

# In simple words!

The results of the 4th Global Conference  
on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour  
Buenos Aires - 16th November 2017



#talkaboutchildwork



## Who made this?

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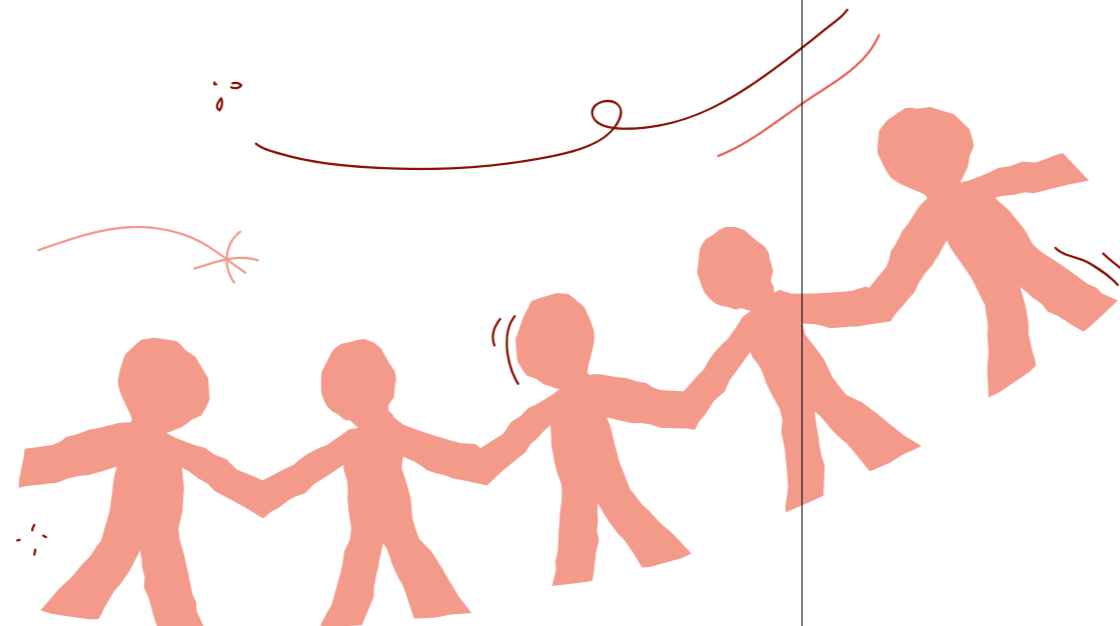
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### More information on the project

[www.time-to-talk.info](http://www.time-to-talk.info)



## What's it all about?

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*Time to Talk!*



Supermaia and Paul travelled the world to talk to as many working children as possible. They asked them about their jobs – what they do, and why and how they work. Using this information, they wrote a report to show people what working children think and want, and to share their ideas. Supermaia and Paul then travelled in Supermaia's superautomobile to an important conference where they told lots of people about the children and about their report.



**What's it all about?**

**Do you know Buenos Aires?**

It's the capital city of Argentina in South America. Last November, people from the ILO – the United Nation's International Labour Organisation – held an important conference here. Employers, trade unionists, politicians and representatives from various non-governmental organisations came together and spent several days talking and sharing ideas about people like you and about the work you do – child work.

**The results of the 4th Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour were written down in a Statement.**

All people in power in the ILO member states can read this Statement. And so can you, children! Then you'll know what people intend to do in future about child work.

