For Immediate Release

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Patagonia and United Repair Centre launch new training program

United Repair Academy makes its debut as Patagonia and United Repair Centre's new training program

The workshops have moved into a new and larger facility to ramp up capacity in hopes to employ 140 tailors in the Netherlands by 2027.

AMSTERDAM (June 1, 2024) – Patagonia and United Repair Centre launched a new project, employing skilled refugees to mend much-loved clothes in a new and larger facility located in the Netherlands for its upcoming training program that will be launched in February 2025 – United Repair Academy. The new workshop which URC moved into last week has space to ramp up capacity rapidly: 60 tailors and 150,000 garments within two years, and the hope is to employ 140 tailors in the Netherlands by 2027.

United Repair Academy will provide more refugees with tailoring skills through its upcoming training program. The training program will launch in February 2025 and the initial 10 participants will be guaranteed a job when they complete their training. URC is a workshop in west Amsterdam that repairs fleeces, coats, tops, jumpers, jeans and more. Former refugees use their tailoring skills to mend clothes for some of the world's biggest brands through its workshops. Recruiting former refugees has been solving a real skills shortage problem and contributing to shaping a better future for the city and the planet.

"In the Netherlands, the average unemployment rate now is around 3%; for the refugee population it's much higher. Why? Are they less smart? Are they less skilled? It's just unfair… They want to work; they want to deliver," said Thami Schweichler CEO of URC. "A lot of newcomers come to the Netherlands with skills in textiles; they wouldn't find satisfaction somewhere else. Feeling you belong, that you can contribute meaningfully with your skills, is one of the biggest challenges that an incomer has to face." (this is not a paragraph – add more)

According to URC, the repair process used in its workshops follows these steps:

- Checking in parcels of clothes sent directly from customers or brands
- Paper fiche with diagram is created, highlighting what repair is needed
- Each repair gets a color code corresponding to someone for the repair
- When repair is completed, garment goes through quality control
- Garments go back to be dispatched to customers

About Patagonia

We’re in business to save our home planet. Founded by Yvon Chouinard in 1973, Patagonia is an outdoor apparel company based in Ventura, California. As a certified B Corporation and a founding member of 1% For the Planet, the company is recognized internationally for its product quality and environmental activism, as well as its contributions of more than $230 million to environmental organizations. Its unique ownership structure reflects that Earth is its only shareholder: Profits not reinvested back into the business are paid as dividends to protect the planet.