

Despite Vowing To Fight Against Human Trafficking, Kash Patel Profited Millions Consulting For The Owner Of Shein, A Chinese Business Notorious For Forced Labor, Abusive Business Practice, And Alleged Ties To The Chinese Communist Party

SUMMARY:

Kash Patel, Trump's nominee for FBI director, vowed to investigate human trafficking if confirmed. In exchanges with senators during a Senate Judiciary Committee meeting, Patel said ensuring trafficking does not happen would be [one of his top priorities](#), and said he would ["do everything"](#) to ensure the public knows about who worked with Jeffrey Epstein.

Patel's [financial disclosure](#) revealed he owns between one and five million dollars in Elite Depot Ltd. stock. Elite Depot is the ultimate controlling party of Shein, the Chinese fast fashion realtor. Patel [noted](#) that he could participate in matters related to the financial interests of the company if he received a written waiver from Trump.

Elite Depot's [board](#) is comprised of Shein executives but also the company's investors. Two of these investors—IDG Capital and Sequoia Capital—faced scrutiny from lawmakers last year for their reputed ties to the Chinese Communist Party and its military apparatus.

In recent years, Shein has drawn bipartisan criticism over their business practices, including the use of forced Uyghur labor. Just this week, the Trump administration [considered adding Shein](#) to the Department of Homeland Security's "forced labor" list. In May 2023, members of Congress [asked the SEC](#) to require Shein certify that their products did not use forced Uyghur labor. Throughout 2024, politicians including former senator and current Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Senator Tom Cotton, and a coalition of state AGs stated their concerns about Shein's business practices.

While Patel claims to support an end to human trafficking, an Accountable.US review found he has profited millions from a company notorious for the practice.

Kash Patel Has Vowed To Investigate Human Trafficking As One Of His Top Priorities If Confirmed As FBI Director

In His Confirmation Hearing, Kash Patel Vowed To Investigate Human Trafficking If Confirmed As FBI Director

In An Exchange With Senator Blackburn During A Senate Judiciary Hearing, Patel Promised To Work To Prevent Child Trafficking

Patel Pledged To Make Combating Child Trafficking A Priority. "Kash Patel has pledged to work with Congress to investigate the Jeffrey Epstein child trafficking scandal if he is confirmed as Donald Trump's new FBI director. Testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Patel said he would make combating child trafficking a priority." [Daily Beast, [1/30/25](#)]

Senator Martha Blackburn Asked Patel If He Would Work With Her To Identify Who Worked With Jeffrey Epstein On Sex Trafficking Rings. “Blackburn said that ‘breaking up these trafficking rings is important to President Trump,’ who was a personal friend of the late convicted sex offender. ‘Will you work with me on this issue,’ she asked Patel, ‘so we know who worked with Jeffrey Epstein in building these sex trafficking rings?’” [Daily Beast, [1/30/25](#)]

Patel Said “I Will Do Everything” To Make Sure The Public “Knows The Full Weight Of What Happened In The Past” And How To Prevent Missing And Exploited Children In The Future. “‘Absolutely, senator,’ replied Patel. ‘Child sex trafficking has no place in the United States of America. And I will do everything, if confirmed as FBI director, to make sure the American public knows the full weight of what happened in the past and how we are going to counterman missing children and exploited children going forward.’” [Daily Beast, [1/30/25](#)]

In An Exchange With Senator Moody During The Hearing, Patel Promised That Fighting Human Trafficking Would Be One Of His Top Priorities

Senator Ashley Moody Asked Patel Whether He Believed The Cause Of Trafficking Was “Evil, Heinous Humans That Seek To Profit Off Of Others’ Pain.” “Senator Moody: ‘I know you would be shocked to learn this as AG and as the chair of the Human Trafficking Council in Florida. We saw trafficking explode around the nation as a result of the Biden administration wide open borders. That’s no surprise to anyone. But it might shock you to know that the National Human trafficking hotline that was funded by Congress to report tips to law enforcement in the last 4 years, decided that they would no longer report tips to law enforcement. That they would take a more victim centered approach, and this fell in line with a lot of what we saw over the last 4 years with people saying things like defund the police, abolish the police, nonsense policies that lead to an explosion in crime. You and I both understand that from our prior work experience.’ Patel: ‘Absolutely.’ Moody: ‘So there was a CEO that was put in charge in the last 4 years who said that she that we cannot arrest our way out of the human trafficking problem, and I quote, ‘trafficking in all its forms is the end result of inequities, abuses of power, and massive system systemic and government failures.’ Do you believe that that is in fact the cause of human trafficking, or is it the result of evil, heinous humans that seek to profit off of others’ pain?’” [YouTube, PBS NewsHour, [1/30/25](#)]

