

COCOA AND CHILD LABOR



CHOCOLATE:

All the sweetness in chocolate cannot hide the bitter taste of slavery and child labor used to produce chocolate's basic ingredient, cocoa. Children as young as nine are tricked or sold into slavery to work on cocoa plantations in Cote d'Ivoire, where almost half of the world's cocoa is grown.

According to the U.S. Department of State, more than 109,000 children work on cocoa farms in 'the worst forms of child labor'. Cocoa in the U.S. is imported by companies such as Nestlé, Cargill and Archer Daniels Midland. Let the companies know that you will not be satisfied with any child labor in your chocolate!

The International Labor Rights Fund is making the following demands of the big chocolate companies:

- Identify and take responsibility for every farm producing their cocoa worldwide.
- Make a substantial and sustained investment in Fair Trade Certified cocoa.
- Monitor all farms that produce their cocoa to make sure no child labor is used.
- Commit more funding for rehabilitation and education programs for cocoa children.

This action kit will provide you with more information about child labor in the cocoa industry and ideas for how to take action!

Contents:

- I. Human Rights in the Cocoa Industry/ What's Wrong With Nestlé?
- II. Why Education Instead of Labor?
- III. What You Can Do
- IV. Cocoa Kids Poster for you to copy and distribute

Contact the **International Labor Rights Fund** for more info about the campaign to end child labor.

laborrights@ilrf.org www.LaborRights.org



HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE COCOA INDUSTRY

What human rights abuses are occurring in the cocoa industry?

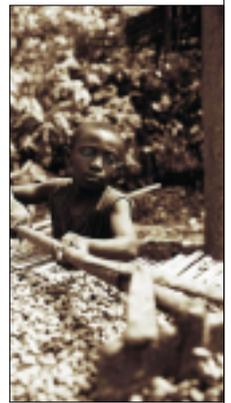
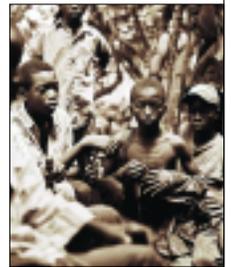
- Cote d'Ivoire, as the world's largest cocoa producer, accounts for over 46% of the world's supply. About half of the country's 15 million people make a living directly on cocoa.
- The majority of the cocoa is imported into the US and Europe by multinational companies such as Nestlé, Cargill and Archer Daniels Midland, and processed into chocolate and other cocoa products retailed by well-known firms such as Hershey and M&M/Mars.
- The State Department's latest Human Rights Report on Cote d'Ivoire for 2005 estimated that in 2002 there were 5,000 to 10,000 children trafficked to work full- or part-time in the cocoa sector.
- Annual revenues for cocoa farmers in the region average between \$30-\$108 per household member per year. (Global Exchange)
- Cote d'Ivoire has a population of 17,298,040; only 51% of the population is literate. In 2002/03, net primary school enrolment was 61%, but only 21% for secondary schools. (eiu.com)
- 2/3 of all cocoa workers do not regularly attend school. (Global Exchange)
- In 2003, the U.S. import of cocoa beans from Cote d'Ivoire was valued at US\$344.18 million. (US Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics, U.S. Imports from Ivory Coast from 1999 to 2003).
- U.S. consumers eat 2.8 billion pounds of chocolate annually, almost half the world's supply. (Project Hope and Fairness)
- In stark contrast, child workers labor for long hours in the heat using dangerous tools.
- Child laborers face frequent exposure to dangerous pesticides which can have serious health consequences.
- Children who are forced into labor as slaves must also suffer beatings and other cruel treatment.
- Most West African children who spend their lives harvesting cocoa beans have never eaten a candy bar

What's wrong with Nestlé?

- Nestlé USA is a part of Nestlé SA in Vevey, Switzerland -- the world's largest food company
- With total annual sales of over \$65 billion, Nestlé SA is the third largest exporter of cocoa from regions affected by forced and abusive child labor.
- Nestlé committed to ending child labor on cocoa farms by July 2005 but the problem continues unabated.
- Nestlé is the United Kingdom's most boycotted company due to its human rights infractions.
- In 2005, the International Labor Rights Fund filed a lawsuit against Nestlé, as well as Archer Daniels Midland and Cargill, for their involvement in the trafficking and forced labor of children who cultivated and harvested cocoa beans in the Ivory Coast.
- As part of the ongoing litigation, Nestlé's lawyers filed a brief which argued that their Code of Conduct was simply "aspirational" and entails no responsibility for the company to actually follow through with their commitments to eliminate child labor, despite the fact that the practice is illegal under international law.
- It would cost Nestlé approximately US \$0.002 per candy bar to switch to fair trade cocoa.

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FAQs: WHY EDUCATION INSTEAD OF LABOR?

Don't poor families need the income from their children?

