

# What Do We Want?

**Aim:** to explore alternatives to the exploitation of children for work.

**Age:** All

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Materials:** “I agree” and “I disagree” posters, flipchart and markers, ‘What We Want’ handouts for each group or each person, blu-tack or sellotape.



## What to do

Begin with the following moving debate. Place posters saying “I agree” and “I disagree” on opposite sides of the room. Read out a statement and participants move towards the relevant poster. The following are suggested statements:

- All forms of work done by children should be banned.
- You cannot end child labour until you eliminate poverty.
- We should boycott products if we suspect that child labour was involved in their production.
- Child labour is justified because families need everyone to work in order to survive.
- I can make a positive contribution to ending child labour.

Read out the general instructions. Break into small groups. Each group discusses tackling child labour at a local, national or international level, before feeding back to the large group. Nominate each group local, national or international. Hand out copies of the ‘What We Want’ list to each group or each person.

## Discussion Suggestions

- What similarities or differences were there between what the groups outlined and what the group of child workers in India listed?
- Which of the actions could we support?
- What steps do we need to take?

## General Instructions

You have been asked by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to design a charter establishing the rights of child workers at a local, national and international level. The charter should contain at least five statements that highlight how the problem of child labour can be tackled. Each statement should begin, we want ...

Issues that could be considered include:

- working conditions
- leisure
- money
- health and other rights

## What the Children Want

**We** want recognition of our problems, our initiatives, proposals and our process of organisation.

**We** want respect and security for ourselves and the work that we do.

**We** want an education system whose methodology and content are adapted to our reality.

**We** want to be consulted on all decisions concerning us at a local, national and international level.

**We** want the root causes of our situation, primarily poverty, to be addressed and tackled.

**We** are against exploitation at work but we are in favour of work with dignity and appropriate hours, so that we have time for education and leisure.

This list was taken from The Kundapur Declaration, drawn up at the International Meeting of Working Children, India, in 1996.

Source: Anti-Slavery international, UK. Child labour fact sheet.

