

May 23, 2014

U.S. Senator Kristin Gillebrand
780 Third Avenue
Suite 2601
New York, New York 10017

Dear Ms.Gillebrand:

My name is Alexandra and I am a 6th grader at the United Nations International School. This year, we have begun learning about the UN Millennium Development Goals that are currently being worked on to make the world better for everyone. We know that in 2015 these goals will expire and that the UNDP is currently working on generating new goals and aims for subsequent years. In class, we have discussed issues that we are passionate about and would like to see some change occur to help remediate the problems associated with our chosen issue. I chose to work on sweatshops.

The definition of a sweatshop is a place where people work for long hours, in poor conditions, and in an abusive environment for little to no pay. Globally, there are approximately 218 million children involved in child labor. Many of these children are employed in sweatshops because they will work for less wages and are less likely to complain about the unjust working conditions. Surprisingly, many popular American brands have been found guilty in the past and today of using child sweatshops, such as *Nike*, *Reebok*, *Victoria's Secret*, *Forever 21*, *Walmart*, *Banana Republic*, *Old Navy*, *Hershey's* and *The Gap* and many more.

I am writing because I would like you to take a stand and help. I would love any help or support in any possible way. I have written an executive report attached highlighting facts and providing ideas on ways that you can take stand to help fix this issue. In particular, I know that you are a U.S senator and have an influence on people's views and awareness level. Perhaps, you could bring up this issue somehow when addressing the public or even consider donating a sum of money to an organizations that help raise awareness and support to remediate sweatshops. Lastly, in my written executive report, I suggest informing friends and family members about the popular American brands that use sweatshops. Boycotting them is a good way to help and I am sure that you, personally, could inform many people. 1

I thank you for taking the time to read my letter and executive report. This report has been a work in progress for the entire school year. I will be using it to ask others to help this issue in other appropriate ways. I kindly ask that you respond to me by email or at my personal home address as school is almost out of session for the summer holiday. Together we can all truly make a change!

Respectfully,
Alexandra