Child laborers generally contribute very little to the income of a family. Adult laborers, especially women, can demand higher wages when they no longer have to compete with their children on the labor market. It can therefore be said that child labor in fact causes poverty and that education is the only way to break out of the cycle of poverty.

Why is education important?

Education enhances sustainable development, the building of a democratic society and improves health conditions. The education of girls especially gives a high return in terms of improvement of health, family planning and the well-being of whole families.

Why would any parent let their child work?

No parent ever wants to deny their child an education. Even in the poorest villages in Africa and India, parents with any choice will send their children to school. In places where child labor is prevalent there are usually no schools for children to attend.

Can children work and go to school at the same time?

There is an international convention for child labor that states that work is acceptable as long as it does not interfere with the child's health, education or moral development

For more information see:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipec/index.htm>

What can I do to stop abusive child labor?

Raise awareness! Make copies of this information and distribute them in school or faith based organizations. Learn how the products you buy are produced. Discuss child labor practices with your local retailers. Write a letter to the editor. Visit www.LaborRights.org for more ideas.

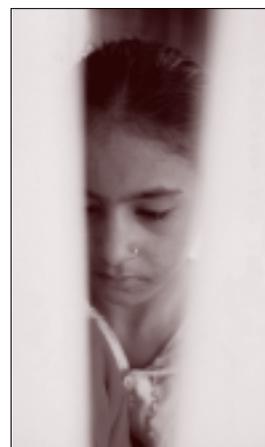
For more information, campaign materials and further instructions, please visit:

www.schoolisthebestplacetowork.org



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WHAT YOU CAN DO

Inform yourself! Explore websites such as:

www.LaborRights.org

www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/cocoa/index.html

www.schoolisthebestplacetowork.org

Spread the word!

You can host an ILRF speaker in your community, distribute this action kit in high-traffic areas, sign up for our e-mail action list and invite friends to join you!

Contact laborrights@ilrf.org and visit www.LaborRights.org for more information.

Order our posters!

Check out <http://store.gxonlinestore.org/chocolate.html>

And <http://www.organicconsumers.org/valentines/index.htm>

Make your chocolate fair trade!

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And <http://www.organicconsumers.org/valentines/index.htm>

Make your school, religious group, community center and favorite retail stores fair trade!

You can organize a campaign to make your community a fair trade zone!

Check out Global Exchange's Fair Trade Action Pack:

<http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/FairTradeActionPack.pdf>

Teachers: Contact the ILRF for lesson plans to educate your students about child labor and check out these classroom resources from Global Exchange:

<http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/cocoa/fairtradeintheclassroom.html>

Make your voice heard!

Send a message to these cocoa importers and suppliers, demanding that they stop using child slave labor and toxic chemicals and that they pay their farmers a fair living wage.

For a sample letter, go to:

<http://www.unionvoice.org/campaign/Nestle>

Contact Nestlé, Brad Alford, CEO, Nestlé USA, 800 N. Brand Blvd. Glendale, CA 91203

Phone: 818-549-6000 Fax: 818-549-6952

Contact Archer Daniels Midland, G. Allen Andreas, Chairman, Chief Executive and President. 4666 Faries Parkway, Decatur, IL 62526

Phone: 1-800-637-5843

Contact Cargill, Inc., Warren Staley, Chairman and CEO, PO Box 9300, Minneapolis, MN 55440-9300

Write a letter to the editor expressing your concerns!

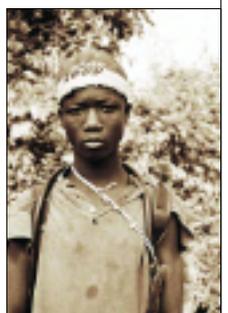
Organize a fundraiser!

Many schools and faith groups across the country have organized fundraisers to help support education and other projects benefiting child laborers and cocoa cooperatives.

Contact us for more information about how you can help.

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CHOCOLATE:

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What YOU can do:

Take Action! Send a message to Nestlé at <http://www.unionvoice.org/campaign/Nestle> and demand an end to child labor.

Visit: "School is the Best Place to Work" <http://www.schoolisthebestplacetowork.org> to learn more about the fight for global education instead of child labor.

Write your own letter to the chocolate companies listed below and include the following demands:

- Identify and take responsibility for every farm producing their cocoa worldwide.
- Make a substantial and sustained investment in Fair Trade Certified cocoa.
- Monitor all farms that produce their cocoa to make sure no child labor is used.
- Commit more funding for rehabilitation and education programs for cocoa children.

Addresses:

NESTLE USA: Brad Alford, Chairman and CEO, 800 North Brand Blvd. , Glendale, CA 91203

CARGILL: Warren Staley, Chairman and CEO, Cargill, Inc. PO Box 9300 Minneapolis, MN 55440-9300

ARCHER DANIELS MIDLAND COMPANY (ADM): G. Allen Andreas, Chairman, Chief Executive and President, 4666 Faries Parkway, Decatur, IL 62526

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