



Queer Eye for Justice!

Thinking About Shopping At H&M? Think again!

A holiday message from your friends at Empire State Pride Agenda

For more than a year, Empire State Pride Agenda has been working with members of the New York City Council to pass the Equal Benefits Bill that will guarantee that the City of New York will not do business with companies unless they provide the same benefits to the domestic partners of LGBT employees that they currently provide to spouses of married employees. For us, it's a matter of economic justice and protecting our families.

Recently, workers at H&M, the international fashion retailer, have been struggling to join UNITE!, an AFL-CIO member union that represents 250,000 laundry, apparel and distribution workers in North America.

Workers at H&M's New Jersey distribution center have described widespread workplace injuries and harassment. Many workers rely on taxpayer-funded public assistance because the \$5 billion dollar Swedish retailer pays so poorly that they fall below the federal poverty level. Many cannot afford H&M's family health insurance and some rely on Medicaid.

Across Asia, H&M subcontracts with sweatshops to make its clothes. At the PT Kahatex factory in Indonesia, workers producing H&M clothes report that they work up to 60 hours a week for as little as \$1 a day - less than the minimum wage required by law in Indonesia. When 537 workers went on strike in May to ask that they receive the legal minimum, the factory locked them out and hired thugs to intimidate and harass the strikers.

Why does the Pride Agenda care about this? Because as LGBT people whose families have been denied over 1,700 rights and responsibilities that all other families receive when government issues them a civil marriage license, we know that speaking up matters.

As we move ahead in our own fight for civil rights, we will call on working people and the unions that represent them to stand with us.

So let's stand with them and send a message to H&M who aggressively markets to our community that we care about the people who sew, ship and sell H&M clothing and that their families are just as important as ours.

Remember if you're thinking about shopping this holiday season at H&M, think again!

Paid for by the "Pride in My Union" campaign of the Empire State Pride Agenda Foundation and by New York Jobs with Justice.



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PRIDE AGENDA**

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