



UN YEAR FOR THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR STUDENT-LED ACTION GUIDE

AN INITIATIVE OF:



WHAT IS THIS GUIDE FOR?

2021 is the UN Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, and this guide has been designed by youth and student activists across the world to support you in campaigning for an end to this injustice. By running events in schools and campuses around the world, we hope that you will be inspired to engage with decision-makers and secure real commitments to call for every child to have the financial resources, policies and public services including social protection to help end child labour once and for all.

Despite new technology enabling more and more global interaction and conversation, the 10% of the world's children involved in child labour are more hidden than ever. Rather than genuine internationalism and friendship, we are instead witnessing a rise in the politics of intolerance, nationalism and isolation. We hope that your action, and the connections made between you and young survivors of child labour, can help challenge this division too.

It is shameful that in a world that has never been richer, over a 150 million of children are still involved in child labour, the majority aged between 5-11 years old and almost half in hazardous work. Global equality will not be achieved until every child is in school, regardless of who they are, or where they were born. It is the responsibility of those of us who have benefitted from accessing our right to an education to stand alongside survivors in their fight for justice.

After your event, we hope you will write, call or find other creative ways to contact your elected representatives and ask them to convene a debate on child labour in your national parliament that hears the direct testimony of survivor advocates. This way, you can directly demand policy change which can end the extreme poverty which causes child labour, and deliver access to education, health, and social protection which prevent child labour happening in the first place.

WHO IS THIS GUIDE FOR?

This guide is for students at every level and every type of educational institution. Whether you are a national or local student union or a group of school students passionate about global issues, the information and ideas in this guide can be adapted to suit your context and audience.

Throughout history to the present day, student-led activism has been instrumental in demanding and defending justice, from climate change to racial and gender equality. We hope this expertise, and unapologetic refusal to accept unfairness, can be harnessed to challenge the generational discrimination that has led to 1 in 10 children around the world being forced to work at the expense of their education, childhood, and future.



THE FAIR SHARE TO END CHILD LABOUR CAMPAIGN

The year 2021 has been declared by the United Nations to be **the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour**. Youth activists, student leaders, civil society organisations, and business and faith leaders are all, working together to ensure that child labour is tackled in every parliament in every country during this historical year.

Since 2000 the world has made great strides towards ending child labour, but progress has stalled. Today, 1 in 10 of the world's children, 152 million, are still being forced to work and are being denied their right to education and a childhood. With the ongoing impact of COVID-19, this figure looks set to increase this year for the first time in two decades.

Worse still, in all the figures to date, children trapped in full-time domestic labour in their own home have never been counted as child labourers – even those who work over 43 hours per week. In 2016, the ILO reported 90 million children were working at least 21 hours doing household chores, and 15 million of them were also in other forms of child labour – but that leaves 75 million children uncounted as child labourers.

Child labour is not inevitable. It is the direct result of unjust political decision-making that impacts the world's most vulnerable children. We know how to end child labour and the world has the means to make it happen. Enough is enough: it is time to ensure every child is learning in school, not working to survive

WHAT IS CAUSING CHILD LABOUR?

Child labour doesn't happen in a vacuum. It is **deeply** interconnected with other injustices and human rights abuses.

Child labourers are often the same children who are also experiencing extreme poverty, denied access to education, with little or no access to clean water, sanitation or health care and face the highest exposure to violence. This is not accidental. Almost all child labourers are from communities and countries that have suffered generational exclusion and exploitation, often on the basis of their race, ethnicity, religion or caste.

There has never been more global wealth in human history than there is today. In the last 20 years alone the world has grown over \$40 trillion richer. But those in child labour have not had their fair share, resulting in millions of families being unable to cover basic needs such as food and shelter, forced to send their children into work simply to survive.

Child labour is an example of the devastating consequences of deep structural inequality, at a local, national, and global level. Without tackling the root causes of child labour, communities experiencing this injustice will likely continue to face other forms of exploitation or abuse. Eradicating child labour therefore involves both closing or prosecuting the factories, mines or farms employing children, and the redistribution of power and money so that all children can access and benefit from government budgets, public policies, and public services including social protection.

