



## **Join with Madison in Eliminating Illegal and Unsafe Conditions in the Production of Fire and Police Uniforms**

### **A “Sweatfree” Cooperative Contract For Fire and Police Uniforms that Your City Can Use**

On May 1, 2014 the City of Madison announced that it is seeking bids to establish a cooperative contract for various kinds of clothing worn by its firefighters, police, metro transit and other employees. Published shortly after the one-year anniversary of the Rana Plaza building collapse in Bangladesh, this contract raises the bar for human rights due diligence in government contracting. It requires:

- **Transparency:** Bidders must disclose names and addresses of factories as well as workers’ minimum wages and benefits.
- **Compliance plan to remedy and prevent violations:** The winning bidder will work with the City of Madison and the Consortium to implement a compliance plan that includes worker education, a grievance process, responsible purchasing practices, and prevention measures to address health and safety conditions in high-risk areas such as Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- **Independent oversight:** Contractor rebates will help to fund independent monitoring of suppliers and factories where there is a high risk of violations.
- **Rigorous compliance review and evaluation:** An independent review panel, coordinated by the Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium, will assist the City of Madison and other user agencies in evaluating contractor compliance at the proposal, award, and contract performance stages of the process. The review panel will include experts in international labor rights and representatives of public agencies that use the contract.

The contract is designed so that other state and local government agencies in the United States can purchase uniforms under the same terms and conditions for the term of the contract. It is scheduled to be awarded January 1, 2015.

*The Consortium and Madison encourage you to invite your city or local government to join in this effort to help eliminate unsafe and illegal working conditions in apparel factories. For more information: Monette McGuire, City of Madison, [MMcGuire@cityofmadison.com](mailto:MMcGuire@cityofmadison.com), or Bjorn Claeson, Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium, [bjorn@buysweatfree.org](mailto:bjorn@buysweatfree.org).*

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