Patel Said That One Of His “Top Priorities” Would Be To Make Sure Trafficking Does Not Happen. “Patel: ‘The only people responsible for human trafficking are the criminals that intentionally traffic in humans, in children, and exploit them. And if I’m confirmed, it will be one of the top priorities to make sure that doesn’t happen in this country and that we find the thousands of missing children that are still missing.’” [YouTube, PBS NewsHour, [1/30/25](#)]

Patel Said He Would Give Senator Moody His Word That He Would Support Reporting Trafficking To Law Enforcement. “Moody: ‘I, along with many of the other attorneys general in this nation and in a bipartisan fashion, not only demanded that they begin reporting tips to law enforcement so that they could follow up and go after the traffickers so that they didn’t continue to victimize and victimize others, but we also came to Congress and tried to get funding pulled, or at least a mandate that they do what they were created to do, and that is to report tips to law enforcement. Do I have your word moving forward as someone who understands the necessity to go after traffickers to not only identify and rescue victims, but to ensure there aren’t other victims. Do I have your word you’ll work with me to come to Congress to make sure that that happens so that that can never happen again.’ Patel: ‘You do, Senator.’” [YouTube, PBS NewsHour, [1/30/25](#)]

Patel Owns Between One And Five Million Dollars In Stock In Elite Depot Ltd., The Controlling Party Of Shein

Patel Owns Between One And Five Million Dollars In Elite Depot Ltd. Stock, Which He Will Not Divest From If Confirmed

Patel Reported Owning Between One And Five Million Dollars In Elite Depot Ltd. Stock

Patel Reported Working As A Consultant From April 2024 To January 2025 At Elite Depot Ltd.

13	Elite Depot Ltd.	Cayman Islands, Outside U.S.	Management Company	Consultant	4/2024	1/2025
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[Public Financial Disclosure Report, Kash Patel, filed [1/28/25](#)]

Patel Reported Holding Between \$1,000,001-\$5,000,000 In Elite Depot Ltd. Unvested Restricted Stock Units.

7	Elite Depot Ltd. (Fashion Management Company), unvested restricted stock units	N/A	\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	None (or less than \$201)
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[Public Financial Disclosure Report, Kash Patel, filed [1/28/25](#)]

- **According To Patel, The Stock Was Compensation For His Consulting Work On Behalf Of The Company.** “I terminated my consulting position with Elite Depot Ltd. effective January 1, 2025. As part of my compensation for this position, I hold unvested restricted stock units in Elite Depot, Ltd., which will vest quarterly between November 1, 2024 through November 1, 2025, with the first portion scheduled to vest on February 1, 2025.” [Ethics Agreement, Kash Patel, filed [2/1/25](#)]

Patel Said He Would Retain His Vested And Unvested Stock Units In Elite Depot Inc.

6	Elite Depot Ltd.	Cayman Islands, Outside U.S.	Unvested restricted stock units in Elite Depot, Ltd., which will vest quarterly between November 1, 2024 through November 1, 2025, with the first portion scheduled to vest on February 1, 2025. I will retain my vested and unvested restricted stock units in Elite Depot Inc.	11/2024
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[Public Financial Disclosure Report, Kash Patel, filed [1/28/25](#)]

Patel Noted He Could Participate In Matters Related To Elite Depot Ltd. If He Received A Waiver, Most Likely From Trump

Patel Said He Would Not Participate Personally In A Matter Related To The Financial Interests Of Elite Depot, Ltd. Unless He Obtained A “Written Waiver” Or Qualified For A “Regulatory Exemption.”

