



10 Plagues of (Non) Fair Trade Chocolate

FORCED OR CHILD LABOR INVOLVED

Fair Trade sites are monitored to assure that there is no forced or child labor involved with production.

LOW WAGES, OFTEN PAID LATE

Wage is equitable, freely negotiated, mutually agreed upon, and presumes the payment of the "local living wage."

UNFAIR INTEREST PAYMENTS

Interest rates (for pre-purchase of raw materials) may not be higher than the buyers' cost of borrowing from third parties; charging interest is not required.

CONTINUED POVERTY

Fair trade's goal is to move small scale artisans and farmers from income insecurity and poverty to economic self-sufficiency and ownership.

WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION

All workers are treated the same regardless of race, caste, national origin, religion, disability, gender, sexual orientation, union membership, marital or health status.

UNSAFE WORKING CONDITIONS

No hazardous chemicals are allowed, and working conditions comply with local, national, and international labor conventions.

GENDER INEQUALITY

There is no discrimination allowed in hiring, remuneration, access to training, promotion, termination or retirement.

CULTURAL DISRESPECT

There is no use of cultural designs without permission, appropriate recognition, and proper payment.

NO FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

Employees have right to form and join trade unions and bargain collectively, even when these rights are restricted by law and or political environment

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Products used are non-toxic and reduce harm to the environment, and are created from new sources rather than upcycled from available materials.