



#STOP  
WASTE  
C%NIALISM

## Stop Waste Colonialism Info Sheet

Campaign website: <https://stopwastecolonialism.org/>

The Or Foundation Instagram: [@theorispresent](https://www.instagram.com/theorispresent)

### What Is Waste Colonialism?

Waste colonialism is when a group of people uses waste and pollution to dominate another group of people in their homeland. The fashion industry uses the global secondhand clothing trade as a de-facto waste management strategy, seeing **three secondhand garments per person** on the planet shipped across international borders and dumped into communities and ecosystems that lack the financial capacity to manage the waste. This is quite visible in the context of Accra's Kantamanto Market, the largest secondhand market in the world.

- **The Global North over-consumes** - as an example **French citizens buy 36 items of clothing per year**. Global North does not have landfill space and does not want to slow down overproduction and profit of Global North businesses
- Global North **sells high quality items & exports lower quality**, calling it "charity" or "recycling", claiming environmental & social benefit for communities like Kantamanto.
- Profits stay in Global North. Kantamanto spends \$325Million USD on bales every year, \$182M of which goes to Global North exporters in 2020.
- Fashion's waste crisis becomes Ghana's problem – **costing money, destroying livelihoods and the environment**.

### What Is EPR?

EPR stands for Extended Producer Responsibility. EPR is an environmental policy and a form of product stewardship that extends a producer's responsibility for a product to the post-consumer stage of a product's life-cycle. A harmonized EPR policy is urgently necessary. Clothing production doubled from 2000 to 2014, surpassing 100 Billion garments for the first time **in 2014**. Today the textile and footwear industry is responsible for **up to 10% of global GHG emissions**, without intervention it is projected to account for **26% of global greenhouse gas emissions** by 2050.

### What Is The Or Foundation calling for?

We call on policy makers, industry leaders and Producer Responsibility Organizations alike to implement EPR programs for textiles based on three key principles:

- 1. Internalized Cost of Waste Management:** Fees Aligned with Real Costs and the Sales Tax Precedent
- 2. Global Accountability:** Fund Distribution Toward Justice and Identified Need including establishment of an environmental fund to support environmental remediation of current disposal sites.
- 3. Disclosures to Drive Reuse Targets:** Volume Disclosure & a 40% reduction of new clothing

### What Are The Goals for Stop Waste Colonialism Campaign?

- Show the world that **Kantamanto is actively fighting back**
- **Grow a network of advocates** who are committed to putting Kantamanto's concerns front and center
- Ensure that the **Stop Waste Colonialism position paper is prioritized in all discussions related to EPR**
- Shape EPR Policy to benefit Kantamanto and communities like it. **This begins with the EU** but the campaign is already impacting policy in the USA and The Or Foundation will continue to push across the Global North