

World Day Against Child Labour 2012

Human Rights and Social Justice – let's end child labour!

On 12 June each year, people around the world join hands to mark World Day Against Child Labour (WDACL) and to raise public and political awareness to build the campaign to end it. World Scouting has been supporting WDACL for several years now and many National Scout Organizations (NSOs) engage Scouts in activities and programmes on 12th June each year. To make World Day 2012 a success, we call upon members (NSOs) of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) and field staff of the International Labour Organization's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) to join forces and organise activities and events to raise awareness and mobilise action. To educate Scouts on the Rights of the Child, WOSM has been using the IPEC SCREAM (Supporting Children's Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media) activities pack, which is currently available for download in several languages (see links enclosed).

The theme of WDACL 2012 is "Human Rights and Social Justice – let's end child labour!" IPEC has prepared educational activities for children and young people in collaboration with Education International (EI), which can be used by Scouts during regular Group meetings or on WDACL (see links enclosed). There are 215 million children currently engaged in child labour. 115 million of them work in hazardous conditions and in other worst forms of child labour such as forced labour, commercial sexual exploitation and illicit activities, which can expose them to physical, psychological or moral suffering that can cause them long term damage. Premature entry to the labour market deprives children of the education and training they need to prepare for decent work as adults, which can help to lift them, their families and communities out of the vicious cycle of poverty.

All ILO member States are required to respect, promote and realise the principles and rights established in the ILO's eight fundamental human rights Conventions. These "Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work" – freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, and the elimination of forced or compulsory labour, child labour and discrimination at work – are mutually reinforcing. The elimination of child labour will be achieved much more quickly and efficiently when the other rights are also respected. The ILO child labour Conventions and other international instruments on children's, workers' and other human rights provide an important framework for national law.

The 2012 World Day will shine a spotlight on the right of all children to be protected from child labour and from other violations of fundamental human rights. In 2010 the ILO adopted a revised [Global Action Plan against Child Labour](#) incorporating a [Roadmap for achieving the elimination of the worst forms of child labour by 2016](#), which stressed that child labour is an impediment to children's rights and a barrier to development. World Day 2012 will highlight the work that needs to be done to make the Global Action Plan and the Roadmap a reality.

The ILO and the WOSM share a commitment to pursuing social justice and peace, empowering young people through human rights-based educational programmes and promoting the social dimension of globalization.¹ In recent years, our joint efforts have encouraged many young people to become advocates to defend children's rights and to campaign to end child labour. Recently, at the Global Development Village at the 22nd World Scout Jamboree in Sweden in 2011, IPEC ran a workshop with activities to sensitise Scouts

¹ The ILO-WOSM partnership was reconfirmed in 2009 with the signing of a second Memorandum of Understanding.

on this crucial issue. The workshop helped in cementing the relationship between young Scouts and the worldwide movement against child labour.

World Day 2012 focuses on the rights of all children and adolescents in all countries to be free of child labour and have access to good education and, when they are old enough to work, to decent youth employment.

On this World Day we call for:

- **Universal ratification of the ILO's Conventions on child labour (and of all ILO core Conventions).** Of the ILO 183 member States, only eight countries have yet to ratify ILO Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour; and 20 have yet to ratify ILO Convention No. 138 on minimum age for entry into work and employment.
- **National policies and programmes to ensure effective progress in the elimination of child labour.** ILO Convention No. 182 requires each ratifying member State to design and implement programmes of action to eliminate as a priority the worst forms of child labour. Many countries have established National Action Plans as a framework for such efforts. Others have yet to do so and countries that have already established plans need to monitor and review their effectiveness. If the target of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016 is to be achieved, urgent action is required now!
- **Action to build the worldwide movement against child labour.** Although governments must take the lead in tackling child labour, the ILO standards stress the crucial role of employers' and workers' organizations in setting and implementing action programmes. Many civil society organizations are also closely involved in efforts to tackle child labour. Building the worldwide movement against child labour at global, national and local level remains a priority.

Through discussion and activities using the SCREAM activities pack, Leaders and Scouts can explore ways to play their part in the global campaign to eliminate child labour. Visit the links for information and ideas on what can be done.

Whether big or small, every action against child labour is important. Youth can bring essential energy, ideas and action to reinvigorate global action to end child labour. Together we can mobilise, educate and support people to empower themselves to exercise their rights. We call on all Scouts to be part of the 2012 World Day and add their voice to the worldwide movement against child labour. Let us stand united and work together to make the world a better place for children!



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- Reports and promotional materials on the theme of this year's World Day Against Child Labour: www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/wdacl/2012/lang--en/index.htm.
- Activity packs for WDACL 2012 developed by IPEC in collaboration with Education International (EI) – ideal for use by Scouts in their regular weekly Group activities and/or on WDACL 2012: www.ei-ie.org/en/events/event_details/52.
- Tools and initiatives to inspire children and youth to take action to raise awareness on child labour on the Youth in Action section of the IPEC website: www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/Youthinaction.
- *SCREAM* (Supporting Children's Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media) – Education Pack, available in 20 languages; and the *SCREAM Special Module on HIV and AIDS and Child Labour*: www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/Scream/SCREAMresources/lang--en/index.htm.
- Videos on child labour: ILO TV on YouTube – child labour playlist: www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL418A6833A1C5B483&feature=plcp.
- Child to child solidarity concert – images of child labour combined with music played by children: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BF6y9Hfpn4.
- WOSM Guidelines on Scouting for Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances: www.scout.org/reachingout.
- The video on Scouting and Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances, prepared in collaboration with IPEC: www.scout.org/en/information_events/media_centre/audiovisuals/video_clip_u_fund.
- “12 to 12” Community Portal – to share pictorial reports, photos and videos on the events you organise for the World Day Against Child Labour: www.12to12.org.

We would also like to hear from you! Please send information, together with any supporting material such as drawings, writings, and photographs, to:

IPEC, 4 Route des Morillons, CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland – ipec@ilo.org

and/or

WOSM, 5 Rue Pré-Jérôme, CH-1205, Geneva, P.O. Box 91, CH-1211 Geneva 4-Plainpalais, Switzerland – worldbureau@scout.org