LIM College, Pace University, Berkeley College, and Baruch College.
Ashia Dearwester is the Chief Strategy & Partnerships Officer for Nest (www.buildanest.org), a nonprofit which for more than a decade has been a fundamental force in building a more circular global artisan economy where handworkers, brands, and consumers are connected through transparency, education and macro-scale solution building. Ashia leads Nest’s development programs by channeling the might of partnership to mobilize funding, resources, and industry talent to artisans worldwide. Ashia has served an integral role in the launch of Nest’s Artisan Advancement Project, an industry-wide initiative to bring ethical compliance training, assessment, and remediation to the informal economy for global craft production. During his time at Duke University, Ashia also studied social entrepreneurship at the Fuqua School of Business.

Shivam Punjya is the founder and CEO of behno. He oversees the brand’s social and design direction and positioning. Shivam founded the brand with the goal of addressing poverty and global health through traditional and non-traditional enterprise channels. Shivam’s professional experiences include luxury hospitality conglomerate InterContinental Hotels Group in London to GreatNonprofits.org, a tech-based nonprofit in the Silicon Valley. Upon completing his B.A. in International Political Economy from U.C. Berkeley, Shivam led extensive fundraising campaigns for the overseas branch of Pratham, India’s largest education advocacy nonprofit. Shivam graduated from Duke University with a M.S. in Global Health from the Duke Global Health Institute. During his time at Duke University, Shivam also studied social entrepreneurship at the Fuqua School of Business.

Amanda Carr has worked as an international environmental consultant and managed the corporate engagement strategy for a $3.4 billion ethical investment fund. She brings two decades of experience in understanding environmental policy, regulation and business risk. Amanda is not-for-profit Canopy’s lead on the "CanopyStyle initiative" which currently partners with 105 clothing brands, designers and retailers representing over $115 billion dollars in annual revenue. These leaders have come together to avoid sourcing ancient and endangered forests in their viscose, rayon and lyocell fabrics. Beyond risk mitigation this collaboration is also driving closed loop and new fibre innovation and creating lasting conservation solutions to mitigate climate change and protecting the world’s endangered species.

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Lilian Liu is the Manager of Partnerships & UN Relations at the United Nations Global Compact, the world’s largest corporate sustainability initiative. In this role, she builds connections and partnership opportunities between UN and the private sector to advance corporate sustainability. Originally from Sweden, Lilian worked on sustainability and international affairs issues in China, France, Brazil and USA, including for Social Accountability International and NYCEDC. Lilian also helped launch the sustainable fashion movement in Asia together with NGO Redress. She obtained her MPA from New York University Wagner Graduate School of Public Service where she was a Wallenberg Foundation Scholar, and is fluent in four languages.
Forests are home to 80% of all terrestrial animals and plants. Learning more about how fashion and forests are connected at #DPINGO #rolemodel4fashion. Watch LIVE webtv.un.org

Up to 60% of garment production happens outside factories. #rolemodel4fashion #DPINGO Briefing!

Fashion innovation gives fresh life to time honored global craft traditions that are in danger of dying out. The more you know! Watch #DPINGO Briefing #rolemodel4fashion LIVE: webtv.un.org

The fashion industry’s CO₂ emissions are projected to increase by more than 60% to nearly 2.8 billion tons per year by 2030- the equivalent of emissions produced by nearly 230 million passenger vehicles driven for a year.
#rolemodel4fashion #DPINGO

Over 50% of workers are not paid the minimum wage in countries like India or Philippines. #rolemodel4fashion #DPINGO

A special thank you to the co-organizers of the Youth Subcommittee of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee Board:

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Isaac Humphrie, Events Environmentalist, Fashion Show Backstage Manager
Kelly Roberts, NGO/DPI Executive Committee & Fordham University
Madison Ross, International Business, LIM College