



**SAY "BOO" TO COMPANIES THAT  
ARE TURNING CHILD LABOR AND  
TRAFFICKING INTO CHOCOLATE PRODUCTION IN WEST  
AFRICA**

Sample letter distributed by  
Zonta Club of Westchester

**Last year Americans spent \$7.4 billion on Halloween festivities, \$2 billion of which was on chocolate candy.**

The NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons is encouraging sales of fair trade chocolate to help stop the epidemic of human trafficking in Africa.

### **Some facts:**

Hundreds of thousands of children in Mali, Burkino Faso and Togo are purchased from poverty stricken parents or simply stolen, and then shipped to Cote D'Ivoire where nearly half of the world's cocoa supply is grown. The children are enslaved: They are paid nothing, receive no education, and are barely fed and often beaten. See: [www.johnrobbins.info/blog/is-thereslavery-in-your-chocolate?](http://www.johnrobbins.info/blog/is-thereslavery-in-your-chocolate?)

*Fair Trade* is an international movement of companies that promotes investment in local communities through fair prices and an emphasis on environmental sustainability, gender equality, and safe and healthy working conditions. Companies also provide third-party oversight to certify that supply chains are free of child labor. To find out more, go to: Global Exchange ([www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org)) or the Child Labor Coalition ([www.stopchildlabor.org](http://www.stopchildlabor.org)).

### **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

Consumer buying power is a highly effective tool for promoting corporate social responsibility and fair business practices by large chocolate companies in sourcing their cocoa beans. Look for the Fair Trade Certified logo when you buy chocolate.

Some companies that use cocoa not produced by slave labor include: **Cadbury (UK), Clif Bar, Cloud Nine, Dagoba Organic Chocolate, Denman Island Chocolate, Divine Chocolate, Equal Exchange, Gardners Candies, Green and Black's, John and Kira's, Kailua Candy Company, Koppers Chocolate, L.A. Burdick Chocolates, Montezuma's Chocolates, NewLeaf Chocolates, Newman's Own Organics, Omanhene Cocoa Bean Company, Rapunzel Pure Organics, Shaman Chocolates, Sweet Earth Chocolates, Taza Chocolate, Endangered Species Chocolate Company, and Theo Chocolate.**

Fair Trade chocolate can be purchased online at <http://shop.equalexchange.coop/chocolate.html>. And also at <https://sjaaks.com/categories>.

Don't see the big-name chocolate products you usually buy? Some of the largest global chocolate corporations have made promises to adopt Fair Trade certification in the coming years, but have yet to implement the necessary changes. **You can help them move along faster by hitting them where it hurts -- their bottom line.**

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