

Education: a win-win investment

Together with poverty alleviation, education is a frontline weapon in IPEC's battle to eliminate child labour. Access to basic education is a fundamental human right that has been denied to millions of children, condemning them to a downward spiral of poverty and despair. Not only is poverty a cause of child labour; child labour also causes poverty. Education is the best way to break this vicious cycle and is the lynchpin of any sustainable programme to eliminate child labour by ensuring that all children can avail of their fundamental right to attend school, educating their families and communities, and raising awareness of the rights of children within the broader spectrum of human rights. In this way, young people take a more active role in society and take control of their destinies and those of their peers and are not only seen by the rest of society as a passive group requiring protection.

IPEC also hopes to integrate higher education institutions into SCREAM activities. Students and teachers in related courses such as teacher-training, media and journalism, human rights and development education, social studies and social anthropology have an important role to play in bringing their unique perspective and skills to the aim of SCREAM to impact upon the behaviour and fabric of society.

Embracing the whole community

A key characteristic of the SCREAM initiative is that it is all-inclusive and involves as many actors in the wider community as possible. The basic model for this process is the tripartite structure and activities of the ILO. Tripartism refers to the special relationship of the social partners in the ILO where workers, employers and governments contribute to the setting of workplace standards and the protection of workers' rights world-wide. The SCREAM model promotes the integration of key stakeholders in all aspects of the educational activities, including in particular the government and local authorities, the trade union movement, employers' organizations, academic institutions, NGOs, educators, parents and families.

About IPEC

IPEC is a special programme of the ILO, the United Nation's agency for the world of work and the promotion of social justice. It works towards the elimination of child labour by strengthening national capacities to address child labour problems, and by contributing to the worldwide movement to combat them.

International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) International Labour Office (ILO)

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SCREAM Stop Child Labour

What is child labour?

Child labour is about the exploitation of the most vulnerable in our society - children. According to the latest estimates of the ILO, there are just over 245 million children below the age of 18 working in the world. Approximately 180 million of them work in the worst forms of child labour, toiling in hazardous and life-threatening conditions. Many are deprived of an education and suffer physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Some will be physically handicapped or even die before reaching adulthood as a direct result of their labour. Others will be emotionally scarred for life.

For many, child labour is an invisible phenomenon, invisible because children work in hidden occupations, such as domestic work and prostitution, or invisible because society is only too willing to turn a blind eye.

Making child labourers visible will help strip society of its indifference to their plight.

Young people as a force for change

IPEC is spearheading international efforts to make child labour a thing of the past. Since the root causes of child labour are many and complex, IPEC is tackling

the issue on several fronts, through the ratification and implementation of international conventions, practical programmes on the ground and the mobilization of key sectors of society. One of these is young people.

IPEC recognizes that young people have an important role to play in raising awareness of issues of social justice and exerting their influence in their communities to bring about social change. By empowering young people, giving them responsibility and recognizing the value of their contribution, IPEC hopes to harness the wealth of creativity and commitment that they can bring to the campaign to eliminate child labour.

People, young and old, must become more aware of what is happening in their world. If society closes its eyes to unpleasant realities, it is shirking its responsibility and knowingly condemning a massive number of children to a future of poverty, misery and hard labour. Worse still, if society does not actively open the eyes of its children so that they can understand what is happening out there in the world, it is condemning them to a lifetime of ignorance and indifference. This is not fair and it is not right.



Photo: John Kelly/ILO



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



## The spirit of SCREAM

IPEC has launched a new education and social mobilization initiative, "SCREAM Stop Child Labour", to help educators worldwide promote understanding and awareness of child labour among young people. SCREAM stands for **S**upporting **C**hildren's **R**ights through **E**ducation, the **A**rts and the **M**edia, but also reflects the silent suffering of working children and the need to give them a voice. Through creative and innovative teaching methods, the SCREAM programme aims to inform children and adolescents about the world in which they live and the injustices that exist, with the focus on child labour, so that they in turn can speak out on behalf of child labourers everywhere.

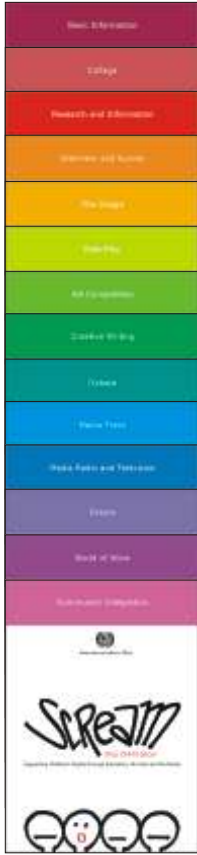
Young people need to be equipped with the social, personal and communications skills to help them find their place in an increasingly diverse and multicultural society and highly competitive labour market. They need to be made aware of their position as global citizens in a world in which social justice is still sorely lacking. As much as any other community in society, they have a role to play in ensuring that fundamental human rights are respected world-wide and that a better distribution of wealth brings benefits to all people and not just the elite or the developed world. Working children in particular stand to gain more than any other group from this initiative and their integration is critical to the success of SCREAM.

