

RETAIL

Landmark department store defaced in London climate protest

October 21, 2022



Just Stop Oil supporters spraypainted Harrods' exterior and staged an accompanying sit-in early Thursday morning. Image credit: Just Stop Oil

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

British department store Harrods is the latest target of a viral climate movement fighting against the U.K. government's fossil-fueled business dealings.

Subscribe to **Luxury Daily**
Plus: Just released
State of Luxury 2019 **Save \$246 ▶**

Early Thursday morning, a group of activists representing the Just Stop Oil movement took to Harrods' window displays and walls with orange spray paint, staging an accompanying sit-in and blocking public roads, in protest of new oil and gas contracts. The Brompton Road retailer described the incident as a "minor protest," according to reports.

"We owe it to our young people to stop fossil fuels, we owe it to our workers to create a just transition to a zero carbon economy, we owe it to our old people to enable them to live with dignity," said Mel Carrington, spokesperson at Just Stop Oil, in a statement.

"We need to rapidly reduce the demand for fossil fuel energy through a massive program of renewables, insulation and free public transport paid for by taxing the fossil fuel companies' obscene profits, and the rich who avoid paying their fair share."

Harrods hit

Harrod's faces cosmetic damages to the exterior of its flagship location in London at the hands of a youth movement with an enlarging footprint.

Just Stop Oil supporters gathered in Knightsbridge at 9 a.m. yesterday before gluing themselves to tarmacs and interlocking their bodies, in an act of public protest.

Representatives yielded banners inclusive of campaign messages. Others proceeded to spraypaint Harrods' store windows and walls.

Footage captures two movement members covered store windows and walls in bright spraypaint

Two individuals were reportedly arrested in connection with the incident, on suspicion of criminal property,

according to reports.

Store workers were observed cleaning in the aftermath of the incident.

The latter-week defacement marked the movement's 20th day of action as Just Stop Oil continues to organize against the U.K. government's oil and gas-based business dealings.

Just Stop Oil seeks immediate changes to contracting plans. According to the group, British leaders are preparing to license over 100 new oil and gas projects by 2025.

"Our government is criminally incompetent and morally bankrupt. They are actively seeking to accelerate fossil fuel production, which will kill millions of people, while failing to address the worst cost of living crisis this country has ever seen. Vulnerable people will be freezing to death in their homes this winter, while the government refuses to tax the rich and the big energy companies that are profiting from our misery.

The coalition, which executed a similar incident at the National Gallery earlier this month, is demanding that the U.K. government cut its contracts with fossil fuel players.

Last year, the United Nations' [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) released new data regarding the rapid rate of global warming, exposing that emissions of greenhouse gases from human activity have been responsible for approximately 1.1 degrees Celsius of warming since 1850.

The NGO says that over the next 20 years, global temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming, warning that unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5 degrees Celsius will be impossible ([see story](#)).

© 2022 Napean LLC. All rights reserved.

Luxury Daily is published each business day. Thank you for reading us. Your [feedback](#) is welcome.