

Choosing Fair Trade to End Human Trafficking

“FAIR TRADE IS A TRADING PARTNERSHIP BASED ON DIALOGUE, TRANSPARENCY, AND RESPECT THAT SEEKS GREATER EQUITY IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE. IT CONTRIBUTES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BY OFFERING BETTER TRADING CONDITIONS TO, AND SECURING THE RIGHTS OF, MARGINALIZED PRODUCERS AND WORKERS.”

- WORLD FAIR TRADE ORGANIZATION

What is Fair Trade?

People who are impoverished are especially vulnerable to exploitation by traffickers. Fair Trade workers are paid a living wage so that their children don't have to work to support their family and can attend school instead. Profits from Fair Trade ventures are reinvested into the community through Fair Trade Funds that address social, economic, and environmental challenges in each community. Through a democratic system, each Fair Trade community determines how their funds will be used. Funds can be reinvested into their business, directed to empowering women, supporting education, protecting the environment, fighting poverty and providing health care. In addition, Fair Trade certification guarantees that no child or forced labor was used in the production of goods.

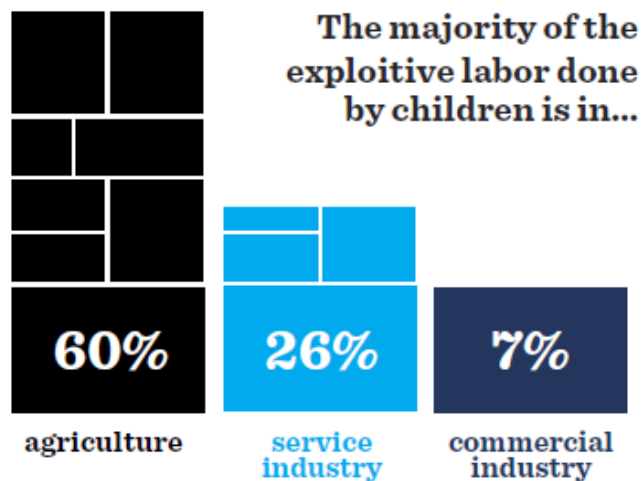
If you'd like to learn more about the impact of Fair Trade, please visit <http://fairtradeusa.org/node/2007> to read impact reports.

Products that use Child Labor

For a full report on the worst offenders in regards to forced and child labor, please see: <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/findings/>

Demanding Ethically Sourced Products

Unfortunately, Fair Trade does not necessarily create better working conditions for people caught up in forced labor, since those conditions do not meet Fair Trade standards. However, as more people begin to buy Fair Trade, the demand for ethically sourced product increases. As demand rises, more companies will begin to switch to Fair Trade certification and create better working conditions in order to meet the demand. More stores will also start to supply those products.



Buying Ethically Sourced Products

While it depends on where you live, health food stores almost always carry Fair Trade products. This can include products such as coffee, tea, chocolate, and sugar, just to name a few. Some mainstream grocery stores and convenience stores have started to carry Fair Trade products as well, particularly chocolate. If your favorite stores do not carry Fair Trade products, ask them to order some, and tell them why it's important to you. There are also mobile apps you can check out such as Fair Trade Finder that can be useful when looking for Fair Trade products. Here are examples of labels to look for:

Fair Trade Labels



UNICEF's work to protect children and prevent child labor

UNICEF works in over 190 countries and territories around the world. UNICEF's Child Protection work includes:

- Reaching the most vulnerable children, including girls, orphans, children living on the streets, and children affected by conflict and natural disasters
- Facilitating community educational activities to change social norms, attitudes, and behaviors that make children vulnerable to exploitation
- Supporting comprehensive services for children and their families, including access to health, social protection and welfare services, psychosocial support, and legal assistance

5 Things You Can Do to Support Fair Trade

1. Host a Fair Trade Event where you offer samples of Fair Trade products such as coffee, tea, wine, and chocolate. Download our event kit from unicefusa.org/endtrafficking
2. Talk to your favorite companies about what they're doing to address slavery and forced labor in their supply chain. Visit slaveryfootprint.org for pre-written letters.
3. Make your town, school, or workplace Fair Trade! Visit fairtradecampaigns.org for more information.
4. Choose Fair Trade chocolate when buying candy for holidays such as Halloween, Christmas, and Easter.
5. Buy products made by survivors of trafficking

Resources on Fair Trade

1. Fair Trade USA: <http://fairtradeusa.org/>
2. Fairtrade America: <http://fairtradeamerica.org/>
3. World Fair Trade Organization: <http://www.wfto.com/>
4. Fair Trade Federation: <http://www.fairtradefederation.org/>
5. Equal Exchange: <http://www.equalexchange.coop/>

Do you have other ideas on how to build the Fair Trade movement? Questions about how else you can get involved? Please contact endtrafficking@unicefusa.org