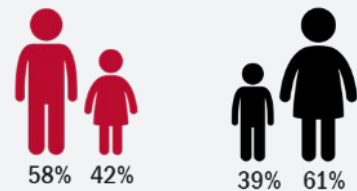
THE SCALE OF INJUSTICE

Aside from the obvious immoral use of children in exploitative labour, child labour is deeply connected to multiple, overlapping injustices, such as gender inequality and extreme economic inequality.

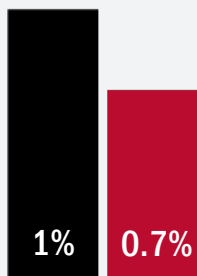
For example, the exclusion of children trapped in full-time domestic labour in the official statistics - as this is a 'non-economic' form of production - not only leaves an estimated 75 million children unaccounted for, but is deeply linked to the wider gendered dismissal of caregiving and domestic tasks being classified as 'work'. The overwhelming majority of those doing household chores at the expense of their education and childhood are girls. If their experience was counted it would sway the statistics and girls would actually make up the majority of child labourers.

152 MILLION

227 MILLION



The above graphic shows the official number and gender breakdown of child labourers in red, and the potential changes if full-time domestic child labourers, were accounted for in black.



The unfair, unjust, and immoral global response to the COVID-19 pandemic has also had a devastating impact on the economic security of vulnerable families. The World Bank estimated that the number of people living in extreme poverty was likely to increase by 88-115 million by the end of 2020. This will have a direct impact on the number of child labourers, with the ILO and UNICEF estimating that for every 1% rise in poverty, there could be a 0.7% rise in the number of child labourers. Using this estimate, every 1% rise in global poverty will mean over a million more children will be forced into child labour.

At the same time, according to Oxfam, the 1,000 richest people on the planet recouped their COVID-19 losses within just nine months. Almost all are men, and the vast majority are white - in stark contrast to the 152 million children involved in child labour. In fact the world's ten richest men have seen their combined wealth increase by half a trillion dollars since the pandemic began – more than enough to ensure no one is pushed into poverty by the pandemic and be forced to send their children to work.

WHAT ARE THE SOLUTIONS?

Ending child labour requires **systemic** change that challenges the multiple injustices facing children which increase their vulnerability to child labour. In practice, this means ensuring that every country and every community has their fair share of budgets, policies and protection.

- **FAIR SHARE OF BUDGETS:** Ensuring essential public services such as education, healthcare, water and sanitation, are fully funded, of high quality, and accessible to get children out of child labour and into school.
- **FAIR SHARE OF POLICIES:** Implementing and enforcing existing policies and laws, and creating new national and regional legislation that closes the gaps and ensures all children have their rights equally protected by public policy and justice systems.
- **FAIR SHARE OF PROTECTION:** Extending the safety net and welfare systems that are already available for many of the world's children to the most marginalised children, protecting them from extreme poverty and safeguarding their basic rights.

WHO HAS THE POWER TO END CHILD LABOUR?

It's a common misconception that the responsibility for eliminating child labour falls only on exploitative companies. While they are also part of the problem, huge global inequality that leaves hundreds of millions of families in extreme poverty and with no safety net is a critical factor.

Every country has an important role to play in the elimination of child labour. Below are some suggested actions for governments in both rich and developing countries that will help deliver a fair share to end child labour.

In some countries campaign partners will be developing national campaign demands, and you are welcome work with them if you would like - please see www.fairsharecampaign.org to check if there are active groups in your country.

EXAMPLE ACTIONS FOR GOVERNMENTS IN RICH COUNTRIES:

- Increase the amount of official development assistance (ODA – or aid) being sent to developing countries to support public service provision including education, and to fund social protection programmes.
- Strengthen national laws to prohibit multinational corporations headquartered in rich countries from using child labour in other countries which form part of their supply chain.
- End unfair international taxation laws to prevent tax revenues from leaving developing countries, and eliminate tax havens.
- Adequately fund and support multilateral efforts to eliminate child labour, including SDG 8.7.

