

Stop Trafficking!

Awareness Advocacy Action

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter • August 2022 • Vol. 20 • No. 8

FOCUS: This month we look again at the human trafficking and child and forced labor behind the food on our table.

Child and Forced Labor in the Chocolate Industry



Chocolate is a cacao bean product that grows primarily in the tropical climates of Western Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Western African countries, mainly Ghana and the Ivory Coast, supply about 70% of the world's cocoa. The cocoa is sold to most chocolate companies, including Hershey, Mars, and Nestlé.

As the chocolate market has grown, so has the demand for cheap cocoa. Unfortunately, most cocoa farmers earn less than \$1 per day, below poverty. As a result, cocoa farmers resort to child labor, typically children between 12 and 16, to keep their prices competitive. Meanwhile, the International Labor Organization (ILO) considers the work done by children on these farms “the worst forms of child labor.” These are practices “likely to harm children’s health, safety, or morals.”

Often, traffickers kidnap young children from small villages in neighboring African countries, such as Burkina Faso and Mali, two of the poorest countries in the world. For example, in one town in Burkina Faso, almost every mother in the village has had a child trafficked onto cocoa farms.

Many chocolate companies refuse to release information about where they source their cocoa. Many of the world’s largest chocolate manufacturers have recently admitted to

child labor and slavery within their supply chains, but this is only because consumers have pressured them. Forced to acknowledge abusive practices in the industry, the companies express concern but have distanced themselves from their responsibility to end these practices.

Some chocolate companies even assert that their programs positively impact farmers. For example, Cargill’s “Cocoa Promise” program says they seek to have “1,000,000 farmers ‘benefiting’ from the services by 2030.” However, the reality is that farmers see little or no positive impact on their lives from these programs. In addition, these initiatives often involve a minimal number of farmers. Nestlé’s Cocoa Plan works with 5% of cocoa farmers in the Ivory Coast.

Furthermore, the largest chocolate manufacturers postponed a commitment to end the worst forms of child labor in cocoa for more than 15 years. Finally, in 2001, heads of Mars, Hershey, Nestlé USA, and other companies signed a deal called the Harkin-Engel Protocol. They did so to avoid proposed legislation that would have created a federal certification system to indicate whether cocoa was harvested using child slavery. Under the protocol, federal regulators were kept from monitoring the chocolate

Awareness



supply. Instead, the chocolate industry's responsibility to end child labor and slavery was placed with the chocolate companies.

According to the Harkin-Engel Protocol, the chocolate companies pledged to end "the worst forms of child labor" in their cocoa suppliers. In 2005, they missed this deadline to end child labor in their cocoa supply. They then continued to miss deadlines in 2008 and 2010. Finally, the chocolate industry scaled back its "goal" of reducing child labor by 70% in 2020. In 2020, child labor in the chocolate industry increased.

The companies prioritize messaging around their "accomplishments" in addressing child labor and slavery over ending those abuses. Chocolate companies keep certifying their products to tell consumers that they source their cocoa ethically but continue to enable human trafficking and abuse on cocoa farms.

Over the past several decades, there has been considerable attention to the human trafficking and child labor involved in producing cacao beans. Unfortunately, journalists reporting this abuse have been kidnapped, jailed, and even killed by corrupt government officials attempting to cover up the crimes of human trafficking and child labor in their countries.

Our Responsibility

Government and NGO programs have been developed to address the root causes of the worst forms of child labor and human trafficking of adults and children in the chocolate industry. However, these efforts will not be successful unless the chocolate industry shows genuine support for paying cocoa farmers a living income.

Consumers play an essential role in diminishing the food industry's injustices. Contact chocolate companies and let them know how you feel about the injustices in the cocoa industry. Demand transparency from companies that have refused to disclose where they source their cocoa and call on companies to pay a living income to cocoa farmers.

