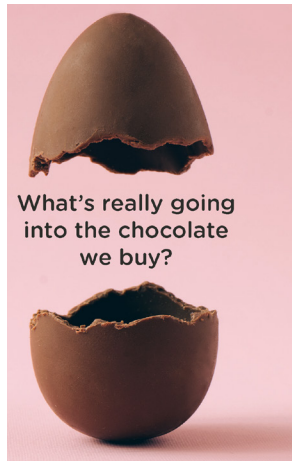


USE YOUR BUYING POWER TO END SLAVERY

Do you enjoy all those yummy treats at Easter? Are you buying chocolate for the kids? (Or even for yourself?) Have you thought about where these treats come from? And who makes them? Are you thinking about slave labor and child exploitation?



Every person has the right to be free from slavery. This is enshrined in international law. Nevertheless, modern slavery practices persist. The United Nations estimates that over 40 million people are trapped in modern slavery globally. Modern slavery can occur in every country, industry and sector. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by modern slavery and account for over 70 per cent of victims and survivors globally. One in four are children.

In Australia, there are laws in place to protect children in the workplace. During a school week a school-aged child can work a maximum of 12 hours. During a non-school week a school-aged child can work a maximum of 38 hours.

This is not the case in every country. 75% of the world's cocoa is grown in West Africa. A 2020 report found that in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire alone, 1.48 million children were exposed to at least one component of hazardous child labour in cocoa production. It's an issue not exclusive to chocolate. There has been a reported increase in child labour in Africa while it has decreased in the rest of the world. According to Be Slavery Free, sustainability claims of chocolate companies "cannot necessarily be trusted", with only 11 per cent of firms being able to fully trace where their cocoa comes from.

Read more at www.beslaveryfree.com/chocolate to see which products have been ranked as ethically superior above all the rest, according to the official "chocolate scorecard".

It is important for members to call on Government to ensure businesses respect human rights, identify and address modern slavery risks in their global operations and supply chains, and comply with their obligations under the Modern Slavery Act. Businesses can help create fairer and safer supply chains that are free from exploitation. We can remind consumers to support businesses that do the right thing.

Everyone has a role to play. Take the time to check that you're buying ethically produced items. Look for these logos. Not only at Easter, but any time you shop. Buy chocolates that are certified slavery free and ask your supermarket to stock only products that are slavery free.

Susan Skowronski
AMUA Social Issues and Action Coordinator



GOOD EGG AWARD

Original Beans for their regenerative approach to growing and making chocolate

Tony's Chocolonely for seeking to bring structural change to the entire cocoa sector through collaboration



ROTTEN EGG AWARD

The Rotten Egg Award goes to **General Mills** and **Walmart** for their lack of public policies and commitment for their cocoa procurement. A general lack of transparency in implementing their policies makes it difficult to hold them accountable.

