



Issue 5: Quarterly Bulletin on Business & Children
June 2013

Welcome to the fifth issue of the *Quarterly Bulletin on Business & Children*, produced by [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](#). The purpose of this e-bulletin is to help keep everyone working in this field informed about recent key developments and forthcoming initiatives. Please encourage others to consider signing up. And if you would like to contribute to future issues, let us know. This issue and past bulletins are available on the Centre's [Business & Children Portal](#).

To sign up or to contribute an entry, contact: Annabel Short *short (at) business-humanrights.org* (Programme Director, based in New York) with a cc to Eniko Horvath (Researcher, based in London) *horvath (at) business-humanrights.org*.

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1. Announcements: Forthcoming activities and recent projects

i. UN Global Compact

Children's Rights and Business at the Global Compact Leaders Summit

The 3 sponsoring organizations of the Children's Rights and Business Principles (UN Global Compact, UNICEF and Save the Children) will be hosting an array of sessions during and around the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit on 18-20 September, to bring children's rights and business to the sustainability agenda.

The series of events will provide an opportunity to introduce the Principles to those who are not yet familiar with them and the issues they cover, as well as to engage companies and other stakeholders in ongoing activities focused on learning and implementation.

For further information and updates about each of these events please visit the Events page on the [Children's Rights and Business Principles website](#).

→ *Contributed by Anita Househam, Policy and Legal Advisor, UN Global Compact, [househam \(at\) un.org](mailto:househam@un.org)*

ii. Save the Children and UNICEF: Joint event, Lima, 6-8 Aug (también disponible en español)

On 6-8 Aug, Save the Children and UNICEF are organising a regional seminar on corporate social responsibility (CSR) in Lima: "The impact of the business sector on children's rights". The seminar is aimed at civil society, business and governments. Its objectives are:

- Encourage key actors in children's rights to implement the UN General Comment No. 16 (on state obligations regarding the impact of the business sector on children's rights) and the Children's Rights and Business Principles;
- Share and test tools aimed at civil society to work with the private sector;
- Identify key CSR issues for governments, companies and civil society to guarantee children's rights.

More information to follow.

→ *Contributed by Andrea Portaro, Regional Program Manager, Save the Children, [andrea.portaro \(at\) savethechildren.org](mailto:andrea.portaro@savethechildren.org)*

Español

Del 6 al 8 de agosto, Save the Children y UNICEF están organizando un seminario regional sobre la responsabilidad social empresarial (RSE) en Lima: "El Impacto del Sector Empresarial en los derechos de la niñez". Este seminario está dirigido a Sociedad Civil, Empresas y Estado. Los objetivos son:

- Lograr un compromiso de los actores claves de los derechos del niño con la implementación del Comentario General N°16 y Derechos del Niño y los Principios Empresariales;
- Compartir y validar herramientas dirigidas la sociedad civil para trabajar con el sector privado;
- Identificar temas claves de RSE entre el estado, empresa y sociedad civil para garantizar los derechos de los niño.

Más información en breve.

→ *Contribución de: Andrea Portaro, Coordinadora de Programa Regional, Save the Children, andrea.portaro (at) savethechildren.org*

iii. UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

In follow-up to the English-language version of the [General Comment \[DOC\]](#) (GC) on State obligations regarding the impact of the business sector on children's rights, published in February 2013, the Committee is pleased to announce that a [Spanish-language version of the GC is now available \[DOC\]](#). Furthermore, with the support of UNICEF, a user-friendly booklet format version of the GC will also be available from July 2013 onwards.

Work on conducting the first in a series of conferences on follow-up measures to implement the GC has also commenced. Provisionally, this is scheduled for August 2013 in Lima, Peru. More details on this will be on the Committee's website as soon as it becomes available.

