



CHILD LABOUR: NOT IN MY TROLLEY!

Children as young as eight years old are working on Indonesian palm oil plantations; these children are being exploited to make the products we buy every day.

What is palm oil?

Palm oil comes from the fruit of palm trees. Palm oil is found in many food products such as breakfast cereals, margarine, chocolate, ice cream, biscuits and snack food. It is also used in household detergents, shampoos, soap and lipsticks. It's in your Total toothpaste, your Magnum ice cream and your Dove soap. In fact, palm oil and palm-based ingredients are found in roughly 50 per cent of common consumer products.

The world's largest producer of palm oil, Wilmar, is in Indonesia. Wilmar International Limited controls over 43 per cent of the global palm oil trade, selling to many 'household name' companies. These companies make the brands we love and trust like Kellogg's, Nestle and Colgate, Cadbury Dairy Milk and Oreos.

So what's wrong with palm oil?

You might have heard that rainforests, orangutans and other animals are under threat due to natural habitats being cleared away and replaced with big palm oil plantations. This is bad enough, but have you heard about how palm oil is farmed and the working conditions for these people?

In Amnesty's recent research on palm oil plantations, we found severe mistreatment and abuse of children and workers on plantations owned by Wilmar:

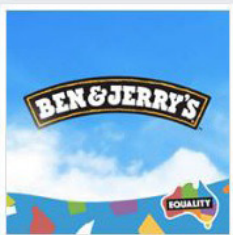
- Children as young as eight are doing hard labour which can cause physical damage. A 10-year-old boy told us he works six days a week:
"I don't go to school...I carry the sack with the loose fruit by myself but can only carry it half full...I do it in the rain as well but it is difficult...My hands hurt and my body aches."
- Women are forced to work long hours under threat of pay cuts. They are paid below minimum wage – earning as little as US\$2.50 a day in extreme cases.
- Workers labour for long hours to meet high targets. Tasks are physically demanding, such as cutting fruit from 20-metre-tall palm trees.

The abuses on Wilmar's plantations are clear and companies using palm oil bought from Wilmar have a responsibility to ensure their supply chain is free from child labour. This is a well-accepted international standard.

It is time big brand companies took responsibility for the contents of their products. As consumers, we cannot let this continue. It is up to us to expose the harmful practices that goes into making the products we all have in stocked in our pantries.

Which brands are using Wilmar's palm oil?

- **Unilever**, which owns Dove, Magnum, Ben and Jerry's
- **Kelloggs**
- **Cadbury**, particularly their Dairy Milk, Roses and Oreo sub-brands
- **Nestle**
- **Procter and Gamble**, which owns Pantene, Head and Shoulders, Olay and CoverGirl



Ben & Jerry's ✓
@BenandJerryAustralia



Colgate ✓
@Colgate



Dove ✓
@DoveAUS



Kellogg's
Australia
@KelloggAU



Nestlé ✓
@NestleAuNZ

THE PLAN TO WIN

It's time to demand that the brands we love come clean! Tell the big brands that child labour and exploitation of workers is #notinmytrolley

Here's how human rights supporters can create change for the people suffering human rights abuses in Wilmar's palm oil plantations:



WIN

We have helped to end labor rights abuses of workers in Indonesian palm oil plantations.



3.

Wilmar's buyers (the big brands) apply pressure to Wilmar to be transparent in its supply chain and investigate claims of abuse of workers on plantations.

2.

Wilmar's buyers conduct adequate human rights due diligence in relation to its palm oil sourcing practices and are transparent with consumers about palm oil and its sourcing.

1.

Consumers apply pressure directly on Wilmar's buyers and stockists.



#notinmytrolley

WHAT YOU CAN DO

WRITE A LETTER

1. **Write a letter to the big brands' complaints departments and tell them they have a responsibility to let customers know what's in their products and how they are made.**

Ask brands to do the following:

- Tell palm oil giant Wilmar to stop abusing children's right and improve their working practices immediately.
- Address, in cooperation with Wilmar, the harms suffered by children, as well as all other workers, who have been involved in hazardous work on plantations.
- Publicly disclose which of your products contain palm oil from Wilmar's Indonesian operations.

To help you get started, see the example letter on the next page!

2. **Write a letter to your local supermarket manager and let them know your thoughts on the products they are stocking.**

Ask supermarkets:

- are they doing their due diligence in conducting human rights audits of the products they are selling to customers?
- to demand the big brands come clean and provide transparency on which products have palm oil sourced from Wilmar's plantations.

LETTER WRITING TIPS

- Always be polite. You want to stop human rights abuse by persuading the people involved to take immediate action.
- It is good to give them an idea of who and what you are. Tell them your age and which town and country you live in. It will prove your letter is genuine and show the target that different people from across the world are watching.
- If you use to be a customer of the brand, it is good to mention this in your letter.
- Use plain language rather than technical terms.
- Be brief. Try to write one page at the most, as long letters are less likely to be read. Sometimes just one paragraph can get your message across.
- Include Amnesty International's specific calls on how to improve the situation. Amnesty has carefully researched the situation and developed an appropriate and respectful course of action.
- Emphasise how the person you are writing to has the power to make a difference.
- To end your letter, you can say 'Yours truly' or 'Yours sincerely'. Some people prefer to use the more formal 'Yours respectfully' or 'Yours faithfully'.

Example letter

Dear Colgate

My name is Sandy and I am a 15-year-old student at Brisbane State High School. As one of your customers, I am extremely concerned after hearing reports of a range of labour rights abuses on the plantations operated by palm oil giant Wilmar and its suppliers in Indonesia – from which you source some of your palm oil.

I am shocked that children as young as eight alongside other workers at these plantations continue to suffer severe labour rights abuses – despite your company's promises to customers that there will be no exploitation in your palm oil supply chains.

I ask you to:

- *Tell palm oil giant Wilmar to stop abusing children's right and improve their working practices immediately.*
- *Address, in cooperation with Wilmar, the harms suffered by children, as well as all other workers, who have been involved in hazardous work on plantations.*
- *Publicly disclose which of your products contains palm oil from Wilmar's Indonesian operations.*

Your company can really make a difference in ending child labour, and I hope to hear about your immediate action to end this and other human rights abuses on palm oil plantations.

Yours sincerely

Sandy



FOR EXTRA CREDIT:

- Talk to your friends and family and educate them on the human rights abuses linked to their shopping.
- Tell your humanities, study of society or English teacher about Amnesty's [child labour lesson plan](#) for classrooms.
- [Download and print these posters](#) to put up on your school or sports club noticeboards.
- Ask your school canteen to not use the brands that are buying palm oil from Wilmar. You could create a petition and collect students' signatures to help you get the message across. If your canteen stops using these brands, you could then ask your school to make a public statement (eg at a school assembly or in a school newsletter) about why they are no longer using these products. If you need help getting started, speak to your Amnesty Schools Outreach contact or email youth@amnesty.org.au
- Make a meeting with the manager of your nearest and biggest Coles or Woolworths to discuss your concerns as a consumer and regular shopper in their store.

Thanks for being part of Amnesty's campaign to end child labour! Don't forget to let Amnesty's Schools Outreach Team know about all of your awesome work: youth@amnesty.org.au

Amnesty International campaigns for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all.

For more information about Amnesty's child labour campaign please visit www.amnesty.org.au

For more student resources or to get in touch with Amnesty's schools team visit www.amnesty.org.au/student-resources

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DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS