

MOTION 2:

Boycotting is the most effective way to end fast fashion

Fast fashion is everywhere - from influencer hauls to budget retailers offering the latest trends for the price of a coffee. But behind the low prices and fast turnover lies a global industry criticised for environmental destruction, exploitative labour practices and unsustainable overproduction. Fast fashion produces large volumes of textile waste and contributes more carbon emissions and water pollution than aviation and shipping combined. So what is the solution? Can we sit back and wait for policy change when the planet is paying such a high price?

Many proclaim that consumers hold real power. Every purchase, or refusal to jump on a trend, sends a message. If enough people stop supporting brands that exploit workers or pollute, companies will be forced to change or collapse. Campaigns like #WhoMadeMyClothes and the rise of second-hand shopping have already driven some retailers toward more ethical practices. Could a large-scale boycott spark real reform, or even dismantle fast fashion altogether?

Others argue that the problem goes beyond individual choices. Boycotts alone can't fix systemic issues like exploitative wages or global supply chains. Low-cost fashion isn't just driven by greed, it's fueled by inequality and lack of affordable alternatives. Furthermore, if consumers stop buying, what happens to the millions of Global South workers who rely on these jobs to survive?

As concern grows around the true cost of fast fashion, on people and the planet, one question stands out: is boycotting the most effective way to stop it? Can we realistically expect individuals to challenge a billion-dollar industry simply through their spending choices? Or is consumer action the most powerful tool we have?

This motion challenges you to explore the complex relationship between ethics, economics and activism. Should we vote with our wallets, or is it time for governments and corporations to step up and lead real change?

Debate it!

