



Beauty pageant hopeful and ethical fashion designer partner to advocate for human rights in Australian first collaboration

Ms Australia World 2020 national finalist, Pan Sandar Myint and ethical fashion designer, Gina Berjeel have joined forces in an Australian-first collaboration to advocate for equal human rights for vulnerable refugees.

Ms Sandar Myint from Sydney originates from one of the world's most prosecuted ethnicities known as "Rohingya" from Myanmar, and has chosen her beauty pageant platform to advocate equal human rights for the Rohingya community in Australia.

Ms Sandar Myint has chosen to collaborate on her pageant outfits with Gina Berjeel, an Australian ethical fashion designer employing female refugees from Iraqi, Syrian and Afghanistan backgrounds.

"This will be the first time ever in the Australian beauty pageant industry for a Ms Australia World national finalist and an ethical fashion designer to make an ethical fashion statement in support of equal human rights of Rohingya, Syrian, Iraqi and Afghanistan refugees," said Ms Berjeel.

Based on UN reports, the world's fashion industry employs over 75 million people globally by being the second largest polluting industry after the oil industry.

"Fast fashion has a significant impact on human societies around the world because the global fashion industry is worth three trillion dollars, accounting for 2 percent of the world's Gross Domestic Product," said Ms Sandar Myint.

"To generate high profits, most fashion firms operate their factories in Asian countries for cheap labour. USA, Europe, Australia, UK and Japan import most garments from China and Bangladesh.

"This generates vulnerable human rights issues including under-aged child labour, unfair labour wage and environmental degradation."

Based on the report of ABC's War On Waste, nearly 6000KG of clothing waste is disposed every ten minutes in Australia.

"It takes 2,700 litres of water to make a cotton t-shirt that is enough for one person to drink for 900 days," said Ms Sanda Myint.

"Textile factory labour workers earn only \$100 per month while working in hard working environments and conditions.

"This imbalance of humanitarian exploitation occurs due to the unethical standards of fast fashion.

"This is the irony of beauty in fast fashion.

With the Ms Australia World crowning event postponed until March 2021, Ms Sandar Myint has been productive by launching her own female empowerment web series.

"Empower Success Media is my own female empowerment web series on You Tube where I present on such topics as Cyberbullying and The Art of Make up & Confidence," said Ms Sandar Myint.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has taught me that humanitarian efforts are of utmost importance. This is the perfect time for us all to change our actions to moral and ethical ones to save our beautiful world."

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