Further information on the Committee's GC is available at the Committee's website at: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/callsubmissionsCRC_BusinessSector.htm

→ *Contributed by Jorge Cardona, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, jorge.cardona (at) uv.es. General email address for the Committee: crc (at) ohchr.org*

Note: See also the sections of the Resource Centre's [website](#) and its [Business & Children Portal](#) on the General Comment.

iv. World Child & Youth Forum

The [World Child & Youth Forum](#) held its third annual forum on 22 March at the Royal Palace in Stockholm, Sweden under the theme "Children's Rights – any of your business?" The Forum brought together 343 participants from 16 countries: 60% represented business, 20% civil society, UN agencies and NGOs, and 20% government and academia. The Forum was a stock-taking event for the [Children's Rights and Business Principles](#). The first [Global CEO Survey on Child Rights and Business](#) was presented and the role of states on the impact of business on children's rights was also covered. Breakout sessions provided deeper insights into youth employment, water and sanitation, as well as real-life examples of how business can move from policy commitment to practical implementation to support children's rights.

World Child & Youth Forum will continue to evolve as a centre of excellence for children's rights, and as a knowledge, information, research and communication organization. The mission is built on three pillars: (1) the annual forums as physical meeting places; (2) analysis and research on children's rights, and; (3) an interactive website interlinking activities and stakeholders throughout the year (to be launched 2013/14).

Reports and films from the Forum can be found at wcyf.se.

Next year's World Child & Youth Forum will take place on 11 April in Stockholm, Sweden.

→ *Contributed by Elin Wallberg, Program Manager, World Child and Youth Forum, elin.wallberg (at) wcyf.se*

v. Save the Children Sweden

Save the Children has developed a child-friendly version of the Children's Rights and Business Principles: "You, your rights and business". This is a practical guide to help children and young people everywhere understand that they have rights. Not only at school, at home, in the community, in the workplace, but – everywhere! The Children's Rights and Business Principles are explained in the book in a simple and easy-to-read way.

Access the booklet here: <http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/library/you-your-rights-business-resource-young-people-and-children-about-childrens-rights-and>

The Spanish version is available here:

http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/tu_tus_derechos_y_las_empras1.pdf

→ Contributed by Lina Höök, Communication Manager – Corporate Partnerships, Save the Children Sweden, [lina.hook \(at\) rb.se](mailto:lina.hook@rb.se)

vi. UNICEF

Children’s rights are now everyone’s business in Korea and Azerbaijan

Since the release of the Children’s Rights and Business Principles in March 2012, the Korean Committee for UNICEF, Save the Children Korea, UN Global Compact Korea and Hankyoreh Economic Research Institute have examined the social and economic climate of Korea to identify appropriate avenues for the dissemination of the Principles. The findings emphasised the need for a national release of the Principles to create awareness, provide a comprehensive introduction to the Principles and explore best practice examples from a range of industrial sectors.

The Children’s Rights and Business Principles Conference 2013 was held in Seoul on 30 May. The conference illustrated the practicality of the CRBP and their broad relevance with business practices in Korean industry, and highlighted best practices of CRBP implementation, drawing on the experiences of the Swedish Government, and the Centre for Child-Rights and Corporate Social Responsibility in China.

Seven days earlier, a round table on children’s rights was held in the Azerbaijani parliament in Baku on 22 May, with the support of UNICEF. The event was attended by Vice-Speaker Bahar Muradova, Head of UNICEF Baku Office Mark Hereward, UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan Antonius Broek, as well as MPs Hadi Rahabli, Ziyad Samedzade and Vahid Ahmadov.

A detailed discussion ensued, underscoring Azerbaijan’s cooperation with UNICEF to improve the country’s legislation, the persistence of child labour in the country, the obligation of entrepreneurs to support efforts of government and society to protect children’s rights particularly in emergency situations, and the example of advertising to children as an example of how business needs to respect and support children’s rights.

To learn more, visit the [UNICEF website](#) or the [Children’s Rights and Business Principles website](#).