The chocolate industry is being called upon to develop and financially support programs to rescue and rehabilitate children who have been sold to cocoa farms but has done as much to aid survivors of child and forced labor as it has to prevent child labor in the first place. Moreover, within their \$103 billion-per-year industry, chocolate companies have the power to end the use of child labor and slave labor by paying cocoa farmers a living income for their products.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Cocoa farmers who want to send their children to school often cannot afford it. Mr. Zongo, a farmer who has been working in cocoa for 30 years, could only afford to send one of his children to school. Parents like Mr. Zongo are forced to include their children in farm labor instead of sending them to school because they are not paid enough for the cocoa they sell. This is not because chocolate is unprofitable; the chocolate industry makes about \$103 billion a year in sales.

Through the industry's exploitation of cocoa farmers, these corporations can make such a profit. As a result, chocolate companies have little incentive to change the conditions of cocoa farmers and thereby reduce child labor.

When asked what he would tell people who eat chocolate made from slave labor, Drissa, a freed enslaved worker who had never even tasted chocolate replied that they enjoyed something that he suffered to make, adding, “When people eat chocolate, they are eating my flesh.” Click [here](#) to learn more.



Your hamburger or glass of milk could be tainted by child trafficking.

Children are responsible for the herding of cattle in many impoverished pastoral communities globally. Boys, as young as four or five years old, are commonly sold into the cattle-herding industry in countries like Bolivia, Brazil, Niger, Paraguay, and South Sudan.

Herding cattle is extremely dangerous and includes raising and handling the cattle, feeding, harvesting, and harsh manual labor jobs like manual disposal. It is also usually unregulated. In less developed countries, children in the industry are often herding cattle over long distances without shoes, vaccinations, or protection from the animals under their supervision. In more developed countries where agriculture stays in one place, children are still responsible for the cattle in addition to other dangerous work around the farm. Either way, these children are not getting an education, protection from physical harm, or proper compensation for their work.

What can be done?

Eating locally sourced meat and dairy not only helps your community, but it helps to dry up and close down abusive industries. Furthermore, there are great meat and dairy alternatives that do not use child labor or animals to make their product.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Bananas are the most popular fruit globally with over 100 billion consumed each year.

Generally priced between 30 cents to a dollar each, bananas are a cheap form of nutrition. Unfortunately, many times the fruit gets to the consumer at a heavy price to (usually exploited) farmworkers, including children.

Children who work on banana plantations are often forced to handle sharp tools like machetes, carry heavy loads of bananas, and face exposure to agrochemicals like pesticides and fungicides without protective clothing or gear. Dizziness, nausea, and negative long-term health conditions can result in child workers. Because many of these children live on the banana plantations they work on, they cannot escape these health hazards.

Banana exporting companies often fail to adequately address child labor and hazardous working conditions in their supply chains. The big players –Dole, Del Monte, and Chiquita Fyffes—need to do more if we are to end child labor in banana production. Consumers have a part to play in the solution as well. The Food Empowerment Project has advice for consumers wishing to buy bananas produced with less exploitation. They recommend buying from Equal Exchange. Bananas from small farmer-owned cooperatives are available in some parts of the United States.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Victims of human trafficking in the restaurant and foodservice industry are forced to work as waiters . . .

bussers, kitchen staff, or even cooks/chefs with little or no pay. Moreover, they may experience irregular working hours or overwork, with little time off to seek help.

Employees in restaurant and foodservice industries may be U.S. citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents, undocumented immigrants, or holders of temporary work visas. However, the Human Trafficking Hotline data suggests that most workers trafficked in restaurants — some 80 percent — are foreign nationals.

Awareness

Many workers are here legally on temporary work visas, known as H-2Bs. Unfortunately, these visas are inherently flawed for several reasons. First, while it is illegal to charge potential workers for visas, many recruiters do so, leaving workers and their families in crippling debt to secure a job. That means these workers are forced to borrow money to get the job.

