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# CHALLENGING EVIL

DISCUSSION GUIDE

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## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### FAIR TRADE



Extreme poverty and exploitative trade situations around the world exacerbate already difficult conditions for farmers and producers in developing countries. Sweatshops, human labor trafficking and oppressive and underpaid work conditions are common.

Fair trade is a global campaign promoting another way to do “business,” benefiting the economy, worker and producer in the developing world.

One definition says: “Fairtrade is an alternative approach to conventional trade and is based on a partnership between producers and consumers. Fairtrade offers producers a better deal and improved terms of trade. This allows them the opportunity to improve their lives and plan for their future. Fairtrade offers consumers a powerful way to reduce poverty through their everyday shopping.”

What looks like “free labor”—slave-like conditions for children, men and women—is pervasive in some markets.

In 2000, it was exposed that children were being sold and trafficked into the West Coast of Africa to harvest cocoa beans. Those beans made up 70 percent of the global cocoa market, so every major industry that produced chocolate was implicated in allowing slave-like conditions for their workers in the developing world.

The Salvation Army joined with Stop The Traffik to change the chocolate industry. After two years of direct efforts toward the chocolate industry, Cadbury’s made a global announcement in 2009 that it would embrace

Fair Trade as a way of changing the industry and creating a better world. Mars followed with a commitment to ethical product sourcing for their full range by 2020. Nestle too, has made a step toward changing their production and buying practices.

### **Others: Trade for Hope**

Further, The Salvation Army embarked on demonstrating fair trade principles and micro-credit possibilities to create employment options in the developing world.

The Salvation Army partners with some of the world's poorest people with a way to trade their way out of poverty. The first "Sally Ann" Fair Trade store opened in Oslo, Norway, in June 2003. It was a fairly simple operation, with small consignments from Bangladesh being sourced from production groups linked with Salvation Army projects. The Norwegian team successfully established Sally Ann—which became Others—as a leading fair trade brand in Norway by adding marketing expertise and business acumen to the process.

Peru became the second supplier and a second shop opened in Sweden in September 2006. Other links were soon made and production groups established in Moldova and Kenya. Currently, suppliers are sourced from Chile, Brazil, Ghana and Pakistan to name but a few, with ongoing work in improving and expanding the capacity of existing suppliers.

Read more here: <http://www.newfrontierchronicle.org/others-fair-trade/>

### **Discussion questions:**

1. Are you aware of fair trade?
2. Have you participated in the campaign?
3. Do you buy fairly traded products?
4. How can slaves be used for labor in today's world?
5. How can we be part of a system that uses slave labor and not know?
6. How can we change those realities today?