## TRANSFORMATION IN HONDURAS

How the 2007-2009 Russell
Case Opened the Door to
Sweeping Gains for Worker Rights

## HONDURAN GARMENT INDUSTRY

- 115,000 direct employees
- \#1 exporter of t-shirts to US
- Workers often experience low wages, health and safety risks, abusive treatment.
- Violations of freedom of association
- Significant production by manufacturers, Fruit of the Loom, Gildan, and Hanesbrands.



## JERZEES OF HONDURAS - 2007

- Owned by Russell Athletic / Fruit of the Loom
- 2008 anti-union closure
- WRC conducted investigation
- Universities intervened


## 2009 AGREEMENT BETWEEN CGT UNION AND FRUIT OF THE LOOM

- Opened factory - Jerzees Nuevo Dia - rehired workers from closed factory
- Compensation for workers
- Respect for freedom of association in all Russell / Fruit of the Loom factories in Honduras
- Oversight committee
- Legally binding

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## INITIAL IMPACT OF AGREEMENT

- Jerzees Nuevo Dia factory opens
- Collective bargaining agreement reached with improved conditions for workers
- Trainings on freedom of association at other Fruit of the Loom factories


## OTHER FRUIT OF THE LOOM EMPLOYEES BENEFIT FROM AGREEMENT

- Five additional Fruit of the Loom factories form unions
- Successful conversion of a sewing plant to distribution center
- Successful consolidation of two sewing facilities


## BENEFITS EXTEND TO WORKERS EMPLOYED BY OTHER MANUFACTURERS

- Unions formed at Gildan and Hanesbrands factories
- Improved working conditions for workers


## SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS FOR WORKERS

- Wage increase
- School supplies
- Scholarships
- Savings and loan
- Medical care
- Free lunch
- Respect for workers


## 2018 - OUTCOME FOR WORKERS

- Respect for freedom of association
- CGT represents 35,000 garment workers
- CGT has bargaining agreements covering 25,000 workers
- Stark contrast to other garment-producing countries
- Positive relationship between union and manufacturers
- Increased participation in national arena
- Establishment of minimum wage
- Housing project
- Daycare project

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