SECTION 7 – ELITE DEPOT, LTD

I terminated my consulting position with Elite Depot Ltd. effective January 1, 2025. As part of my compensation for this position, I hold unvested restricted stock units in Elite Depot, Ltd., which will vest quarterly between November 1, 2024 through November 1, 2025, with the first portion scheduled to vest on February 1, 2025. I will retain my vested and unvested restricted stock units in Elite Depot Ltd. I have been advised that the duties of the position of Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation may involve particular matters affecting the financial interests of Elite Depot, Ltd. The agency has determined that it is not necessary at this time for me to divest my interests in Elite Depot, Ltd., because the likelihood that my duties will involve any such matter is remote. Accordingly, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of Elite Depot, Ltd., for as long as I own it, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2).

[Ethics Agreement, Kash Patel, [1/28/25](#)]

An Employee Can Receive An Individual Waiver If Advised By The Government Official Responsible For Their Appointment. “(2) Individual waivers. An individual waiver enabling the employee to participate in one or more particular matters may be issued under 18 U.S.C. 208(b)(1) if, in advance of the employee’s

participation: (i) The employee: (A) Advises the Government official responsible for the employee's appointment (or other Government official to whom authority to issue such a waiver for the employee has been delegated) about the nature and circumstances of the particular matter or matters; and (B) Makes full disclosure to such official of the nature and extent of the relevant financial interest; and (ii) Such official determines, in writing, that the employee's financial interest in the particular matter or matters is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the Government may expect from such employee. See part 2640, subpart C of this chapter (providing additional guidance).” [Code of Federal Regulations, accessed [2/6/25](#)]

Elite Depot Limited Is The Ultimate Controlling Party Of Chinese Fast Fashion Company Shein

Shein Is A Multi-Billion Dollar Chinese Fast Fashion Company. “Pronounced ‘she-in,’ the fast fashion Chinese behemoth was founded in the city of Nanjing in 2008 by Chris Xu, a U.S.-born entrepreneur and search engine optimization specialist. Over the years, Shein went from being a low-cost Chinese apparel merchant to a global, online-only fashion juggernaut, climbing in sales from \$10 billion in 2020 (according to Bloomberg) to a whopping \$100 billion in 2022.” [Time, [1/17/23](#)]

Shein De-registered Its Main Business Amidst Plans To IPO Offshore, And Registered With Roadget Business Pte. “Shein, which Xu started in 2008 in Nanjing and has since grown into a global fashion marketplace, last year de-registered its main business, Nanjing Top Plus Information Technology Co Ltd, a Chinese corporate filing shows. The developments are in line with what other sources have previously told Reuters are revived plans by Shein to list in New York this year and Xu looking at a change in citizenship to bypass tougher Chinese rules for offshore IPOs. Singapore-registered Roadget Business Pte, which lists Xu and three others as its representatives, was established in 2019 and since late 2021 has been the legal entity operating Shein's global website, Singapore filings show.” [Reuters, [2/16/22](#)]

Elite Depot Limited Is The Ultimate Controlling Party Of Roadget Business Pte Ltd, And Affiliates Like Shein Distribution UK Limited. “Shein Distribution UK Limited is a fully-owned subsidiary of Roadget Business Pte Ltd, and the ultimate controlling party is Elite Depot Limited, a company registered in the Cayman Islands, the filing shows.” [Reuters, [10/8/24](#)]

- **Elite Depot Limited Is Based In The Cayman Islands.**

Entity Name

ELITE DEPOT LIMITED

[Company Details](#)

[Director Details](#)

[Detailed Search](#)

[Cayman Islands General Registry, accessed [2/5/25](#)]

The Board Of Elite Depot Is Comprised Of Shein Executives And Investors

Elite Depot Has A Nine-Person Board Of Directors, Who Are All Shein Executives And Investors

Elite Depot Has Nine Directors.

