



Graduate Women  
International (GWI)

# Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **GWI Calls for Child-Sensitive Social Protection Systems on World Day Against Child Labour**

**Geneva, Switzerland, 12 June 2024** — This year's World Day against Child Labour, organized by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), focuses on celebrating the 25th anniversary of the adoption of [ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour](#). Graduate Women International (GWI), an international organization with a steadfast commitment to improving women's and girls' rights and access to education, observes this day to raise awareness about the atrocity of child labour that exists around the world, robbing children of their well-being and future opportunities. In alignment with this year's theme "Let's act on our commitments: End Child Labour!" GWI urges States to increase child-sensitive social protection systems and improve access to quality education.

Patrice Wellesley-Cole, GWI President, emphasizes the importance of using education as a tool to combat child labour internationally. "To collectively put a stop to child labour practices worldwide, we must urge governments to implement social protection services to not only halt the abuse that children are suffering but also create and increase opportunities that will empower the world's youth," she says.

[UNICEF and ILO estimated in 2020](#) that 160 million children are involved in child labour, amounting to a jarring 1 in 10 children worldwide. The Covid-19 pandemic, resulting in increased poverty levels in the countries where child labour is the most prevalent, has only created grave obstacles to mitigating child labour and creating steeper barriers for girls to access education. Failure to effectively shift the tide on these unethical and harmful practices will result in a loss of children's fundamental human rights to health, education, and a safe childhood. Adequate policy solutions and widespread advocacy efforts from both the private and public sectors are necessary to improve the livelihoods and futures of children worldwide and eradicate the child labour cycle once and for all. To highlight these issues further, alongside this press release, GWI released an infographic of facts, advocacy ideas, helpful resources, and detailed insights on child labour. Access it [HERE](#).

[Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG\) 8](#) encapsulates the goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour. To support SDG 8, GWI urges States to improve access to quality education, including girls, within these efforts by investing in teacher training and technology implementation to propel future generations out of the poverty cycle. Additionally, GWI advises that States implement sufficient child-sensitive protections to prevent children from being forced into work. Strong advocacy efforts, placing pressure on governments to directly address child labour and gender inequality, will move the global community forward in allowing all individuals the human rights they deserve.

Graduate Women International (GWI) is a membership-based international NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland, with presence in over 60 countries. Founded in 1919, GWI is the leading girls' and women's global organisation advocating for women's rights, equality, and empowerment through access to quality education and training up to the highest levels. GWI is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining Special Partnership with UNESCO and in special relations with the ILO.

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Contributing to this press release is GWI intern, Brooke Leggat.