More than Just a Piggybank? Financial Products and Services for Children

UNICEF and Child and Youth Finance International – together with the support of the Grameen Foundation’s Bankers without Borders volunteer programme – recently released “[Beyond the Promotional Piggybank](#)”. The discussion paper calls on financial institutions to develop products and services for children in ways that respect and support their rights; and does so by using the framework of the Children’s Rights and Business Principles. The paper was released on the occasion of the Second Annual Child and Youth Finance International Summit held in Istanbul, Turkey from 7-9 May, 2013.

There is growing evidence that financial empowerment can be an important strategy in addressing issues such as child poverty, youth unemployment, and universal education. It can also protect children from abusive and exploitative situations by preventing them from resorting to informal money lenders or placing themselves at risk of child labour, trafficking and prostitution.

A focus on children and young people can also make good business sense for financial institutions. Children and youth represent one third of the world’s population, and almost half in certain

countries, especially with emerging markets. These numbers provide a clear imperative for responsible and forward-thinking financial institutions to give due attention to children and youth as key stakeholders in their business.

The discussion paper may be accessed at: www.unicef.org/csr

To learn more about the conference, visit: <http://www.childfinanceinternational.org/summit>

Child Rights and Business: Taking Action – UNICEF Workshop (New York, 18-19 Sep 2013)

Business has enormous potential to do good for children – everyday business interacts with and touches the lives of children. They are not just consumers, they are family members of employees, young workers, future leaders and they share the communities and environment in which business operates. The workshop encourages participants to consider how their own business activities – for example through innovations in product development, through the way they advertise, or the relationships they have with local communities – affect children, and how they can protect and promote their wellbeing. UNICEF believes that this is not just good for children; it is also good for business.

The UNICEF workshop will be a dynamic two days of learning and innovation on child rights and business. Using innovative social design-thinking and approaches, the workshop will bring together child rights experts, country experts, and business leaders to tackle the real dilemmas facing children around the globe. The workshop will also help you make connections and build key relationships with experts, innovators and child rights experts. UNICEF will also be launching their implementation tools – helping business to assess impacts, develop action strategies, and support reporting on children and business.

For more information, contact Subajini Jayasekaran – [sjayasekaran \(at\) unicef.org](mailto:sjayasekaran@unicef.org) or Joanne Patroni at [jpatroni \(at\) unicef.org](mailto:jpatroni@unicef.org). To learn more about UNICEF's work, visit www.unicef.org/csr.

→ *Contributed by Subajini Jayasekaran, Corporate Social Responsibility Specialist, UNICEF, [sjayasekaran \(at\) unicef.org](mailto:sjayasekaran@unicef.org)*

vii. ECPAT Philippines

ECPAT Philippines organises Internet reporting hotline workshop in Manila

ECPAT Philippines, the national member group of the ECPAT network, in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Council against Child Pornography (IACCP) and ECPAT International Secretariat organised a technical workshop in Manila on 27 May. The sessions discussed the role of Internet reporting hotlines, access-blocking mechanisms and how these hotlines, Internet service providers (ISPs), mobile operators and law enforcement should collaborate to stop the distribution of child abuse materials. Leading ISPs and mobile operators GLOBE Telecom, PLDT and SMART attended the workshop along with representatives from the National Telecommunications Commission, the Philippine National Police (PNP), the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The workshop concluded with the consensus that Internet reporting hotlines are urgently needed in the Philippines. More and more cases of children being exploited in the Philippines via live streaming are surfacing. ISPs and telecom providers should do their best to prevent misuse of services as mandated by the national legislation of the Philippines. The multi-sector participants also acknowledged that suitable guidelines for formalising these operations should be put in place immediately.

→ *Contributed by Anjan Bose, Program officer, ICT and Child protection, ECPAT International, [anjanb \(at\) ecpat.net](mailto:anjanb@ecpat.net)*

viii. ECPAT International

Dominican Republic: Joining efforts to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism

ECPAT International had the opportunity to present on the implementation of the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism in Asia and the Americas at the *International Encounter on Good Practices to prevent Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism*. The conference was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on 28-29 May 2013.

