

World Day Against Child Labour 2009 ***Give Girls a Chance, End Child Labour***

Principle 5 of the UN Global Compact asks companies to uphold the effective abolition of child labour. Join us this month to combat child labour. The World Day Against Child Labour 2009 will be celebrated on 12 June. Each year on this date World Day links governments, employers' and workers' organizations, civil society and others- such as schools and the media- in the campaign against child labour. Millions of people all over the world will unite on 12 June to remind us of the plight of child labourers and what we can do to tackle child labor.

2009 World Day

World Day Against Child Labour, 2009 (WDACL 2009) marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the landmark ILO Convention 182 that addresses the need for action to tackle the worst forms of child labour. World Day is an opportunity to celebrate progress made during the past ten years, while highlighting the continued challenges, this year there will be a special focus on the 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 endure additional hardships and face extra risks. Moreover, girls are frequently exposed to some of the worst forms of child labour, often in hidden work situations.

On WDACL 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 training needs of adolescent girls - a key action point to tackle child labour and provide a pathway for girls to gain Decent Work as adults.

How Companies and Global Compact Local Networks can help mark World Day against Child Labour, 2009

- ***Learn***
Familiarize yourself with: [“Eliminating Child Labour: Guides for Employers”](#), which offers practical guidance for companies of all sizes and from all sectors on ways to effectively address child labour issues. The guidance, produced by the ILO's Bureau for Employers' Activities and the International Organization of Employers, draws on company experiences in tackling child labour around the world.
- ***Raise Awareness***
In headquarters, other offices and/or retail outlets, companies can display photos of child labour scenes and/or distribute WDACL posters and other materials. [The International Labour Organization's International Programme on](#)

[the Elimination of Child Labour \(IPEC\)](#) can provide images and designs for WDACL awareness raising materials.

Companies can highlight WDACL on their websites, by linking to the [IPEC WDACL website](#). They can also publish articles raising awareness of WDACL in corporate newsletters or magazines.

- *Organize*
Global Compact Networks or other groups of companies and stakeholders can 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 organized around this issue and even suggest panellists for child labour forums. Contact: ipec@ilo.org
- *Engage*
Companies can encourage offices and business partners in other countries to contact local ILO-IPEC offices to learn how they can get involved in local events and activities planned to honour the day. ILO-IPEC coordinates WDACL activities with employers, worker organizations and governments in close to 80 countries.