

## 8.7 Child Labour

### INTRODUCTION – Why is this a Global Justice Issue?

All children and young people around the world are protected by laws that give them rights to things like education, safety, a voice in the decisions taken concerning them, and to space and time to play. However, for tens of millions of children around the world, those basic rights are at risk because they have to work. Teaching about the topic of child labour can be an impetus for classroom discussions about universal children's rights and responsibilities. Focusing on the issues around working children and child labour can also help develop qualities such as empathy, fairness, and integrity and mobilise students to take action on the injustices that children face globally.

Across the world, tens of millions of children do extremely hazardous work in harmful conditions, putting their health, education, personal and social development, and even their lives at risk.

According to UNICEF, there are 250 million children aged between 2 and 17 working worldwide. Most child labour occurs in African and Southern Asian countries, with Mali having the highest proportion at 805 child labourers per 10,000 people. Children may be employed in a wide range of jobs, including factory work, mining, quarrying, agriculture, helping in their parents' business, selling, acting as guides for tourists, polishing shoes and cleaning. In some cases, they may be forced into prostitution or military activity.

### GLOBAL GOAL INDICATOR:

**Global Goal 8.7 focuses on Child Labour:** Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

### SUGGESTED AREA OF FOCUS:

- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Causes of child labour
- Poverty and child labour
- Education and child Labour
- Global Economics and child Labour
- Big Business and child Labour
- The consumer and child labour
- Thinking about solutions
- Trafficking of children
- Labour standards
- Children in armed conflict-war and child labour
- Individual and collective actions

### SUGGESTED CURRICULUM LINKS:

- **Business Studies**-ethics and international trade, behind the brand, business management
- **Politics and Society**
- **History**-the industrial revolution, especially its effects on society and the changing nature of work.
- **Geography**- the geography of my stuff, child labour and globalisation
- **Economics**-examining regional and global trade agreements, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and its effects upon children's rights around the world.
- **CSPE**-childrens rights
- **Home Economics**- Domestic work and children, textiles and child labour

### SUGGESTED LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Understanding why some children are made to work
- Learning about some of the different types of work children are made to do
- Understanding why some children are denied education and the disadvantages they face as a result
- Learning about some of the things that are being done to help children access their right to education
- Thinking about the rights of the child, especially in regard to education and freedom from forced labour.

### TEACHING AND LEARNING MATERIALS:

#### 1. The kids who make our stuff-the geography of my stuff: Royal Geographic Society

**ABOUT:** This unit of work focuses upon the interconnections and inter-relationships that link teenage consumers with societies and environments overseas, where the goods they purchase are made.

**LINK:**<https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/the-geography-of-my-stuff/the-kids-who-make-our-stuff/>

#### 2. Examining Child Labour photo kit: World Vision Australia

**ABOUT:** Students are introduced to the topic of **child labour** through a series of worksheets and accompanying photos exploring key questions. The worksheets include activities suitable for Geography, English and Civics & Citizenship study. Two of the worksheets and photos focus on case studies from India.

**LINK:** <https://www.worldvision.com.au/get-involved/school-resources/detail/examining-child-labour-photo-kit>

### Simulation Activities:

**Name of activity:** *A Struggling Family Simulation*

**General Learning Outcomes:** By the end of this lesson students should be able to:

- recognize and describe connections between local, national and international events and economic structures, their causes, consequences and implications on the lives of child labourers
- develop empathy for poor families whose children work and understand the circumstances and factors that eliminate options and push or pull children into hazardous and exploitative labour
- assess the role of values, ethics and beliefs in decision making at a personal and family level

**Aim:** To have students understand the various pressures that may force families to send their children to work.

**Overview:** Simulation and class discussion. Student groups form a family with limited-income sources and expenses that change with yearly circumstances. Students must adapt to changing circumstances by making choices about how to make the money they need to survive.