EXAMPLE ACTIONS FOR GOVERNMENTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES:

- Guarantee a fair share of national budgets are dedicated to the needs of the most vulnerable children – including education and healthcare – including spending more in marginalised communities to create an equal playing field for all children.
- Strengthen the national laws to prohibit any exploitation of children for their labour.
- Adequately enforce national laws so that communities are regularly inspected for evidence of child labour, and authorities are able to punish companies found to be breaking these laws.
- Implement a comprehensive social protection scheme which ensures that no family falls so deep into poverty that children are forced to work to survive.

Though governments have the power and the knowledge to deliver the necessary changes to eliminate child labour, in most cases there is a lack of **political will**. Without sufficient public pressure and support, decision-makers may not push bold legislation to deliver a fair share. This is where **you** come in!



THE ROLE OF STUDENT AND YOUTH ACTIVISTS

Child labour will not be eliminated without everyone standing up and speaking out. Students and young people, along with survivors, are best placed to advocate on this issue as you represent the demographic most closely affected by child labour. Here's how your action on campus can help to end child labour.

KNOWLEDGE BUILDING

This guide outlines how you can connect directly with child labour survivors around the world, learn from their testimony and activism, and join forces to become advocates. By building knowledge amongst your community of students and young people, you are inspiring and empowering them to advocate for change.

As well as hosting a live video link with a survivor, you can connect with other youth activists around the world through the 100 Million campaign network and your regional student unions, and learn from their experiences in campaigning for change for children and young people in their communities.

DEMANDING POLICY CHANGE FROM DECISION-MAKERS

With a lack of political will from decision-makers to address child labour, we must build pressure and demonstrate public support for the bold policy changes needed to end child labour.

After holding your event, you and your peers should feel ready to mobilise and engage with your local and national decision-makers and either invite or amplify the testimonies of survivor advocates you met through the live link.

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH SURVIVOR ADVOCATES

We hope the live video link with a former child labourer and activist will inspire ongoing connection and collaboration. If you are in contact with other organisations working with, or led by, survivors of child labour in your country please work with them and include them in your activities also.



HOLDING A FAIR SHARE TO END CHILD LABOUR EVENT

To support you in running an impactful and engaging event to end child labour we've created an example structure for you to use. However, you know best what will work on your campus, school or college and should run your event in the way you think will appeal to your peers.

On the next few pages you'll find some creative ideas and guidance on:

- Planning and promoting your event
- Running your event
- Building solidarity through survivor testimony
- Engaging with your elected officials.

PLANNING AND PROMOTING YOUR EVENT

You will likely already have lots of experience in running these types of events, but we've put together a checklist for you to use just in case!



DECIDE ON A DATE FOR YOUR EVENT

This might seem obvious, but choosing the right moment can help increase interest, attendance, and impact. For example, linking your event with an international moment, such as the World Day Against Child Labour on June 12th, or in the lead-up to a time when many students may be buying gifts that might have been produced using child labour. If current or potential COVID-19 pandemic restrictions mean you might not be able to meet in person, you can also hold a virtual event.



REGISTER YOUR EVENT AT WWW.100MILLION.ORG/ENDCHILDLABOUR

Registering online is how we connect you to a survivor to join your event live so this is a critical step. By sharing information with the global team, we can also help promote and share your action online.



CONNECT WITH YOUR ALLIES

If you are not a representative of the Student Union and your institution has one, they are a great place to start building connections: you could ask them to co-host your event and share with the wider student body. Similarly you could get in touch with like-minded students, societies, faculty or courses to build your network.



