POLITICAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

At Fair Wear Foundation, we know there's a better way to make clothes. One where the garment industry supports workers' rights to safe, dignified and properly paid employment. We partner with brands and support workers, taking practical steps to show that it's possible to make clothes in a fairer way. With trade unions, governments, and other industry influencers, we push towards a new normal to create systemic change that goes far beyond our reach. Together, we're making fashion fair for everyone.

Fair Wear is an international non-profit organisation with around 45 highly diverse staff based in The Netherlands and Germany, as well as expert teams in eleven production countries. For more about our work, see here.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A POLITICAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER WHO IS AMSTERDAM BASED FOR 30-36 HOURS/WEEK

OVERVIEW OF ROLE

The garment sector has come a long way in terms of social and environmental sustainability and has a long way to go still. At Fair Wear, we strategically promote our approach and share our solutions with relevant target groups to influence policies and practices. Our stakeholders and target groups cover the full range of industry related public and private actors; from fashion brands and investors to trade unions and politicians.

Emerging legislation in Germany and the EU is expected to be a gamechanger in pushing the industry towards a new, responsible normal within the next few years. For this to become reality, however, policy makers and industry leaders must move together in the right direction. Informing, engaging, and influencing crucial stakeholders is therefore a key Fair Wear activity.

Within our global partnership STITCH (*Sustainable Textile Initiative: Together for Change*), we collaborate with like-minded organisations to, among others, influence political and regulatory environments in production countries as well as the EU. As lead partner in this consortium, Fair Wear provides coordination support to the STITCH International Lobby & Advocacy (ILA) Group.

We demonstrate the importance and impact of our work through strategic communication of our vision and our findings. We build our reputation and credibility through speaking engagements, media outreach, policy briefs and partnerships.

We are hiring a Political Communications Officer to support the STITCH ILA Group and strengthen policy influencing content communications – in particular through targeted interaction with the (sector-specific and general) press. In this role, the new colleague will be supporting and working closely with experienced lobbyists and communication experts.

RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to contributing to strategy on communications, the Political Communications Officer will divide their time between the following activities and responsibilities:

Lobby and Advocacy

- Coordinate the International Lobby & Advocacy group of the STITCH consortium
- Develop key messaging based on priority issues
- Support and strengthen the Lobby & Advocacy as well as media-facing efforts of our teams in garment producing countries, particularly by ensuring messages are aligned
- Develop and execute campaigns to influence decision makers
- Support Lobby & Advocacy activities in Germany
- Keep up to date on developments in the human rights environment

Political Content Communication

- Press strategy: design and implementation
- Formulating priority topics and political positions
- Engaging with relevant international journalists
- Pro-active, targeted media outreach
- Responding to media requests
- Writing and distributing press releases
- Maintaining Fair Wear's media contact database

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

We are looking for someone with the following qualifications and skills:

- At least 3 (preferably 5 or more years) of relevant professional experience
- Keen interest in politics, media, communications, international trade, human rights
- Bachelor's or equivalent in a relevant area (political science, communication, human rights)
- Self-starter who enjoys working in teams and gets things done
- Understanding of the political context in the EU and in Germany is a clear plus
- Ability to analyse policy documents and summarise them effectively and attractively
- Excellent English language and presentation skills; German is a plus
- Excellent writing skills and ability to turn complex content into readable texts
- Media savvy, experience working with press is a strong asset
- Professionalism and an eye for detail, also under pressure of deadlines and multi-tasking
- Affinity with Fair Wear's and STITCH's vision and mission
- Ability to live and work in the Netherlands

WE OFFER:

- A challenging job with a wide variety of responsibilities in an international, dynamic environment. You will work closely with people from inside and outside of the organisation
- A one-year contract for 30-36 hours per week with the intention to extend
- Wage offer depending on experience in Dutch BBRA: scale 10
- A hybrid work setting with an office at the World Fashion Centre in Amsterdam

If you are interested, send your English CV and one-page cover letter detailing your motivation and suitability to vacancy@fairwear.org no later than Sunday 27 March 2022 midnight CET). Interviews will start in the first weeks of April on a rolling basis, so please do not wait until the closing date to send in your application.

Please visit www.fairwear.org for more information about our organisation. For more information about the position, you can contact Femke Blickman, at the following email and number: +31624578787.

Recruitment agencies are asked to refrain from approaching Fair Wear Foundation about this or any other vacancy.