

# **Metta Muse**

Disclosure Report Date Submitted: August 20th, 2024

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## **Disclosure Materials**

Certified B Corporations must complete a Disclosure Questionnaire to identify potentially sensitive issues related to the company (e.g. historical fines, sanctions, material litigation, or sensitive industry practices).

This component does not affect the company's score on the B Impact Assessment. If the company answers affirmatively to any items in the Disclosure Questionnaire that B Lab deems relevant for public stakeholders, then, as a condition of their certification, the company must:

- Be transparent about details of the disclosure issues identified on the company's public B Impact Report
- 2) Describe how the company has addressed this issue
- 3) Demonstrate that management practices are in place to avoid similar issues from arising in the future, when necessary.

In all cases, the Standards Advisory council reserves the right to refuse certification if the company is ultimately deemed not to uphold the spirit and integrity of the community.

In addition to the voluntary indication of sensitive issues in the Disclosure Questionnaire, companies pursuing Certification also are subject to a background check by B Lab staff. Background checks include a review of public records, news sources, and search engines for company names, brands, executives/founders, and other relevant topics.

Sensitive issues identified through background checks may or may not be within the scope of questions in the Disclosure Questionnaire, but undergo the same review process and are subject to the same possible review by the Standards Advisory Council, including ineligibility for B Corp Certification, required remediation, or disclosure.

#### **B Lab's Public Complaints Process**

Any party may submit a complaint about a current B Corp through B Lab's Public Complaint Process. Grounds for complaint include:

- Intentional misrepresentation of practices, policies, and/or claimed outcomes during the company's certification process
- Breaches of the B Corp Community's core values as expressed in our Declaration of Interdependence

This document contains a copy of the company's completed Disclosure Questionnaire and related disclosure documentation provided by the company.



## **Disclosure Questionnaire**

#### **Industries and Products**

#### Yes No Please indicate if the company is involved in production of or trade in any of the following. Select Yes for all options that **Animal Products or Services** $\boxed{}$ **Biodiversity Impacts** Chemicals $\boxed{}$ **Disclosure Alcohol Disclosure Firearms Weapons** $\boxed{}$ **Disclosure Mining** $\boxed{}$ **Disclosure Pornography** $\boxed{}$ **Disclosure Tobacco** $\boxed{}$ **Energy and Emissions Intensive** $\boxed{}$ Industries Fossil fuels $\square$ Gambling **Genetically Modified Organisms** $\boxed{}$ Illegal Products or Subject to $\boxed{}$ **Phase Out** Industries at Risk of Human $\square$ **Rights Violations Monoculture Agriculture** $\square$ **Nuclear Power or Hazardous** $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$ **Materials** Payday, Short Term, or High **Interest Lending Water Intensive Industries** $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$ Tax Advisory Services

#### **Outcomes & Penalties**

	Yes	No
Please indicate if the company has had any formal complaint to a regulatory agency or been assessed any fine or sanction in the past five years for any of the following practices or policies. Check all that apply.		
Anti-Competitive Behavior		V
Breaches of Confidential Information		V
Bribery, Fraud, or Corruption		V
Company has filed for bankruptcy		$\vee$
Consumer Protection		$\vee$
Financial Reporting, Taxes, Investments, or Loans		N
Hazardous Discharges Into Air/Land/Water (Past 5 Yrs)		K
Labor Issues		<b>₹</b>
Large Scale Land Conversion, Acquisition, or Relocation		N.
Litigation or Arbitration		$\vee$
On-Site Fatality		$\vee$
Penalties Assessed For Environmental Issues		N
Political Contributions or International Affairs		$\searrow$
Recalls		$\vee$
Significant Layoffs		
Violation of Indigenous Peoples Rights		V
Other		$\checkmark$



