

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

November 2008 Vol. 6 No. 11
This issue highlights the relationship between promoting Fair Trade and preventing human trafficking.

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The Power of a Gift

Consumerism equals patriotism for many Americans, businesses and advertisers. But in this season of high consumer expectation, why not opt for an alternative gift that would help so many struggling against global poverty?

Use your consumer power this gift-giving season to buy Fair Trade.

Sweatshops

A sweatshop is a workplace where workers are subject to extreme exploitation, including the absence of a living wage or benefits, poor working conditions, and arbitrary discipline, such as verbal and physical abuse. Since sweatshop workers are paid less than their daily expenses, they are never able to save any money to improve their lives. They are trapped in an awful cycle of exploitation.

Defenders of sweatshops often bring up the fact that even though sweatshops are bad, they at least give people jobs they wouldn't have had otherwise. However, the type of jobs sweatshop workers receive are so bad that they rarely improve their economic situation.

The *International Labor Organization* (ILO) has estimated that 250 million children between the ages of five and fourteen work in developing countries. 61% in Asia, 32% in Africa and 7% in Latin America. Many of these children are forced to work. They are denied an education and a normal childhood. Some are confined and beaten. Some are denied the right to leave the workplace and go home to their families. Some are even abducted and forced to work.

All kind of products can be made in sweatshops. Some of the biggest problem industries are:

• **Shoes**

Many types of shoes are made in sweatshops. However, the biggest problem is found with sneakers and athletic shoes. Most athletic shoes are made in sweatshops in Asian countries. Child labor is also very common in the shoe industry.



• **Clothing**

Clothing is very often made in sweatshops and with the use of child labor. In the U.S. the majority of garment workers are immigrant women that work 60-80 hours a week, usually without minimum wage or overtime pay. Over-

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Sweatshops

cont. from pg. 1

seas, garment workers routinely make less than a living wage, working under extremely oppressive conditions.

• Rugs

Much child labor is used in the rug industry. Nearly one million children are illegally employed making hand-knotted rugs worldwide. Approximately 75% of Pakistan's carpet weavers are girls under 14.

• Toys

Many toys are made in sweatshops and by child labor. Especially toys made in countries like China, Malaysia, Thailand or Vietnam. The average North American toy maker earns \$11 an hour. In China, toy workers earn an average of 30 cents an hour.

• Chocolate

43% of cocoa beans come from the Ivory Coast where recent investigators have found child slavery. In addition, cocoa workers who are paid, receive wages that leave them at the edge of poverty and starvation.

• Bananas

Banana workers are some of the most exploited workers in the world. They have to work long hours, get low pay, are forced overtime and are exposed to dangerous pesticides.

• Coffee

Coffee is the second largest US import after oil. Many small coffee farmers receive prices for their coffee that are less than the cost of production, forcing them into a cycle of poverty and debt.

http://www.veganpeace.com/sweatshops/sweatshops_and_child_labor.htm

Sweatshops Continue

In recent decades, many garment manufacturers have moved overseas and local unions have become less powerful. In addition the devastating budget cuts during the Reagan and Bush administrations severely limited the *U.S. Dept. of Labor* (DOL) policing of garment factories. Currently only 800 DOL wage and hour inspectors are employed to inspect six million work sites in the US. Also sweatshops are often mobile operations, making them even more difficult to regulate. *"The equipment is just a few sewing machines,"* said a representative of UNITE (Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees). *"Just rent space, pay the bills, and you're in business."*

DOL estimates that 50% of 22,000 registered garment contractors pay less than minimum wage, two-thirds do not pay overtime and one-third operate with serious health and safety violations. Workers who try to organize and protest poor working conditions are often fired.

Due to public outrage over sweatshop conditions, many clothing manufacturers now hire outside companies to inspect working conditions in their factories. This third-party monitoring has become a growth industry, the *National Labor Committee* reported, funded largely by the corporations being investigated. The concern is that manufacturers might influence their monitors to present an overly favorable picture to consumers.

When asked if any company in particular was making substantial improvements, the NLC reported that *The Gap* agreed to independent monitors, not employed by *The Gap*. Inspectors come from the Human Rights Ombudsman's offices in El Salvador and other Central American countries. The NLC believes that this is the model all manufacturers should follow.

(Excerpted: <http://www.heartsandminds.org/articles/sweat.htm>)

'WRAP' Certifies More Than Apparel

In 2007 the Board of Directors for *Worldwide Responsible Apparel Production* (WRAP) announced a change in the name of the organization to *Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production*. The name change reflected the organization's increasing involvement with diverse industries as they seek to certify ethical working conditions in labor-intensive manufacturing facilities around the world.

"Having worked in some 70 countries around the world, WRAP is in an unparalleled position," said WRAP's President and CEO. *"We know that we can make a positive difference by monitoring and certifying factories to ensure adherence to clear requirements."*

In 2005 WRAP developed the Universal Code of Ethical Conduct™ (UCEC), a variation



of the WRAP Apparel Code that can be adapted to all manufacturing sectors. *"Most manufacturing today involves conversion of raw materials, but the functional areas of purchasing, shipping and receiving, human resources, production planning and quality control are virtually the same,"* said WRAP's CEO. *"We've found that the management systems and code areas for the apparel sector are directly applicable to virtually any other product - whether it is furniture, houseware, glass, plastic, electrical appliances, packaging or automotive parts."*

The expanded program will include industry-specific training, monitoring and certification programs designed around the UCEC. With this strategic expansion, the WRAP acronym, which has come to stand for social compliance in apparel, will now stand for social compliance in any labor intensive production process.

(Excerpted: <http://www.csrwire.com/PressRelease.php?id=9518>)



Awareness

Background on Sweatshops

'What to Know about Sweatshops' by Co-op America (<http://www.coopamerica.org/programs/sweatshops/whattoknow.cfm>)

'Frequently Asked Questions: Free Trade and Sweatshops' by Global Exchange (<http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/sweatshops/sweatshopsfaq.html>).

eBay & Women's Empowerment Initiative

Poverty and domestic violence impact women disproportionately. Sixty percent of the 1.2 billion at the bottom of the economic pyramid, who live on less than \$1 a day, are women. At the same time, women show great resilience in overcoming these systemic injustices: for example, microfinance institutions (MFIs) direct 84 percent of their microloans to women because women typically take fewer risks, re-invest profits in family and household, and repay loans better than men.

MicroPlace announced its commitment to women by launching its *Women's Empowerment Initiative* on Oct. 17, 2008, at the UN's *International Day for the Eradication of Poverty*.

The initiative formalizes *MicroPlace's* support for women by committing at least 70 percent of microloans to female borrowers. "For these women, having access to money to start a small business really isn't about fulfilling a dream, it's literally about keeping their families one step ahead of starvation and putting a roof over their heads," said *MicroPlace* Founder Tracey Turner.

MicroPlace, begun in 2007, is the world's first and only online brokerage specializing in socially responsible investments that alleviate poverty. *MicroPlace* enables everyday people to make investments that earn a return while empowering the poor to work their way out of poverty. Investment dollars are used to provide microfinance loans to the world's working poor. Unlike charity, investing in

MicroPlace offers a rate of return and allows the investor to align their social values with their investment wallet. *MicroPlace* is a wholly-owned subsidiary of eBay Inc.

(Excerpted from: <http://www.csrwire.com/News/13435.html>; & <http://www.csrwire.com/News/13428.html>)

How 'MicroPlace' Differs from 'Kiva'

As *P2P Lending News* explains, [t]he big difference between *MicroPlace* and *Kiva*...is that loans will be secured (and therefore potentially tradeable), and lenders will earn interest. Unlike *Kiva*, lenders on *MicroPlace* invest in microfinance by purchasing securities. Funds generated by these sales are then invested in microfinance institutions around the world. MFIs, in turn, solicit clients, make loans and collect payments - they do their normal day-to-day business.