**What does it say? - In simple words!**

**This is what the Statement says:**

Throughout history, children have had to work. Today, the ILO estimates that

around the world, **152 million**

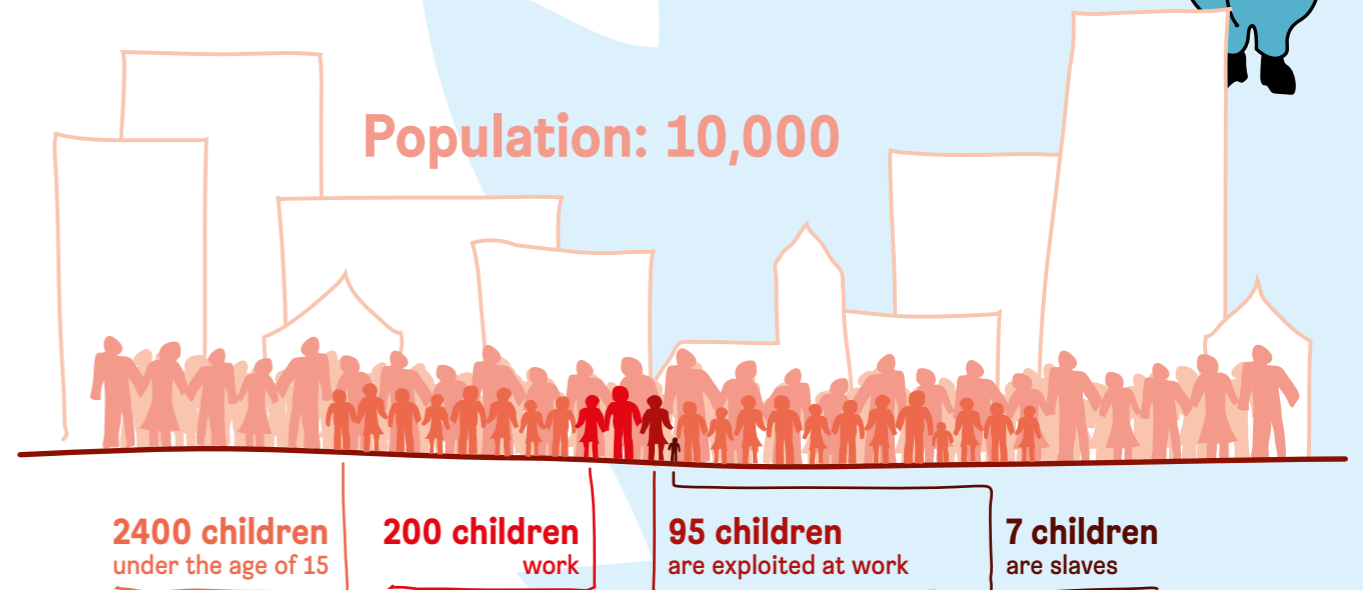
girls and boys work in child labour

**71 million**

young people are unemployed.

**World Town**

Big numbers, huh? It's easier to understand how many children work if we shrink the world to the size of a small town. We'll call it "World Town", okay?



The ILO discovered that most children work without a work contract. They don't have rights and they don't get any holiday – regardless of whether they're working in rural areas or in cities. Often in countries affected by war, and sometimes in countries which produce a lot of goods for rich countries.

In its statement, the conference emphasises that child labour – and particularly slavery, which is one of the worst form of child labour – violates human rights and human dignity.

**Why children work –  
the main reasons:**

Children often have to work because they live in poverty and are granted fewer rights than other people.

•  
Poor people are often oppressed just for "being different".

•  
They aren't allowed to join in with some activities of society,

•  
they aren't allowed into lots of places,

•  
and particularly poor children can't afford to go to school.



The Statement explains that child labour and slavery can be found wherever there is poverty or oppression. And it leads to even more poverty. It's a vicious circle.

This is why the ILO says poverty and inequality must be eradicated. This is just what the UNO decided in 2016 in their "Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development".

The Agenda 2030 is a plan containing lots of goals which it hopes to achieve by 2030. It explains what needs to be done in order for the world to become a better place.

**For example, that ...**

... by **2025,**

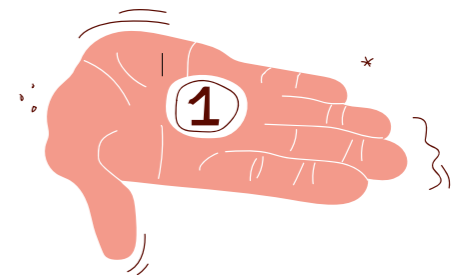


**no child should be forced to work if it doesn't want to.**



... people must no longer be sold.

... by **2030,**



**everyone should be able to earn money through their work.**

The conference in Buenos Aires hopes this plan will help to eradicate inequality and poverty more quickly. Only then, they believe, can the world get rid of exploitative and unfair child work. In particular, the world needs to fight poverty in rural regions. And every child must be able to go to a good school – free of charge. Because all children have a right to education. Lasting several hours a day, five or six days a week, for many years. Until they're old enough to begin real vocational training with real experts who can teach them all they need to know for their future job.

## The situation

**The reality is that children are being exploited all around the world.**

Many children suffer under their work. In our World Town, 71 out of 100 children have to do physically strenuous work on farms. For 42 of the children in World Town, their jobs are actually very dangerous.