Common elements of force, fraud, or coercion in restaurants include:

Force: Restrictions on the worker's ability to leave the restaurant or housing; intentionally exhausting work hours; physical or sexual abuse; constant surveillance; and lack of medical treatment for work-related injury or illness.

Fraud: Misrepresentation of the work, working conditions, wages, and immigration benefits; altered or fake contracts; non-payment, underpayment, or confiscation of wages; visa fraud.

Coercion: Threats of deportation or other harm to the victim or the victim's family; confiscation of passports and visas; debt manipulation.

According to a Food Chain Workers Alliance study, many foodservice employees live in poverty and face food insecurity due to meager wages and the prevalence of part-time or entry-level positions. This economic instability reduces a victim's safety net. If they decide

to report or leave their trafficking situation, they might be unable to afford rent or other necessities without an income or job.

Vulnerabilities exist within the restaurant and food industry that may enable human trafficking. Over half of food chain workers report a lack of health and safety training from employers and face work-related injuries or health conditions. Many victims of trafficking face wage theft and a lack of overtime pay or benefits. Kitchen staff, dishwashers, and cooks may complain about working more than 70 hours per week and may not receive paid vacation or sick leave. Traffickers exploit the lack of worker protections by requiring more work from workers for less pay, never permitting them a day off, and not permitting workers to procure jobs elsewhere.

Restaurant patrons are unlikely to see people in trafficking situations at the business. Most of these workers are "back of the house," meaning they perform tasks in the kitchen like cooking and dishwashing.

However, fellow restaurant workers, restaurant suppliers, and code inspectors are in a position to see if workers appear to be on duty for excessive hours without breaks or are laboring under dangerous conditions without the proper safety gear.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Advocacy

Cadbury and Child Labor

A new TV documentary alleges that children as young as 10 are working in Ghana to harvest cocoa pods to supply Mondelēz International, which owns Cadbury. Children were also filmed using sharp knives to open cocoa pods and swinging long sticks with blades tied to them to harvest the pods from the cocoa trees. None of the children were wearing protective clothing. The daughter of one farmer who claimed to be supplying Mondelēz said she had sliced her foot open while using a long machete.

On one of the smallholdings, a niece of the farmer said she thought she was going to her uncle's farm to help with childcare but claimed she was being forced to work long hours on the farm and not allowed to go to school. When asked why she did not speak out, she said she was "afraid".

Under Ghanaian law, it is illegal for children under 13 to work on cocoa farms. There is also a ban on anyone under 18 being involved in hazardous labor. Ghana is the world's second-biggest cocoa producer and the crop, along with gold, is one of its most valuable exports.

Mondelēz has a sustainability program, Cocoa Life. Its logo is marked on its products, including Cadbury Dairy Milk, and its website states: "No amount of child labor in the cocoa supply chain should be acceptable." Click [here](#) to learn more.



Slave labor can produce about 50% more profits than free labor. (Human Rights First)

Are The Labels On Chocolate Meaningful?

As consumers, we have no sure way of knowing if the chocolate we buy involves the use of slavery or child labor. About 25 percent of all cocoa is grown under a certification label, such as various fair-trade certifications and the Rainforest Alliance/UTZ Certification; however, no single label can guarantee that the chocolate was made without exploitive labor.

Inspectors for these certifications are usually only required to visit fewer than 10% of cocoa farms. Moreover, audits are generally announced in advance, enabling farmers to hide rule violation evidence. Advocates and journalists have found trafficked children working on Fair Trade-certified cocoa farms. Unfortunately, because certifiers compete against one another, they often lower standards or enforcement to attract clients. In addition, cocoa beans that a certifier gets from separate farms may not be labeled and may all be mixed upon arrival before shipment. As long as farmers do not earn a living income, they will not have enough to pay the workers on their farms a living income, and child labor and slavery will continue to permeate the industry.

