

shop right



photography: Robin Romano

LOCAL GROCERY STORES

Children plant and pick fruits and vegetables in nearly every country around the world, including the United States. In the U.S. alone, the United Farmworkers of America estimates there are 800,000 children working in commercial agriculture. Even more shocking is the International Labor Organization's estimate of 218 million child laborers around the world, 70 percent of them in agriculture. Children as young as six work 8-12 hours a day. They carry heavy and oversized loads, apply dangerous pesticides, use dangerous tools, and are exposed to heat, disease and unsanitary drinking water.

What YOU can do:

Make your dollars count. As a consumer, you have the power to change business practices. Use it to urge your local stores to carry products that are produced in a socially responsible way, without the use of exploitative child labor. Your demand can go far in changing business practices.

Write to grocery stores and fruit and vegetable suppliers (listed below) to ask:

- Where do the fruits and vegetables come from?
- How does the store make sure that children who should be in school are not picking fruit and vegetables?
- What assurances does the store have that their produce is made under fair labor conditions?

Go to www.LaborRights.org for a sample letter for each of the companies listed below.

Addresses:

Wal-Mart: CEO Lee Scott, Corporate Offices, 702 SW 8th St., Bentonville, AR 72716

Dole Food Company: CEO David H. Murdock, Corporate Headquarters, One Dole Drive, Westlake Village, CA 91362

Whole Foods: CEO John Mackey, Whole Foods Market, 550 Bowie Street, Austin, TX 78703

Demand stores to:

- Carry Fair Trade certified products on their shelves.
- Pay their suppliers a fair price and insist that suppliers in turn pay their farmworkers a fair wage.
- Enforce codes of conduct to protect the rights of all workers in their supply chains.
- Support efforts to rehabilitate and educate former child workers around the world.

For more information about where you can buy fair trade products, visit TransFair USA at: www.transfairusa.org.

For more information on child labor in agriculture around the world, visit:

School Is the Best Place to Work, www.schoolisthebestplacetowork.org and Alliance for Fair Food, www.allianceforfairfood.org.