

# Key Labor Rights Breakthroughs

## 2009

### Freedom of Association

The WRC convinced Fruit of the Loom to reopen a factory in Honduras it had closed to stop workers from unionizing. This led to huge advances for associational rights across the Honduran apparel sector.



## 2010

### Living Wage

Sub-poverty wages are the norm for apparel workers. The WRC helped create the only factory in the industry committed to pay a living wage, transforming the lives of workers and their families.



## 2010

### Severance Theft

Non-payment of mandatory severance is commonplace. Until 2010, brands refused to use their own money to pay back workers at contract factories. Pressed by the WRC, Nike did so at two factories that year; now we routinely help garment workers recover millions in unpaid severance.



## 2013

### Minimum Wage

The WRC found that garment factories all across Haiti were not paying workers the legal minimum wage. Pressure arising from our report led the government to close a legal loophole that had allowed these violations.



## 2013

### Health and Safety

The WRC spearheaded the creation of the Bangladesh Accord, a legally binding workplace safety agreement covering 1,600 factories and 2.5 million workers. The Accord has put an end to mass fatality disasters in Bangladesh's garment industry.



## 2018

### Gender-Based Violence and Harassment

A WRC investigation in Lesotho exposed pervasive sexual coercion at one of the world's largest denim manufacturers. The WRC helped workers and women's groups secure an agreement with leading brands to create a ground-breaking program to combat these abuses.



## 2019

### Forced Labor

The WRC spearheaded the formation of a global coalition to challenge apparel brands for their complicity in forced labor in Xinjiang, China. The coalition is helping build pressure on the Chinese government to end its crimes against the Uyghur people and other minorities in the region.



## 2020

### Covid-19

When brands responded to the pandemic by reneging on financial obligations to suppliers, making a bad situation for workers far worse, the WRC led efforts to expose the malfeasance and press brands to pay. We unlocked billions of dollars in payments, including hundreds of millions for workers' wages.