19 U.S. Code 1307 from 1930

All goods, wares, articles, and merchandise mined, produced, or manufactured wholly or in part in any foreign country by convict labor or/and forced labor or/and indentured labor under penal sanctions shall not be entitled to entry at any of the ports of the United States, and the importation thereof is hereby prohibited, and the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to prescribe such regulations as may be necessary for the enforcement of this provision.

“Forced labor” shall mean all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty for its nonperformance and for which the worker does not offer himself voluntarily. The term “forced labor or/and indentured labor” includes forced or indentured child labor.

The Chocolate Scorecard

If you want to make informed decisions about treats you buy and how they’re produced, the 2022 Chocolate Scorecard will help you. The Chocolate Scorecard provides the most up-to-date and comprehensive overview of which brands are rising to the challenge of creating a chocolate industry that is good for people and the planet. It also calls out the rotten eggs for ignoring your demands for greater transparency and more ethical policies for slavery-free chocolate.

The Chocolate Scorecard is the result of leading researchers and subject matter experts who came together to survey and grade 38 major chocolate brands on their policies related to:

- ◆ Child labor
- ◆ Living income
- ◆ Traceability & transparency
- ◆ Deforestation & climate
- ◆ Agroforestry
- ◆ Agrichemical management

Many chocolate brands are still failing to do enough and to pay enough for cocoa to enable the communities in their supply chains to protect themselves from exploitation and environmental destruction. Discover your favorite brand’s rating by clicking [here](#).

In the Supreme Court case Nestlé USA and Cargill v. Doe, six people from Mali sought damages from Nestlé and Cargill for being trafficked into the Ivory Coast as children and forced to work on cocoa farms. The formerly enslaved plaintiffs described how guards would punish child workers who attempted to flee with atrocities such as forcing them to drink urine or cutting open their feet. In addition, if the guards thought they weren’t working quickly enough, they would beat them with tree branches. The plaintiffs also described how they were kept in locked rooms at night and only given scraps of food to eat. (The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the chocolate companies.)



Action

Take Action to End Child Exploitation in Cocoa Industry

Child slavery and child labor have plagued the cocoa industry in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana—which produce 60% of the world's cocoa—for decades. Despite promises from the world's largest chocolate companies to eradicate the problem, evidence reveals that they have fallen far short of achieving their goal.

Please click [here](#) to call on 10 of the world's top chocolate companies to take concrete steps to address the gaps in protection and the underlying drivers of child slavery and child labor in the cocoa sector.



Value and Limitations of Fair Trade

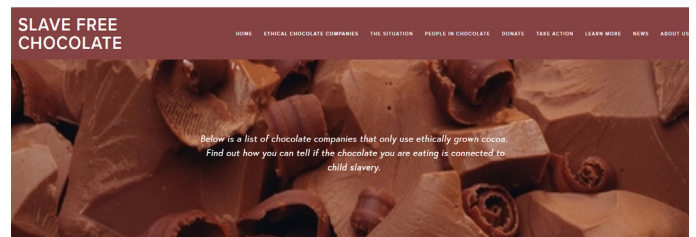
Fair Trade is a social movement that seeks to promote better equity for farmers in developing countries. Farmers form a collective to have more resources, education, and power. This results in better trade agreements with international countries, a better program for sustainability, and better wages for their goods. These goods are often crops including but not limited to cocoa, coffee, cotton, bananas, tea, and other products made with a combination of materials for the consumer market. In addition, receiving a fair wage for goods allows farmers to pay decent wages to those working on the farm.

