



## Claire Hamer : Sustainable Sourcing consultant



Claire is a Sustainable Sourcing specialist with 9 years retail Buying experience at the UK's leading fashion retailers. Until recently, Claire spent the last five years at Topshop as a Buyer across Jersey, Knitwear, Leather and Accessories departments. During this time she also became passionate about the importance of the role of Sustainability within supply chains. Claire instigated and developed a number of ethical fashion initiatives across all departments throughout the brand including development of Fairtrade cotton supply chains and working with small co-operatives and artisans throughout the developing world as part of an empowerment programme.

As a consultant Claire now works with a number of retailers, small and large, start up designers and businesses, NGOs, Education Institutions and has affiliation with a number of high profile industry bodies. With a wealth of knowledge and experience of Sustainability issues, Claire understands the complexities and challenges that we face in the fashion industry, identifies ways that they can be addressed and has experience of implementing solutions across supply chains that adds value to your business and therefore protects your bottom line.

As business ethics enter the main steam, it is clear that Sustainability needs to be built into any long-term business proposition. As well as being essential to the people within your supply chain and the environment we live, it is a commercial opportunity to differentiate your products in an ever increasing competitive market. It gives you a chance to be transparent with your customer and create open dialogue to build consumer loyalty.

'I have been fortunate enough to travel the world in my career and have had the opportunity to work in many developing countries. This has given me deep understanding of the challenges we face in our complex supply chains but also a chance to witness the positive impact that Sustainability and Ethical initiatives can have on people and the planet when passionate, pioneering and innovative individuals and businesses try to address these issues.

I see myself as a Sustainable Sourcing Consultant, but also as an educator, researcher and connector. I have built up a vast network of contacts in the sustainability field and across industry disciplines. It is important to recognise how different sectors of Industry are inter-connected, particularly when it comes to Sustainability issues, and as a member of the Vectra International network I partner with other Social Responsibility experts to identify opportunities to create synergy for those who I work with. I also believe that each individual has the power to play a positive role in the fashion industry and I support the people I work with to realise their ambition'

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