

Slavery is Everywhere

[CNN Freedom Project](#) short animations

The uncomfortable truth sewn into your clothes

Cotton - it's lightweight, cool, and you're probably wearing it right now.

But it doesn't feel so comfortable when you know how it was made.

Most of the world's cotton is grown in countries that use child labor or forced labor, where people are made to work against their will.

For example, in India, the world's second biggest cotton grower, many children work in its cotton industry. They can work up to 12 hours a day in extreme temperatures, carrying heavy loads and exposed to pesticides.

And the problem isn't just in growing cotton. The world's biggest clothing exporting nations use child labor or forced labor in their clothing industry.

What can you do?

Buy clothes that are FAIRTRADE certified.

To learn more about modern-day slavery join CNN on #MyFreedomDay on March 14.

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/world/2017/01/30/cotton-child-labour-my-freedom-day.cnn>

The dark ingredient in your chocolate

Chocolate. Beautiful gooey layers of cocoa, sugar and milk. The ultimate guilty pleasure.

But would that sweet taste turn sour if you knew it could be a product of child labor.

Most of the world's cocoa beans are grown on small farms in West Africa.

It is estimated that more than 100,000 children work in hazardous conditions on cocoa farms in the Ivory Coast, in a worst forms of child labor.

Harvesting cocoa is a way of life for families in the region but in some cases, children are held against their will and mistreated if they try to leave.

The big chocolate companies say they're working to solve the problem, but with many families living in poverty, children remain easy prey for traffickers.

What can you do?

Buy chocolate that carries FAIRTRADE symbol.

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<https://www.cnn.com/videos/world/2017/01/30/chocolate-child-labour-my-freedom-day.cnn>

The secret inside your cell phone

Are you on your cell phone right now? How about a laptop? Did you know it might be made using child labor?

The batteries used in phones and laptops contain cobalt. Most of the world's cobalt comes from the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa.

40,000 children are thought to work in mines in the Congo making between \$1.00 and \$2.00 a day. A recent investigation found children as young as seven years old collecting, sorting and cleaning mineral ores for 10 to 24 hours straight. They're exposed to dust that can lead to lung disease. And some are even beaten by security guards.

What can you do?

Write to the maker of your cell phone and ask what they're doing to eliminate child labor from their supply chain.

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<https://www.cnn.com/videos/world/2017/01/30/cobalt-mining-slavery-my-freedom-day.cnn>