Entity Name: ELITE DEPOT LIMITED
Director Name
Chen Xiaodong
Donald Wei TANG
Gu Xiaoqing
Lian Meng
Miao Miao
Ren Xiaoqing
WANG Pengfei
Xu Yangtian
ZOU Jiajia

[Cayman Islands General Registry, accessed [2/5/25](#)]

- **Xiaodong Chen Is A Director Of Shein.** “Xiaodong Chen is the director of Shein.” [Crunchbase.com, accessed [2/5/25](#)]
- **Donald Wei Tang Is The Executive Chairman Of Shein.** “Donald Tang Executive Chairman at SHEIN” [LinkedIn, accessed [2/5/25](#)]
- **Gu Xiaoqing Is A Shein Co-Founder.** “The combined net worth of its founders — Xu, Miao Miao, Gu Xiaoqing and Ren Xiaoqing — is almost \$40 billion, while one of its earliest and most prominent backers, Tiger Global, has made more than 20 times its investment.” [Bloomberg, [12/12/22](#)]
 - **The Swiss Watchdog Public Eye Has Said That Gu Xiaoqing Manages The Majority Of The Companies Within Shein’s Corporate Structure.** “Since late 2019, the founder Xu Yiangtian has been gradually removed from the role of CEO. The majority of the companies, including the company headquarters in Guangzhou Xiyin, is now managed by his business partner Gu Xiaoqing. The company has been silent on the reasons for this turnaround and business newspapers have not received any notification of it; most continue to incorrectly name Xu Yiangtian as Shein’s CEO.” [Public Eyes, accessed [2/5/25](#)]
- **Lian Meng Is A Director Of Shein.** “Meng Lian is the Director at Shein.” [Crunchbased, accessed [2/5/25](#)]
 - **Lian Meng Also Works At IDG Capital.** [IDG Capital, accessed [2/5/25](#)]
 - **IDG Capital Is A Financial Backer Of Shein.** “Subsequent backers include IDG Capital, Greenwoods Asset Management, Abu Dhabi’s sovereign wealth fund Mubadala Investment Company, HongShan - formerly the Chinese arm of Sequoia Capital - Tiger Global Management and General Atlantic, which together invested US\$4.04 billion through six more funding rounds in the company, Crunchbase data showed.” [South China Morning Post, [6/1/24](#)]
- **Miao Miao Is A Shein Co-Founder.** “The combined net worth of its founders — Xu, Miao Miao, Gu Xiaoqing and Ren Xiaoqing — is almost \$40 billion, while one of its earliest and most prominent backers, Tiger Global, has made more than 20 times its investment.” [Bloomberg, [12/12/22](#)]

- **Miao Miao Was Reportedly Shein’s COO, As Of December 2023.** “Today, he is a billionaire after starting the company in 2015 with Molly Miao; Miao is now COO of Shein. Maggie Gu and Henry Ren have also been part of the company since its start.” [Forbes, [12/11/23](#)]
- **Ren Xiaoqing Is Co-Founder And Executive Director At Shein.** “A cofounder and executive director at fast fashion giant Shein, Ren is in charge of the company’s supply chains.” [Forbes, accessed [2/5/25](#)]
- **Wang Pengfei Appears To Be Connected To Tiger Global Management.** “Mr. Wang Pengfei serves as Vice President of Brand Devel, Strategy & Compliance at Weidai. Mr. Pengfei serves as Managing Director at Tiger Global Management. He has worked at Bank of China.” [Pitchbook, accessed [2/5/25](#)]
 - **Tiger Global Management Is A Financial Backer Of Shein.** “Subsequent backers include IDG Capital, Greenwood Asset Management, Abu Dhabi’s sovereign wealth fund Mubadala Investment Company, HongShan - formerly the Chinese arm of Sequoia Capital - Tiger Global Management and General Atlantic, which together invested US\$4.04 billion through six more funding rounds in the company, Crunchbase data showed.” [South China Morning Post, [6/1/24](#)]
- **Xu Yangtian Has Been Identified As Shein’s Co-Founder And CEO.** “Xu is the founder and chief executive of Shein Group, the Chinese fashion retailer that was valued at \$66 billion in a May 2023 funding round.” [Bloomberg, accessed [2/5/25](#)]
- **Zou Jiajia Is A Managing Director At Sequoia Capital.** “Jiajia Zou is the Managing Director at Sequoia Capital.” [Crunchbase, accessed [2/5/25](#)]
 - **Sequoia Capital Is A Financial Backer Of Shein.** “Shein, the online fashion company that won over millions of American shoppers during the pandemic, raised \$2 billion in its latest fundraising round that values the company at \$66 billion, about a third less than a year earlier, according to people close to the company...The latest round was co-led by Sequoia Capital, General Atlantic and the U.A.E. sovereign-wealth fund Mubadala. Both Sequoia and General Atlantic invested in previous funding rounds. Investors in the last round were allotted more shares in the company to maintain the size of their stakes, the people added.” [The Wall Street Journal, [5/18/23](#)]