With increased awareness about child and forced labor, the demand for Fair Trade goods has increased. Unfortunately, only 5% of cocoa comes from a fair-trade certified farm. Some countries, especially those in Central America, have restrictions on co-operatives. Also, getting these children out of servitude, the medical attention they need, and reinserted into their families and back to school is not part of the infrastructure of the Fair Trade system. Remediation is the responsibility of those who have been profiting from slavery over the last 30 years: the candy companies. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Tools for Investors

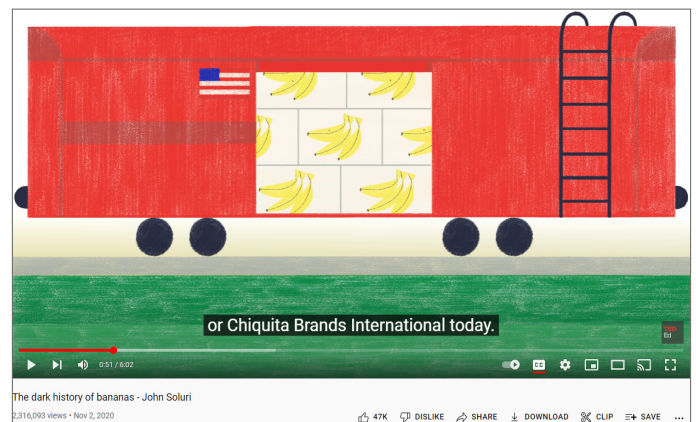
KnowTheChain provides a range of tools to support investors in their active ownership and investment decision-making practices:



Click [here](#) for a list of chocolate companies that only use ethically grown cocoa. Find out how you can tell if the chocolate you are enjoying is connected to child slavery.

Take Action to End Child Trafficking in the Chocolate Industry

Join the campaign calling on chocolate companies to act now to end child trafficking in their supply chains by clicking [here](#).

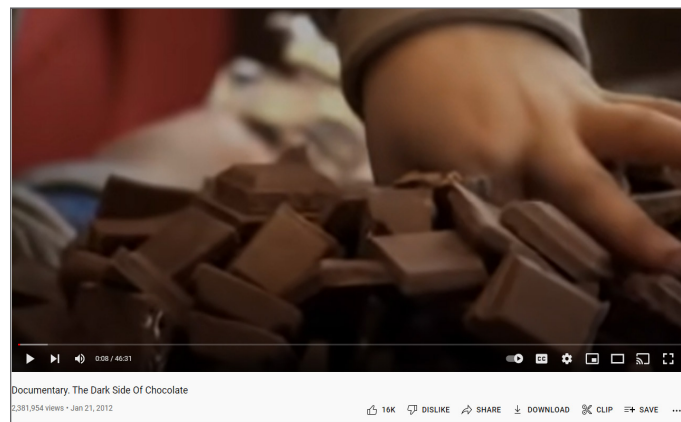
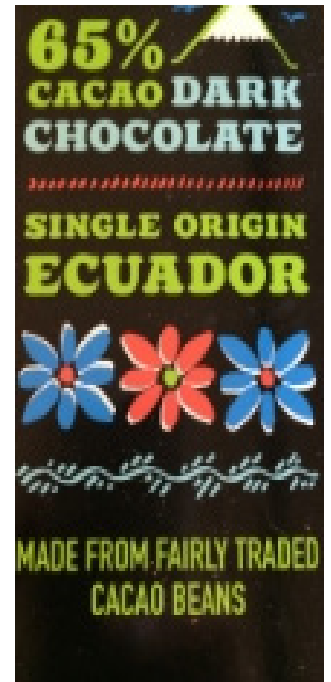
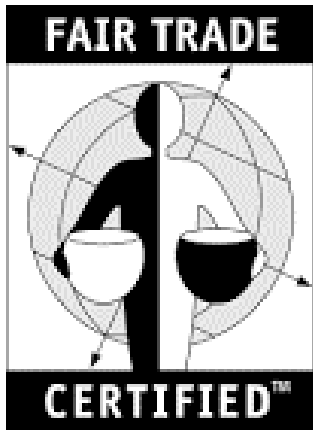


The Dark History of Bananas

Explore the history of the United Fruit Company and how its influence over the banana industry impacted Central America. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Chocolate Buying Guides

Here are some labels to guide you in the purchasing of chocolate. It does not necessarily mean that the chocolate you buy is child labor free, but it is one way of sending a message:



The Dark Side of Chocolate

In 2001, the Chocolate Manufacturers Association and its members signed a document that prohibited child trafficking and labor in the cocoa industry after 2008. Despite this effort, numerous children are still forced to work on cocoa plantations in Africa. Please click [here](#) to view the classic documentary on the chocolate industry.

The Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act

The Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA) establishes a rebuttable presumption that the importation of any goods, wares, articles and merchandise mined, produced, or manufactured

wholly or in part in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, or produced by certain entities, is prohibited by Section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 and that such goods, wares, articles, and merchandise are not entitled to entry to the United States. The UFLPA rebuttable presumption went into effect on June 21, 2022.





U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking Newsletter Sponsors

Click on the links below to visit the websites of our sponsors.

- [Adorers of the Blood of Christ](#)
- [Adrian Dominicans](#)
- [Benedictine Sisters of Chicago](#)
- [Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, KS](#)
- [Benet Hill Monastery](#)
- [Congregation of Notre Dame](#)
- [Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes](#)
- [Congregation of S. Joseph](#)
- [Daughters of Charity, Province of the West](#)
- [Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise](#)
- [Daughters of the Holy Spirit](#)
- [Dominican Sisters of Houston, TX](#)
- [Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, CA](#)
- [Dominican Sisters of Peace](#)
- [Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, CA](#)
- [Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, WI](#)
- [Dominican Sisters of Springfield, IL](#)
- [Felician Sisters of North America](#)
- [Franciscan Sisters of Peace](#)
- [Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration](#)
- [Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart](#)
- [Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters](#)
- [Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)
- [Marianites of Holy Cross](#)
- [Maryknoll Sisters](#)
- [Medical Mission Sisters](#)
- [Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary](#)
- [Northern California Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking](#)
- [Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters](#)
- [Presentation Sisters, Aberdeen](#)
- [Presentation Sisters, San Francisco](#)
- [Racine Dominicans](#)
- [Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary](#)
- [Religious Sisters of Charity](#)
- [School Sisters of Notre Dame, North America](#)
- [School Sisters of St. Francis of Christ the King](#)
- [Sisters of Bon Secours](#)
- [Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati](#)
- [Sisters of Charity of Halifax](#)
- [Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth](#)
- [Sisters of Charity of New York](#)
- [Sisters of Charity of St. Joan Antida](#)
- [Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)
- [Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word - Houston](#)
- [Sisters of Charity of Nazareth](#)
- [Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill](#)
- [Sisters of Christian Charity Mendham, NJ & Wilmette, IL](#)
- [Sisters of Mercy Catherine's Residence](#)
- [Sisters of Mercy of the Americas](#)
- [Sisters of Notre Dame of the United States](#)
- [Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, USA](#)
- [Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province](#)
- [Sisters of St. Dominic - Racine, WI](#)
- [Sisters of St. Francis of Clinton](#)
- [Sisters of St. Francis of Colorado Springs](#)
- [Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque](#)
- [Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia](#)
- [Sisters of St. Francis of Redwood City](#)
- [Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God](#)
- [Sisters of St. Francis Rochester, MN](#)
- [Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet](#)
- [Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill Philadelphia](#)
- [Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, USA & Canada Provinces](#)
- [Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, KS](#)
- [Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange](#)
- [Sisters of the Divine Savior](#)
- [Sisters of the Good Shepherd](#)
- [Sisters of the Holy Cross](#)
- [Sisters of the Holy Family](#)
- [Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary](#)
- [Sisters of the Humility of Mary](#)
- [Sisters of the Precious Blood](#)
- [Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)
- [Sisters of the Sacred Hearts](#)
- [Society of the Divine Savior](#)
- [Society of the Holy Child Jesus](#)
- [Society of the Sacred Heart](#)
- [Southern CA Partners for Global Justice](#)
- [St. Mary's Institute of O'Fallon](#)
- [Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking & Slavery](#)
- [U.S. Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union](#)