



## How does buying Fair Trade fight Human Trafficking?

This may be a question you are asking whether you are already a committed buyer of Fair Trade products, or even if you have not bought into the Fair Trade idea yet. Maybe this correlation will stir and motivate you to begin buying Fair Trade and be an advocate for ethically produced products. Either way, it is important to understand the far-reaching implications of Fair Trade and how a simple purchase goes a long way towards fighting global systems of injustice and restoring people's lives to reflect the life-giving Kingdom of God.

So here is the startling reality about Human Trafficking, also known as Modern Day Slavery. After drug dealing, human trafficking is tied with the illegal arms industry as the second largest criminal industry in the world today, and it is the fastest growing. It is estimated that up **27 million people are currently enslaved** in various forms of sexual and labor exploitation throughout our world, more than at the height of the trans-atlantic slave trade (Kevin Bales, [www.freetheslaves.net](http://www.freetheslaves.net)). The U.S. Department of State estimates that approximately **800,000 people—80% of which are female and 50% are children—are trafficked across international borders every year** and an **estimated 14,500-17,500 people are trafficked within the U.S each year.**

According to the 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report, “The movement to stop human trafficking includes significant efforts to address factors that ‘push’ victims into being trafficked, but it also recognizes a **‘pull’ factor as part of the cause...**One key to addressing such demand is raising awareness about the **existence of forced labor in the production of goods...**In the global marketplace for goods, ensuring that complex supply chains are untainted by forced labor is a challenge for both businesses and consumers...**Any successful effort to combat human trafficking must confront not only the supply of trafficked humans, but also the demand for forced labor and commercial sex that fuels it.”**

In regard to fighting Human Trafficking, Good News Goods partners with missional businesses around the globe who are working to...

- Prevent Sex or Labor Trafficking by creating dignified and safe employment for vulnerable populations.
- Alter the market demand for cheaply produced, slave-made goods. A corporation's “race to the bottom” can lead to or result in exploitive and abusive work environments for the most desperate and impoverished people groups.
- Offer rehabilitation, life & soft job skills, hope, and healing for survivors by earning a living-wage in a safe environment, as well as often times providing shelter, on-site child-care, education, and counseling.

Good News Goods is proud to partner with, *Nightlight*, *StopStart*, *Rahab Bazaar*, *Divine Chocolate*, and many more *producer groups*, all of which are innovative, socially minded, compassionate businesses who work with vulnerable populations and/or rescued victims, giving them dignity, stability, and a chance to start anew. Their work also addresses the various hurdles faced by rescued victims, as they search for ways to support themselves and their families while also protecting themselves from falling back into the same trap. **You can read more about and purchase from our Fair Trade producers at [goodnewsgoods.com](http://goodnewsgoods.com)**

There are many avenues to combat human trafficking, such as raising awareness in your community, voicing your concerns to your local, state, and US representatives, or donating to an anti-trafficking organization. Possibly the easiest and most effective way, however, is to continually **use your consumer power to support abolition with your wallet by purchasing fair trade certified products and gift items made by survivors of human trafficking.**

## How does Good News Goods directly affect victims of the sex-trade?



**StopStart & The Hagar Project** give shelter, food, counseling, medical care, education, craft skills, and much more to women rescued from and vulnerable to the sex trade in Cambodia. Designing and sewing purses and bags gives these women (and some men) a chance to support their families with dignity and respect.

**Nightlight** is located in a neighborhood with a growing sex trade, and their vision is to share the light of the world in both word and deed to those whose lives are blighted by darkness. Producing high-end jewelry gives women a chance to support themselves after escaping the horrors of the sex industry.



The beautiful jewelry of Nightlight tells stories of lives rebuilt and hope restored. Nightlight was launched to provide a sustainable path out of poverty and sexual abuse for Bangkok's young women. They work in the heart of the Nana/Sukhumvit area, which is rife with sexual abuse, trafficking, and extreme poverty. After observing the situation around them, they set a goal to combat the sexual exploitation of Women and Children (Thai and Foreign) in the Nana/Sukhumvit area.

Through life-on-life ministry, NightLight's goal is to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of women in prostitution, their children, and those children brought illegally in Thailand to financially support their families by selling items in the bars and often through sexual exploitation. These goals will be met through building relationships with women and children who work in the sex trade industry along the Nana/Sukhumvit area and by providing a center that offers emergency aid, educational and employment opportunity, emergency child-care, language tutoring, literacy training, and biblical teaching and healing for their community.

**Nightlight's work with these women falls into three basic categories:**

1. Economic/Educational Opportunities: Providing alternatives through job training and education.
2. Lifeskills training: To provide opportunities to train women and children on the risks of working in the sex trade and how to access the help they may need.
3. Public Awareness and Involvement: To educate the public, Thai and foreign (religious and non-religious), of the physical, psychological, legal and economic consequences of prostitution and trafficking and to encourage their involvement in advocacy and follow-up care of the women and children.

***Good News Goods is proud to offer these brave women a chance to connect with women in America. They would love nothing more than for their craft to be an expression of freedom, restoration, and justice.***

## How does Good News Goods prevent forced labor & child labor?



Divine Chocolate is the first farmer-owned chocolate company in the world. They serve as a stark contrast to the slavery and injustice that dominate most of the world's chocolate production. The cocoa beans that make up this chocolate are fairly traded, sustainably farmed, and irresistibly tasty.

The chocolate industry in West Africa is marred by violence, child labor, unfair business and accounting practices, and even slavery. The low prices we see here in America get lower on the backs of over-worked, underpaid, and sometimes child slaves in

countries like Ghana and The Ivory Coast. These two countries farm about 2/3 of the world's cocoa beans, and yet still face crippling poverty every single day. The farmers of Kuapa Kokoo believe that there has to be a better way.

Like all of our partners, Divine Chocolate combines an amazing product with a compelling story. In the early 1990s, a group of farmers frustrated with being cheated at every turn, pooled their resources and formed the Kuapa Kokoo Cooperative. These farmers based their cooperative on fair trade principles, transparency, democracy, efficiency, and equality for women.

In 1998, they formed a publicly traded company, now Divine Chocolate, so that they could directly market their work to the rest of the world. The farmers of Kuapa Kokoo own nearly half of the company, hold seats on the board, and host yearly board meetings in Ghana.

***Good News Goods is proud to be a part of Divine's continued growth, as they bring justice and transparency into a region and industry devoid of either.***

Know that when you purchase Divine Chocolate, you participate in a radically innovative business model, and cast your vote for fairness (and tastiness, don't forget how good these chocolate bars taste).

