

# Why commit to the ETI Base Code?



[www.ethicaltrade.org](http://www.ethicaltrade.org)



## Employment is freely chosen

Slavery and bonded labour are totally unacceptable. Almost 21 million people are victims of forced labour.



## Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining are respected

Tens of thousands of workers lose their jobs every year for attempting to form or join a trade union or improve working conditions. Some even lose their lives.



## Working conditions are safe and hygienic

An estimated 2.3 million people die every year from work-related accidents and diseases.



## Child labour shall not be used

168 million children work to support their families, missing out on education and often damaging their health. This reinforces the cycle of poverty.



## Living wages are paid

Roughly half the world's population still lives on two dollars a day. If people can't feed their families on an adult's wage, they may send their children to work.



## Working hours are not excessive

Long working hours are the norm for most of the world's workers. This damages people's health and undermines family life.



## No discrimination is practised

Women and certain minorities are often confined to the lowest-paid jobs with no access to training or promotion.



## Regular employment is provided

Most workers can be laid off when it suits the employer. This fuels poverty and insecurity and drives down wages.



## No harsh or inhumane treatment is allowed

Few workers have protection against physical, verbal or sexual abuse in the workplace.