



OXFAM

OXFAM GB TEXTILE EXPORT POLICY

POLICY DETAILS

POLICY NUMBER:	CO004
POLICY OWNER:	Retail Director
POLICY AUTHOR:	Ethics Team
SLT SPONSOR:	Chief Supporter Officer

APPROVAL INFORMATION

AUTHORITATIVE VERSION:	Here.
APPROVED BY:	Chief Supporter Officer
APPROVAL DATE:	19 August 2025
EFFECTIVE FROM:	19 August 2025
SUPERSEDES:	Oxfam GB Textile Export Policy V2
DATE OF REVIEW:	August 2028
FREQUENCY OF REVIEW:	Every 3 years

CONSULTATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	NA
STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED:	<div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Board Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Country Director(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Governance team <input type="checkbox"/> HR team <input type="checkbox"/> InfoSec team <input type="checkbox"/> Integrity team <input type="checkbox"/> International Ops</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Legal team <input type="checkbox"/> Risk & Assurance <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Trustee Board <input type="checkbox"/> Union <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other</div></div>
DATE(S) OF CONSULTATIONS:	July 2025

DESCRIPTION OF CONSULTATIONS:	Draft policy shared with relevant retail teams, Private Sector Partnerships team and Media Team.
IMPLEMENTATION OWNER:	Julie Tyrell
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:	Implementation Plan

SCOPE AND CONFIDENTIALITY

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE:	Worldwide, except in countries where the following policy contravenes local legislation. In these cases, local legislation must be followed.
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Internal <input type="checkbox"/> Confidential
CIRCULATION:	Retail Team All Third-Party Contractors who buy unsold textiles from Oxfam GB.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

Oxfam shops rely on donations from the public, however it is not possible to sell all the textiles that are donated to us by our supporters. There are a variety of reasons for this, such as goods may be unsuitable for the UK market but popular in other countries. Therefore, we sell thousands of tonnes of textiles every year to third-party customers, much of which is then exported to places where it is more likely to be re-used or re-purposed.

1.2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the policy is to seek to ensure that donated textiles and clothes are exported to countries through suppliers who minimise the risk of negative ethical and environmental impacts that could arise in the intended country of destination.

1.3. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to the sale of donated textiles through the export supply chain until it reaches the consumer of the product.

This policy commits Oxfam GB to set terms which commit the businesses that buy and export our unsold textiles, to act responsibly in their onward supply and to ensure any onward suppliers do the same, until the products reach the final consumer.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

Oxfam GB recognises the potential negative impacts that the export of donated textiles can have in the countries where they are sent. (These may include impacts on the environment, public health, labour rights and wider human rights and on local economies.)

Oxfam GB is committed to ensuring that the donated textiles it receives are kept in use for as long as possible. If that results in export, that will be done in a way which aligns with Oxfam's values and minimises risks in the country of destination.

3. RELATED DOCUMENTS

3.1. POLICIES

[Ethical And Environmental Policy](#)
[Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy](#)

4. POLICY CONTENTS

4.1. DEFINITIONS

4.1.1. Textiles – Any woven or knitted fabric of either natural or synthetic materials. This

includes all items of clothing (for example, jumpers, shirts, trousers, skirts, underwear etc) and fabrics used to make other items (such as bedding and soft furnishings)

4.1.2. **Third party contractors** – Businesses that buy Oxfam GB's unsold textiles.

4.2. COMMITMENTS

4.2.1. Oxfam GB are committed to working with its third- party contractors to uphold the standards outlined in Oxfam's Ethical and Environmental and Anti-Slavery and Human trafficking Policies.

4.2.2. We will seek to keep items as high up the waste hierarchy as possible, by identifying onward sale which keeps items in use for their originally intended purpose.

5. STANDARDS (MUST BE MEASURABLE AND REPORTABLE)

5.1.1. Comply with UK laws and regulation with regards to the export of textiles.

5.1.2. Comply with the law and regulation of the known country.

5.1.3. Never knowingly attempt to export textiles to countries that have banned their import.

5.1.4. Textiles will only be sold to companies that directly process stock, not to brokers to support better oversight of labour and environmental standards throughout the supply chain.

