

THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

In 1989, Governments from around the world agreed that all children are born with rights that must be protected.

Some of these rights include:

- 🕒 The right to free education;
- 🕒 The right not to be exploited;

- 🕒 The right not to be used as a soldier in wars;
- 🕒 The right to meet with other children;
- 🕒 The right to play;
- 🕒 The right to learn about and enjoy their own culture;
- 🕒 The right to be protected from danger;
- 🕒 The right to know about their rights and responsibilities.

Class Activity – The Moving Debate

Do children in poor countries have to work?

The 'moving debate' activity is designed to help the group express their opinions on the issue of Child Labour. Through open discussion the group will gain a greater understanding of the link between child labour and the right to education.

Ask the group to stand up and come to the middle of the room or open space and explain the rules of the game:

- 🕒 A statement is called out for the group to consider
- 🕒 If they agree with the statement they must move to the righthand side of the room, if they disagree they must move to the left side. Those who are unsure or undecided can remain in the middle
- 🕒 To voice their opinions, only the person who is holding the 'magic mike' can speak. No one else can speak or interrupt while someone else with the

magic mike is speaking. Once the speaker has finished, others may request the magic mike.

Start the debate with a couple of fun statements this will help the group to feel more comfortable about expressing their opinions.

Here are a few suggestions for a debate:

- 🕒 'Children have to work because their family is poor'
- 🕒 'Without child labour we will have to pay more for our food'
- 🕒 'Irish people can help to end child labour'



Stop Child Labour

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STOP Child Labour
school is the best place to work

www.stopchildlabour.net

Child Labour around the world







- ⌚ In nearly every region of the world children are being sent to work instead of going to school. In Asia alone there are over 100 million children between 5 and 14 years working all day every day.
- ⌚ Child labourers are used in all sorts of jobs, from working as domestic servants, to making and carrying bricks, to mining and stitching carpets or footballs. In fact, it is said that everything we eat, wear, use and are sheltered by, somewhere along the way a child labourer has been involved.
- ⌚ In Asia, Africa and even in Europe there are over 132 million girls and boys aged 5 to 14 years working from sun up to sun down planting and harvesting crops, spraying pesticides and tending livestock




Children do not belong in fields and factories, they belong in school ... just like you!

Summer holidays (even bad weather ones) do not exist in the world of a child labourer

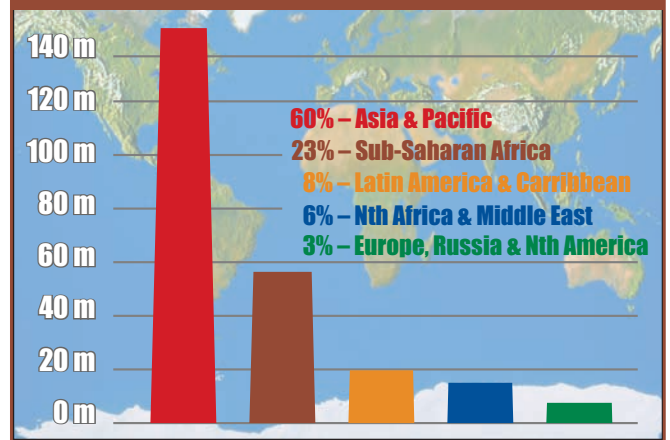
THE IMPACT OF CHILD LABOUR

-  Serious damage to children's health from exposure to chemicals and heavy equipment
-  Exploitation of children through force, low wages and poor working conditions
-  Continued poverty of families and whole communities
-  Denial of the rights of a child



Facts:

-  There are over 218 million girls and boys working as child labourers in the world
-  Seven out of 10 child labourers work on farms
-  Children are often put to work to clear off a family debt. This is called bonded labour. The lenders, who are often landlords, usually manipulate the situation in such a way that it is impossible for the

Geographical Distribution of Child Labour



family to pay off its debt. A family may thus remain bonded through generations with children replacing their aging parents

-  In Africa there are between 60 to 70 million child labourers working in agriculture
-  According to some reports the number of child labourers across the world is dropping very, very slowly, from 246 million children to 218 million children



CHILD LABOURERS' STORIES

Kite flying?

Qutubuddin Ali, aged 11, says he loves to fly kites but has to spend more than 12 hours a day working at an unlicensed shoe factory in a house in Bamungachi, 35 km, north of Kolkata (formally known as Calcutta in India) "I am the sole bread winner in the family," Ali, clad in torn shorts, said as he wiped eyes teary from poisonous fumes. He earns about 200 rupees per month (which is about €3.50!)

Mohammed Ilyas, a year older than Ali, cycles for an hour each morning to a factory where his job is to stitch leather. Others ruin their eyesight working long hours in poorly lit carpet factories.

Extract from the Nation, 2006, All work and no play for India's army of toiling kids.



Nagamani (14) pictured here worked in a quarry getting 30 rupees per day (50c) and the cotton fields for 20 rupees (34c) per day. She cried a lot because of the rashes cuts etc, when asked

what her parents will do without the income she replied they'll find a way, I've worked enough!



Nagamani and Sopta attend Alur Girl's Camp, which is a bridge school run by the MV Foundation that prepares female child labourers for public school.

Vanaji aged 16 (pictured on the right) is a former student of the Alur bridge camp. She is back at the school to help out for the summer; she remembers how hard it is to adjust at first and how patient the teachers were. She is in 9th class now at one of the state's secondary schools. She wants to be a teacher when she leaves school.

Vanaji's friend Sopta (pictured on the left) or 'sister' as she calls her is too shy to speak but Vanaji tells her story of how her mother died when she was 11 years of age, her father didn't care, she ran away and begged for food for a while then arrived at a hostel where she was referred to MV Foundation. She's just passed her 7th grade and is also back at the Alur school for the summer.

Explore with your class or group the reasons why there are so many child labourers in the world and what it would

be like to go to work each day instead of going to school. You can also explore where in the world child labourers are working. You could pick one or two countries to investigate.

