



January 11th

National Awareness Day:

Human Trafficking — Modern Slavery

Child Slavery Today



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Yes! Every year at least 1.2 million youngsters under 18 years of age are sold into some form of slave labor.

There are 211 million child laborers, between the ages of 5 and 14. Of these, 171 million work in risky conditions. About 120 million children work full time. (Fides, the News Agency for the Vatican Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, Jan. 2006.)



Coffee and cocoa beans should bring dignity to the pickers, as well as pleasure to the consumers.

In Africa a small child, Martha Wamboi, describes her life on a coffee plantation...

“I pick the raw berries, then I take them to the trough and dump them in. I get 10 shillings.

Then I pick another can. For a whole day I get 60 shillings (76¢).” (Video: Stolen Childhoods)

Buying products showing the Fair Trade label guarantees that the workers are free, have been paid a living wage, and can send their own children to school.

On the commodities exchange in New York, cocoa prices fluctuate dramatically, while the price tag of a chocolate bar stays nearly the same. North Americans and Europeans consume 80% of the cocoa supplied by the third world.

When you buy a 75¢ candy bar, 70¢ goes to the company, 5¢ to the farmer. M&M, the largest chocolate producer in the world, has annual profits of about \$16 billion per year. Yet M&M refuses to buy fair trade chocolate.

Fair Trade chocolate ensures a living wage to those who harvest cocoa and helps eliminate the need to resort to child trafficking. It gives children a chance to receive an education and create a life for themselves.

ACTION. To find out where to obtain Fair Trade chocolate, visit: www.globalexchange.org/cocoa

Drissa left his home in Mali and traveled over 300 miles to neighboring Côte d'Ivoire in search of work, harvesting cocoa on plantations. On arrival he was sold to a plantation owner, taken to a remote plantation and forced to work from dawn until dusk with no pay.

The work was exhausting. If Drissa showed signs of tiredness he was beaten. At night, along with 17 other young men, he was locked in a small room with only a tin can as a toilet.

When Drissa was caught trying to escape, he was tied up and beaten until he couldn't walk.

(www.antislavery.org)



Both the **non-Fair Trade** and the **Fair Trade** coffee supply chains start with the farmers who plant and tend the coffee trees. At this point, the Fair Trade supply chain splits off from the rest of the coffee.

Non-Fair: Pickers (may include children) are paid a couple cents for every pound of coffee they harvest. Harvested coffee is sold to wholesalers or collectors for washing and drying. It is transported and sold at auction by exporters to a roasting company. The company roasts and blends it with other kinds of coffee and prepares it for the final consumer. When it

reaches your cup it has been marked up 1200-1500% (or more to the largest markup the market allows) from the prices that are paid to farmers.

Fair: No children will be pickers! Pickers are paid a living wage. The farmer sells the coffee to the Fair Trade Cooperative of which he is a member. The cooperative washes, dries, and packages the coffee for sale and shipment to Alternative Trading Organizations (ATOs) for a minimum of \$1.26 per pound. The ATOs roast and package the coffee for sale to the final consumer. (www.ocdc.coop/fairtrade/coffee.htm)

ACTION: Find out which stores in your neighborhood carry Fair Trade coffee. Visit <http://www.crsfairtrade.org> to learn how to support small scale coffee growers.

“Trafficking is one of the most egregious violations of human rights facing the United Nations.”
(Kofi Annan, Former Secretary General of the U.N.)