The event was co-organised by UNICEF, the Ministry of Tourism (MINTUR) and the Association of Hotels and Tourism Industry (ASONAHORES) in Dominican Republic. Approximately 200 participants from all facets of the tourism sector, non-governmental organizations and governmental departments, including the POLITUR (Tourist Police), attended the two day event. Presenters and participants reinforced a joint commitment to protecting children from commercial sexual exploitation in travel and tourism.

During the event, an inter-institutional agreement was signed by UNICEF, MINTUR and ASONAHORES to encourage the tourism industry in Dominican Republic to sign and implement the Code of Conduct (thecode.org).

→ *Contributed by Fiorella Rojas, Regional Officer for the Americas, ECPAT International, [Fiorellar \(at\) ecpat.net](mailto:Fiorellar(at)ecpat.net)*

ix. UN Global Compact Belgium

On 13 June, [KAURI](#), [UN Global Compact Network Belgium](#) and [UNICEF](#) organised an afternoon session to inspire participants on smart collaboration opportunities between businesses and the social sector to make child poverty history. Governments and welfare organizations cannot tackle this alone. Social innovation models are emerging for poverty reduction. These models seek innovative and smart collaboration between different actors of society. By creating work, companies enable people to gain confidence, offer them abilities to develop their talents and help them create a better future for their children. Companies can also look to welfare organizations for positive attitudes and values, and learn how these can be incorporated in fair business practices. Finally, ethical considerations in dealing with poor children as consumers have a big impact on poverty reduction. Honest marketing, providing access to basic services and raising consumers' awareness can help reduce social exclusion.

More details including the programme are here: <http://www.kauri.be/activity/BW4WG214.aspx>

→ *Contributed by Iris Van der Veken, Chair, UN Global Compact Network Belgium, [Iris.VanderVeken \(at\) rosyblue.be](mailto:Iris.VanderVeken(at)rosyblue.be)*

x. CCR CSR – Center for Child Rights and Corporate Social Responsibility (China)

Is Your Organization CRBP Compliant?

The [Center for Child Rights and Corporate Social Responsibility](#) (CCR CSR) has been engaging with businesses in China since 2009 to develop sustainable business models that support Children's Rights. We have recently launched an [e-learning portal on Children's Rights and Business Principles](#) (CRBP), and developed a CRBP Assessment tool, in cooperation with Accenture, to educate and guide the business community to protect the rights of children.

The CRBP was developed by the UN Global Compact, Save the Children and UNICEF and is the first comprehensive set of guidelines on what businesses can do in the workplace, marketplace and

community to respect and support children's rights. The purpose is to help companies – big or small, foreign or Chinese – analyse their core businesses to find ways to improve the lives of children.

Safeguarding children's rights helps build strong, well-educated communities which are vital to creating a stable, inclusive and productive business environment. Visit CCRCSR.com to learn how you can be a change agent by introducing the Children's Rights and Business Principles to your organization.

To get in contact with us e-mail [info \(at\) ccrcsr.com](mailto:info@ccrcsr.com) or call us on +86 10 8440 0021

→ *Contributed by Josefin Bennet Fredriksson, Business Development Manager, CCR CSR - Center for Child Rights, [josefin.bennet-fredriksson \(at\) ccrcsr.com](mailto:josefin.bennet-fredriksson@ccrcsr.com)*

xi. Defence for Children International

Child labour is a serious concern in a number of countries where Defence for Children International (DCI) works. In conjunction with the UN Human Rights Council's 23rd session and the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights' report, DCI-Costa Rica, DCI-International Secretariat, ECLT Foundation ("Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco Growing"), and Global March organised a side-event on 4 June in Geneva to commemorate the World Day Against Child Labour.

