

WE WANT
TO LEARN
WE WANT
TO PLAY



STOP



CHILD LABOUR

School is the best place to work

NO CHILD SHOULD WORK

No child should work. Every child has a right to education, to play and to enjoy his or her childhood. A world without child labour is possible if everyone abides by these principles. By working together, seemingly insurmountable challenges such as poverty and inadequate or inaccessible education can be overcome.

Child labour perpetuates poverty. In areas where child labour is prevalent, wages remain low and there is less work for adults. Furthermore, children who don't go to school have fewer opportunities later in life.

When children receive good education, this vicious cycle of poverty can be ended. Consequently, combatting child labour is better for everyone.



CHILD LABOUR WORLDWIDE

'Child labour' is defined as all forms of work carried out by children up to 15 years of age that deprives them of their right to formal education or is hazardous for their health and development. Heavy and hazardous work carried out by children up to 18 years of age is also considered to be child labour. Child labour is prohibited under international conventions and treaties. Nevertheless, according to estimates by the International Labour Organisation (ILO, 2014), there are still 168 million children working worldwide.

so will their children. In this way the vicious cycle of poverty is maintained.

Why child labour exists

Child labour exists because people accept it and invent excuses for it. Because children's rights are not respected. Because governments do not provide compulsory, free and accessible education. Because adults don't get paid a decent income. Because employers can benefit from cheap labour. And because consumers worldwide demand cheap products.

Child labour perpetuates poverty

Poverty is often cited as the main cause of child labour. It is widely believed that families will not be able to cope if their children do not work. However precisely the opposite is true: child labour perpetuates poverty.

Because children are easy to exploit and are cheap labourers, they are hired in preference to adults. Child labour thus leads to lower wages and higher unemployment among adults. Children who work and do not go to school will easily end up in low paid jobs later, and



STOP CHILD LABOUR - SCHOOL IS THE BEST PLACE TO WORK

A world without child labour is possible if everyone works together. The Stop Child Labour coalition endeavours to involve as many stakeholders as possible in the fight against child labour. Governments, businesses, unions, local, national and international organisations and citizens can – and should – all be part of the solution.

1 Child labour free zones

Children's rights are universal. Every child has the right to education and protection against child labour. To achieve this, Stop Child Labour advocates an area-based approach involving all children who live in a certain area. Focusing only on children who work in certain sectors or on the worst forms of child labour does not bring lasting change. As long as some forms of child labour are accepted, children will continue to work and they will continue to be denied the right to education.

Through the area-based approach child labour free zones can be created. In these areas (e.g. villages or plantations)

the focus is on all forms of child labour that stand in the way of education, health and development. The people living in these areas are convinced that all children should go to school and so they work together to make that happen.

In child labour free zones, everyone's rights are advanced. Experience shows that where children no longer perform labour, adults can negotiate better wages and working conditions. Furthermore, adults in the child labour free zones learn to become more conscious of their income and expenditure.



MORE INFO

www.stopchildlabour.org/child-labour-free-zones

2 Child labour free products

Child labour occurs in the supply chains of many companies, sometimes directly at the first supplier but more often further down the chain, where companies have less visibility.

Stop Child Labour advocates a comprehensive approach to child



labour throughout the supply chain. Focusing only on child labour at the first supplier, for example only on the production of garments and not on the manufacture of yarns or cotton, ignores most of those parts of in the supply chain where child labour occurs.

By shifting the focus to eliminating child labour from the entire supply chain we can create supply chains that are truly child labour free and where companies are committed to preventing and eliminating child labour. Stop Child Labour takes a sector-wide approach and cooperates with governments and local organisations where possible.

To create supply chains that are free from child labour it may be useful and effective for companies to contribute to and be part of the area-based approach for child labour free zones. This way the companies' actions are better embedded in the chain and are reinforced by systemic change at local level.

3 New solutions for persistent problems

An open-minded approach brings us closer to a world free from child labour. Stop Child Labour actively seeks innovative solutions to problems that perpetuate child labour. We evaluate our programmes critically and adapt or expand our strategies depending on the local situation and our partners. We are open to new forms of cooperation and ways to address child labour in complex situations.

Join us!

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www.stopchildlabour.org
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 [childlabourfree/](https://www.facebook.com/childlabourfree/)
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MORE INFO
[www.stopchildlabour.eu/
corporate-responsibility](http://www.stopchildlabour.eu/corporate-responsibility)

Stop Child Labour

Stop Child Labour – School is the best place to work' (SCL) is a coalition of the Algemene Onderwijsbond (AOB), Mondiaal FNV, Hivos, the India Committee of the Netherlands (ICN), Kerk in Actie & ICCO Cooperation and Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland. The coalition is coordinated by Hivos and cooperates closely with local organisations in Asia, Africa and Latin-America.

www.stopchildlabour.org

Partners:



With support:



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

www.stopchildlabour.org

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