PROMOTE YOUR EVENT

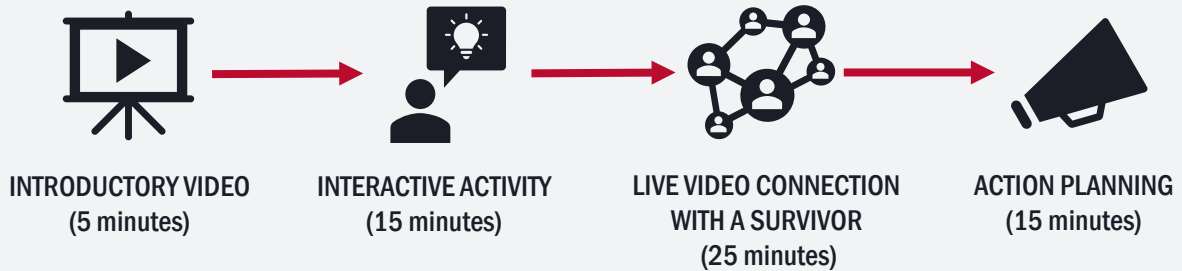
Your campus, school or college might already have systems or platforms that you could use to promote your event, such as bulletin boards or email lists, or you could use social media to spread the word. If you are able to, promoting your event offline too is just as important.



RUNNING YOUR EVENT

While the main focus of your event should be the live link with a survivor of child labour, it's also important to support your audience to learn more about the wider issues beforehand, and then to provide a way for them to personally act on this injustice afterwards.

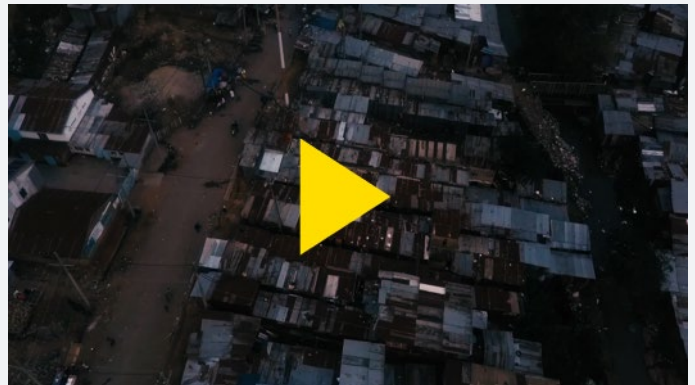
To achieve all this in 1 hour or less we suggest the following running order, but please edit or adapt this based on your expertise or ideas!



INTRODUCTORY VIDEO:

To kick-start your event, you can play our campaign video featuring testimonies from child labourers and survivors and the core demands of the campaign.

You can access the video here:
www.100million.org/endchildlabour



INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY: TRUE OR FALSE QUIZ

Introducing some of the themes you have read about in the beginning of this pack (such as the scale of child labour, its root causes in structural inequality and the proposed solutions), in a creative format is a powerful way to generate engagement during your event.

We suggest a way to do this is running a short 'True or False' Quiz, that will not only test the audience's existing knowledge on these issues, but potentially evoke anger and energy to act on the injustices they learn about.

How you run this quiz is up to you: you could run it as a competition similar to a gameshow, divide the audience into teams or ask participants to raise their hands or stand in a certain part of the room based on whether they think the statement is true or false.

On the next page you can find a list of example true or false statements with a short explanation or wider context underneath, but you are welcome to come up with any others!

TRUE OR FALSE QUIZ

ALMOST HALF OF ALL CHILDREN IN CHILD LABOUR ARE IN HAZARDOUS WORK, SUCH AS MINING, CONSTRUCTION, CHILD SOLDIERS AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.

TRUE: 73 of the 152 million children engaged in child labour are doing work that is classed as dangerous or unhealthy. The ILO estimates 22,000 children worldwide are killed at work every year.

25% OF THE GLOBAL POOR ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 15.

FALSE: According to the World Bank in 2020, half of the world's global poor are younger than 15 years old. Regardless how the rise in poverty post COVID-19 is estimated, children will bear the brunt of this injustice.

\$250 BILLION IS LOST EVERY YEAR DUE TO TAX ABUSE AND EVASION.

FALSE: According to the Tax Justice Network, almost half a trillion, over \$427 billion, is lost every year to international corporate tax abuse and private tax evasion. Almost all, 98%, of responsibility for global tax losses falls on higher-income countries.

