

## **BENETTON LAUNCHES GENDER EQUALITY CAMPAIGN FROM INDIA CHALLENGING SOCIAL NORMS**

*The gender equality campaign developed in India will attain global visibility on International Women's Day, underpinned by projects to empower women in India*

**March 6, 2017.** Reaffirming its commitment to empower women around the world, United Colors of Benetton in occasion of International Women's Day launches **#UnitedByHalf**, a campaign promoting gender equality developed in India that will be aired around the world.

In over fifty years of campaigning on social issues, most recently linked to improving the lives of women under its Women Empowerment Program, this is the first time that Benetton has directly challenged social behaviors prevalent in one of its principal global markets.

The new #UnitedByHalf campaign – like #UnitedbyDonts, a campaign that rolled out across India last year – attempts to give wider voice to the social concerns driving the Women Empowerment Program and its projects. Both campaigns directly challenge social stereotypes in India around the role of women.

The new campaign launched in India on Valentine's Day, with backing from leading voices and celebrity influencers across India, seeking to promote greater equality for women within their relationships. Launching globally on International Women's Day, it aims to mobilise people to think, talk and act in ways that support the empowerment of women.

These campaigns fall under Benetton's wider Women Empowerment Program. Supporting the goal of gender equality and women empowerment, Benetton Group has identified five key priorities in accordance with the UN agenda: Sustainable livelihood, Non-discrimination and equal opportunities, Quality education, Access to healthcare and fight against violence.

**Chiara Mio**, who leads Benetton Group's Sustainability program and all its Women Empowerment initiatives, said: "We're proud to be working on direct projects to improve the lives of women in developing countries but, with a major presence in India, we want to do more. This new campaign takes our message of women empowerment directly into one of our biggest global markets, notably for menswear."

India is Benetton's biggest market outside Italy, and the brand is particularly popular among men, who are a key target of the new



**UNITED COLORS  
OF BENETTON.**

campaign, which seeks to persuade them to recognize women as equal partners and highlight the need for genuine equality.

A video launching #UnitedByHalf in India will be rolled out worldwide as part of the new campaign. It is a strong depiction of men and women as equal partners and shows women with their partners, unrestricted by social taboos still common in India and other developing markets.

Speaking about the campaign, **Mr Sundeep Chugh**, CEO & MD, Benetton India, said, "Women's safety and gender equality issue has always been very close to our hearts and we promote them through the Benetton Women Empowerment Program, a long-term initiative to support women's rights worldwide. #UnitedByHalf is not only a call for equal opportunities for women in all walks of life but it also urges men to acknowledge the other half of the country or rather the world and accept them as equal partners. We have successfully launched the first phase of the campaign and believe the campaign has touched the lives of many. We continue to build momentum on this Women's Day and celebrate women and men as equal partners."

Promoting gender equality and women's safety as the priority, Benetton is executing key elements of its global sustainability roadmap, the Women Empowerment Program, a long-term Benetton Group sustainability program aimed at supporting the empowerment of women worldwide.

### **About Benetton Group and United Colors of Benetton**

Benetton Group is one of the best-known fashion companies in the world, present in the most important markets with a network of about 5,000 stores. A responsible group that plans for the future and lives in the present - with a watchful eye to the environment, to human dignity, and to a society in transformation - the Group has a consolidated identity comprised of colour, authentic fashion, quality at democratic prices and passion for its work. These values are reflected in the strong, dynamic personalities of the United Colors of Benetton and Sisley brands.

The Benetton Women Empowerment Program is rooted in the Italian fashion brand's **long history of social commitment** and moves on to recognize that gender equality and the empowerment of women are not only human rights, but necessary steps toward building a peaceful, prosperous and more sustainable world for all.

### **About the WE Program:**

The WE Program (Women Empowerment Program) is a long-term, Benetton Group sustainability initiative aimed at supporting the empowerment of women worldwide.

To fulfill the goal of gender equality and women empowerment, Benetton Group has identified five key priorities in accordance with the UN agenda:

- ✓ Sustainable livelihood: ensure that women have access to decent work in safe places so that they may gain social and economic independence.
- ✓ Non-discrimination and equal opportunities: all forms of discrimination must be ended. Women and girls must be granted equal opportunities with men and boys in employment, leadership and decision-making at all levels. They must play a role in peace building and state-building and have full access to information and communications technology.
- ✓ Quality education: all girls and women must be granted access to affordable and quality education at all levels, including technical, vocational and university education.
- ✓ Healthcare: women and girls must be granted access to affordable and adequate healthcare. In particular they must be granted universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.
- ✓ Fight against violence: by 2030, all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres must be eliminated. This includes trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation and harmful practices such as genital mutilation and child marriage.

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