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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

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To: International Commissioners

April 2007

The World Day Against Child Labour, 12 June 2007

Dear Colleagues,

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

The joint letter continues the partnership between ILO and WOSM, cemented in 2004 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to acknowledge their commitment and cooperation in the eradication of child labour. Currently, WOSM and ILO/IPEC are collaborating on important projects in Kenya, Egypt, El Salvador, Chile and Jordan. These projects aim to improve the lives of young people through instruction in vocational and life skills. Additionally, WOSM and ILO/IPEC conducted joint seminars to discuss methods for eliminating child labour and empowering youth in society.

Now I ask you to continue the collaboration between WOSM and ILO in working to eliminate child labour, by participating in World Day Against Child Labour. It will be held on 12 June 2007 and will focus particularly on the elimination of child labour in agriculture. The enclosed documents contain important information about the issue and ways Scouts can help.

The elimination of child labour is vital for making the world a better place. Take part in World Day Against Child Labour activities to combat this serious global concern. Read the attached information and visit www.12to12.org to learn more.

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

Sincerely yours,

Eduardo Missoni
Secretary General



International
Labour
Organization



The World Day Against Child Labour 2007

Dear Colleagues,

In view of our common commitment to defending and promoting the rights of children and young people, the partnership between the International Labour Organization (ILO) and World Scouting has continued to grow. An increasing number of joint initiatives between Scouts Organizations and ILO Field and Branch Offices are being developed at the local level, in particular in the framework of the SCREAM – Supporting Children’s Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media – programme (www.ilo.org/scream).

The World Day Against Child Labour (WDAKL) is observed worldwide on 12 June and serves as a catalyst for the growing worldwide movement against child labour. Each year, the WDAKL has a specific focus. In 2007, the main focus of the World Day is to raise awareness and promote activities on the elimination of child labour in agriculture. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that 70% of child labour is found in this sector and the most recent Global Monitoring Report on Education For All indicated that more than 80% of out-of-school children are in rural areas.

As we approach the World Day, we encourage you to think creatively about possible ways in which scouts groups in your area could organise an activity, event or conference in their communities to raise awareness on the problem of child labour. Many young people and adults around the world are committed to mark this day with community-based activities. Two activities designed by the ILO for the Education International “World Day Against Child Labour” brochure can be downloaded from World Day 2007 section of the ILO website: www.ilo.org/ipec or http://scout.org/en/about_scouting/partners/united_nations/ilo. These activities, which are based on the SCREAM methodology, can be used to introduce young people to the problem of child labour in agriculture and develop ideas for action. We encourage you to translate these activities into local languages so as to involve as many children and young people as possible.

On this year’s World Day, a new internet website called “12 to 12” Community Portal on Child Labour is also being launched. The Portal derives its name from 12 June, the World Day Against Child Labour. The aim is to bring together the action taken by committed people working to combat child labour – ranging from international organizations and governments to universities, schools and youth groups – to strengthen the worldwide movement. We encourage scouts to become members of the Portal. They will be able to access the Portal at: www.12to12.org. Once registered, members can upload information regarding any events planned, activities carried out or research conducted. In doing so, they will become part of a global network committed to the elimination of child labour worldwide.

Handwritten signature of Michele Jankanish in black ink.

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

Handwritten signature of Eduardo Missoni in black ink.

Eduardo Missoni
Secretary General
World Organization of the
Scout Movement