

## FTA Members and BSCI Participants Unwavering Commitment and Actions in Turkey To Date

Since 2014 FTA members, including participants of the Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI), have initiated several pro-active measures aimed at ensuring safe jobs in dignified working conditions that respect human rights in Turkey. The way our members have been operating even as they strive to minimise the risk to their reputation and business integrity clearly reflects how responsible businesses genuinely look beyond their profit margins and voluntarily leverage their corporate strength to protect the rights of vulnerable workers. Some of the main activities include:

### 2014

- ***FTA Raises Awareness of Syrian Labour Abuses in Turkey*** – In October 2014 FTA provided an update to participants expressing concern about conditions for refugees that have fled Syria's civil war to neighbouring countries such as Turkey, where adult and children represent a vulnerable population and risk labour exploitation.

*“It is indeed a timely and valuable initiative by the FTA to provide a comprehensive guidance package to its members and their producers about Syrians working in Turkey. This clearly reflects how responsible businesses actually look beyond their profit margins and voluntarily leverage their corporate strength to protect the rights of vulnerable workers – especially such as those fleeing conflict from Syria into Turkey”*

Dante Pesce, Chair,  
UN Working Group on Business & Human Rights

### 2015

- ***FTA Hosts Round Table To Leverage Better Working Conditions for Migrant Workers in Turkey*** – In January 2015 FTA facilitated the third in a series of Round Table meetings in Istanbul to on working conditions for migrant workers, and other local labour issues. The meeting provided updates on national legislation for migrant workers and an overview of steps being taken to improve their situation.
- ***FTA Encourages Producers to Sign Up To a Joint Research Project on the Cotton Supply Chain*** – In September 2015 BSCI participants sourcing cotton-based textiles or apparel in Turkey were encouraged to sign up their producers to take part in a special research project aimed at strengthening the cotton supply chain in Turkey (in partnership with the FLA, and Development Workshop, a Turkish NGO)
- ***FTA Leverages Support To Encourage Turkish Authorities To Take Action*** – In October 2015 FTA encouraged all BSCI participants with business relations in Turkey to sign a letter drafted by FLA, ETI and FWF requesting Turkish authorities to approve a law that will enable Syrians to apply for work permits and be fully integrated into the workforce.

### 2016

- ***Update on Syrian Nationals in Turkey***– In February 2016 FTA provided an update highlighting how the vulnerable situation of Syrians who have fled to Turkey continues to be a growing concern and media and NGO criticisms levelled at business.
- ***FTA Provides Guidelines for Employment of Syrian Workers in Turkey***– In April 2016 the FTA produced guidelines following Turkish government’s two guidance documents for the implementation of the regulation allowing migrant workers, notably Syrians, to apply for a work permit.

- **FTA Releases Guidance Package for Companies Sourcing from Turkey** - In August 2016, FTA together with its members issued a Guidance Package to provide support for BSCI participants and their producers to better understand, respond, identify, as well as to prevent and mitigate abuses and exploitation of Syrian nationals in their supply chains in Turkey.
- **FTA/BSCI Guidance Package commended by the UN and submitted to UN General Assembly**– In August 2016 FTA was commended in report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially in Women and Children, submitted to the UN General Assembly as an example of responsible business

*“This guidance package is a good example of a private sector initiative aimed to help companies that operate in areas with presence of refugees to understand and identify indicators of risk with regarding labour exploitation and to assist them in implementing due diligence measures to prevent and mitigate labour abuses within their supply chains”.*

Maria Grazia Giammarinaro

UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially in Women and Children

## 2017

- **FTA Holds Briefing Session to Support the Integration of Syrian Nationals Under Temporary Protection into the Turkish Labour Market** – In February 2017, an FTA Briefing Session in collaboration with UNHCR and IMPR, hosted by ITKIB, held in Istanbul, Turkey to provide information on efforts undertaken in Turkey for BSCI participants and producers, as well as auditing companies and non-members.
- **FTA Releases an Updated Guidance Package** - An updated guidance package is scheduled to be released in March 2017, together with translations in Turkish and Arabic.
- **FTA Holds a Multi-Stakeholder Forum ‘Protection of Syrian Labour Rights in Turkey – A Business-Led Call for Supply Chain Action’** – This event in Hamburg, Germany in March 2017 will address the current challenges of integrating Syrian nationals into the Turkish supply chains. This FTA-led multi-stakeholder forum is in collaboration with Otto Group, El Corte Inglés, ESPRIT and other BSCI participant companies, is organising the multi-stakeholder forum