



Fair Trade Principles and Jewish Values

Fair Trade Value

Jewish Value

Jewish Text

Provide Fair and Timely Wages

Linat Sachar - Pay wages in a timely manner

You shall not abuse a needy or destitute laborer, whether a fellow countryman or a stranger in one of the communities of your land. You must pay his wages on the same day, before the sun sets, for his needs and his life depend on it. *Deuteronomy 24:14-15*

Ona'ah – Do not deceive or defraud

It is forbidden to cheat people in buying or selling or to deceive them, whether they are Jewish or gentile – they are equal in measure. *Rambam, Mishneh Torah, Hilchot Mechirah 18:1*

Osek – Prohibition to oppress workers

Whoever withholds an employee's wages, it is as though he had taken the person's life from him. *Talmud, Baba Mezia 112A*

Prohibit Child Labor and Support Gender Equity

Tzelem Elohim – Sanctity of all humans, as we're made in the Divine image

Beloved is all humankind for they were made B'tzelem Elohim (in the image of Gd). Doubly beloved are they, for they were told that they were made in the image of Gd. As it says: "In the image of Gd was humankind made." *Mishnah, Pirkei Avot 3:14*

Ahavat Ger - Love the Stranger as Yourself

Gd upholds the cause of the orphan and the widow, and befriends the stranger, providing him/her with food and clothing. -- You too must befriend the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. *Genesis 9:6; Deuteronomy 10:18-19*

Right to Education

The breath of school children is the reason for the world's existence. *Maimonides, The Laws of Torah Study, 2:1*

Provide Healthy and Safe Working Conditions

Ma'akeh Le-gagechah – Mitzvah to protect people from deteriorating housing

It is a positive commandment to eliminate every hazard that endangers life... If one did not eliminate it, but preserved the hazards that cause danger, one has overlooked a positive commandment and transgressed "you shall not bring blood-guilt into your house." *Shulchan Aruch, Choshen Mishpat, (427:8)*

When you build a new house, you shall make a parapet for your roof, so that you do not bring bloodguilt on your house if anyone should fall from it. *Deuteronomy 22:8*

Preserve and Respect Cultural Identity

Umot ha-Olam – Respect for Other nations

A gem in the mouths of the Rabbis of Yavneh: I am Gd's creature and my fellow is Gd's creature. My work is in the city and their work is in the field. I rise early for my work and they rise early for their work. Just as they do not presume to do my work, so I do not presume to do their work. Will you say, I do (learn) much and they do (learn) little? We have a tradition: One may do much or one may do little; it is all the same, provided one directs one's heart to heaven. *Talmud, Brachot 17a*

Come and learn. Human dignity is so important that it supersedes even a Biblical prohibition. *Talmud, Brachot, 19b*



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Cultivate Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability

Bal Tashchit - Do Not Waste or Destroy

When Gd created the first human beings, Gd led them around all the trees of the Garden of Eden and said: "Look at My works! See how beautiful they are—how excellent! For your sake I created them all. See to it that you do not spoil and destroy My world; for if you do, there will be no one else to repair it." [Translation by AJWS] *Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:13*

Whoever breaks vessels, or tears garments, or destroys a building, or clogs a well, or does away with food in a destructive manner violates the negative mitzvah of Bal Tashchit. *Rambam, Hilkhot Melakhim 6:10*

L'Avda U'Ishamra – Till and Protect the land

Gd placed Adam in the Garden of Eden to till it and tend it. *Genesis 2:15*

Support Community Development & Sustainability

Tzedakah – Obligation for Righteous Giving

The highest level of tzedakah is when you support someone by giving them a gift, or a loan, or enter into a partnership with them, or create a job so that they can support themselves until they no longer need to depend upon others. *Maimonides, Mishneh Torah 10:7-1*

Do not let your fellow slip down until they fall completely, for then it will be difficult to raise them; rather, strengthen your fellow as they begin to fall. To what is this comparable? To a burden upon a donkey. While it is still on the donkey, one person can hold it and set it in place. If it falls to the earth, even five people cannot set it back. *Rashi, Leviticus 25:35 (cf. Torat Kohanim, Sifre Behar, Chapter 5)*

Support Organizational Integrity and Transparency

Ona'at Mamom – Do not deceive

When you sell anything to your neighbor or buy anything from your neighbor, you shall not deceive one another. *Leviticus 25:14*

He who takes up the heave offering went in neither wearing a sleeved cloak, nor shoes, sandals, phylacteries, nor an amulet-lest he lose all his money and people say: because a transgression against the chamber did he lose his money, or lest he get rich, and people say about him "from the heave offering of the chamber did he get rich." For a person must give no cause for suspicion to other people, just as he must give no cause for suspicion for Gd, as it is said And be guiltless towards the Lord and towards Israel (*Num.32:22*) And so it says, So shall you find favor and good understanding in the sight of Gd and humanity (*Prov. 3:4*). *Mishna Sheqalim 3:2*



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