**Far too many children work as slaves**

**12**

out of 100  
on farms



**24**

in households



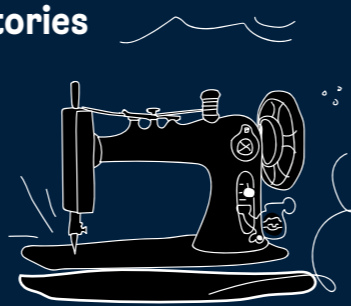
**18**

on building sites



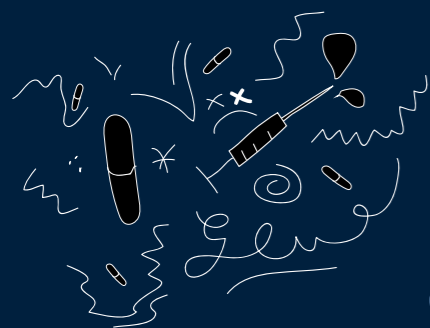
**15**

in factories



**31**

as soldiers, in the drug trade  
or as prostitutes



**In particular, refugee children on the run often have no other option than to seek work.**

Wherever millions of people are forced to flee from their home countries, there is an increase in the number of children who have to work or who are forced into slavery. To stop this from happening or prevent it in the first place, governments need to find jobs for refugees and displaced persons where they are treated and paid fairly.

Wherever a country is hit by war or natural disasters, you will find lots of child labour and slavery. More than 250 million children (*that's the same as 320 children in World Town*) are affected by war, fighting, terror and other terrible things.

Some boys and girls are forced to fight as soldiers, others are exploited sexually. For this reason, participants at the congress in Buenos Aires call on those in power across the world (governments, employers and trade unions) to act and stop children from being exploited.

But even in places where there is peace, more action needs to be taken, the congress says. Company bosses can't just ignore workers' rights so that their company makes more profit or produces goods more cheaply than other companies. The congress also calls on governments not to abandon good labour laws just so that companies stay in their country rather than move somewhere they can produce more cheaply.



## What the world needs to do:

In order to eradicate child labour and slavery, participants at the conference in Buenos Aires call on all governments, organisations and charity workers to:

### 1. Principles

- respect, support and protect human rights, particularly rights at work and childrens' rights
  - serve the best interests of children
  - accept that those who violate other people's rights or their own obligations should not be allowed to "get away with it"
- ensure that employers, trade unions and governments in all countries should discuss and take effective steps to end the exploitation of children
- protect families and people who are unemployed or sick, and make sure they have the necessary insurance
- be mindful of people who are discriminated or marginalised
  - take action that really counts and is based on facts
- accept that every child can form their own opinion on their work, and make sure each child is given the opportunity to voice their opinion and be taken seriously

- make sure that funds for combatting child labour and slavery are used wisely, and check later whether the measures have actually helped

*Protection and support for children must always account for the fact that children are different – boys and girls, small children and big children, children with and without disabilities, city children and country children. Help and protective measures need to "fit" the children concerned if they are to be effective.*

### 2. Activities

*The Fourth Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour promises to take action, and challenges the world to make the same promise!*

To presidents, chancellors and politicians ...

- let us work together even harder to eradicate exploitative child labour by 2025 and make sure young people can find good, fair jobs. They should earn enough money to support themselves, and they should feel content with their jobs. There should be no more slavery in the world by 2030
- think carefully about the best way to eradicate child labour and slavery, and make real plans
  - build good state schools and don't charge school fees; support companies that offer apprenticeships; prosecute offenders who trade or abuse children, and take action against corrupt police officers or controllers; make sure there are protective measures and controls at work, and that employees have health insurance and unemployment insurance

- make sure that people working in local government, charities and companies are well qualified and motivated to implement the new plans
- make sure that those concerned – whether in cities or in rural areas – can take action against exploitation and slavery by filing charges against offenders, organising protests and taking other measures
- all governments should sign the international agreement written by the ILO and the UNO, and make sure it is enforced in their respective country
- make laws and regulations to combat child labour, and improve these laws and regulations on an ongoing basis. Make control checks to ensure people abide by the law
- wherever people work, check to see that everyone abides by the law. This is the only way to uncover and take action against exploitative child labour, and to make sure people abide by the law. And you can only help child workers if you know where they're working
- make sure that any children who are being exploited can find protection: they must be enabled to file a complaint with the police, authorities or court, and they need help so they can go to school again or receive compensation
- look at people who are living in difficult conditions. Ask yourselves what they need and how they live, and make sure they get the help they need. Social support, for example, or health insurance, or unemployment insurance. Then children will no longer have to earn money for their families, and they can go back to school
- every child has a right to learn. So action needs to be taken to give every child the opportunity to learn – in school. Schools should not cost money, they should be open to everyone and the lessons should be good. Girls and children in crisis areas must also be able to go to school. Then, as young adults, they can begin vocational training or continue with further education

