

**POSITION PAPER**

**Canggu Community School**

**DELEGATION: Germany**

**COMMITTEE: UNICEF**

**ISSUE: Topic 2 - Imposing strategies to diminish child labour**

Germany recognizes the major problem of child labour in countries world wide. Child labour has been a major issue since the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century, but hasn't been improving, with 160 million children engaged in child labour in 2020, meaning nearly 1 in 10 children being forced to work. Child labour is the exploitation of children working without consent nor payment, and is usually in a hazardous place, violating the freedom of education, which is a significant right for a child. This is very common in countries where cheap industries need laborers for a cheap price, and children are a great choice. Usually they are forced to work in farms, by carrying heavy tons, and harvesting using large machetes, or in mines, pushing mineshafts.

Though Germany is very strict with the protection of underage children, there are a lot of children who enjoy working to help their family, or for the sake of the future. Studies show that up to 50% of teens of 12-16 of age have worked outside of school. Usually the jobs they work are simple jobs, such as mowing lawns, or babysitting. However, if they are employed in a graver job, in a dangerous space, Germany has a strict Youth Employment Protection act which bans children under 15 from working. Additionally, this does not disrupt these workers from school hours and they enjoy their working conditions. Germany also has put down a few laws to protect children such as The Prussian regulations on the employment of young workers in factories, Child Protection Act, and the ILO Convention 138.

There are a few ways that Germany can help solve or improve this problem. Germany is a large importing and exporting country to nations worldwide such as China, US, and other countries. One way is to stop exporting to a country that supports child labour or are ending that relationship until any child labor concerns have been addressed. This will make that country realize how big of a problem this can be. Another way is for certain German brands such as Mercedes, BMW, Volksvagen and other ones to stop selling and to demonstrate leadership in those countries.

Research links:

<https://pronats.org/en/information/childhood-and-work/child-labour-in-germany>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_countries\\_by\\_child\\_labour\\_rate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_child_labour_rate)

<https://www.dol.gov/general/apps/ilab>