At Least Two Investment Companies With Representation On Elite Depot’s Board Have Faced Scrutiny From U.S. Lawmakers Over Their Reputed Ties To The CCP And Its Military Apparatus

Shein Investor Sequoia Capital, Which Has Representation On Elite Depot’s Board, Faced Scrutiny From A Bipartisan Select Committee Over Its Investments In ByteDance And Ties To The CCP

October 2023: The Bipartisan House Select Committee On The Strategic Competition Between The United States And The Chinese Communist Party Requested Information From Sequoia Capital Concerning Its Investments In AI, Quantum Computing, And Semiconductor Companies. “We write to request information about Sequoia’s investments in artificial intelligence (AI), quantum computing, and semiconductor companies in the People’s Republic of China (PRC), and to better understand Sequoia Capital’s announcement that it would split from its China business— Sequoia Capital China—by March 2024. Neither entity has articulated the reasons for the split. But there is certainly a growing spotlight on Sequoia Capital China’s investments in PRC-based companies, including problematic companies with links to the PRC’s military and intelligence as well as to the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP) human rights abuses.”

[Select Committee on the Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, [10/17/23](#)]

February 2024: The Select Committee Released A Report Titled “The CCP’s Investors: How American Venture Capital Fuels The PRC Military And Human Rights Abuses” [Select Committee on the Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, [2/8/24](#)]

- **The Select Committee Found That By Splitting Off Its Business In China, Sequoia “Will Reduce The Flow Of American Technological And Managerial Expertise” Overseas But Likely Wouldn’t Cut It Off Completely.** “By splitting off their China businesses, it appears likely that Sequoia and GGV will reduce the flow of American technological and managerial expertise from those two U.S. VCs to PRC-based companies, which is a step in the right direction. However, without further legislative action, it is not clear whether these splits will in fact staunch future flows of American capital to problematic PRC companies—indeed, such splits may insulate some types of capital flows from regulatory scrutiny they would have otherwise been subject to under a recently released Executive Order. For example, as of 2023, U.S. investors remained the single largest source of capital for Sequoia Capital China, and the corporate split will not prevent continued investment by U.S. institutional and other investors into HongShan.” [Select Committee on the Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, [2/8/24](#)]
- **The Select Committee Found That Sequoia Capital And Sequoia Capital China Had Collectively Invested \$1.4 Billion In ByteDance, The Parent Company Of TikTok.** “Sequoia Capital and Sequoia Capital China have collectively invested over \$1.4 billion dollars into ByteDance starting in March 2014, helping facilitate the company’s overseas expansion. Unfortunately, Sequoia is far from alone; other major American VC firms and other investors hold large stakes in ByteDance, and some of these investors retain board seats. Neil Shen, who headed Sequoia China and now heads HongShan, was and is a ByteDance board member...ByteDance, the parent company of TikTok, has collaborated with Megvii, iFLYTEK, SenseTime, and other companies implicated in the Uyghur genocide.” [Select Committee on the Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, [2/8/24](#)]

Shein Investor IDG Capital, Which Has Representation On Elite Depot’s Board, Was Briefly Listed On The Pentagon’s List Of Companies With Ties To The Chinese Military And Faced Scrutiny From U.S. Lawmakers

The Department Of Defense Listed IDG Capital On Its List Of “Chinese Military Companies” For Most Of 2024

January 2024: The Department Of Defense Added IDG Capital To Its Section 1260H List Of “Chinese Military Companies Operating In The United States.” “Entities Identified as Chinese Military Companies Operating in the United States in accordance with Section 1260H of the William M. (“Mac”) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283)**... IDG Capital Partners Co., Ltd. (IDG Capital)” [U.S. Department of Defense, [1/31/24](#)]

- **At The Time, IDG Capital Denied Being A Chinese Military Company.** “We are not a Chinese military company, nor do we have any association with the Chinese military, and we do not belong on this watch list,” a spokeswoman said in an email. We are an international investment firm with investments in China and other parts of the world. We have a robust governance and compliance program in place to ensure we comply with all applicable laws in all jurisdictions in which we operate.” [Bloomberg, [2/6/24](#)]

