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Social Justice, its place in fashion in the wake of globalisation - paper

Is fashion-clothing manufacture a place for 'opportunities for social and cultural exchange between' peoples 'from radically different cultural contexts'? Currently the exchange (if one could call it that) in the globalised fashion industry is monetary; that is money for labour and goods. Social justice has to come from the political headlines, the banners, into the mall where consumers came force a change.

Who pays for cheap clothes, not the people of the North; literally children of the South.

Is this because they are separated from their parents by the fashion manufacturing process? The answer is yes. However, it is not always their parents who are making the garments it can be the children. So when a 13 year old tries on several pairs of decorated jeans, stitched with this seasons logos, for her ultimate 'post Britney' look for a mall-rendezvous with friends, maybe we can encourage her to think of the girls of her age who may have made them. (North in this case refers to the developed (previously known as *First World* countries), South refers to the developing countries (previously known as *Second & Third World* countries). Although geographically situated in the Southern Hemisphere, Australia in regard to economic development is most accurately situated in the 'North').

Within the fashion industry there are social, political, cultural, economic and environmental inequities. As Levi Strauss close their last American manufacturing plants at the end of this year they follow their competitors Wrangler and Lee. More and more this is an off shore issue, which leads to the murky business of subcontractors. Thus Nike posts a social responsibility mission statement on their website, but regularly are exposed for exploitation. Yet as the company does not manufacture clothes but subcontracts, are they to blame? This paper looks at the practice of social justice in the fashion industry with reference to human rights. It will refer to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and give examples of non-governmental organisations efforts to address inadequacies.

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