

# Organizations

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## Free The Children

Free The Children is a very unique organization, because it was started by Craig Kielburger, who was only 12 at the time of founding. After reading a newspaper article about child labor and another 12 year old across the world who was murdered for his activism, Craig gather his friends, and started FTC. FTC's actions are voted upon solely by its members who are under 18, with support from volunteer accountants and lawyers. Members over 18 act as mentors, for the younger groups trying to support leadership development. Although based in Canada they are working to free the world from child labor. They have become active in over 20 countries with more than 100,000 children members. They are not just working against child labor, but poverty, exploitation, and abuse of children. Due to the fact that they are a child run organization, many of their work occurs at local levels, but they have had many success in the international and national government levels as well. The FTC only gets minimal support from adults, in organizational, accounting, and legal avenues, while maintaining a child run policy body. They are funded through adult donations, awards, and fund-raising activities by children. Kielburger has written a book about his experiences with child labor in South Asia in order to educate the world and help fund FTC. The FTC works to build rehabilitation centers, schools, and peace centers. They also work to find alternative incomes for families in poverty as well as providing health kits for poor schools. The FTC's strategies and successes are covered in the [strategies](#) section.



## International Labour Organization

The ILO runs the International Program on the Elimination of Child Laborers, that works against child labor starting at the highest levels in government. The ILO as a whole brings together governments, businesses, and workers to form rights laws and standards. The ILO is one of the few organizations working for international law on children's rights. According to the ILO "by ratifying an ILO Convention, a country becomes bound under international law to give effect to its provisions in national law and practice," the ILO holds its members to the 'contract' through regular reporting and input from workers and employers on all levels. The "Ratification Campaign" is the IPEC's campaign for a child labor convention to be ratified in over 175 countries across the world. The IPEC is a 90 country alliance supporting the convention. Unlike the FTC the ILO is not a typical social movement, it is working to strengthen the institutional mechanisms and empower the governments and their agencies to stop child labor. Many countries already have laws in place but enforcement is difficult or the law is not enforced at all; most countries have a small fine they impose, that large corporations can easily deal with. They also work to prevent child labor, improve working conditions, provide economic alternatives, and withdraw children from the work force. They're multifaceted [strategies](#) are very different from most movements.

Please ...

## Global March Against Child Labor

Much closer to a 'traditional' social movement, the Global March is tied to the ILO Convention 182 ratification. This is the newest specific convention against child labor promoted by the ILO and IPEC. The Global March is an independent organization from the ILO. Their site has contacts for government officials so that you can contact them to pressure them into ratifying Convention 182. They had a march scheduled for New York City, that has been rescheduled since Sept. 11th. They are an international organization that uses public attention and education and their primary form of strategy. The Global March has organized various facts and information about the Convention and current child labor. They also run a *Child Labor News Service* to keep people informed on new issues, in the business and government world. Due to their common goal and their strategies are apparent and not discussed further.

### **National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health**

Slightly different from most movements, NIOSH is working to prevent injuries and deaths from adolescents in the work force in the United States. According to NIOSH approximately 70 youth workers under the age of 18 die each year from work-related accidents and injuries. Although studies have shown a small amount of work for adolescents can improve various aspects of their life from psychological to social, NIOSH is working to report and maintain security and prevent accidents within the workplace. By making the information on injury reported by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics available to the public and identifying the most hazardous jobs, they hope to raise public awareness and prevent more incidents. According to NIOSH of the deaths that occur 70% of them are violations of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) laws, therefore, they are working to increase public awareness of these laws as well as how to report violations. They offer advice as to how you can follow and check these laws in various avenues of life from employers, to educators, to parents, and even as an adolescent. NIOSH is not necessarily a 'classic' social movement, but more of an institution based in educating and preventing that is grounded in common public concern. This is made apparent by their location on the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) website.



### **UNICEF**

UNICEF is the United Nations Children's Fund, that although an arm of the UN has its own policy making body. UNICEF is a fund raising organization for children that works with 161 countries. UNICEF works with nation's governments to improve children's situations. The number one cause of child labor is poverty, and UNICEF works to relieve that. They work to respond to emergencies, help developing countries set up policies for children, and enforce children's rights. On November 20, 1989 the Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted as an international human rights treaty, through the input of ten years of development, and societies and cultures that span the world. One of their main goals is to enforce the Convention and place sanctions on countries that break them. There is still a problem with the fact that there is no international court system, and enforcement is often difficult in smaller developing countries, or very large industrial countries.

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### **Other Groups to Consider:**

- US Department of Labor
- Amnesty International
- Stolen Dreams
- Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN)
- Fisek Institute
- Rugmark Foundation
- [Our Links Section](#)

More information and the sources for this site are linked to as the heading for each of the sections as well as in the bibliography.

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