

## Fairtrade Values and Jewish Values

Source Sheet compiled by Jessica Herrmann  
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### What is Fairtrade?

- As an international movement and in partnership with 2 million farmers and workers, Fairtrade has a vision of a world in which all producers enjoy secure and sustainable livelihoods, fulfil their potential, and decide on their future
- Fairtrade sets social, economic and environmental standards for the companies and farmers involved in the supply chain.

### Fair Trade and Jewish Values:

<b>Fair Trade Value:</b> Prohibit Child Labor	Teachers of young children should be appointed in every country and every region and every city. And every city which does not have a school of Torah study for children, citizens of the city are placed under a ban until teachers for children are appointed. And if they do not appoint them, ban (or destroy) the city because the world only exists because of the breath of children engaged in Torah study. - The Laws of Torah Study 2:1, Mishneh Torah, Rambam
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- What does this text obligate a community to do? Why?
- What are the consequences for not fulfilling that obligation?

<b>Fair Trade Value:</b> Support Community Development	Rabbi Abba also said in the name of Rabbi Shimon ben Lakish: He who lends money is greater than he who provides required financial giving; and he who forms a partnership is greater than all. - Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Shabbat 63a
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- Why might working in partnership be regarded as the highest type of praiseworthy action?

<b>Fair Trade Value:</b> Provide Health and Safe Working Conditions	Likewise, one has a positive duty to remove every hazard that endangers life and guard oneself of any life-threatening obstacle, as it is said "beware and guard your soul." If one did not remove said obstacles but preserved the hazards that cause danger, one has cancelled a positive commandment and transgressed "do not bring bloodguilt into your house." - Shulchan Aruch, Hosen Mishpat 427:8
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## Fairtrade Values and Jewish Values

<p><b>Fair Trade Value:</b> Provide Fair and Timely Wages</p>	<p>You shall not abuse a needy and destitute laborer, whether a fellow countryman or a stranger in one of the communities of your land. You must pay him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets, for he is needy and urgently depends on it; else he will cry to the LORD against you, and you will incur guilt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deuteronomy 24:14-15</li> </ul> <p>It is forbidden to deceive people in business dealings, as well as by false pretenses; non-Jews and Jews are all alike in this respect. If one is aware of a defect in the article he is selling, he must let the purchaser know about it. It is forbidden to cheat people even by the use of mere words.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mishneh Torah, Hilchot Mechirah 18:1</li> </ul> <p>The verse (in Deuteronomy 24) states, “And for it, he risks his life” Why did this worker climb a high ramp to work or suspend himself on the tree to collect its fruits, placing himself in mortal danger? Was it not for his wage? Another explanation translates the verse as follows: “On it she stakes her life.” Whoever withholds the wages of an employee is considered as if she took her life from her.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bava Metzia 112a:1-2</li> </ul>
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- How do the Fair-Trade values connect or challenge the Jewish values?
- In what ways do these values combat the dark side of the chocolate industry?
- What other values lead you to want to act against the chocolate industry?

### Listen: To *What About Us* by P!nk [HERE](#)

- What lyrics stick out to you?
- How does this song connect to the guilt free gelt conversation?
- When you listen think about the “US” as being the child laborers, what does the song mean?

### ACT:

- Enjoy Fair-Trade products including food, clothing, and more!
- Share what you learned with others