

**Topic 1:**

The textile industry should be local not global!

**Against:**

- It is a good way to spread the wealth around the globe;
- Global commerce helps strengthen international relationships;
- Through these collaborations poor countries receive companies from abroad which help on the creation of qualified jobs;
- In order to fill these qualified positions the local community needs to be educated (formally), which means: better wages; better life quality; personal and professional growth.

**For:**

- The qualified positions (such as Research and Development) tend to remain in the developed/rich countries;
- Companies with good intentions don't move to poor countries unless they want to explore the locals;
- There are too many countries with none or very few environmental legislation, interested on these companies tax revenues and not in re-investing the money across exploited communities;
- Foreign companies don't set 'roots', they might leave from one day to the other.

## Topic 2:

Textiles made from animal products are redundant in a modern world



### Against:

- Animals raised for fur tend to have a much better quality of life than those raised for food consumption;
- Some species of animal that provide fur are endangering other animals;
- The price tag on fur guarantee the survival of primitive/traditional techniques;
- The quality of the material, and how it feels, makes this kind of product essential for the comfort of its users;
- Brands are now using road-kill instead of sacrificing animals.

### For:

- There are several alternatives to animal fur which can be easily produced in a lab;
- With the increasing amount of animals close to extinction this practice is outdated and inhumane;
- In most cases the animal has to be alive to be skinned (and the procedure is done without any anaesthetic);
- For such an expensive industry, there are very few benefits throughout the value chain (activities that will finish once a valuable good is delivered to the market).



**Topic 3:**

Fashion trends are so quick moving that sustainability is impossible

**Against:**

- There is always space for efficiency and sustainability;
- The choices made regarding fairer suppliers, environmentally conscious manufacturers or clean transportation do not imply they have to be slow or take longer to produce;
- Attitudes are changing and the consumer is seeing sustainability as a desired advantaged;
- The pace of fashion is indeed crucial, but the way this industry is moving exceeds the world's offer;

**For:**

- Cutting jobs given in poor countries in order to satisfy sustainable requirements might break small, poor countries/economies;
- The idea that every company in the world can provide sustainable alternatives might increase development in rich, developed countries, but weaken countries with no power for investments;
- The way the wealth is spread within the fashion industry guarantees more jobs to women around the world than any other industry;
- Earning £5 per month in exchange for the pollution and disadvantages of the fashion industry is still better than not earning anything at all.

## Topic 4:

### The textile industry in Britain is dead



#### Against:

- Luxury brands are stronger now than ever before;
- Consumers want to know more about the products they are buying and the story behind it;
- "Make in the UK" is now a trend as strong as "Made in Italy" and "Made in France";
- Many consumers know that products made in their own country will generate local jobs and help not only those people, but also the government with the tax collection and less need to pay benefits;
- Products produced in the UK need to comply with strict environmental and labour legislations, which guarantees good quality and still generates profits.

#### For:

- Most of British companies either fled to other countries or went bankrupted due to heavy competition;
- It's much cheaper to outsource production to countries where labour is extremely cheap;
- The profit margin is much higher once the raw material, production and labour are cheap;
- Consumers don't care about where their products came from, so why care?



## Topic 5:

### Landfills: essential or outdated?



#### Essential:

- It's safer to move the trash from heavily populated areas to rural zones;
- The potential for gas and energy production is high when it comes to decomposition;
- Landfills provide an alternative environment for fauna and flora;
- Separation cooperatives can profit from non-categorising, which they can separate into recyclable categories;
- Waste can be transported to other areas of the world so they can turn this into a profitable activity.

#### Outdated:

- Landfills can generate highly toxic and polluting chemicals, damaging the local environment;
- Even though the landfill's location is studied thoroughly water basins and soil systems are not protected;
- The choice of isolating the trash into emptier areas does not mean the trash ceases to exist;
- The UK is not big enough to contain the amount of trash Britain produces;
- Incorrectly disposed products can generate extremely toxic waste, which might still be active and difficult to safely dispose of;
- The accumulation of garbage can attract pests which transmit various diseases.

## Topic 6:

Divide the group into 5 smaller groups the participants would then have to defend 5 points of view:

- **Conscious consumers:** 'I am a part of the improvement'
- **I don't make any difference consumers:** 'I am only one person, if I change nothing will happen'
- **Big companies:** 'I am more concerned about my profit'
- **Sustainable companies:** 'We can make a difference, even if small'
- **The government:** 'I can regulate only if it is produced in my country'







## Sustainable companies:

'We can make a difference, even if small'



## The government:

'I am more concerned about my profit'