

Remarks by Nate Herman  
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Press Conference:  
Cotton Campaign and Uzbekistan Government on  
Labor Conditions in Uzbekistan's Cotton Sector

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Our industry makes every effort to identify, root out, and eliminate forced labor in our supply chains. Further, the US government has the US Forced Labor Statute, which prohibits the import of any products made in whole or in part with forced labor. Our long-standing partnership with diverse members of the Cotton Campaign, and the signatories of the Cotton Pledge, created the holistic approach we implemented together with the US and foreign governments, the Uzbek Government, and international institutions to address the scourge of forced labor in Uzbekistan's cotton fields. This has led us to the success we are celebrating today. We must continue to work together to not only sustain these successes over the long run, but provide the necessary assurances to brands to ensure that Uzbekistan's cotton, textile, and apparel industry become the global market leaders they should be. As part of that, we encourage the Uzbek government to approve registrations of human rights and labor groups to provide the civil society necessary to provide those assurances.