

Aural Text

My name is Elaine Barry and I work with children and families affected by child labour. I would like to tell you about the situation of child labour.

It is estimated that there are approx. 246 million children between the ages of 5 and 17 engaged in child labour worldwide.

Almost $\frac{3}{4}$ work in hazardous situations or conditions in mines, working with chemicals and pesticides, in agriculture or working with dangerous machinery.

The most hazardous forms of child labour include, participating in armed conflict, prostitution and pornography, or forced into debt bondage or other forms of slavery.

Child labour is a source of income for poor families. However even when whole families work their total income can be less than a dollar a day. Where there is no social welfare system nor easy access to loans poor families feel they need the income from their children to survive. Child earnings are consistently lower than those of adults even where the two are engaged in the same task. Employers employ children because it is cheaper, they do not even have to pay the minimum wage. Also children can be forced to do unpaid overtime. India is a country where there is widespread adult unemployment yet there are more than 60 million children working, the highest figure in the world.

Most poor people have little access to bank loans or other sources of credit. Because of this parents are forced to turn to local money lenders and their children are forced into bonded labour. Bonded labour is described by the Human Rights Watch as a situation where a child is forced to work in conditions of servitude in order to pay off a debt. Children are made work to repay the interest on the loan but since the loan interest is greater than the earnings the only possible way out is for parents to make a lump sum payment and this is extremely difficult to get. Even if bonded labourers are released the circumstances which caused them to be in debt often do not change and therefore they are forced to slip back into bondage.

Script 2.

Child labour is not just a poverty issue. Inadequate schools, lack of schools or the expense of sending children to school meant that children have little else to do but work. Parents attitudes to education is also a problem as many feel that children should work instead of attending formal education.

In order to eliminate child labour education should be compulsory, accessible and free to all. Teachers also need to be well trained.

Many countries have child labour laws and these need to be enforced. The needs of the poor have to be met and then the need for child labour will be eliminated.

We in the first world can help. We should no longer buy goods which we know to have been produced by child labour. We should let the manufacturers know why we are not buying their product. We should also encourage our government and the European Union to create a policy for the elimination of child labour and to provide overseas aid for the provision of primary education for all.

10. List three things which we in the third world can do to end child labour. (3x2)