



International
Labour
Organization



World Day Against Child Labour, 12 June 2014

Extend social protection: combat child labour!

On 12th June each year, people around the world join hands to mark the World Day Against Child Labour and to raise public awareness to end it. 168 million girls and boys are still engaged in child labour, 85 million of them in hazardous work. If we are to end child labour, we all need to work together. Youth organizations such as the Scout Movement can play an important role.

Over the past decade, the over 40 million-strong Scout Movement and the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) have worked in partnership to raise awareness of social justice and human rights including, in particular, child labour. The partnership revolves around the ILO's Supporting Children's Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media programme (SCREAM).

For several years, the ILO and WOSM have worked to promote the World Day Against Child Labour, encouraging Scout organisations worldwide to undertake joint activities and initiatives in support of the cause. This year, the World Day Against Child Labour draws attention to the role of social protection in keeping children out of child labour and removing them from it. Within its own activities, WOSM is seeking to accelerate the implementation of the Keeping Scouts Safe From Harm policy, procedures and practices at global, regional and national levels to ensure that Scouting is a safe environment for children and young people. Messengers of Peace, a flagship initiative of WOSM (since 2011) has played a huge role in expanding the outreach capacities of taking Scouting to children in difficult circumstances through hundreds of regional, national and local projects around the world.

Once again, we call out to WOSM NSOs and IPEC field staff to join forces to organise activities and events to raise awareness and mobilise action. We strongly encourage you to join the global Music Against Child Labour Initiative, IPEC's main advocacy platform for 2014, by dedicating songs and concerts to the campaign. Find out how, and explore other ideas to get involved, in the attached "Take Action" note.

Despite the progress in recent years, poor households are still more likely to have to resort to child labour to meet basic needs and to deal with income insecurity. Accelerating the pace of progress requires action to address the root causes of child labour and social protection is a key part of the response. Social protection plays a critical role in the fight against child labour by providing access to education, health care and nutrition, and assistance to poor families to help them to weather various shocks.

On the 2014 World Day Against Child Labour, we call for:

- Action to introduce, improve and extend social protection, in line with the ILO Recommendation No. 202 on social protection floors.
- National social security systems that are sensitive to children's needs and help in combating child labour.
- Social protection that reaches out to especially vulnerable groups of children.

In the framework of the ILO-Scout partnership, we also call for:

- Extending WOSM's Keeping Scouts Safe From Harm policy, training, procedures and good practices throughout Scouting, especially to vulnerable children engaged in Scout programmes.
- Use of WOSM's flagship initiative, Messengers of Peace to expand capacities in reaching out to children in difficult circumstances.

Through outreach programmes to children at risk and/or with particular needs, Scouts have demonstrated their potential to help combat child labour. In Kenya, 1,200 Scouts reached out to over 6000 street children or children living in difficult circumstances and taught them life skills and vocational skills through engaging them in Scouting. In Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka, through Scouting, the Ticket to Life project raises awareness of child rights and integrates street children into society. Meanwhile in Egypt, Scouts in Alexandria have been running a unit in the industrial areas of the city for children and youth working in factories. These are just a few examples of how youth can bring energy, ideas and action to reinvigorate global action to end child labour.

Together, we can continue to strengthen the role of children and young people as advocates against child labour and engage Scouts in activities which reach out to children in or at risk of child labour. Scouts have a commitment to help other people as reflected in the Scout Promise and Law. Let's continue to stand together to make the world a better place, particularly for children.

Corinne Vargha
Branch Chief
Fundamental Principles and
Rights at Work

Scott Teare
Secretary General
World Organization of the
Scout Movement

Useful links and resources

- Reports and campaign materials on the World Day Against Child Labour:
<http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/wdacl/2014/lang--en/index.htm>
- The Music Against Child Labour Initiative:
<http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/MusicInitiative>
- The SCREAM – Supporting Children’s Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media – Education Pack and Special Modules: www.ilo.org/scream
- “Youth in action” tools and initiatives:
www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/Youthinaction
- Videos on child labour, ILO TV on YouTube – child labour playlist:
<http://www.youtube.com/ilotv#g/c/418A6833A1C5B483>
- The WOSM Guidelines on Scouting for Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances:
<http://scout.org/node/6033>
- The video on Scouting and Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances, prepared in collaboration with ILO/IPEC: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrcZ5dGEhQQ>

We would 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. E-mail: ipec@ilo.org

and/or

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

Take Action against Child Labour!

