



International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)



“Music against Child Labour” Initiative



The **International Labour Organization** – a United Nations specialized agency – was established in 1919 to promote social justice as a prerequisite for lasting peace. As the United Nations’ only tripartite agency, bringing together governments and workers’ and employers’ organizations of its 185 member States, the ILO’s main aims are to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen social dialogue on issues related to the world of work.

Child labour has many interwoven causes, so the ILO and its **International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)** use a multifaceted approach – mainly through the provision of technical support to the tripartite constituents of the ILO which, with the support of the international community, bear the responsibility for the elimination of child labour. Action ranges from the promotion and implementation of the ILO Conventions on child labour to the mobilization of key sectors of society and support for the broader worldwide movement against child labour.



Young people have a particularly important role to play in the worldwide movement against child labour, by raising awareness about issues related to social justice and exerting their influence locally, nationally and globally to bring about social change.

That is why IPEC created the **“Supporting Children’s Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media” (SCREAM)** programme. SCREAM is an education and social mobilization initiative that relies heavily on the arts, and is designed to help educators, in formal and non-formal education settings worldwide, to cultivate young people’s understanding of the causes and consequences of child labour. SCREAM is based on the four pillars of the “learning to know, learning to do, learning to live together and learning to be” education approach.¹ Through SCREAM, thousands of young people around the world, as individuals or in groups, have become engaged in creative and fruitful initiatives to raise awareness about child labour and have become young advocates for a fair globalization.



Supporting Children’s Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media

¹ Learning: The Treasure Within, Report to UNESCO of the International Commission on Education for the Twenty-first Century, Jacques Delors Chairperson, 1996.

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All children have the right to their childhood: to learn, to play and to grow in safety. Yet, today, 168 million girls and boys are still trapped in child labour, 85 million in its worst forms – slavery, commercial sexual exploitation, illicit activities or hazardous work. Many are deprived of education.

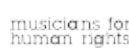
Work, including the work of musicians, is a transformative force in society and the world of music is a valuable partner in the worldwide movement against child labour. Music can strike a powerful chord against child labour and for social justice, raising public awareness and inspiring people to act.

Music alone cannot defeat child labour, but it can contribute to combating the suffering of children robbed of their rights and of the chance to fulfil their potential. Engaging girls and boys in collective musical activity can support their withdrawal and protection from child labour and assist in building their skills and self-esteem. Access to musical and other creative education makes schools more attractive to children and helps to ensure they continue their education and are protected from risk.

We – conductors, musicians and soloists, youth musicians and trade unionists in the world of music, with the International Labour Organization (ILO) – are calling on conductors, orchestras, choirs and musicians of all genres, worldwide, adult and youth, professional and amateur – to dedicate, between October 2013 and the end of 2014, one concert in their planned repertoire to this Music against Child Labour Initiative.

Music – in all its forms – is a universal language. Although we sing in every tongue, it also expresses emotions we cannot say in words. It links us all. Together, the world of music can raise its voice and instruments against child labour. Join us in telling audiences and the world that child labour must not be tolerated, that children have a right to play and learn. Join our “call to batons”. Join the Music against Child Labour Initiative. Join us in showing the Red Card to Child Labour!

This Initiative is supported by the following founders: Claudio Abbado; José-Antonio Abreu; Alessio Allegrini, Founder, Musicians for Human Rights; Daniel Barenboim; Pilar Jurado; Benoît Machuel, General Secretary, International Federation of Musicians (FIM); Diego Matheuz; Rodolfo Mederos; Eduardo Mendez, Executive Director, Fundación Musical Simón Bolívar, El Sistema; Antonio Mosca, Director, Suzuki Orchestra, Turin; Guy Ryder, Director-General, International Labour Organization; Blasko Smileski, General Secretary, Jeunesses Musicales International.



This appeal was launched at the Salle Pleyel in Paris on 11 June 2013 by the signatories above. The Global Concert series in support of the Initiative will begin in Brasilia in October 2013 at the III Global Conference on Child Labour.

The ILO and its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour, the world's largest programme against child labour, thank the conductors, orchestras, musicians' trade union organizations and youth networks supporting this campaign, and the Salle Pleyel and Piano 4 Etoiles for their cooperation in its launch.

For further information about the ILO Music against Child Labour Initiative please contact: IPEC@ilo.org or go to: www.ilo.org/ipecc/Campaignandadvocacy/MusicInitiative.

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Music plays an important role in society and has the potential to contribute to changing social norms and values in communities. Of course, music itself cannot eliminate child labour – which affects 168 million children directly. We must address its root causes by combating poverty, social injustice and exclusion. We must promote social protection and decent work for adults and for youth, and strengthen a culture of respect for the rule of law, social dialogue and strengthen the leading role of governments and policy-makers in tackling child labour. We must ensure that laws are enforced and support the transition of the informal economy – which is a breeding ground for child labour - toward formalization. And we must ensure education for each and every child. We will not eliminate child labour without ensuring universal access to education. At the same time, we will not ensure every child goes to school if we do not eliminate child labour. Access to basic education –at least until the age of 15 or the legal age for starting work – is a fundamental right, denied to millions of children.

Our joint Manifesto explains the reasons behind this Initiative: that music, which unites all human beings, can touch and raise the awareness of a new audience and thus strengthen the worldwide movement against child labour; that it can also improve the quality of life and the quality of education of children and youth – both in and out of school; that music can strengthen learning and build children’s self-confidence; and that through music, children can gain new experiences and be involved collectively in the production and performance of great art. As our “Music against Child Labour” Manifesto states, every child has the right to play and to learn. And adults have the responsibility, as the guardians of childhood, to make that possible. Our Initiative has three elements: the global concert series, launched on 11 June with the valued support of Maestro Claudio Abbado, the Orchestra Mozart and the Salle Pleyel in Paris, in which we hope musicians of every type will take part; a new SCREAM module on music education; and, in addition, we intend to produce a documentary film, which, through the eyes of children in every part of the world, will tell the story of how their engagement in musical activity has contributed to protecting them from child labour.

Over the last decade, the international community has become aware of the problem of child labour and has increased legal and policy action against it. However, millions of children are still working in different types of child labour. Much remains to be done. Each of us can take our part of a shared responsibility to contribute to creating a more peaceful world.

Give a voice to those whose voices are not yet heard!



For more information and to pledge a concert:

www.ilo.org/ipeccampaignandadvocacy/MusicInitiative - ipecc@ilo.org

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