

## **BTS NRC MUC – NRC - TC**

Indian 'slave' children found making low-cost clothes destined for Gap

Child workers, some as young as 10, have been found working in a textile factory in conditions close to slavery to produce clothes that appear destined for Gap Kids, one of the most successful arms of the high street giant.

Gap said it was unaware that clothing intended for the Christmas market had been improperly subcontracted to a sweatshop using child labour. It announced it had withdrawn the garments involved while it investigated breaches of the ethical code imposed by it three years ago.

With endorsements from celebrities including Madonna, Lenny Kravitz, Gap has become one of the most successful and iconic brands in fashion.

Despite its charitable activities, Gap has been criticised for outsourcing large contracts to the developing world. In 2004, when it launched its social audit, it admitted that forced labour, child labour, wages below the minimum wage, and physical punishment were among abuses it had found at some factories producing garments for it. It added that it had terminated contracts with 136 suppliers as a consequence.

'Consumers in the West should not only be demanding answers from retailers as to how goods are produced but looking deep within themselves at how they spend their money' said Professor Sheotaj Singh, co-founder of a Delhi-based rehabilitation centre and school for rescued child workers.

**Dan McDougall in New Delhi**  
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**[The Observer](#)**