

## Guilt Free Gelt

Source Sheet compiled by Jessica Herrmann

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### ***Child Labor and Slavery in the Chocolate Industry***

#### ***From: Food Empowerment Project***

- 70% of the world's cocoa (the bean used to make cocoa aka chocolate) is grown in Western African countries, mostly Ghana and the Ivory Coast
- There is widespread reporting of child labor, human trafficking, and slavery on cocoa farms in Western Africa
- Hershey's, Mars, Nestle, and many smaller chocolate companies get their cocoa supply from Western African farms
- Most cocoa farmers earn less than \$1 per day
- Approximately 2.1 million children in the Ivory Coast and Ghana work on cocoa farms
- Most children are between the ages 12 –16, the youngest are 5
- Children work 14 hour days, using heavy knives, and are exposed to dangerous agricultural chemicals
- Around 30% of the child laborers don't attend any school
- Drissa, a freed enslaved worker who had never even tasted chocolate, when asked what he would tell people who eat chocolate made from slave labor, he replied "that they enjoyed something that he suffered to make. When people eat chocolate, they are eating my flesh."

- What stands out to you?
- Did you learn anything new?

<b><i>Fair Trade Principal</i></b>	<b><i>Jewish Wisdom</i></b>
Prohibit Child Labor	<p>Rambam, Mishneh Torah, The Laws of Torah Study, 2:1</p> <p>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.</p>

- What does this text obligate a community to do? Why?
- What are the consequences for not fulfilling that obligation?

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<b>Fair Trade Principal</b>	<b>Jewish Wisdom</b>
Support Community Development	<p>Talmud Bava Batra 8a</p> <p>The Gemara asks: And do we require that one live in a city for twelve months for all matters? But isn't it taught in a baraita: If one lives in city for thirty days, he must contribute to the charity platter from which food is distributed to the poor. If he lives there for three months, he must contribute to the charity box. If he lives there for six months, he must contribute to the clothing fund. If he lives there for nine months, he must contribute to the burial fund. If he lives there for twelve months, he must contribute to the columns of the city [lepassei ha'ir], i.e., for the construction of a security fence. Rabbi Asi said that Rabbi Yoḥanan said: When we learned twelve months in the mishnah, we learned that with regard to contributing to the columns of the city, money used for protecting and strengthening the city, but not for other matters..</p>

- In what ways are these contributions supporting community development?
- How else might one support community development?

<b>Fair Trade Principal</b>	<b>Jewish Wisdom</b>
Provide Healthy and Safe Working Conditions	<p>Shulchan Aruch, Hosen Mishpat 427:8</p> <p>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 removed said obstacles but preserved the hazards that cause danger, one has cancelled a positive commandment and transgressed "do not bring bloodguilt into your house"</p>

- In what ways are these contributions supporting community development?
- How else might one support community development?

<b>Fair Trade Principal</b>	<b>Jewish Wisdom</b>
Provide Fair and Timely Wages	<p>Deuteronomy 24:14-15.</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>

- 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 take action against the chocolate industry?

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<p><b><i>What About Us? By P!nk</i></b>            LISTEN to the song <a href="#">here</a></p>
<p>We are problems that want to be solved            We are children that need to be loved            We were willin', we came when you called            But man, you fooled us            Enough is enough, oh</p> <p>What about us?            What about all the times you said you had the answers?            What about us?            What about all the broken happy ever afters?            Oh, what about us?            What about all the plans that ended in disaster?            Oh, what about love? What about trust?            What about us?</p>

- 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?

\*Fair Trade Values and Jewish Values based on Fair Trade Judaica resource