



TOPIC 1:

**The ongoing issue of child labour and limited access to education,
especially in developing nations**

Committee: **HRC**

Since the start of globalisation, **western countries** have **outsourced** the majority of their low-skill and low-education jobs to **developing countries**. The reason was cheap labour, corruptness and **looser workforce protections**. This offered opportunities to many companies from the west as well as for the local businesses and officials to profit from “enslaving” the local population.

Even though there were many changes and improvements in the space of child labour laws and bans on many import goods created by it, unfortunately, the problem still prevails, where **160 million children aged 5-17 are working**, and 79 million of those are working dangerous jobs. About **half of the child workers come from sub-Saharan Africa**, where child labour is mainly used for **crop farming** and auricular practices such as cotton picking and tea harvesting.

Hard labour affects not only their mental and physical health but also their **school attendance**. **Around ⅓ of the child-workers cannot attend school**, further pushing them back from getting an education and prospects for **better job opportunities**. The reasons are plentiful, but the main ones are often stated to be being overworked from their jobs, the quality of education lacking, or even the accessibility of free public education not being possible.

Currently, the state of child labour is **unsettling**. The decrease in the child workforce that happened worldwide is outweighed by the increase in reliance on child work in sub-Saharan Africa. This meant that there was an increase in child labour between the year 2016 -2020. There are several factors at play, but the most important one was the **pandemic which forced children back to work**.

The majority of countries present on the United Nations Pannell take a **strong stance against child labour**. Unfortunately **China and India**, as two of the most populous countries, **still benefit** from child work in some areas of their economic sector, which might **hinder their willingness to** pursue and enforce child labour protections. Countries **actively** using child labour are **Somalia, North Korea and Eritrea**. **European Union** as a stakeholder, takes a strong stance against child and forced labour and **aims to ban any product made by child labour**. The **United States**, as a global superpower, **has bans on child labour in the supply chains in its Federal laws**.

In conclusion, most of the global powers **have outlawed** the use of child labour in their workforce. **The EU and US aim to eradicate child labour use even in the supply chains**. Unfortunately, the increasing number of child workers may erase the result of years of work and programs aiming to decrease the use of child workers to a minimum.

[Are the clothes you are wearing free from child labour? \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)

[Report: Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward \(ilo.org\)](https://www.ilo.org)

<https://www.maplecroft.com/insights/analysis/child-labour-risks-increase-in-over-10-of-countries>

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<https://www.sedex.com/child-labor-laws-in-the-us-and-its-global-supply-chains/#:~:text=US%20laws%20on%20child%20labor%20in%20its%20global%20supply%20chains&text=The%20Act%20prohibits%20businesses%20from,indentured%20labor%2C%20and%20child%20labor.>

Global progress against child labour has stalled since 2016

Fig 3. Percentage and number of children aged 5 to 17 years in child labour and hazardous work

