



**Issue 1: Quarterly Bulletin on Business & Children
Mar 2012**

Welcome to this first 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 sign up. And if you would like to contribute to future issues let us know. To sign up or to contribute an entry contact: Annabel Short [short \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:short(at)business-humanrights.org) (Program Director, based in New York).

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1. Forthcoming activities

i. Committee on the Rights of the Child

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child – established by the Convention on the Rights of the Child to monitor compliance with its provisions – is preparing a General Comment on “The Rights of the Child and the Business Sector.” The General Comment aims at supporting states’ improved compliance with the Convention by providing clarification and guidance for state action in relation to business operations to ensure businesses positively contribute to the realisation of the rights of the child and respect those rights. States should also take preventive steps and establish a system of effective remedies when violations occur. The Committee will conduct a broad-based consultation during 2012 with a view to adopting a final text of the General Comment by January 2013. [Further details about this General Comment here.](#)

→ Contributed by: Marta Maurás, member, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child [martamauras \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:martamauras@gmail.com); Kevin Koh, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights [kkoh \(at\) ohchr.org](mailto:kkoh@ohchr.org); Carlos Lopez, International Commission of Jurists [carlos.lopez \(at\) icj.org](mailto:carlos.lopez@icj.org)

ii. Children's Rights and Business Principles Initiative

UNICEF, Save the Children and the UN Global Compact will launch "Children's Rights and Business Principles" on 12 March 2012 in London. The Children's Rights and Business Principles will be the first comprehensive set of principles to guide companies on the full range of actions they can take in the workplace, marketplace and community to respect and support children's rights. For further information, see the [official announcement](#).

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

iii. ECPAT International

On 10 March 2012 in Berlin, The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism will hold its "Annual General Meeting". For more information, please visit www.thecode.org or contact Andreas Astrup, [andreas.astrup \(at\) thecode.org](mailto:andreas.astrup@thecode.org).

On 29 March 2012 in Bangkok, ECPAT International and The Body Shop will hold the finale event for the global "Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People" campaign at the Foreign Correspondents Club. For more information, please visit www.ecpat.net or contact Patchareeboon Sakulpitakphon (Mam), [patchareeboons \(at\) ecpat.net](mailto:patchareeboons@ecpat.net).

→ Contributed by Ms. Patchareeboon Sakulpitakphon (Mam), Programme Officer for Combating Child Trafficking and Child Sex Tourism, ECPAT International, [patchareeboons \(at\) ecpat.net](mailto:patchareeboons@ecpat.net)

iv. ECPAT-USA

ECPAT-USA is seeing a consumer-driven trend, in which travelers booking large conferences and events are asking hotel management about their human trafficking policies and recommending companies sign the Tourism Child Protection Code of Conduct. If hotels refuse, they book with companies that are willing to address their concerns and sign the Code. With this growing pressure in the United States, we expect increasing numbers of signatories and in response are putting together a hotel staff training, that we will launch in the next few months.

→ Contributed by Michelle Guelbart, Private Sector Project Coordinator, ECPAT-USA [michelle \(at\) ecpatusa.org](mailto:michelle@ecpatusa.org)

v. Stop Child Labour – School is the best place to work

Child labour in hazelnut production

For more than a year now the campaign "Stop Child Labour – School is the best place to work" has been working on tackling child labour in hazelnut production in Turkey. A number of large multinationals are involved. Together with industry we are planning to have a Round Table on the issue in a few months. The [Stop Child Labour website has further information](#).

Toolkit on child labour-free procurement

"Stop Child Labour" is working on a toolkit on child labour-free procurement to be linked to various ongoing efforts on fair public procurement. For the development of the toolkit SCL will work together with the Child Labour Platform. We welcome your experiences in this field. For more information contact Leonie Blokhuis, [l.blokhuis \(at\) hivos.nl](mailto:l.blokhuis@hivos.nl)

Child Labour Benchmark – CSR Initiatives and Labels

The objectives of this project are:

- To analyse and identify differences, strengths and weaknesses for child labour policies and practices of 10 selected CSR labels and (sectoral/company) CSR initiatives;
- To provide the Stop Child Labour campaign with information and recommendations in order to facilitate lobbying and advocacy activities.