**Link:**

<https://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/SocialJustice/Issues/ChildLabour/LA2060.pdf>

### Short Video Clips:

To view videos and news clips that explore and discuss the issue of child labour, enter 'child labour' on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

### Documentaries:

#### 1. The dark side of chocolate 2010

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Vfbv6hNeng>

#### 2. A series on short documentaries on Child Labour

<https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/specialseries/2019/06/world-day-child-labour-watch-documentaries-190610114838557.html>

#### 3. Stolen Childhoods

<https://www.mediavoicesforchildren.org/stolen-childhoods>

### Podcasts:

**Podcast #15: Giving Girls a Chance - Educating to End Child Labour**

### Blogs:

Global March against Child Labour

<https://globalmarch.org/resource-centre/blog/>

## **ACTIONS - CREATING CHANGE:**

**Ideas for Political Engagement (Supranational, Intergovernmental, Regional, National, Local):**

**Campaign against Child Labour**

This includes:

- Getting in touch with your local politicians - Make an appointment with your TD, phone, use emails and Twitter to contact them directly.
- Write a letter to brands who use child labour. Tell the company why you are concerned and what you would like them to do to improve the situation.
- Facilitate discussion in your school and local community - Invite along local TD's and community members and start stimulating discussion on Child Labour
- Reach out to civil society and NGO's - e.g engage with UNICEF on children's rights
- Organise activities and demonstrations - it is important to increase the frequency and quality of media coverage on child labour.
- Encourage Discussion - child labour is still not very well known. Talk with your friends, family and community about child labour.
- Use social media to share information - #Stopchildlabour will guide you to posts. Have you heard any debates on the radio or news? If not, contact radio and TV broadcasters to ask for the debate to be publicised.
- Write articles & letters and send to print media. Don't forget to include photos.
- Contact local radio to promote your events and/or interview your campaign group.
- Post messages on your own web pages, blogs, etc.
- Create a list of email addresses and send campaign updates and requests for support/action.

### **SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: WHY NOT CARRY OUT A SCHOOL/ COMMUNITY ACTION ON THE DAYS BELOW:**

- Red Hand Day for Child Soldiers on 12 February
- World Day Against Child Labour on 12 June
- Anti-Slavery Day on 18 October
- Universal Children's Day on 20 November
- International Day for the Abolition of Slavery on 2 December
- Human Rights Day on 10 December.

### **CAMPAIGNS/ ORGANISATIONS TO LINK IN WITH:**

#### **1. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

<https://globaldimension.org.uk/child-labour/>

#### **2. INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE TO END CHILD LABOUR:**

<https://endchildlabor.net/campaigns/>

- "Children in the Fields" campaign, with a particular focus on ending hazardous child labour in agriculture internationally
- "Education Works" campaign to promote education programming that is child-centered for children and youth, particularly those who have dropped out of school; and
- "Be an Advocate" campaign on the "World Day Against Child Labour".

#### **3. UNICEF:**

<https://www.unicef.org>

UNICEF works in over 190 countries and territories to save children's lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfil their potential, from early childhood through adolescence. And we never give up.

#### 4. SAVE THE CHILDREN

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk>

#### 5. STOP CHILD LABOUR

<https://www.stopchildlabour.org>

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

- The **International Labour Organization** is the UN agency which seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognised human and labour rights. Their website has information about what the United Nations is doing to combat the worst forms of child labour: [ILO child labour information](#)
- **Anti-Slavery** is a charity which campaigns to end all forms of modern slavery. Their website includes examples of children who were forced to work: [Anti-Slavery – Slavery Today information](#)
- **The Concerned for Working Children** is a not-for-profit secular, democratic development agency based in Bengaluru, India. Active since the late 1970s, they were one of the first organisations in India to focus on working children and their needs: [The Concerned for Working Children](#)
- **SOS Children's Villages** has a useful web page [How does child labour undermine literacy?](#), which has an in-depth summary of the reasons for, and effects of child labour.
- <https://www.itsyourright.ie/explore-more/>