December 2024: The Department Of Defense Removed IDG Capital From The Section 1260H List Of Chinese Military Companies Operating In The United States. “ACTION: Notice of removal of two companies from the Section 1260H List of Chinese Military Companies Operating in the United States... The Deputy Secretary of Defense has determined that the following entities should be removed from the list of “Chinese military companies,” as set out in 89 FR 22698 (April 2, 2024), in accordance with Section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry NDAA for FY 2021 (Pub. L. 116-283) based on current information: IDG Capital Partners Co., Ltd.” [U.S. Department of Defense, [12/13/24](#)]

Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) Called For Greater Scrutiny Of IDG Capital Over Its Investments In the China-Tied News App NewsBreak

June 2024: Three U.S. Lawmakers Called For Greater Scrutiny Of The China-Linked News App NewsBreak And Its Investor, IDG Capital. “Three U.S. lawmakers have called for more scrutiny of NewsBreak, opens new tab, a popular news aggregation app in the United States, after Reuters reported it has Chinese origins and has used artificial intelligence tools to produce erroneous stories.” [Reuters, [6/7/24](#)]

Rep. Elise Stefanik Said IDG Capital’s Backing Of NewsBreak “Deserves Greater Scrutiny.” “U.S. Representative Elise Stefanik, a Republican, said IDG Capital's backing of NewsBreak indicated the app ‘deserves increased scrutiny.’” [Reuters, [6/7/24](#)]

Shein Has Faced Criticism For Forced Labor And Has Been Condemned By Politicians For Their Shady Business Practices

Shein Has Faced Allegations Of Forced Labor, Prompting The U.S. To Consider Adding Them To Homeland Security’s “Forced Labor” List

April 2023: A U.S.-China Economic And Security Review Commission Brief Found Shein Used Cotton From Xinjiang, Violating The Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, And Had Reports Of Illegal Labor Conditions. “Numerous controversial practices have supported Shein and other Chinese e-commerce firms’ rapid growth. Investigations in 2022 alleged that Shein failed to declare that it had sourced cotton from Xinjiang for its products, a violation of the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act. These claims are exacerbated by further reports of illegal labor conditions among the suppliers of Chinese fast fashion firms as well as findings that Shein products pose health hazards and environmental risks. Shein and several other Chinese fast fashion firms have also faced a high volume of copyright infringement accusations and lawsuits for intellectual property (IP) rights violations.” [US-China Economic And Security Review Commission, Issue Brief, [4/14/23](#)]

- **The Brief Found That Shein Presented “A Range Of Challenges To U.S. Interests.”** “Shein and similar companies present a range of challenges to U.S. interests, including difficulties monitoring supply sources and obstacles in ensuring fair market practices with U.S. competitors. These companies also exploit trade de minimis import exemptions, through which firms make shipments to the United States that are below an \$800 value and are therefore not subject to import duties. Taken together, Shein and similar firms serve as a case study of Chinese e-commerce platforms outmaneuvering regulators to grow a dominant U.S. market presence.” [US-China Economic And Security Review Commission, Issue Brief, [4/14/23](#)]

January 2025: During A UK Hearing On Shein’s Allegations Of Forced Labor, A Lawmaker Said He Was “Horrified” By The Lack Of Information Provided By Shein. “Tuesday was the first time the two companies addressed the allegations in a public forum. The hearing particularly focused on Shein, which is seeking a London stock listing after its plans for a New York initial public offering collapsed last year. At the conclusion of the hearing, Liam Byrne, the Labour lawmaker who chairs the parliamentary Business and Trade Committee, said the committee received some assurance from Temu but was ‘horrified’ by the lack of information Shein provided.” [Wall Street Journal, [1/7/24](#)]

- **Lawmakers Viewed Shein’s Answer To Questions, Including Child Labor Concerns And Working hours, As Evasive.** “Other questions on child-labor concerns, working hours at Shein’s manufacturing partners as well as Shein’s IPO plans also yielded answers lawmakers saw as evasive.” [Wall Street Journal, [1/7/24](#)]

