



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

Stop Trafficking! Newsletter [www.stopenslavement.org/index.html](http://www.stopenslavement.org/index.html)

# January

## Human Trafficking Awareness Month

### Shopping & Slavery

Consumer purchases are a way to express concern about the plight of those who produce the products and foods we purchase, use and consume. Buying Fair Trade Products is a very concrete way to express solidarity with these people, who enrich us.

#### What is Fair Trade?

Fair Trade is a system of exchange that honors producers, communities, consumers, and the environment.

It is a model for the global economy rooted in people-to-people connections, justice, and sustainability.



**When you make Fair Trade purchases you are supporting:**

#### A Fair Price for Products

For Fair Trade Certified™ products, a base price for the commodity is set by the international Fair Trade Labeling Organization. The price attempts to cover the cost of production and a living wage to cover the basics of food, shelter, clothing, education, and medical care. Importers and retailers are then screened and certified by TransFair USA to ensure that they are paying the Fair Trade price for products. Crafts, apparel and other non-certified products are sold by members of the Fair Trade Federation, businesses committed to the principles of Fair Trade. For these crafts, a living wage is paid in the local context.

#### Investment in People and Communities

Many Fair Trade producer cooperatives and artisan collectives reinvest their revenues into strengthening their businesses and their communities. In addition, for each Fair Trade product sold, the cooperative also receives a set amount of money, the 'social premium', which is invested in community development projects democratically chosen by the cooperative. Examples of projects funded through Fair Trade include the building of health care clinics and schools, starting scholarship funds, building housing and providing leadership training and women's empowerment programs.

#### Environmental Sustainability

Fair Trade farmers and artisans respect the natural habitat and are encouraged to engage in sustainable production methods. Farmers implement integrated crop management and avoid the use of toxic agrochemicals for pest management. Nearly 85% of Fair Trade Certified™ coffee is also organic.

#### Economic Empowerment of Small Scale Producers

Fair Trade supports small scale producers, those at the bottom of the economic ladder or from marginalized communities, that otherwise do not have access to economic mobility. Fair Trade encourages and supports the cooperative system where each producer owns a portion of the business, has equal say in decisions, and enjoys equal returns from the market.

#### Direct Trade

Fair Trade importers purchase from Fair Trade cooperatives as directly as possible, eliminating unnecessary intermediaries and empowering farmers to develop the business capacity necessary to compete in the global marketplace. The certification also secures long-term, stable relationships between producers and importers.

#### Fair Labor Conditions

Workers are guaranteed freedom of association and safe working conditions. Fair Trade also encourages women's participation in and leadership of cooperatives. Human rights and child labor laws are strictly enforced. (<http://www.greenamerica.org/programs/fairtrade/whattoknow/index.cfm>)

Visit these websites to learn more about consumer responsibility:

<http://www.fairtradeusa.org/>

<http://www.fairtradefederation.org/>

<http://www.goodguide.com/>

<http://www.free2work.org/>

