

## **World Day against Child Labour, 2009: Give Girls a Chance, End Child Labour**

The World Day Against Child Labour will be celebrated on 12 June 2009. This year's World Day marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the landmark ILO Convention that addresses the need for action to tackle the worst forms of child labour (Convention 182). While celebrating progress made during the past ten years, the World Day will highlight the continuing challenges, with a focus on addressing exploitation of girls in child labour.

Around the world, an estimated 100 million girls are involved in child labour. Many of these girls undertake similar types of work as boys, but often also endure additional hardships and face extra risks. Moreover, girls are all too often exposed to some of the worst forms of child labour, often in hidden work situations. On World Day Against Child Labour 2009, the ILO is calling for:

- Policy responses to address the causes of child labour, paying particular attention to the situation of girls.
- Urgent action to tackle the worst forms of child labour.
- Greater attention to the education and skills training needs of adolescent girls - a key action point in tackling child labour and providing a pathway for girls to gain Decent Work as adults.

### **Some ideas for how companies and Global Compact Local Networks may wish to help mark World Day against Child Labour, 2009**

- In their headquarters, other offices and/or retail outlets, companies can display photos of child labour scenes and/or distribute of World Day against Child Labour (WDAKL) posters and other materials. The International Labour Organization's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) (<http://www.ilo.org/ipec/lang--en/index.htm>) can provide images and designs for WDAKL awareness raising materials.
- A Global Compact Network or other groups of companies and stakeholders may wish to organize a forum to discuss child labour, especially the role of business in addressing the problem. IPEC can provide case studies that document how companies have done this and even suggest panellists for child labour forums. Contact: [ipec@ilo.org](mailto:ipec@ilo.org)
- Companies can highlight WDAKL on their websites, linking to the IPEC WDAKL website: <http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/WDAKL/WorldDay2009/lang--en/index.htm> They can also include articles raising awareness of WDAKL in corporate newsletters or magazines.
- Companies can encourage offices and business partners in other countries to contact local ILO-IPEC offices, which coordinate WDAKL activities with employers and

workers organizations and governments in close to 80 countries, to learn how they can get involved in local events and activities planned to celebrate the day.

- Familiarize yourself with and help raise awareness of: “Eliminating Child Labour: Guides for Employers”, which offers very practical guidance for companies of all sizes and from all sectors on ways in which employers can effectively address child labour issues:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/dialogue/actemp/whatwedo/projects/cl/guides.htm>

The guidance was produced by the ILO’s Bureau for Employers’ Activities and the International Organization of Employers drawing on company experiences in tackling child labour from all over the world.