The SCREAM education pack introduces young people to the complexities surrounding the issue of child labour and helps them to channel their creative energies in a positive and constructive way to develop appropriate responses. With time it is hoped to build a worldwide social movement dedicated to giving working children back their right to a childhood.

## The power of theatre

Throughout the history of humankind, theatre has played a powerful and influential role in portraying society and its evolution. Whether looking at ourselves in the context of the past, present or future, theatre in all its forms acts as a popular medium to educate, inform and entertain an audience. Theatre helps people to help themselves and to help others. It is an excellent deep learning method for children and young people, combining fun and entertainment with a means of developing confidence, memory, self-discipline and self-esteem.

Through its modules on Drama and Role-Play, the SCREAM programme therefore promotes the performing arts as a means for young people to explore their feelings, give expression to them and convey their message to the wider community. For to truly understand the daily horror of working children, people must be moved at the most fundamental human level. With the help and guidance of educators and others in the community, young people gain the skills and confidence to create and perform their own piece of theatre appropriate to their cultural and social setting and in their own languages and dialects.



## SCREAM package

The education pack, which forms the basis of the SCREAM initiative, is made up of 14 educational modules and a User's Guide. The modules are flexible and the process has been conceived in a "building block" format, in other words, in a way that they can be adapted to whatever constraints an educator may face, either in time or resources.

The modules place heavy emphasis on the use of the visual, literary and performing arts as a means to deepen young people's understanding of the issue of child labour and to provide them with powerful tools of self-expression. The idea is to move beyond the purely academic and intellectual and delve into the creative and emotional depths of each individual. The power of these methods in enhancing the educational, social and personal development of young people cannot be underestimated.

The pack will be made available to educators around the world through the Internet in a downloadable format, backed by a printed and boxed version which will include a pedagogical video and the IPEC Photo Library Catalogue on CD-ROM. The pack has been conceived with a global perspective in mind. The modules are based on several key criteria:

- That they can be used by educators in any country across the globe;
- That they can be used in different education settings;
- That they are easily usable and available;
- That the language and format are accessible and practical.



### Basic Information

Find out the basics about child labour. Introduces the vast and complex subject of child labour in an accessible manner to young people. Provides statistics and basic facts and figures.

### Collage

Produce two collages, one on a classic marketing theme and one on child labour. Stimulates visual and artistic expression and reveals how little print media coverage is given to such a big problem as child labour.



### Research and Information

Discover more information on child labour, including the relevant international conventions, and explore the subject in more depth.



### Interview and Survey

Conduct a survey and/or interview about child labour among concerned individuals. Supports the community integration aspect and stimulates wider interest. Introduces interviewing techniques and encourages research into what others are doing about child labour in different areas of society and the economy.



## The themes of the modules

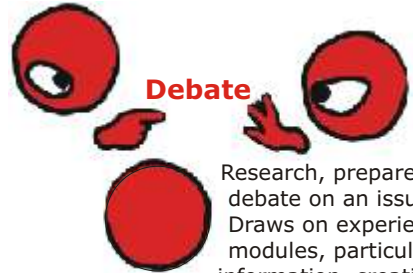
### The Image

Build profiles of child labourers on the basis of one or several images. Personalizes the issue of child labour and heightens the emotional awareness of what child labour is. Instills a sense of responsibility for the child(ren) in the image(s). Introduces the question of how change is brought about in society.



### Debate

Research, prepare and conduct a public debate on an issue related to child labour. Draws on experiences gained from other modules, particularly research and information, creative writing and role-play. Develops public-speaking, debating and communication skills.



### Role-play

Act out the roles of child labourers and the people who interact with them (parents, employers, officials). Introduces young people to the use of drama in education. Uses drama exercises to begin to break down barriers of self-consciousness and helps young people feel what it is like to be a child labourer.



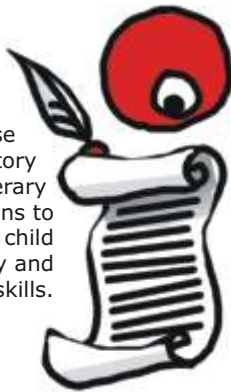
### Art Competition

Take part in and/or organize an art competition on a child labour theme. Stimulates artistic expression and enhances community integration and awareness.



### Creative Writing

Create a story on a simple theme and then flesh it out. Use the same technique to write a story about child labour. Stimulates literary expression and provides a means to express innermost feelings on child labour. Develops literary and communication skills.



### Media

Get to grips with the world of the media. Develop contacts with the media to bring public attention to the issue of child labour. Learn to write a press release and make sure it's published. Prepare for and do a radio and/or television interview.



### Drama

Develop and perform a theatre piece on child labour. Stimulates dramatic expression and provides an outlet through which young people can express themselves in an articulate and meaningful way. Builds a strong platform for community integration and awareness.



### World of Work

Learn about how the world of work operates. Emphasizes and promotes the impact of tripartism in social development. Discusses the roles of different sectors of the community and how they interact for the benefit of society.



### Community Integration

Focuses on the key objective of stimulating interest and involvement of external communities in the child labour project. Reinforces the role of young people as agents of social mobilization and change.