International Labour Organization (ILO), Hivos Foundation, DCI, ECLT Foundation, and Global March representatives at the event emphasised some of the essential elements for the elimination of child labour including improvement of education, valuing all types of decent work, regarding children as rights-holders, harmonising the minimum age of employment with obligatory education age, national ownership of policies, area-based approach, lobbying, advocacy, and social dialogue in practice with businesses, especially in agriculture, where child labour flourishes.

Additionally for the World Day Against Child Labour, DCI signed a [joint letter](#) urging all governments to ratify the ILO Domestic Workers Convention (189), which will improve the lives of an estimated 15 million child domestic workers.

→ *Contributed by Bahia Egeh, Communications Officer, Defence for Children International – International Secretariat, [communications \(at\) defenceforchildren.org](mailto:communications@defenceforchildren.org)*

xii. Consortium for Street Children

Cross-sector collaboration for street children

The International Day for Street Children is celebrated every year on 12 April. The day provides a platform for the millions of street children around the world – and their champions – to speak out so that their rights cannot be ignored.

The International Day for Street Children is supported by Aviva, the world's 6th largest insurance group, HSBC, one of the world's largest banking and financial services organizations and Tesco, one of the world's leading retailers.

Over 315 events and activities took place during the 2013 celebrations in over 132 countries and over 5000 people from over 130 countries signed the online petition to "Demand a Day" calling on the UN to officially recognise the day.

For more information and to sign the petition, go to www.streetchildrenday.org.

→ *Contributed by Louise Meincke, Consortium for Street Children, [louise \(at\) streetchildren.org.uk](mailto:louise@streetchildren.org.uk)*

xiii. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

The Business & Children Portal features new sections on the recently issued [UN General Comment on state obligations regarding the impact of the business sector on children's rights](#) as well as on [implementation tools of the Children's Rights & Business Principles](#). The portal has recently featured a number of important developments in the field and continues to welcome suggestions for materials from users.

→ Contributed by Eniko Horvath, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, [horvath \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:horvath@business-humanrights.org)

2. Other news and developments

Below are some recent news stories and developments. For more, see the Resource Centre's [full archive of news on business and children](#).

Global

- A [joint letter](#) from Gordon Brown (UN Special Envoy for Global Education), Guy Ryder (Director-General of International Labour Organization), and Georg Kell (Executive Director of UN Global Compact) urged companies to strengthen efforts to address child labour.
- A recent UNICEF working paper highlighted the [general weakness of company reporting on children's rights](#) and recommended steps to develop relevant tools & guidance for companies.
- [Intl. Commission of Jurists](#) (ICJ) welcomed the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's adoption of the [General Comment on state obligations regarding the impact of the business sector on children's rights](#). *"The Committee on the Rights of the Child has taken a decisive step in clarifying standards under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and providing much needed guidance for States to better protect the rights of the child against business abuse"*, said Carlos Lopez, ICJ's Senior Legal Adviser on Business and Human Rights. [Nadia Bernaz from Middlesex University](#) discussed the link between the General Comment and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights by highlighting its use of related concepts and terminology.
- [Videos from the World Child & Youth Forum](#) are now available. They include comments from key speakers including: Fredrik Reinfeldt, Prime Minister of Sweden; Jasmine Whitbread, CEO, Save the Children Intl., Howard Taylor, VP, Nike Foundation; Paulette Cohen, VP, Barclays; Georg Kell, Executive Director, UN Global Compact; Christopher Avery, Director, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre. See contribution iii on page 2 of this bulletin for further details on the Forum.
- Children's rights organizations around the world organised campaigns and lobbying activities to raise awareness about concerns surrounding working children on 12 June, ILO's World Day Against Child Labour. See selected media coverage of the day [here](#).
- A [new book](#) warns parents about businesses that value profits over the health of children and mothers. A review says: *"In The Business of Baby, Margulis shows that physicians, hospitals, baby-food manufacturers, diaper suppliers and others regularly place financial profits above healthy children and at-risk mothers."*
- *"Business has a catalyst role to play in tackling social issues"*, says Aviva's corporate responsibility director. Aviva is currently evaluating the impacts of its [Street to Schools programme](#) facilitating street children's access to education.
- [Gucci launched a global campaign to raise awareness and funds for girls' and women's empowerment](#) in education, health and justice. *"Chime for Change is a pivotal moment for mobilising public opinion in support of the 32m young girls still not in primary school, and the tens of millions of adolescent girls who do not receive the opportunity of secondary*