- children and teenagers – particularly girls and young women – need to be protected and made strong so that they can stand up to people who want to exploit them sexually or sell them into slavery
- children who are travelling, or who have been forced to run or flee, need special protection. All the countries which form part of the children's journey must work together: their home countries, the countries they pass through en route and the countries in which they arrive and stay
- those who seek work should be able to find a job without being cheated. The best way to do this is by making rules for the people who find other people jobs.

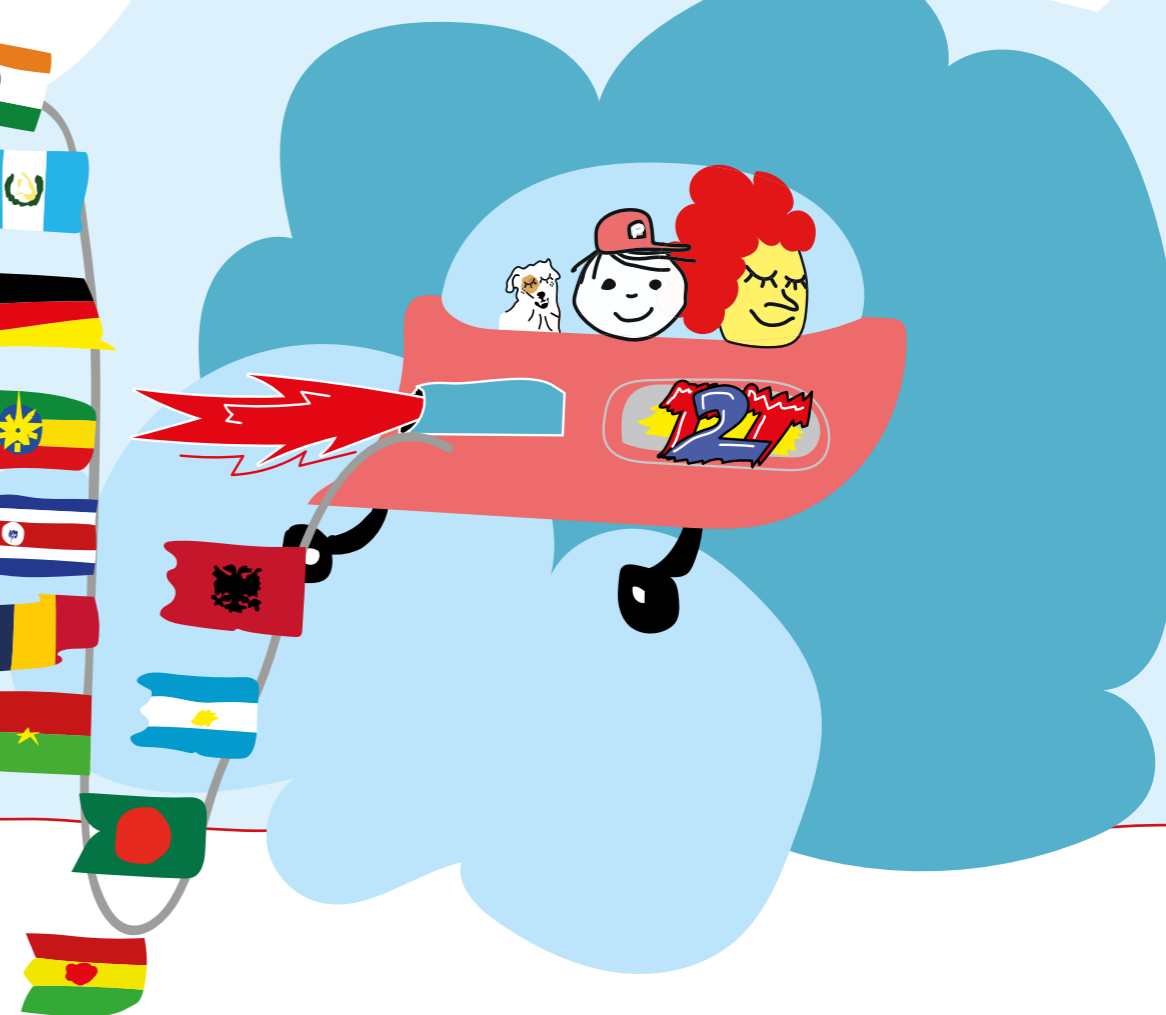
### **3. Knowledge is power**

- The more people know about child work, the easier it is to help the children. For example: How many boys work, how many girls? How old are they? What sort of jobs do they do? If we keep asking these questions, we can compare the answers and assess any developments
- Each country should set itself clear goals which can later be checked. So that everyone knows whether or not the UNO's Agenda 2030 has been achieved
- It's important that major organisations such as the UNO, ILO and others find out how many children across the world are working, and regularly discuss how to tackle child labour and slavery
- We can never know too much about child labour and slavery and why they exist! This is why we need to keep on researching – so that we can understand it better and help more effectively. A closer look needs to be taken at issues such as supply chains, agriculture and countries which are at war.



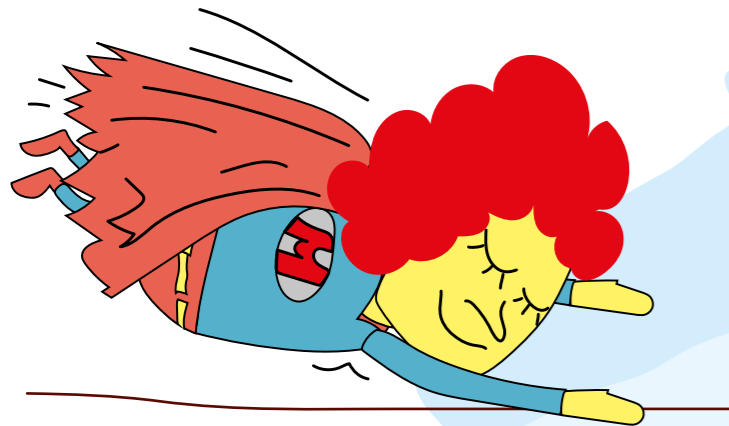
#### 4. Partners and new ideas

- It would be wonderful if everyone tried to combat child labour. But it would be even better if we all joined forces to do so! Governments, work organisations and others – youth organisations, children themselves and basically everyone who wants to help – should forge global partnerships. Together, we can then search for new ideas and ways to get rid of exploitative child labour and slavery
- All states and employers and trade unions should join the 8.7 Alliance. This is an alliance which takes action all around the world to ensure that Target 8.7 from the UN Sustainable Development Goals is achieved. Target 8.7 says: "Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms."



- The more money we have to fight child labour and slavery, the sooner we will get results. So everyone needs to be asked to spend more money on this battle
- In particular, we need to fund initiatives that help locally in places where children actually work
- Employers and companies can't be reminded often enough to respect the human rights of their workers, even when they're trying to make a profit.



