

TIPS TO BECOME AN ETHICAL SHOPPER

Ethical consumerism can play a great role in changing practices that encourage child labour and slavery. Consumers believe it or not have a lot of power to change the way companies behave. These behavioural changes can have a positive impact in reducing the number of children working in the most exploitative, hazardous and abusive jobs. While boycotting and not buying goods that have child labour involved, may not be the only solution, it surely discourages companies to employ children in work. Eliminating child labour from manufacturing units will need participation from not only governments but companies and NGOs such as Global March Against Child Labour and responsible and conscious individuals like you.

Here are some tips to become an ethical shopper and help end child labour and slavery:

TIP 1: RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Being informed about what you buy is the first step to eliminate child labour, have a clear conscience and satisfy your need. You could ask yourself or the companies you buy your products from the following questions: what is the impact of the product on children, environment and community? Do they follow legal and ethical labour laws and practices? Is its sourcing unharmed? The best way to know answers to all these questions is to research online, in libraries or simply ask the companies themselves. Some of the websites that provide information on ethical shopping are below:

www.thegoodshoppingguide.com

www.ethicalconsumer.org

[ethical-company-organisation.org](http://www.ethical-company-organisation.org)

www.rankabrand.org



Another easy way to buy ethically is to look for products carrying the FairTrade, GoodWeave, Rainforest Alliance or any other organic certifications on the product approved by the Government. If you have it, you've got it right!

TIP 2: BUY CERTIFIED PRODUCTS

TIP 3: BE CURIOUS AND ENQUIRE



As the issue of child labour has risen, many companies are making efforts to eliminate child labour from their supply chains. But many are not. If you become curious, enquire and use your voice to advocate for child labour free products, it is very likely the companies will listen to you. Afterall, the products are for consumers and not the other way round. You could start by asking the following questions to companies:

- If they have a code of conducts and policies stating that they and their suppliers do not employ children. Ask for more information to read up on.
- How do they ensure the policies are being implemented? Do they provide training and do they involve expert source for the same?
- How they monitor compliance with their codes and policies to the public and their investors?
- Do they involve an external organization in making their company 100% child labour free?



Many people are not aware that child labour and slavery still exists. Make them aware by sharing knowledge and get them to sign up on Global March Against Child Labour's Twitter and Facebook posts to get updated information on all child related matters. Share resources on how you, them and the community can shop ethically. Start from your home and office. Why not stock up some certified-ethical products such as coffee, chocolate, rugs, mats, garments etc. Teach them to your kids, within your social circles and your children's school. Explain how changing the choice of buy can make a huge difference to a child sitting in another part of the world.

TIP 4: SPREAD THE WORD

TIP 5: PLEDGE WITH GLOBAL MARCH AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

Pledge your support to Global March Against Child Labour and help us encourage companies, non-profits, governments and corporations to take more steps to prevent and address the exploitation of children and its root causes and to ensure that their supply chains support good labour practices.



GLOBAL MARCH

**Against Child Labour
Contra el Trabajo Infantil
Contre le Travail des Enfants**

www.globalmarch.org



/GlobalMarch



@kNOwChildLabour



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