education”, said Gordon Brown, UN Special Envoy for Global Education. Ticket sales from the [campaign’s London concert](#) in June were donated to women's and girl's empowerment projects.

Africa

- **Burundi:** Poverty, difficulties in the education system and weak protective legislation explain the [widespread phenomenon of child labour](#) in the country according to Jacques Nshimirimana, a representative from a local NGO. He urged journalists to help raise awareness and inform the public about the issue. (only in French / en français)
- **Côte d’Ivoire/Ghana:** An amicus curiae brief says [Hershey’s should provide child labour records of cocoa farms in Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire in US lawsuit over company’s practices](#). Louisiana Municipal Police Employees’ Retirement System sued the company last year claiming that Hershey’s put the investor’s reputation at risk by using child labour. Hershey’s says it has a “*long history of supporting children*” and has also engaged in other initiatives including expanding its [Cocoalink Mobile Technology Programme](#) to “*promote safe farming practices based on national child labour laws*” and improve farmers’ livelihoods.
- **Dem. Rep. of Congo:** World Vision published a [report based on interviews with child miners](#) in southern Katanga province revealing extremely dangerous labour conditions. The report discussed the role of private companies in improving conditions and eliminating child labour in artisanal mines. The local government has invited artisanal miners to join cooperatives in an effort to [help children return to school](#). (also in French / en français)
- **Mali:** Government officials are contesting Human Rights Watch’s research on the [prevalence of child labour in gold mines](#). “*The authorities in Mali should publicly renew their commitment to help children leave work in mining and get an education instead*”, said Human Rights Watch’s deputy program director. (also in French / en français)
- **Nigeria:** Oil spills at Agip (part of Eni) facilities have caused [illness, death and environmental damage in local community](#) according to NGOs. A group of local women says, “[W]e the women from Letugbene community... who [lost three kids after drinking polluted water from an oil rig](#) operated by Agip oil firm in the state have decided to disrupt the activities of the company with a protest to express our anger for the injustice they have suffered from the company.” Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited Eni to respond – response available [here](#).

Americas

- **Argentina:** In March, the Argentine Senate approved the [penalisation of the use of child labour](#) by imprisonment, setting a precedent in the region. The Ministry of Labour filed its [first official criminal complaint](#) against a business under the new law in June. (only in Spanish / en español)
- **Argentina:** Chemical company [Borax \(part of Grupo Orocobre\) and its suppliers have committed not to use child labour](#) and to promote children’s well-being.
- **Brazil:** Social business PUPA joined Business Call to Action and [committed to providing access to early education to 500,000 children](#) by 2017.
- **Ecuador:** [Four children working at an artisanal mine died in a landslide](#). A representative from the national mining company said child labour in the mining sector is widespread and suggested that registering informal mines could alleviate the problem. (only in Spanish / en español)
- **USA:** A federal appeals court [upheld former judge’s conviction in kids-for-cash scandal](#) as he serves 28-year prison sentence. The lawsuits, which involve 4000 plaintiffs claiming that corrupt judges made money sending children to private detention centres in Pennsylvania, were [combined into a class action lawsuit](#) in May. (see our case profile [here](#))

