

CYL Alert

Garment Workers

You may remember the *CYL Alert* we sent in May that described the activities we led in support of workers' rights. We addressed pay equity issues between men and women and painted fences in a hallway at Brien McMahon High in support of day laborers in Norwalk.

We also set up a display to raise awareness of the plight of garment workers in Bangladesh. A focal point of the display included photos of some of the 1,129 workers that lost their lives in a factory that collapsed in Dhaka in April. We returned to the topic on June 29, with a recreation of



“What happened in that factory is a shame,”
said a passerby. “Please take this exhibit to other cities.”

an exhibit by Yolanda Dominguez, a performance artist from Spain. *That’s Melanie Patino in the foreground in the photo above and Celia Pardo in the background.* They are on a sidewalk on North Main Street in Norwalk covered in debris and rubble from a “factory collapse.” The purpose of the exhibit was to connect the exploitation of garment workers with the clothes we buy from WalMart, H&M and other stores. The connection is strong. According to the

government of Bangladesh, 80 percent of the garments produced in the country are sold in the U.S. and European markets. And of the factories that produce the shirts and shorts and dresses, three-fifths are structurally unsafe.

Thanks to Melanie, Celia, Mirrella Fernandez, Samiha Jalukha, Arlene Sanchez and Naomi Salamea for staffing the exhibit.