

Child Labour



What is Child Labour?

- Children under the age of 12 that are working
- Children between the ages of 12 – 14 years that are engaged in harmful work
- Children engaged in the worst forms of child labour

Worst forms of child labour: enslaved, forcibly recruited, prostituted, trafficked, forced into illegal activities and exposed to hazardous work.

Can children work?

Yes, as long as it does not negatively affect their health and development or interfere with education

- An estimated 246 million children are engaged in child labour for which 171 million work in hazardous conditions
70% of child labours working in agriculture
- Asian & Pacific regions have the largest number of child workers, age 5 - 14, 127.3 million in total. (19 % of children)
- Sub-Saharan Africa has an estimated 48 million child workers Almost one child in three (29 %) below the age of 15 works
- Latin America & the Caribbean have approximately 17.4 million child workers. (16 % of children work in the region)
- 15 % of children work in the Middle East & North Africa
- Approximately 2.5 million children are working in industrialized and transition economies.

Convention on the Rights of the Child



Is the most universally accepted human rights instrument in history and therefore uniquely places children centre-stage in the quest for the universal application of human rights.

- National governments have committed themselves to protecting and ensuring children's rights and they have agreed to hold themselves accountable for this commitment before the international community
- Has been ratified by 190 countries
- Only two countries have not *ratified*: the United States & Somalia, however they have signalled their intention to ratify by *signing* the convention.

“Human rights are what reason requires and conscience demands. They are us and we are them. Human rights are rights that any person has as a human being. We are all human beings; we are all deserving of human rights. One cannot be true without the other.” – Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations

The Convention on the Rights of the Child:

- Reinforces fundamental human dignity.
- Highlights and defends the family's role in children's lives
- Seeks respect for children – but not at the expense of the human rights or responsibilities of others.
- Endorses the principle of non-discrimination
- Establishes clear obligations