



Ethical Easter Eggs



Easter is not far away. Australians will spend millions of dollars on chocolate eggs and Easter bunnies, delighting young and old.

As we all know the main ingredient in the process of chocolate making is cocoa beans. The majority of cocoa is grown in West Africa, primarily in Ghana and the Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast).

Do you know who picks and processes the cocoa pods?



Many of the cocoa farms belong to poor families who are struggling to make a living. Their children have to help by working long hours doing dangerous work like cutting the cocoa pods open with a machete. However, some children are being kidnapped and brought to work in slave like conditions on cocoa farms. The children work so hard but they will never taste chocolate.

There is no place for ANY child labour in cocoa production.

The chocolate and cocoa industry condemns child labour and is working hard to eliminate it. The journey is already underway and there is a clear destination in mind:

A world where children are free to be children. A world free from child labour. (World Cocoa Foundation, Richard Scobey)

" The cocoa industry is a real concern in the fight to end modern slavery in all its forms, child labour, forced labour and unsafe working environments.... But there is good news... demand for ethically sourced cocoa products is increasing. Consumer pressure on manufacturers is mounting. And businesses are responding. " (Slavery Free Organisation)



For a while there have been three good labels: *Fair Trade*, *Rainforest Alliance* and *UTZ Certified*. However, there have been some developments recently. UTZ Certified and Rainforest Alliance have merged and the UTZ label has been phased out and is now part of the Rainforest Alliance label. So, the two best Logos to look for when buying Easter eggs are:

Fair Trade  and Rainforest Alliance



However, some new labels have come 'on board' and the companies below are making progress in using certified chocolate:



Lindt and Sprüngli Cocoa Farming Program began in 2008



Nestlé Cocoa Plan began in 2009



Mondeles International Cocoa Life (producers of Cadbury and Toblerone) began in 2012



Barry Callebaut Cocoa Horizons



Ferrero Rocher is making progress in using certified chocolate.

What can we do?

Pope Francis reminded us that a purchase we make is not just an economic act, but also a moral one.

Power lies in our dollar. We can be selective in choosing our Easter treats.

Furthermore, we can write to chocolate companies encouraging them to pursue their engagement with cocoa farmers and communities so that child labour will no longer be necessary.

- St Peter's Social Justice Group