DURING COVID-19, JUST 1% OF THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL RESPONSE PLEDGED BY WORLD GOVERNMENTS WAS ALLOCATED TO GLOBAL FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE POOREST CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

FALSE: In September 2020, a report published by the Laureates and Leaders for Children platform found that far less than 1%, just 0.13%, of the over \$8 trillion pledged by the richest countries in financial relief, had been allocated to multilateral COVID-19 appeals for the world's poorest people.

20 MILLION GIRLS ARE LIKELY TO NEVER RETURN TO SCHOOL POST COVID-19.

TRUE: According to the Malala Fund in September 2020, 20 million girls are at risk of not continuing their education as a result of pandemic-induced disruption to schools. The UN estimated a month earlier that at least 10.9 million students could drop out of primary and secondary education for the same reason. This is a harsh new reality for children's education and their ability to escape poverty, particularly for child labourers.

THE MAJORITY OF COMPANIES BASED IN EUROPE HAVE LAWS THAT FORCE COMPANIES TO ENSURE THERE IS NO CHILD LABOUR IN ANY PART OF THEIR SUPPLY CHAIN.

FALSE: The majority of companies based in Europe, with a few exceptions such as Norway and France, do not have laws that enable the prosecution of companies who use child labour in their supply chains abroad. For example, if a German company uses German child labour in its supply chain, it would be a breach of Germany's laws and result in prosecution. But if that same German company uses child labour in Ghana, it is not currently breaking German law.

OVER HALF THE WORLD'S POPULATION HAVE NO ACCESS TO ANY FORM OF SOCIAL PROTECTION, SUCH AS HEALTHCARE, PENSIONS, UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS OR DISABILITY BENEFITS.

TRUE: 55% of the world, or 4 billion people, have no access to any form of social protection. Social protection which protects both children and their caregivers creates more resilient families and is a vital tool to end child labour. For example, the implementation of social protection programmes was a key part of effectively ending child labour in Europe in the early 20th century.

ENDING CHILD LABOUR IS IMPOSSIBLE.

FALSE: If we want to end the crippling poverty and exclusion that allows injustices like child labour to persist, the world knows how to do it and there is enough global wealth to achieve it. There is a tried and tested process of providing quality public services, adequately funded, with protection for those most in need. This model, utilised by the world's wealthiest countries for decades, can and should be a model for global development that enables every child to live in dignity and free from child labour.



BUILDING SOLIDARITY THROUGH THE TESTIMONY OF SURVIVOR ADVOCATES

Connecting live with a survivor of child labour during your event is not only an innovative way to learn about this global injustice, but a powerful way for you and your audience to develop a personal connection with people who have lived experience of this exploitation. A survivor advocate is also someone who has not only endured the injustice of child labour, but who has since become a campaigner against it.

However, the dialogue will only be impactful if a safe, welcoming, and mutually respectful space between students and survivors is created. To help ensure this we have created, in collaboration with survivors themselves, some guidance.

SAFEGUARDING AND MUTUAL RESPECT GUIDANCE:

- All survivors of child labour participating in this programme are doing so to inform other young people about their experience and support the eradication of this exploitation, but it is important to respect the fact that when survivors share their testimony, many of them will be voluntarily reliving past traumas and injustices they have faced.
- When beginning the live link, make sure you introduce yourselves, your university, school or college and your country. If possible turn and keep your video on so that the survivor joining your event can feel more connected to you all.
- An aim of this live interaction is to not only highlight the unequal experiences of childhood across the world, but to demonstrate the things that connect us all too. It is important this dialogue is a two-way exchange and we suggest asking directly if they have any questions for you and to ask about their experience of campaigning and aspects of their life other than child labour, for example their favourite food or what their career aspirations are.
- Avoid asking triggering questions by basing them on information the survivor has already openly shared: for example, if they share they worked in a garment factory, you could ask how long their hours were or if they were able to take breaks, but if they haven't mentioned their mother or father, avoid asking about them.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any further questions or concerns about ensuring your event is safe and respectful for everyone involved, please don't hesitate to contact the 100 Million campaign at campaign@100million.org and we can try to provide further guidance.