Once client payments are in, the institutional investors receive their loan (plus interest) and then pay back their investors - people who purchased those original securities. It's not as simple a model as *Kiva's*, but its differences are very important.

First of all, *Kiva* is a non-profit. It is very difficult to become a SEC-registered broker/dealer. *MicroPlace*, on the other hand, had the institutional and financial backing of *eBay*, allowing it to go through the complex regulatory application process and to put

up the necessary money for the SEC to sign off. *Kiva* wanted to be for-profit, but had to stay a NGO because it was a regulatory nightmare to register with the SEC. As a result, lenders on *Kiva* only receive their loans back - without interest. *MicroPlace*, as a broker/dealer, can pay interest to lenders - thanks to its ability to navigate the aforementioned regulatory maze.

Secondly, *MicroPlace* adds a level of intermediation that *Kiva* doesn't have. With *Kiva*, lenders provide capital to MFIs, who then lend to clients. *MicroPlace* is a market for microfinance securities, not just requests for loans. Securing loans helps diversify risk, and allows microfinance investors to reach into the second and third tier MFIs that are having a hard time raising non-donor money.

Are *Kiva* and *MicroPlace* competitors? Yes and no. On the one hand, they compete for lenders and have similar models. On the other hand, *Kiva* is filling an unmet need in terms of providing a direct, peer-to-peer portal on which lenders and borrowers can connect. *MicroPlace*, meanwhile, is more businesslike - it offers a portal where profit-conscious investors can get involved in microfinance without totally compromising on rate of return. (Rob Katz, Excerpted: <http://www.nextbillion.net/blogs/2007/10/24/kiva-vs-microplace-whats-the-difference>)



Advocacy

4 Sisters of St. Joseph of Philadelphia: Corporate Stance Against Human Trafficking

On October 14, 2008 the Sisters of St. Joseph of Philadelphia publicly announced a *Corporate Stand Against Human Trafficking* at John F. Kennedy Plaza in Philadelphia. The Sisters, who were founded more than three hundred and fifty years ago to form a community dedicated to the practice of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, continue their mission to assist the most vulnerable in our society.

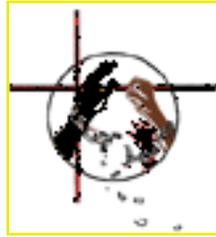
“We, the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, whose mission is one of unity and reconciliation, proclaim individually and corporately our opposition to the slavery of human trafficking in all its forms, and in every place where it exists.

We affirm the dignity of all life; therefore, we join our voices with Pope Benedict XVI, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and all persons of good will who have denounced this international crime that exploits innocent and helpless victims, most of whom are women and children.

At the same time, we commit ourselves to raise public awareness of the magnitude, reasons for and consequences of human trafficking, to work in collaboration with others to address and eliminate its root causes, and to support those who minister directly to victims of this crime.

As women of the gospel, we challenge ourselves, our Associates in Mission, partners in ministry; and leaders in all sectors of society to take appropriate action to stem the tide of this gross violation of human rights. We endeavor to heal the pain that this difficult situation creates for poor, marginalized, and fragile members of the human family.”

For more information contact Mary Beth Hamm SSJ at: mhamm@ssjphila.org



‘Garments Without Guilt’

The *Garments Without Guilt* campaign, launched by *Sri Lanka Apparel*, focuses on ethically-made clothing — meaning free of child labor, free of sweatshop conditions and free of forced labor — and also ecologically sustainable.

Along with their investments in corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects that improve the water and general living conditions of their workers, *Sri Lanka Apparel’s* member manufacturers are taking the necessary steps to use sustainable, environmentally-friendly practices when making their garments.

