

“Getting through the crisis together”

Asian Dialogues on Sustainability in the Textile and Garment Industry
Webinar Series

Webinar 5:

COVID-19 and Beyond: Making Gender Equality a Reality

The webinar is open for all industry stakeholders and free to attend. To register, please [click here](#).

Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 1pm (Berlin) / 6pm (Bangkok) / 7pm (Beijing) – 90 Minutes

In the fifth webinar, which is jointly organised by [GIZ FABRIC](#) and [ILO's Decent Work in Garment Supply Chains Asia project](#), we will look at the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on workers in the textile and garment sector in Asia from a gender perspective. Given that women account for roughly 80 per cent of the workforce, they are particularly affected by the predominantly negative effects of COVID-19. These are further exacerbated by underlying practices of discrimination, violence and harassment, lack of women's representation and leadership, wage gaps, and unpaid care and family obligations. We will hear insights from Bangladesh and Indonesia, and discuss strategies to ensure gender is at the forefront of the COVID-19 recovery. We will also talk about the social and economic benefits of gender inclusive business operations in the textile and garment industry.

Welcome and thematic introduction by **Irene Genzmer**, Coordinator Gender Component, GIZ FABRIC, and **Joni Simpson**, Senior Specialist, Gender, Equality and Non-Discrimination, ILO Decent Work Team.



Ms. Nazma Akter, Executive Director, [Awaj Foundation](#)

Nazma Akter is the founder and Executive Director of Awaj Foundation. She has been fighting to improve workers' rights, especially of women, in the garment sector in Bangladesh for over 32 years. Nazma is also the President of Sommilito Garments Sramik Federation, one of the largest union federations in Bangladesh, an Ashoka Fellow 2019, and Co-chair of the Asia Pacific Women's Committee of IndustriALL Global Union. At Awaj Foundation, Nazma has focused her efforts on increasing women's participation in decision-making at the workplace and at home. She also works on improving negotiation and bargaining skills among women garment workers so they can build better relationships between workers and factory management, thereby creating harmonious industrial relations in the garment sector in Bangladesh.



Mr. Scott Deitz, Founder and President, [Convene Communication Strategies](#)

Prior to founding Convene Communication Strategies, a reputation-management and value-creation consultancy positioned to advise global companies, NGOs, advocacy groups, governments, policymakers and educational institutions, Scott has been leading government relations, corporate communications and philanthropic activities in the Garment and Footwear sector for many years. Since 2013, Scott has worked closely with government representatives, public policy makers and non-governmental organisations, first with VF Corporation and later with Kontoor as Vice President, Public Affairs, overseeing Corporate Communications, Sustainability and Responsibility.



Ms. Elly Rosita Silaban, President, [Konfederasi Serikat Buruh Seluruh Indonesia \(Confederation of Indonesian Trade Union; KSBSI\)](#)

Elly Silaban is Indonesia's first female Trade Union Leader from Tapanuli Utara in North Sumatra Province of Indonesia. She has spent over 20 years in the labour movement and 15 years as a union leader, first with FSB Garteks (Federation of Textile and Garment Workers Union) and then with KSBSI (Confederation of All Indonesian Trade Union). Over the years Elly has worked to improve conditions for garment workers through campaigns, rallies, and dialogue and has helped foster leadership opportunities for other women unionists.

Commentator: **Dr. Stephen Frost**, Editor, [The Fashion Sustainability Week in Review](#) & Director, GoBlu.

Moderated by **Jost Wagner**, Managing Director [The Change Initiative](#).

For any questions, please contact Lisa.Schroeter@giz.de



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