### **Practices**

	Yes	No
Please indicate if the following statements are true regarding whether or not the company engages in the following practices. Check all that apply. If the statement is true, select "Yes." If false, select "No."		
Animal Testing		$\checkmark$
Company/Suppliers Employ Under Age 15 (Or Other ILO Minimum Age)		V
Company prohibits freedom of association/collective bargaining		✓
Company workers are prisoners		$\checkmark$
Conduct Business in Conflict Zones	V	
Confirmation of Right to Work		$\checkmark$
Does not transparently report corporate financials to government		$\vee$
Employs Individuals on Zero-Hour Contracts		$\vee$
Facilities located in sensitive ecosystems		V
ID Cards Withheld or Penalties for Resignation		V
No formal Registration Under Domestic Regulations		$\checkmark$
No signed employment contracts for all workers		V
Overtime For Hourly Workers Is Compulsory		V
Payslips not provided to show wage calculation and deductions		$\checkmark$

	Yes	No
Sale of Data		K
Tax Reduction Through Corporate Shells		V
Workers cannot leave site during non-working hours		$\searrow$
Workers not Provided Clean Drinking Water or Toilets		$\searrow$
Workers paid below minimum wage		K
Workers Under Bond		K
Other		V

## Supply Chain Disclosures

	Yes	No
Please indicate if any of the following statements are true regarding your company's significant suppliers.		
Business in Conflict Zones		V
Child or Forced Labor		$\checkmark$
Negative Environmental Impact		<b>✓</b>
Negative Social Impact		V
Other		V



## **Disclosure Questionnaire Statement**

## **Disclosure Questionnaire Category: Operations located in Conflict Zones**

Topic	Company has suppliers located in Conflict Zones
Summary of Issue	Metta Muse, located in Switzerland, is a business-to-business online end-to-end sourcing platform that curates a network of artisans from around the world, specializing in areas such as weaving, hand embroidery, knitting, metalwork, and ceramics. Among several other products, the company sources products directly, Tier 1, from grassroots artisans in the Srinagar region and surrounding areas of Kashmir and sells these products through its business unit pink maharani, part of the parent company metta muse. The company chooses to work with these artisans because of their heritage-driven skills in cashmere weaving and embroidery, which have been passed down through generations in this region.
	The <u>Kashmir region is a conflict zone</u> , with the conflict originating from the 1947 partition of British India, leading to territorial disputes between countries, resulting in multiple wars and ongoing tension driven by religious and nationalist divides.
Size/Scope of Issue (e.g. \$ financial implication, # of individuals affected)	During the fiscal year 2023, around 70% of the company's revenues came from products originating from conflict zones sourced for ist business unit pink maharani.
Impact on Stakeholders	Business activities located in conflict zones are considered high-risk as they are more likely to cause or contribute to the conflict and/or sociopolitical instability.
	Countries classified as conflict zones are more likely to have a weak rule-of-law or a corrupt judicial system, which could undermine the effectiveness of operational grievance mechanisms for these businesses and their suppliers. In addition, the safety of the company's workers and other potential human rights violations are at risk.
Implemented Management Practices	Metta Muse has a direct business agreement with an artisan group made up of individuals in need of economic empowerment in the Srinagar region and surrounding areas of Kashmir. The agreement includes a code of conduct that establishes policies such as no child labor, no forced labor or



discrimination, business transparency, and health and safety, among others. Additionally, the company provides design upskilling workshops to the artisans and carries out yearly in-person audits. **Management Comments** Metta muse chooses to do business in Kashmir because of the rich heritage it holds in its craftsmanship and on the same hand the decreased opportunity to secure long term livelihood. We believe the artisans in such conflict regions need extended support for livelihood which is the company's main focus that can positively uplift such communities. The company does not contribute to the ongoing conflict in any form or activity which is rather politically driven. On the contrary, through increased economic opportunity the company would like to enable the local population to find its voice needed to rise against injustice and feel empowered to defend themselves through increased resources and increased community knowledge through access to education and regular income. There has been no recorded evidence that the company contributes to the conflict in this zone.