Three apparel manufacturers have launched eco-factories. One, Brandix, converted a thirty-year-old factory into a modernized hi-tech eco-friendly plant, which has reduced the company’s carbon footprint by 77% — from 2,076 metric tons to 484 metric tons. Brandix is also committed to preserving water and has built a rainwater harvesting tank with a capacity of 100,000 liters.

(<http://www.csrwire.com/News/12871.html>)

Felician Sisters’ — Corporate Stance

Stop Trafficking was informed that the *Sisters of St. Felix of Cantalicio* (Felician Sisters) took a global corporate stance against human trafficking in October 2007. They sent their statement to United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, to the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna and to 48 U.S. Ambassadors in the countries where the Felician Sisters minister. An excerpt from the statement follows:

“We echo the message of condemnation by Pope Benedict XVI and also of the late Pope John Paul II who was adamant in his denunciation of human trafficking calling it a “modern plague” and “an intrinsic violation of human dignity” that “poison(s) human society and is “a supreme dishonor to the Creator.”

We commit ourselves to support the strategies of the Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking to work and pray for the success of the efforts to: • create public awareness, • strengthen laws and policies designed to combat trafficking and • collaborate with government to serve the victims.

Serving in twelve countries, Brazil, Canada, England, Estonia, France, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Poland, Russia, the Ukraine, and the United States, we support the ratification of the U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children as a positive response toward fostering a more cohesive international response to combat this present-day epidemic.

Through this statement of support for the global efforts to abolish trafficking, we hope to actualize the vision Jesus Christ has for all people, that we live as brothers and sisters of a loving God.”



Action

Understanding Fair Trade

In today's global economy, where profits rule and small-scale producers are left out of the bargaining process, farmers, craft producers, and other workers are often left without resources or hope for their future. Fair Trade helps exploited producers escape from this cycle and gives them a way to maintain their traditional lifestyles with dignity.

Fair Trade involves the following principles:

- Producers receive a fair price - a living wage;
- For commodities, farmers receive a stable, minimum price;
- Forced labor and exploitative child labor are not allowed;
- Buyers and producers trade under direct long-term relationships;
- Producers have access to financial and technical assistance;
- Sustainable production techniques are encouraged;
- Working conditions are healthy and safe;
- Equal employment opportunities are provided for all;
- All aspects of trade and production are open to public accountability.

The Fair Trade system benefits over 800,000 farmers organized into cooperatives and unions in 48 countries. Fair Trade has helped farmers provide for their families' basic needs and invest in community development; however, these farmers are still selling most of their crop outside of the Fair Trade system because not enough companies are buying at Fair Trade prices. Help increase the demand for Fair Trade among companies, retailers, and consumers! Your support of Fair Trade certified products makes a real difference for small-scale producers!

In the USA, TransFair USA places the "Fair Trade Certified" label on Fair Trade Products. Fair Trade Certification ensures that workers are paid fair wages, are free from abusive labor practices, and use environmentally sustainable methods.

(<http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/>)

What Workers Want

A Living Wage and Healthy Workplace: a safe and clean working place and a living wage — enough to meet their basic human needs and enable them to plan for a better future.

Educational Opportunities: esp. about their rights, including local labor laws.

The Right to Self-Determination: able to freely associate and advocate for rights and improvements to their working conditions without fear of reprisal; the right to form cooperatives or worker-owned enterprises.

When these conditions are met, sweatshops will cease to exist.

'Win Win Solutions'

In January 2008 *Equal Exchange* introduced a 120-page comprehensive curriculum for grades 4 - 9 entitled, "Win Win Solutions: An Introduction to Fair Trade and Cooperative Economics." Using participatory methods, the lessons meet basic U.S. standards for social studies, geography, math, and economics.

The curriculum allows teachers to select lessons that enhance students' understanding of Fair Trade issues: food production, global trade and the role of U.S. consumers.

