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Creating a Better World

World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout
Всемирная Организация Скаутского Движения
Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

**World Scout Bureau, Central Office
Bureau Mondial du Scoutisme, Siège**

Rue du Pré-Jérôme 5
P.O. Box 91
1211 Geneva 4 Plainpalais
SWITZERLAND

Phone (+41 22) 705 10 10
Fax (+41 22) 705 10 20
Email worldbureau@scout.org
Web scout.org

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To: International Commissioners

April 2008

The World Day Against Child Labour, 12 June 2008

Dear Colleagues,

I write this message in preface to a joint letter from the International Labour Organization's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO/IPEC) and WOSM, which contains information relating to specific resources to introduce youth to child labour issues.

Both ILO/IPEC and WOSM are committed to promoting social justice and human rights based education programmes.

The joint letter continues the partnership between ILO and WOSM, which was officially initiated in 2004 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding acknowledging our mutual commitment and co-operation in the eradication of child labour. Currently, WOSM and ILO/IPEC are collaborating in several countries and activities have also taken place at the regional level.

A great deal has been achieved since the partnership started, but there is still a lot more to be done. I would like to encourage you to continue working in the the collaboration between WOSM and ILO with the aim of eliminating child labour by participating in the World Day Against Child Labour. It will be held on 12 June 2008 and will focus this year particularly on "Education: the right response to child labour."

The elimination of child labour is vital for making the world a better place. Please do take part in World Day Against Child Labour activities to combat this serious global concern.

In partnership with ILO, Scouting must do its part to combat child labour.

Sincerely yours,

Luc Panissod
Acting Secretary General



International
Labour
Organization



The World Day Against Child Labour 2008

Dear Colleagues,

The partnership between the International Labour Organization (ILO) and World Scouting was formalised in 2004 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Since then, the partnership has developed on several fronts. The joint initiatives and events at the international level offered opportunities to reinforce the shared commitment in promoting social justice and human rights based educational programmes. At the national and local level, an increasing number of joint initiatives between National Scout Organizations (NSOs) and ILO Field Offices have been developed within the framework of the SCREAM – Supporting Children’s Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media – programme (www.ilo.org/scream). As the partnership moves into a new phase with the renewal of the MoU this year, the aim is to begin regional planning to strengthen our partnership at local level in 'Reaching Out' in relation to child labour and children at risk.

The World Day Against Child Labour provides an ideal opportunity to plan an event or launch a broader initiative to sensitise scouts to the issue of child labour and children’s rights and to empower them to take action. The theme of this year’s World Day is “Education: the right response to child labour.” On June 12, this message will unite children, young people and adults around the world in solidarity with the millions of boys and girls who are forced to work and denied the right to education. The aim is to draw attention to the important role of education – both formal and non-formal – in the fight against child labour. Scouting is one of the most influential and far-reaching forms of non-formal education world-wide, and this World Day provides a unique occasion to demonstrate the important role that it can play in tackling one of the most serious violations of children’s rights – child labour.

As we approach the World Day, we encourage both WOSM (NSOs) and ILO/IPEC staff (Field Offices) to meet and discuss potential activities to raise awareness on child labour and the importance of education. We would be grateful if you could disseminate this message effectively. The ILO has developed a number of activities for the joint brochure for teachers and educators (including Scout Leaders) with 'Education International', a Global Union Federation, promoting rights of teachers and students. This brochure can be downloaded from the World Day 2008 section of the ILO website:
<http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/WDACL/2008/lang--en/index.htm>.

These activities, which are based on the SCREAM methodology, can be used to introduce scouts to the problem of child labour and develop ideas for action. We encourage National Scout Organizations to adapt the activities to be used at the local level so as to involve as many children and young people as possible. Please remember to send details of activities conducted to scream@ilo.org and worldbureau@scout.org so that we can disseminate this on our respective websites and by so doing, encourage others to take action. We also encourage you to upload information on the 12 to 12 Community Portal on Child Labour (www.12to12.org).

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the recent launch of a new SCREAM Special Module on HIV, AIDS and child labour which aims to provide young people with important information and skills to take action in their communities. This special module can be downloaded, in English, from the ILO website:
<http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/viewProduct.do?productId=6884>.
The French, Spanish and Swahili versions will soon be available.

We appreciate all your efforts in combating child labour and promoting education which helps to make a real difference in the lives of children.

Michele Jankanish
Director
International Programme on
the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)

Luc Panissod
Acting Secretary General
World Organization of the
Scout Movement