

Press release

The new Leicester Garment and Textile Workers Trust launches with a collaboration with Nottingham Universities Rights Lab

Today the founding Trustees of the Leicester Garment and Textile Workers Trust are delighted to announce the Trusts formal launch. The aim of the Trust will be to address some of the immediate and future needs of workers within the local garment industry

The Trust's founding mission will be to create positive and lasting change for the benefit of the wider industry – providing guidance, advocacy and remedy to anyone working in the garment industry in Leicester. The Trust has been supported by a donation of £1.1m by the boohoo group and its founding Trustees bring with them expertise from the fields of modern slavery, enforcement, local community engagement and politics.

To ensure that the Trust delivers long term positive and measurable impact, it is vital that the direction of its work is built upon a solid foundation of evidence. Therefore, the Trustees have commissioned research through experts at Nottingham University, Rights Lab, who are the largest group of modern slavery scholars in the world, and home to the world's leading academic experts on modern slavery

The research will provide a timely and relevant body of evidence, founded in the views of those working in the sector, that will inform the scope and the purpose of the Trust and help to identify where the Trust should focus its effort and support, directly and via grant giving.

Alison Gardner of The Rights Lab said “

The Trustees and the research team at the Rights Lab would welcome input from community leaders, charities and of course garment workers who would be willing to speak to the team to share their experience.

The Trust will publish the results of the research early in 2022 at which point the purpose and scope of the Trust will also be announced.

Commenting on today's launch, Chairman of the Trust Kevin McKeever said “

ENDS

Trustees

Tim Nelson	CEO Hope for Justice
David Lindley	QPM Deputy Lieutenant, Leicester
Alison Gardner	Head of Community, LCFC
Cllr Luis Fonseca	Local Ward Councillor
Kevin McKeever	Founder and Director of Lowick Group LTD
Cheryl Chung	Head of Corporate Affairs, the boohoo group