The curriculum (\$25/ea) may be ordered online at: <http://www.equalexchange.coop/educationaltools>

Since 1986 *Equal Exchange*, a worker co-operative, has helped pioneer Fair Trade food and beverages in the U.S. The co-operative successfully demonstrated Fair Trade's economic and marketplace viability and applied Fair Trade in new agricultural sectors such as tea and cocoa. In 2007 they adapted the model for work with U.S. farmers and farmer co-operatives.

In 2007 200 schools used *Equal Exchange's Fair Trade* fundraiser as way to help both their schools and farming communities around the world. The program has received a steady stream of requests for more tools to teach children about Fair Trade. (<http://www.csrwire.com/News/10728.html>)

What You Should Demand

Full Public Disclosure: re. the treatment and pay of workers — how and where products were made.

Accountability: independent monitoring of working conditions and pay.

Responsible Actions: Violations must be corrected in a way that protects workers and their jobs. Such corrections include paying for education for child workers found in factories and paying adults a living wage.

(Excerpted from the Guide pg. 4)

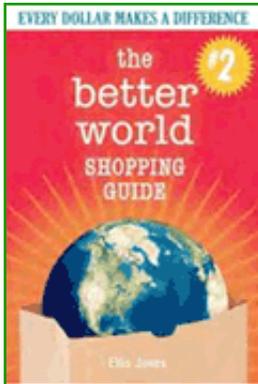


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'Better World' Shopping Guide

Written by Ellis Jones and published by *New Society Publishers*, the *Guide* provides a comprehensive, current, user-friendly resource for socially/environmentally responsible consumers.



Data is organized into the most common product categories including coffee, energy bars, computers, gasoline, clothing, banks, cars, water, etc. Also included is a summary of essential information about particular product categories, profiles of the 'best' and 'worst' companies (graded A through F), practical buying tips and the most useful online resources available. Whether stressing environmental sustainability, human rights, animal protection, community involvement or social justice, this \$9.95 book is a guide.

Ellis Jones founded and directs the *Better World Network* and teaches sociology at the Univ. of CA, Davis. (Excerpted: <http://www.newsociety.com/bookid/4013>)

WorldofGood.com for Socially Responsible Shoppers

In September 2008 eBay unveiled *WorldofGood.com*, a new e-commerce marketplace that allows consumers to align their social values with their shopping.

When people want to purchase products made from recycled or natural materials, buy organic or support artisan women in developing nations, *WorldofGood.com* provides both confidence and transparency. The products, producers and sellers are verified by various third parties called *Trust Providers* – like *TransFair USA* (Fair Trade Certified), *Co-op America* and *Aid to Artisans* – to meet a core set of ethical and environmental standards.

Categories offered on *WorldofGood.com* include home and garden, art, jewelry, clothing and food. Many products are handcrafted by poor artisans from developing nations. *WorldofGood.com* listings are posted on *eBay.com*, thus reaching more than 84 million active users worldwide.

WorldofGood.com's unique *Goodprint™* labeling system allows shoppers to see the positive social and environmental impact each purchase makes (economic empowerment to people, energy conservation, animal species preservation, or use of recycled, organic and/or sustainable materials).

WorldofGood.com is the result of a collaboration between *eBay*, the world's largest online marketplace, and *World of Good, Inc.*, a purpose-driven start-up dedicated to building ethical consumer experiences, by bringing its deep knowledge of the global ethical supply chain to mainstream retail partners.

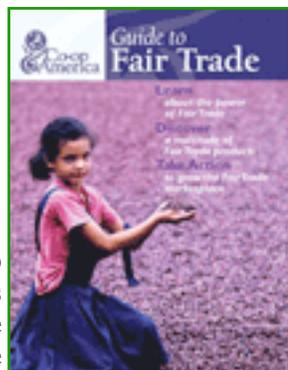
The *WorldofGood.com* marketplace features an online community that convenes people, products, ideas and organizations through relevant blog posts, articles, discussion boards and Q&A forums, which facilitates an ongoing dialogue between consumers, producers, sellers and Trust Providers about ethical shopping. (<http://www.csrwire.com/News/12988.html>)

