



Marshalls Publish 3rd Modern Slavery Statement

Marshalls had recently published its 3rd Modern Slavery Statement together with supporting information in the form of geographical modern slavery risk mapping which looks at all of its sourcing countries, and its 2nd End Modern Slavery Report.

Talking about the issues of modern slavery Martyn Coffey, Marshalls CEO, stated, “My business experience over a lifetime has shown me that there is no sharp line between the moral imperative and the business one and sustainable business depends on a sustainable world. Where modern slavery and child labour persist, decent work simply cannot exist. It undermines a sustainable future for all of us.”

He continued, “Since our early human rights work in 2005 we know that forced labour, modern slavery and child labour are complex problems associated with poverty, governance failures and inequalities in the global labour market. Individual businesses cannot simply go-it-alone to solve issues; we know this from experience in trying to push out in our sector, shine a light on issues of child labour, and gain traction. Tackling these issues requires a massive international effort, involving governments, businesses, civil society organizations, trade unions and international bodies.”

Group Marketing & Sustainability Director added, “Modern slavery, including forced labour and child labour, are more prevalent in some countries and economic sectors, but absolutely none are immune to these abuses. Our own modern slavery risk mapping and country profiling analysis confirms that the risks exist everywhere but just to a greater or lesser extent based on various

drivers, such as the rule of law, labour rights, gender equality, government efforts to combat trafficking, the protection of children from exploitation, access to banking, and education, health and standards of living.”

The statistics look daunting; 25M people estimated to be in forced labour, 152M children estimated to be victims of child labour – 73M of these in hazardous work, \$150BN estimated to be made in illegal profits from forced labour. Add to this the 77% of companies who believe there is a high likelihood of modern slavery occurring in their supply chain and you have a challenge of gargantuan proportions. (1)

Elaine Mitchel-Hill, Business & Human Rights Lead for Marshalls said, “We remain highly committed, focused and determined. Our Modern Slavery Statement, complete with refreshed KPI’s, our risk mapping analysis and our End Modern Slavery Report give a clear indication of how and where Marshalls efforts will be focused for the coming twelve months both in the UK and overseas.”

You can view all of Marshalls’ modern slavery information on at www.marshalls.co.uk

ENDS

Source:

- (1) Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage, Alliance 8.7, 2017; Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour, ILO, 2014; Corporate Leadership on Modern Slavery, The Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) and Hult International Business School, 2016

Editors Notes:

Marshalls Modern Slavery Statement: <https://www.marshalls.co.uk/documents/policies/modern-slavery-and-anti-human-trafficking-policy.pdf>

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Marshalls Modern Slavery Risk Mapping:

<https://www.marshalls.co.uk/documents/presentations/modern%20slavery%20country%20profiling%202018.pdf>

Marshalls Modern Slavery Report 2018:

<https://www.marshalls.co.uk/documents/reports/modern-slavery-report-2018.pdf>

Marshalls became a UNGC signatory in 2009 and a member of the UNGC UK Network later the same year. The organisation is required to report on its progress each year in Marshalls UNGC Communication on Progress Report (COP). You can view the most recent COP here:

<https://www.marshalls.co.uk/documents/reference/ungccopreport2017.pdf>

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