

## Uzbek Cotton Policy

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Uzbekistan is one of the largest exporters of cotton in the world. For decades, its government has forced adults and children as young as nine to pick cotton under appalling conditions each harvest season. Schoolteachers are ordered to close schools, and quotas are enforced in the cotton fields. All businesses have a responsibility to ensure human rights are respected within their supply chains, and as slavery-like practices are used in Uzbekistan's cotton fields, Kathmandu is committed to avoiding the use of Uzbek cotton in our supply chains until the use of forced labour in the Uzbekistan cotton sector ceases.

By demanding that our suppliers avoid the use of cotton sourced from Uzbekistan we are applying direct pressure on the government of Uzbekistan to end the use of forced child (and adult) labour in the cotton sector.

As a socially and ethically responsible business, we require our suppliers to comply with our Terms of Trade which clearly states that we do not tolerate the use of child labour in the manufacture of products it sells; and will not accept products from Suppliers that utilise in any manner child labour in their contracting, subcontracting or other relationships for the manufacture of their products.

As the situation in Uzbekistan is so extreme, we will be asking all of our suppliers to begin a process of tracing all cotton products, to avoid sourcing fabrics and products containing Uzbek cotton and stopping the purchase of any fabric or product that contains Uzbek Cotton.

Kathmandu does not knowingly sell products that contain Uzbek cotton, and we hope that by improving traceability of county of origin of fibre, transparency of our fabric sourcing, and by requesting that our suppliers work with us to ensure that forced child labour does not find its way into our products, we can move to a position of knowing and not sourcing Uzbek cotton.