February 2025: The U.S. Was Reportedly Discussing Whether To Add Shein To The Department Of Homeland Security’s “Forced Labor” List. “The U.S. is discussing whether to add Chinese ecommerce retailers Shein and Temu to the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) ‘forced labor’ list, Semafor reported on Tuesday. The Trump administration has not made a final decision on the matter and could ultimately decide not to list either, the report said, citing two sources familiar with the discussions.” [Reuters, [2/5/25](#)]


Bipartisan Coalitions In Congress Have Raised Concerns About Shein’s Business Practices, Including Their Use Of Uyghur Forced Labor

February 2023: Senator Bill Cassidy Called On Shein To Increase Transparency On Their Supply Chains Following Reports Of Cotton From Chinese Slavor Labor. “U.S. Senators Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) pressed the Chinese fast fashion company SHEIN for answers following reports that their products are made with cotton from Chinese slave labor. They called on SHEIN to increase transparency on their supply chains.” [Senator Bill Cassidy Press Release, [2/9/23](#)]

May 2023: A Bipartisan Group Of Members Of Congress Asked The SEC To Require That Shein Certify That Their Products Did Not Use Uyghur Forced Labor. “US Congress is stepping up the pressure on Chinese fast-fashion giant Shein. In a letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission Monday, a bipartisan group of 22 US House of Representatives members asked the SEC to require that Shein certify that any of its products that are made in China do not utilize Uyghur forced labor. ‘There are credible allegations of the company’s use of underpaid and forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region,’ said the letter, led by Reps. John Rose of Tennessee and Jennifer Wexton of Virginia.” [CNN, [5/2/23](#)]


February 2024: Marco Rubio (R-FL) Asked The SEC To Block Shein’s New York IPO Unless The Company Made Additional Disclosures Due To Business Risks. “Republican Senator Marco Rubio asked the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to block Shein’s bid to list publicly in New York unless the e-tailer makes additional disclosures about its business operations and ‘the serious risks of doing business’ in China. In a letter sent Thursday to SEC Chair Gary Gensler, seen exclusively by Reuters, Rubio wrote that Shein’s recent decision to request approval from Beijing for a prospective U.S. IPO ‘raises serious doubts’ about the accuracy of the company’s filings. New rules passed by China’s securities watchdog in 2023 allow the China Securities Regulatory Commission to vet offshore listings and block offerings that could threaten the country’s national interests.” [Reuters, [2/15/24](#)]

- **November 2023: Rubio Said “Shein Is Fundamentally A Chinese Company That Evades U.S. Customs Law And Has Links To Slave Labor” And Called Investors To Take A Closer Look At Its Business Practices.**

 **Senator Marco Rubio** 
@SenMarcoRubio Follow ...

Shein is fundamentally a Chinese company that evades U.S. customs laws and has links to slave labor.

Its attempt to go public should prompt a closer look at its business practices by regulators and investors.

 Published 2023

Shein's Big I.P.O. Test (Published 2023)

From nytimes.com

6:31 PM · Nov 28, 2023 · 2,501 Views

[X, @SenMarcoRubio, [11/28/23](#)]

July 2024: Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR) Sent A Letter To President Biden Describing His Concerns About Shein. “Senator Tom Cotton described new supply-chain tracking software from shopping site Shein as ‘potentially fraudulent’ and likely to funnel data from U.S. firms to the Chinese government. He described these concerns about the popular fast-fashion company in a letter yesterday to President Biden, an exclusive copy of which National Review has obtained. ‘Your administration must ensure that data from U.S. companies is not harvested by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) through the purchase of Shein software and technology,’ he wrote.” [National Review, [7/11/24](#)]

September 2024: Idaho Attorney General Raúl Labrador And 15 Other State AGs Sent A Letter To The SEC Highlighting Shein’s Business Practices, Including Reported Use Of Forced Labor. “Attorney General Raúl Labrador and 15 other state attorneys general sounded the alarm on the China-founded, fast-fashion retailer SHEIN’s business practices – which includes reports of forced labor – and their potential Initial Public Offering (IPO) launch later this year. In a letter sent Thursday to SEC Chair Gary Gensler, the attorneys general urge the SEC to require any foreign-owned company to certify via a truly independent process that it is compliant with Section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930, which prohibits the import of any product manufactured wholly or in part by forced labor as a condition of being listed on a U.S. based securities exchange.” [Attorney General Raúl Labrador Press Release, [9/7/23](#)]

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