For more information contact Leonie Blokhuis, [l.blokhuis \(at\) hivos.nl](mailto:l.blokhuis@hivos.nl)

→ Contributed by Gerard Oonk, Director, India Committee of the Netherlands and Senior Advisor to the Stop Child Labour campaign, [g.oonk \(at\) indianet.nl](mailto:g.oonk@indianet.nl)

vi. CRIN (Child Rights International Network)

Child Rights International Network (CRIN), a global information and advocacy network, continues to cover the way business impacts children's rights. In a recent [newsletter on children and the law](#), we looked at [pharmaceutical testing](#) on children, children's right to a [clean environment](#), and changes in the law that might make it more difficult for children to [access justice](#) when their rights have been violated.

In addition, CRIN has closely [monitored](#) the drafting of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including submitting a [statement](#) and assessing the [children's rights credentials](#) of the Working Group candidates in the nomination procedure. We continue to encourage advocates to engage in the process to ensure children's rights are firmly on the agenda. Follow our coverage of children's rights and business in our [CRINMAILs](#) (you can also subscribe [here](#)).

→ Contributed by Ed Renshaw, Child Rights Officer, CRIN [ed \(at\) crin.org](mailto:ed@crin.org)

vii. World Childhood Foundation

World Childhood foundation has been supporting the “Work skills program” for young people living at Atsigretzk in Vaikus, a children’s home in Vilnius, Lithuania. The aim of the project is to prepare children living at the institution for an independent life, by increasing their skills to get a job and the motivation to study. Radisson Hotels have from the beginning been involved in offering work experience. Thanks to the successful outcome of this project, Atsigretzk in Vaikus has been granted more resources for the same purpose, where Radisson Hotels will take on an even more active role (by for instance taking on 9 young people from the children’s home aged 16-24 years as trainees.)

www.childhood.org

→ Contributed by Anna De Geer, Deputy Secretary General, World Childhood Foundation, [anna.de.geer \(at\) childhood.org](mailto:anna.de.geer@childhood.org)

viii. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

The Resource Centre will continue to add new cases every week to its “[Children and Business Portal](#)”, launched in 2011. The aim is to highlight positive initiatives by business, allegations of abuses, and guidance material. We welcome suggested additions from all regions.

→ Contributed by Annabel Short, Program Director, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, [short \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:short@business-humanrights.org)

2. Recent developments

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

Argentina: [Court fines GlaxoSmithKline](#) \$230,000 after 14 babies die during vaccine trials – company appeals (Al Jazeera)

China: Govt. plans to [extend paid maternity leave](#) making it compliant with ILO standards (Bloomberg)

Haiti: Abbott Laboratories and the NGO Partners in Health [work to fight child hunger in Haiti](#) – new facility will produce Nourimanba, a therapeutic food for severely malnourished children (World Economic Forum / Abbott Laboratories)

New Zealand: [Motel & property manager jailed](#) for three years for organizing “child sex tour” to Thailand

Nigeria: [Human Rights Watch reports](#) that children working in gold mining suffer illness, death from widespread lead poisoning

USA: Agricultural groups [criticise proposed child labour rules](#) for "negatively impacting family farms", NGOs say rules would help 400,000 children who work on non-family farms: the regulations help prevent farm workers 16 and under from using certain machinery, harvesting certain crops like tobacco (AllGov, USA)

West Africa: [Interview with Nick Weatherill](#), Executive Director of the International Cocoa Initiative, about tackling child labour on cocoa plantations in West Africa, and statements by Barry-Callebaut, Blommer, Chocosuisse, Ferrero, Hershey, Kraft-Cadbury, Mars, Nestlé (CNN)

West Bank, Occupied territories: [Pollution from unauthorised Israeli factories](#) in city of Tulkarem harming children's health, say residents - Israelis living nearby lodge complaint demanding factories' closure (Gulf News)