5.1.5. As a minimum, any textiles designated as waste will be separated in the UK prior to export. Oxfam will seek to work with third party contractors that sort and grade stock before export to enable the best chance of onward sale.

5.1.6. Textiles designated as waste will not be exported for disposal.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1. ACCOUNTABILITY

6.1.1. Oxfam GB's Retail Director and ultimately Chief Engagement Officer hold overall accountability for this policy

6.2. RESPONSIBLE

6.2.1. The Head of E-Commerce and Retail Sustainability is responsible for implementation of this policy.

6.2.2. The Head of UK Warehousing and Logistics will ensure that all potential third parties are assessed in line with the commitments and standards outlined in this policy.

6.2.3. Third party contractors will be asked to complete Oxfam's self-assessment

questionnaire and will sign their confirmation that they have not withheld any relevant information which may prevent compliance with this policy

6.3. TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND ADVICE

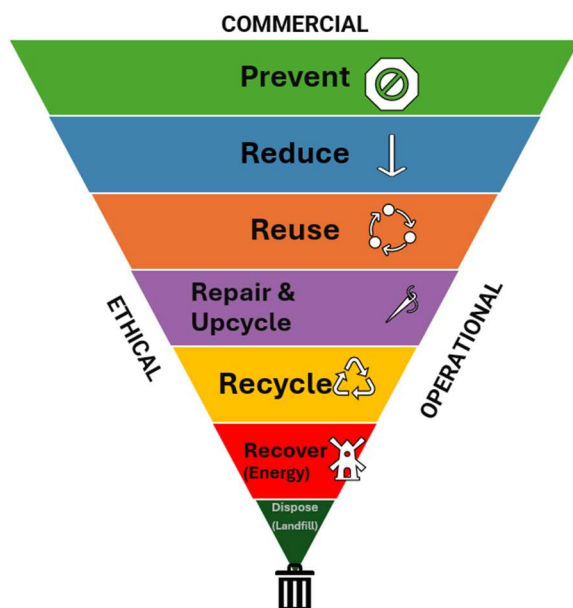
- 6.3.1. Oxfam GB's Ethics team provide advice to the National Transport and Logistics Manager any issues in the self-assessment questionnaire which need further action

7. CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

- 7.1.1. Oxfam GB recognise that a zero-tolerance approach with suppliers and third parties could undermine our ability to address the root causes of an issue and therefore takes an approach of zero-tolerance-to-inaction on ethical and environmental issues. Oxfam GB will terminate a relationship where the conduct of suppliers or customers demonstrably violates this policy and there is no willingness to address any specific instances which arise or address underlying weaknesses in systems which led to the incident within a reasonable time period.

8. APPENDICES

8.1. WASTE HIERARCHY



Throughout our operations, Oxfam aims to follow the waste hierarchy: favouring waste minimisation first, then reuse, and then recycling, to reduce the amount of waste sent to incineration or landfill.

Oxfam considers the environmental impact of each option, alongside ethical (human), operational and commercial considerations. Approaching the waste hierarchy in this way allows Oxfam to make the most sustainable choice that is available and reduce negative impacts on the environment and people.

VERSION CONTROL

VERSION NUMBER	DATE	AUTHOR	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES
3.0	August 2025	Sophie Brill (Head of Ethics)	Included additional standard on not exporting waste. Removed the standard on not exporting to countries listed as 5 or 5* on the ITUC index, replacing it with the commitment to work with third-parties to meet the standards set out in the Ethical and Environmental and Anti-Slavery Policies.
2.0			This policy represents a significant update to a pre-existing policy dated from 2016.

APPROVAL HISTORY

VERSION NUMBER	DATE APPROVED	REVIEWED/APPROVED BY	COMMENTS
3.0	19 August 2025	Jan Oldfield, Chief Supporter Officer	
2.0	August 2021		