'Guide to Ending Sweatshops'

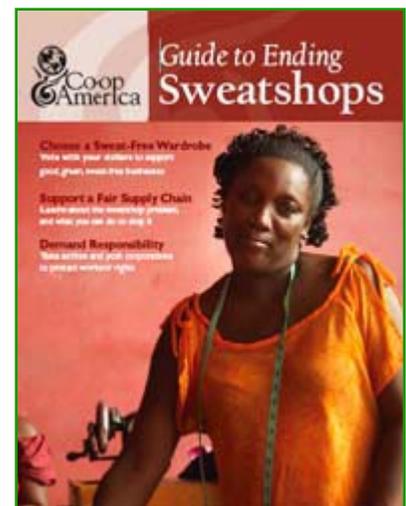
It is usually difficult to trace the supply chain of the products we buy – all the steps that go into delivering a product from a worker's hands to ours.

Using *Co-op America's Guide* makes it easier to avoid the worst companies, reward the best, and take action to keep sweatshop labor out of the supply chain. There are tips and resources for shifting spending toward sweat-free companies, demanding corporate responsibility from the worst offenders, and mobilizing with others to take a stand for fair labor conditions.

You may download the Guide from <http://www.coopamerica.org/programs/sweatshops/orderguide.cfm>



Coop America's Fair Trade Guide





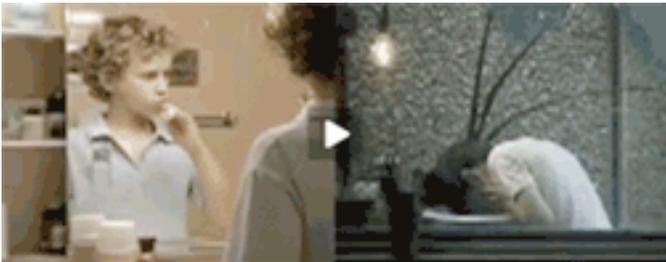
Action

'All I Need': Music-Video Message

A top band, *Radiohead*, joined the *MTV EXIT (End Exploitation and Trafficking)* campaign, a partnership between the *U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)* and *MTV* to raise awareness about human trafficking.

As part of this effort, *Radiohead* released a music video on *MTV* in May 2008 to the track 'All I Need' from its album 'In Rainbows'.

The 3.6 minute video depicts a day in the life of both an affluent youngster and a child making shoes in a sweatshop. The band's hope is that the emotion of the song will jump out at people in the context of images of exploitation.



Top frame:
Two boys washing up in the morning.



Middle frame:
One boy having breakfast at home; the other already at work in a shoe factory.



Bottom frame:
One boy coloring after school; the other boy still working in the shoe factory.

See the film at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdrCalO5BDs>

Other *MTV* films include 'Parallel Lives', which uses five short films to juxtapose ordinary lives with those of people caught in trafficking.

Informative Web Sites: (Each contains information related to human trafficking)

MicroPlace

<http://www.microplace.com>

WRAP

www.wrapapparel.org

Workers Rights Consortium

www.workersrights.org/index.asp

Sweatshop Watch

www.sweatshopwatch.org/

Sweatshops.org

www.sweatshops.org/

Behind the Label

www.behindthelabel.org/

Parallel Lives

<http://217.69.40.171/english/watch/parallellives/film1/>
(5 short films in all)

Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline National Human Trafficking Resource Center 1.888.3737.888

The hotline took 192 calls in one day as a result of a recent *Dr. Phil* show. Dozens of calls were from concerned parents and grandparents. They fear their children or grandchildren are in positions of forced labor and prostitution. They sought access to resources and assistance, which the hotline staff were able to provide.

Stop Trafficking!

is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among religious congregations, their friends and collaborating organizations, working to eliminate all forms of trafficking of human beings.

Use the following web address to access back issues of

Stop Trafficking!

<http://homepage.mac.com/srjeanschafer/sds/stoptraffic/index.html>

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