Asia & Pacific

- **Afghanistan:** The social, economic and cultural environment resulting from war makes children increasingly vulnerable to being [trafficked into forced labour and prostitution](#). Furthermore, private military and security companies – and warlords who own them – have been reported to be involved in sexual violence against children, especially boys.
- **Bangladesh:** [A video report on shipbreaking yards](#) shows children working in extremely hazardous conditions. *“These are kids...doing back-breaking jobs. They are in real danger - huge bits of scrap metal falling around them. They could get hurt, they could get killed. And they are doing it day in and day out”*.
- **China:** [14-year-old worker was found dead at Yinchuan Electronics factory owned by 3CEMS](#). He was reportedly sent to the factory by a recruitment company using false identification. Yinchuan Electronics/3CEMS apologised for letting the recruitment company employ the underage worker to work in the factory. The factory is willing to bear the responsibility of the boy’s death and accept the penalties that relevant government departments may impose. (Company comments from Chinese-language article - unofficial summary translation by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre available [here](#)).
- **India:** [Young girls in South Asia continue to be exploited by sex tourism, trafficking and pornography](#). NGOs report increased levels of exploitation and violence. According to activists, an understanding of the girls’ needs is a basic step to implement effective legal protections. *“When people tell me that women choose this life, I can’t help but laugh. Do they know how many women like me have tried to escape, but have been beaten black and blue when they are caught? To the men who buy us, we are like meat. To everybody else in society, we simply do not exist”*, says a former victim of sex trafficking.
- **India:** Muslim clients increasingly [use illegal "contract marriages" to engage in sex tourism](#). According to girls’ reports, clients have included businessmen such as a Sudanese oil company executive.
- **Pakistan:** Fashion designer Aamna Aqeel’s [“Be my Slave” photo shoot received international backlash for alleged racism and use of child labour theme](#) to gain publicity. The designer refuted allegations and said she aimed to highlight a social problem.
- **Philippines:** [A 14-year-old boy, who had reportedly been complaining about working on a rubber plantation, hanged himself following several earlier suicide attempts](#). *“He had repeatedly told his grandmother that he was already tired of working as a rubber tapper”*, said the Chief Inspector. According to the National Statistics Office, there are [5.5 million child labourers in the Philippines](#).

Europe & Central Asia

- **United Kingdom:** [Google and Internet service providers are urged to do more to block child abuse images](#) in wake of a trial for the murder of a five-year old girl. Google has announced further plans to tackle the issue, including a [\\$2 million Child Protection Technology Fund](#).
- **Uzbekistan:** The Uzbek Government continues to be under pressure to address child and forced labour in its cotton harvests. Recently, an open letter [called on the European Commission](#) to encourage change through trade policy. Campaigners have also [urged the US to downgrade Uzbekistan](#) for forced and child labour in a State Department report. Other efforts to increase awareness about the issue include a [new computer game](#) giving users a virtual look and feel into labour conditions in Uzbek cotton fields.

Middle East & North Africa

- **Israel:** NGOs say [domestic violence perpetrated by security guards using work-issued weapons](#) has risen. This violence is either directed at children themselves or at their

mothers – often with children overlooking as witnesses. Galia Wallach, the head of a women’s organization, calls on security companies to accept responsibility *“for all of the children left as orphans because of the failure to enforce guidelines”*.

- **Jordan:** [Many Syrian children fleeing civil war are forced into child labour in Jordan](#), vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse. UNICEF representative Amman Samir Badran says: *“We are working closely with officials from the Jordanian labor and social development ministries on the issue...Our concern is that children are working under difficult conditions that could be very risky for them”*. The International Labour Organization recently [launched a project aiming to combat child labour](#) through establishing a monitoring system and advocating for mainstreaming child labour concerns into national policy.
- [“Child rights in the Gulf: multinationals need to step up their CSR efforts”](#): Commentary on the fact that business impacts on children and the environment often go ignored, and ways that companies can build trust and their reputations through programmes for young people. Companies including Carrefour, Citi, Deloitte, ExxonMobil, Henkel, HSBC and Qatar Petroleum are engaged in programmes educating children on subjects such as sustainability and financial literacy.