How can you get involved - below are some suggestions on what you can do in your Scout group, in your community, in your region, in your country, to become a pioneer group of children and young people engaged in the fight against child labour:

Promote understanding and awareness of child labour among young people and their communities:

- ***Inform yourselves.*** The first thing you can do is BE AWARE about the state of child labour in the world, and be informed about the abuses and injustices that go on. Understand the causes of child labour, such as the lack of access to education. Then you are in a position to go and inform other people about child labour. Download this factsheet (http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_221881/lang--en/index.htm) on child labour and discuss the relevance and impact of this issue on your local community and to the global world.
- ***Create a progress badge.*** Within your Scout educational programme, you could create a progress badge based on individual or group achievements and activities against child labour and/or to increase awareness on children’s rights. The various

didactical materials from SCREAM can be adapted to prepare ready activity materials for Scouts of various ages.

- **Recruit others into the campaign.** In your region, establish contact with other Scout Groups, schools, and community groups who could work with you in your action against child labour.
- **Sensitize others.** Create a presentation pack adapting it to your local sensitivities and reality to raise awareness on child labour using the video material and photos available on the ILO/IPEC's website (www.ilo.org/ipec) and the ILO photo gallery (www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/multimedia/photo-slideshows).
Make a link between poverty and access to basic social services for all families.
- **Awareness raising.** With your Scout group, you can organize an activity in your community to raise awareness about child labour: it could be a mobile camp, an exchange camp, or a camp abroad with other Scouts or youth groups; perhaps you could make posters or write to local newspapers or magazines about the issue. What ideas can you come up with to raise awareness about child labour? Below you can find some more concrete examples from the SCREAM programme.
- **Join the Music initiative.** Follow the global Music Against Child Labour Initiative through the IPEC website:
<http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignadvocacy/MusicInitiative/lang--en/index.htm>.
You will find various ways to join in the initiative, whether by signing up to the manifesto, dedicating a concert to the cause or composing your own song on child labour.
- **Share your activities and inspire others.** Make a post on scout.org with images and short descriptions of your activities and achievements from the above ideas. By doing this, you will not only help us follow your success but the experience sharing will help inspire other Scouts from around the world to do the same.

Creating awareness through SCREAM activities (download full activity guides and resource materials for the below subjects from www.ilo.org/scream):

- **Collage** – Produce two collages, one on a classic marketing theme and one on child labour to help grasp the “invisible” nature of child labour, revealing how little print media coverage is given to such a big problem.
- **The Image** – Build profiles of child labourers on the basis of one or several images demonstrating the lack of access to different services he/she faces, to heighten the emotional awareness of what child labour is.
- **Role-play** – Act out the roles of child labourers and the people who interact with them, to help young people feel what it is like to be a child labourer.
- **Art competition** – take part in and/or organize an art competition on child labour to enhance community integration and awareness.
- **Creative writing** – Create a story on child labour showing the everyday struggles a child and his/her family faces, to provide a means to express innermost feelings on child labour.

- **Debate** – Conduct a public debate on issues related to child labour and the lack of access to quality education, nutrition and health care, to promote community awareness of the need for all to have access to these basic social services.
- **Drama** – Develop and perform a theatre piece (or a street play) on child labour, to build a strong platform for community integration and awareness.

Reach out to children in or at risk of child labour:

- **Provide life skills and vocational skills:** With your organization you can identify street children or children living in difficult circumstances and provide them with Scout activities such as life skills and vocational skills training. See how this has been achieved through Extension Scouting Programme (ESP – Kenya), Ticket To Life (several countries in the asia-pacific), Child Labour project in Egypt, Messengers of Peace projects reaching out to children in vulnerable circumstances, etc. by searching for these stories from scout.org.
- **Establish a clinic to provide free services:** As the Scouts did in Kenya you can work with local health authorities to establish a clinic that provides free service to members of the reaching out programme by Scouting and to help residents of neighbouring informal housing settlements or other vulnerable areas.
- **Integrate street children into awareness raising activities:** Follow the examples of the Ticket to Life project to focus on raising awareness of child rights and integrating street children into society.
- **Establish Scout units in non-traditional areas:** Work with your Scout Unit to identify opportunities and explore the possibility to establish Scout Units in areas of the city for children and youth working in factories and other establishments.