SUPPORTING YOUR STUDENTS

As with any event tackling injustice and abuse, it's important to be conscious of the impact this may have on the emotional wellbeing of the audience, especially for those who also have lived experience of exploitation or for whom the themes of the event could be triggering. To ensure everyone feels safe and protected, be clear at the beginning of your event that you will be discussing difficult issues, remind them they can leave at any point, and identify someone in your team who can talk to them and signpost to any school or university pastoral or support teams if necessary.



ENGAGING WITH YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

The central aim of all campaign activities happening around the world this UN Year is to secure sustainable, bold policy change that ends child labour and challenges structural inequality.

As part of this, we are working with a broad range of partners, including the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to support Parliaments around the world to hold a special session on their national efforts to end child labour this year, including hearing directly the testimony of survivors.

To ensure **your** event doesn't only raise awareness but is also part of this global advocacy push, dedicate time in the event itself to planning how you will contact your elected official. Hearing from you, their constituents, on this issue is invaluable in persuading them to act and would add important pressure for them to help organise or support a special session in Parliament too.

The most important thing to consider before deciding **how** to contact them is to decide **what you are asking them to do**. Your country might already have a national campaign group with specific demands that you might like to support: if this is the case we will share these with you when you register your event. Otherwise, our suggestion is to ask them to **organise a special session in Parliament** during this UN Year to address how your country will support the fight to end child labour.

There are lots of different ways to get in touch with your elected officials, even if there are restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. You may already have lots of experience in this, but just in case, we have included some ideas below for inspiration!

LETTER WRITING	VIDEO
<p>A letter-writing campaign, sharing the impact that hearing from a survivor of child labour has had on you and why ending this exploitation is critical to achieving global equality justice is a tried and tested method of contacting your elected official. Handwritten or posted letters are usually more impactful but emails can be effective too. If you would like support in contacting your elected official, or a template letter to use, email us at campaign@100million.org.</p>	<p>A video of your participants sharing why acting to end child labour is important to them is a powerful and visual way to be heard. You can send this to your elected official via email or social media, and if you also send it to the 100 Million team at campaign@100million.org we can help amplify your voices, or even arrange for it to be played during the special session in Parliament to mark the UN year if one is arranged.</p>
SOCIAL MEDIA BLAST	DIRECT ACTION
<p>With more and more elected officials using social media, targeting them online publicly can increase the pressure on them to respond. If you make sure to use the hashtag #FairSharetoEndChildLabour, we can help boost the visibility of your demand.</p>	<p>A visual demonstration of demand is a useful tactic when dealing with unresponsive or unsupportive elected officials and a creative way to attract attention to your cause. For ideas on what your action could look like email us at campaign@100million.org.</p>

YOUR NEXT STEPS

Now you have reached the end of this guide we hope you are feeling angry about global inequality and the scale of the injustice facing millions of children, but also inspired by the possibility of transformational change and ready to hold your event.

As representative regional student unions and youth activists from across the world, we are uniting behind this important cause because we know firsthand the power of education, and we will continue mobilising together until every child and young person has access to the same rights we have.

Throughout this process you will be connected with a member of our global campaign team and your regional student union representative, who will be able to answer any questions or concerns you might have, before, during and after your event!

If you already know the date you would like to hold your event, can register it online at www.100million.org/endchildlabour and we will work with our survivor networks and invite them to join your event. Once a survivor has confirmed their interest and availability, we will send you their short biography, along with a calendar invitation and log-in details to join the digital platform where the call will take place.

If you haven't yet decided when you would like to hold your event, or would like more support, ideas or have any questions, you can email us on campaign@100million.org to arrange a call.

Finally, a huge thank you for your solidarity, your action and your partnership. It is unforgivable that when the world has never been richer, 1 in 10 children continue to be forced to work at the expense of their childhood, education and future. We are proud to work alongside you in refusing to accept injustice and building a global movement during this special UN Year that finally delivers a fair share for all.

