

# ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR 2021



INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR

'Child labour is work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity.'

Many of these innocent children work within the fashion supply chain, to make garments to satisfy the demand of consumers in Europe, US and other parts of the western world. Sofie Ovaa says "There are many girls in countries like India and Bangladesh, who are willing to **work for very low prices** and are easily brought into these industries **under false promises** of earning decent wages."

**170 MILLION CHILDREN ENGAGED IN CHILD LABOUR**



## 2.4 MILLION

2.4 million children are forced to transfer pollen from one plant to another, facing exposure to pesticides, all to be **paid below minimum wage**. In South India they force children to work, and managers **threaten to put hormones in their food** to stop them menstruating, as women are seen to be less productive during their period.



## COUNTRIES INVOLVED

It is estimated that **60% of workers in India, are under 18**, who work under harsh conditions in spinning mills, to make the clothes supported in the fashion industry.

Child labour often occurs largely in the fashion industry. Unfortunately, even if brands have strict guidelines in place for suppliers, **work often gets sub-contracted** to other factories that the buyer may not even know about.



## FAST FASHION CULPRITS

The sad truth is that these multi-million dollar fashion companies that entice people to buy from them, **do not even know themselves where the textiles comes from**. First parties involved may have regulations in place, however down the chain, it is unknown.

**96 HOURS**

PER WEEK  
is the normal working week for a garment worker



**14-16 HOURS**

PER DAY  
is the average working day in most manufacturing countries



## SCHOOL KIDS VS WORKING KIDS;

Children are forced to work between **14-16 hours, seven days a week**, to meet fashion consumers' deadlines, in the fast fashion industry. These workers can **stay up until 3 am** just to satisfy corporate roles, and unfortunately are not in a position to refuse overtime pay, due to their families' financial stability.

The average **child in the UK** attends school for **6.5 hours a day**, for only 5 days a week. They also have the luxury to attend sports or activity clubs all without stress of financially supporting their family.

## TAKE ACTION!

Overall numbers are decreasing, in the **right direction**. Since 2000, there has been a **38% decrease** from **246 to 152** million children.

As individuals we can help, by taking a pledge. Use the **#endchildlabour2021** and take to social media on how you will be involved in making a difference.

### How to make a difference!

- 1) Research and find brands to support where you know adequate measures are in place. **Fair Wear foundation** have a list of over 128 brands!
- 2) Support **Fair Trade**, since they benefit low income families, which will ultimately prevent children from working and they can stay in education.





**Dear Heavenly Father,  
Today we bring forward the children  
in despair across the world. We look to  
you to spread the kindness of your  
heart unto us so that we may be able  
to help others in need.**

**May you hold all the children of the  
world in your loving arms, now and  
forever.**

**In God's name we pray.**

**Amen**





Dear Lord,

Grant us the conscientiousness to understand the costs of our lifestyle on others less fortunate than us. Embody your message of justice for all into us so that we may seek to end child labour in our lives and spread the message to others.

We seek equality throughout all working environments, so that all can afford to live as family in the world that you created. We call on the holy spirit to gift strength and hope for all affected by the horrors of child labor, and we pray that the United Nations grant their efforts into resolving this crisis of injustice.

We pray that the companies employing children to make their products adopt an ethical approach in accordance with your teachings.

Venerable Mary Ward, pray for us.

Amen

"Do good and do it well". Mary Ward





# WHY DO YOU ACCEPT CHILD LABOUR?



THE ILO'S WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR CONVENTION STATES THAT EACH MEMBER THAT RATIFIES MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE & EFFECTIVE ACTION TO SECURE THE PROHIBITION & ELIMINATION OF THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR

CHILD LABOUR IS EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN THROUGH ANY FORM OF WORK THAT DEPRIVES CHILDREN OF CHILDHOOD & IS DAMAGING!

**187**  
OF THE 195 SOVEREIGN NATIONS HAVE SIGNED THE ILO'S CONVENTION

OF THESE CHILDREN WORK IN HAZARDOUS OR DEGRADING JOBS

**YET**

1 IN 10 CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD ARE VICTIMS OF CHILD LABOUR  
1 IN 4 IN POORER COUNTRIES

**48%**

**81%**  
OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION LIVE IN COUNTRIES WITH A HIGH OR EXTREME RISK OF CHILD LABOUR

GOODS AND THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN WHICH CHILD LABOUR IS USED TO PRODUCE THEM

## ACTION POINTS:

1. RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY, ENSURE NO CHILDREN WERE INVOLVED IN THE MAKING OF YOUR PRODUCT.
2. INVEST IN WELL-MADE PRODUCTS TO AVOID HAVING TO REPLACE THEM.
3. THE UN NEEDS TO AMEND ITS LEGISLATION TO REMOVE GREY AREAS FROM ITS POLICIES, SUCH AS DEFINING WHAT IS LEGALLY "LIGHT WORK" AND PERMISSIBLE FOR CHILDREN.

MANY CHILDREN IN THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY FACE HORRIFIC ABUSE FROM EMPLOYERS, LEADING MANY TO DEVELOP TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDERS ALONG WITH RESPIRATORY CONDITIONS, NEUROLOGICAL SYMPTOMS, SKIN DISEASES AND EXHAUSTION. THEY ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE BECAUSE THERE ARE NO PROTOCOLS IN PLACE TO **PROTECT** THEM!