

Ukraine: What's happening and how can you help?



On February 24th 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in the latest of their acts of aggression toward the country in order to gain a foothold in Eastern Europe. This level of aggression has not been seen in Europe since the Second World War and has led to both the militarisation of many of Ukraine's cities as well as a large-scale refugee crisis.

After the Soviet Union fell, the main consensus from Russia's new dictators and elite class was that it has a right to various areas of the former Union's autonomous regions, such as the Baltic states and areas of Ukraine and Belarus. These areas have major strategic value to Russia, such as Crimea in Ukraine giving its owner a foothold in the Black Sea.

It is important to note that a vast majority of the Russian military personnel on the ground are not willingly fighting and have been unexpectedly thrust into a battlefield without the necessary training.

The Earls High School has pledged to help raise money for Ukraine.

A group of students from Year Seven has asked the Junior Leadership Team to support their bid to raise desperately needed funds which will go directly to Ukrainian humanitarian relief such as the [Red Cross](#) and the [Disasters Emergency Committee](#). There will be ribbons and raffle tickets on sale at £1 each from Monday 25th April and bake sales at 50p each on Friday 29th April outside Hall A and at the exit of B block.

As well as donations to NGOs, the [National Bank of Ukraine](#) has set up a donation portal for military funds.

If the situation in Ukraine is worrying you, there are several ways to limit this:

- limit your access to social media and the news in order to prevent constant updates of the situation;
- mindfulness strategies such as meditation can help you to be more relaxed and focused;
- ensuring that your sleep schedule is consistent and adequate ensures that you are less weary and worried in general.

Fast Fashion: a silence stitched into society By Abigail Bolton-Issacs

You look out of your window where once an abundance of life grew but now all that is visible is a vivid stream of pollutants colored by the dye of the clothes on your back. There is no longer hope for your future children waiting for you patiently downstairs. Nothing but a silence that speaks louder than a thousand words. A silence stitched into society like the shirt on your back was stitched in a dimly lit sweatshop by a 13-year-old child begging for a savior. But no one spoke out. You cannot hear their pleas in your silent shopping spree. But one more order cannot hurt?

The never-ending poverty trap of modern-day child slavery is being spindled by you. The consumer. By continuing to buy from businesses that support child labor you are in turn ruining a child's life and are no better than the supervisor of these children who whips them with one wrong move. By feeding into this money hungry beast that we all call 'fashion', you are doing wrong.

On a worldwide scale, the fashion industry makes more money than most businesses do combined. Our addiction to cheap clothing is poisoning innocent people. And quite literally too. As well as ruining lives, the industry unsafely disposes of its waste and the dystopian description of toxin filled water is already a reality for less economically developed countries. Your SHEIN order could mean a family's water runs red from copper oxide dyes that seep from the factories producing the shirt on your back. Your money is being invested into an unsafe death trap of avoiding laws.



Impacts of fast fashion

26.7kg

UK consumption of new clothing per head
(highest in Europe)

235m items of clothing sent to landfill last year

700,000 fibres released in a single domestic wash

1.2bn tonnes of carbon emissions produced by global fashion industry (2015)

3,781 litres of water used in full lifetime of a pair of Levi's 501 jeans

Enviro Audit Committee submissions



If someone came up to YOU and said, "Give me £20 to kill children and we will give you a pair of jeans." You would say no, right? So why are you directly funding the people who do this?

The fine print of death is so discretely embroidered into your clothes that you are blinded to its meaning. A killer made silent by our shame.

So, what can you as a consumer do? Well, the answer is quite simple: reduce, reuse, recycle. Now, I am sure you have heard that a million times, but you must do it correctly.



Reduce your consumption and think before clicking 'Buy' because it could be someone's death warrant. Think, will I wear this more than once? Do I want it or is it just a trend? Think about buying something for at least a week before purchase; an item may seem worth the price but is it worth a life?

Reuse your old clothes; they can find a new lease of life before hitting the landfill. Think, can I turn this into something new? Is there a craft I have wanted to try?

Recycle when you are done with a product: we must be responsible with our disposable items. Think, can I donate this? Would a friend like this? Could it be given to charities and shelters?

Ending our fast-fashion addiction will be hard but finding things tricky is not an excuse to neglect and turn a blind eye to the mass abuse of children.

If we continue to make positive changes, in 10 years you could be looking upon a cleaner world with the sounds of children and animals enjoying the planet you saved. You could be able to breathe cleaner air happy in the knowledge you did make a difference.

Please change your ways. If not for the children being abused and massacred, then change for yourself and your future. Do not be the reason life as we know it reaches an all-time low, change now. I am begging you; we need to change!



Springtime And New Beginnings

Springtime is a magical time of year. A fun time when you can dance around in fields full of newly blossomed flowers and sing in the swift open air. In springtime you can smile in presence of a fox or a squirrel. In springtime you can watch as the branches and the leaves rustle. In springtime you can listen to the songbirds hum; and in springtime you can eagerly awaken to the long day ahead. In springtime all the vibrant colours come to life. In springtime you can smell the apple blossoms as they turn into a beautiful picture. Finally, springtime you can laugh in face of the ending, and awaken to the time of new beginnings.

By:Keira (7A1)