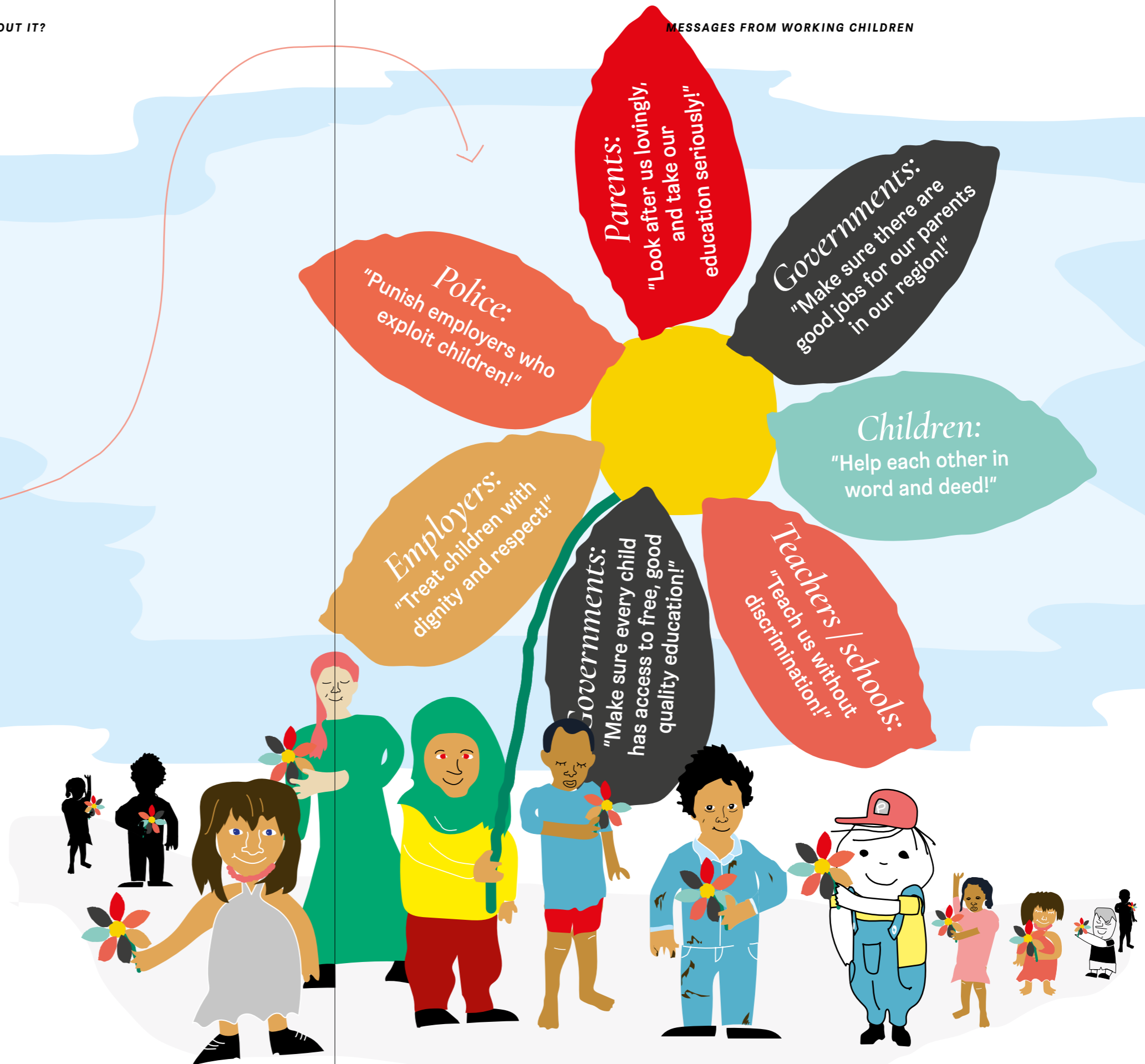


This is what the men and women who met in Buenos Aires in Argentina said about child work. Sadly, working children and young people were not invited to the conference. But you were still able to speak your mind!

Supermaia and Paul worked together with people from the "Time to Talk!" project and brought your messages to the conference in the form of a flower. This went out to all people and groups who try to make the lives of working children better!

Before the conference started, working children in ten countries also went to their governments to encourage politicians and ministers to work on their behalf and make sure the demands of working children are not forgotten.

You can find more about the children's demands here:  
[www.time-to-talk.info](http://www.time-to-talk.info)



**Parents:**  
 "Look after us lovingly, and take our education seriously!"

**Governments:**  
 "Make sure there are good jobs for our parents in our region!"

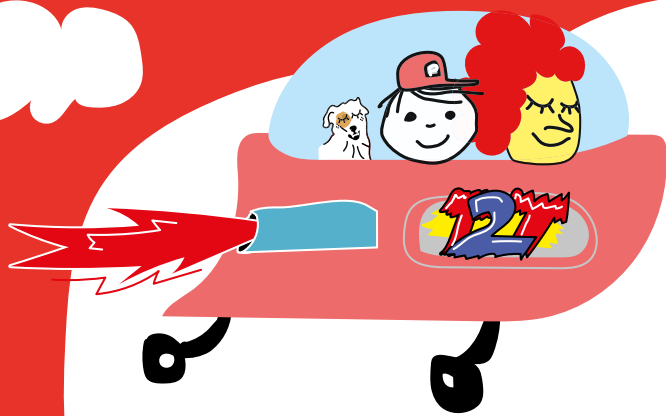
**Children:**  
 "Help each other in word and deed!"

**Teachers / schools:**  
 "Teach us without discrimination!"

**Governments:**  
 "Make sure every child has access to free, good quality education!"

**Employers:**  
 "Treat children with dignity and respect!"

**Police:**  
 "Punish employers who exploit children!"



#talkaboutchildwork

kinder  
not  
hilfe



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 terre des hommes  
Hilfe für Kinder in Not

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