

## Speech on fast fashion

by Marie K.

Dear students from Schillerschule,  
it is an honor for me to speak to you about fast fashion. The fact that I am talking up here is just a coincidence. Everyone of you could stand here and talk about fast fashion and the consequences that come with it. Everyone of you should be able to say what fast fashion is and perhaps be able to name some of the consequences of fast fashion.

Fast fashion plays a huge part in other environmental problems like deforestation, child labor and pollution of the ocean. We have to do something about it.

80 billion pieces of clothing are consumed each year. This brings the global fashion industry an outcome of \$1.2 trillion per year. That is a lot of money, which you might think is used to renovate the factories and create safe working conditions. But this is not the truth.

The condition of the factories in which fast fashion is produced are terrible up to dangerous. A lot of them collapsed and buried the workers in the debris. One of the most tragic event was the collapsing of a factory in Bangladesh in 2013 where 3000 people were killed. Among these people were children like me and you. Instead of having the chance to go to school, they have to work in a factory under inhumane working conditions.

Another problem about fast fashion is deforestation. Each year over 70 million trees are chopped down for fabric. The companies do not pay attention on the conditions of the forests they chop down. This can lead to the destruction of forests and the loss of biodiversity. Furthermore forests are tanks of CO<sub>2</sub>, which gets released if a tree is chopped down. This damages the atmosphere and intensifies climate change.

And all of this for clothes that we keep for 35 days and wear less than five times. We have to do something about it. We can do something about it.

If we stop buying cheap and new clothes the fashion industry will have to adjust to this development. If we start thrifting clothing the fashion industry will see that we do not agree with their way of producing clothes. They would have to change it.

I am sure we can change the fast fashion industry. We just have to do it together.