



Fairtrade Australia & New Zealand

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## Fairtrade ANZ Child Protection Policy

### Fairtrade ANZ and Children

Fairtrade Australia & New Zealand (Fairtrade ANZ) is a full and active member of Fairtrade International and has the sole right to license the use of the international FAIRTRADE Mark in Australia and New Zealand and is responsible for delivering producer support services to Fairtrade Certified and applicant producer groups in East Timor, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific islands.

Fairtrade ANZ upholds children's rights to survival, development, protection, and participation as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. We believe that child protection is both a corporate and an individual responsibility, and every person who shares in the work of Fairtrade ANZ also shares in the responsibility to take every precaution to protect the children and families we serve.

Fairtrade ANZ's Child Protection Policy affirms our commitment to the welfare of children and their protection from abuse and exploitation.

Fairtrade ANZ is committed to fighting the root causes of child labour and proactively preventing the abuse and exploitation of children. We seek advice and guidance from expert international non-governmental organizations to ensure that the rights of children are upheld, including their right to live in a safe and protective environment. We work with Fairtrade producer communities to encourage them to establish a child-inclusive, community-based monitoring and remediation system on child labour in partnership with child rights NGOs so that boys and girls in producer communities can enjoy increased well-being.

### Putting Child Protection First

As a member of Fairtrade International, Fairtrade ANZ upholds its mandatory Child Protection Policy and Procedure for all Fairtrade staff and consultants, which demonstrates our commitment to not only actively preventing child labour, but also ensuring our approach and methods of identifying and remediating the unacceptable work does not cause more harm. We remain committed to solving children's real problems and not producing new ones for them. In so doing, we honour our obligations toward the safety and welfare of children. We follow the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), especially the guiding principles, including "Best Interests of the Child" and note that these should be given primary consideration, in addition to the relevant International Labour Organization Conventions.

### A Child-Centered Approach

We believe that children and youth in Fairtrade communities, where possible, should play a central role in empowering themselves and their communities to combat poverty, strengthen their position and take more control over their lives. Our child-inclusive approach builds on the capacity of children and youth in producer communities to contribute to self-monitoring, managing and tackling child labour within their own lives in an on-going, sustainable basis so they become agents of active change in building prosperous lives in agriculture.

## How Child Labour is addressed in the Fairtrade Standards

Fairtrade prohibits child labour as defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO) minimum age and the worst forms of child labour conventions. No person or product certification system can, however, provide a 100% guarantee that a product is free of child labour. What Fairtrade guarantees is that if we find breaches to our child labour requirements, we take immediate action to protect children. We prevent the impacted farms using child labour from entering the Fairtrade system, and support them and their communities to tackle the problem. Fairtrade has chosen to work in products and regions with known risk of child labour because this is where our work is most needed.

Specific criteria in the Fairtrade Standards that apply directly to child labour include:

- Children below the age of 15 are not to be employed by Fairtrade organizations either directly or indirectly.
- Children below the age of 18 cannot undertake in work that jeopardises schooling or the social, moral or physical development of the person
- Children are only allowed to help on family farms under strict conditions. The work must be age appropriate and be done outside of school hours or during holidays.
- If a small producer organization is in an area with a high likelihood of child labour, they are encouraged to include a mitigation and elimination plan in their Fairtrade Development Plan
- If an organization has identified child labour as a risk, the organization must implement policy and procedures to prevent children from being employed.

## Beyond the Standards

As part of efforts to ensure that producers remain compliant on the requirements of Fairtrade Standards, Fairtrade ANZ has been encouraging producers in the informal sectors to take a leadership role in going beyond minimum standard requirements and play a proactive and continuous role to improve the real conditions for children and youth in their communities.

Other efforts include:

- **Engagement with child rights experts** - We build partnerships with expert organizations and seek feedback from partners and receive their recommendations for developing a rights-based strategy and framework of action for eliminating child labor in key agricultural commodities
- **Focus groups with children in Fairtrade communities** - Fairtrade International conducts focus groups with school-going girls and boys in Fairtrade communities to find out about their education, work, future aspirations and the impact of Fairtrade on their lives – essential inputs as we continuously improve our proactive approach to increased wellbeing of girls and boys and young people.
- **Training Fairtrade staff** - Child labour and child protection training has is given to all relevant staff at Fairtrade ANZ and in producer countries, including liaison officers in all our regions of operations.

## Child Abuse

Fairtrade ANZ is committed to protecting children from abuse. Abuse can take many forms, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, harmful cultural practices, early marriage and exploitative child labour.

Fairtrade ANZ has policies and procedures for minimising the risk of abuse and responding to accusations of abuse in a manner that respects all involved. Non-compliance with these requirements will be taken seriously.

## Photos and Stories of Children

The following minimum standards must be observed to ensure that human dignity and the right to personal privacy are respected when taking photos and videos of those with whom Fairtrade ANZ works, especially children.

- Always check what photography or filming is appropriate with a Fairtrade ANZ representative before taking photos or videos.

- Always ask permission from a child and the child's guardians if you wish to take photos or videos, and explain how they will be used.
- Fairtrade ANZ requires written permission from the individual concerned or their guardians when a photo, video or story:
  - a. Clearly identifies and provides substantial information about a particular person; and
  - b. Places a person in a situation that could be damaging to their dignity, safety or reputation. For example, information about HIV status, involvement in prostitution or armed conflict.
- Be extremely sensitive to a person's vulnerability at times of trauma or grief, and always assess how a photo, video or story will impact on the safety, dignity and well-being of the person concerned.
- Do not portray people as helpless victims. Balance human needs with positive language about what people are doing to help themselves.
- Photos and stories must not use real names of children or real locations, especially when communicating sensitive information. For example, HIV status or sexual abuse.

Treat with the utmost importance the confidentiality of children in Fairtrade ANZ's projects.

### **Interacting with Children**

- Treat all children and their families with respect and dignity
- Listen to children
- Never be alone with a child, always ensure that another adult is present
- Be sensitive to the unwritten laws of personal familiarity in language, conversation, and physical intimacy, and observe them
- Stop any interaction with a child if a child says stop, or if the child appears uncomfortable with the interaction
- Do not take a child to your home or encourage meetings outside the project activity
- Do not give children alcohol, cigarettes or drugs
- Do not touch sexual areas of the body or have sex with a child
- Do not expose anyone to sexual materials or abuse them through non-contact sexual activity. Be cautious in sending verbal, non-verbal, or written messages that could be misinterpreted by the child or adults.
- Do not slap, hit or physically abuse any child
- Do not psychologically or verbally abuse any child
- Adults are always responsible for their behaviour with a child
- Raise all concerns, issues and problems as soon as possible with a Fairtrade ANZ representative

### **Electronic Child Safety Standards and Procedures**

Anyone storing photos, videos or information about children must use every effort to prevent unauthorized access or inappropriate use

Child personal and physical specific information that could be used to identify the location of a child within a country should not be used on websites or in any other form of communication about a child

For more information or to report any concerns/violations, please contact [info@fairtrade.com.au](mailto:info@fairtrade.com.au) or [info@fairtrade.org.nz](mailto:info@fairtrade.org.nz)