

Editorial Comment From Larry Levine:

The students at this school express their opinions about some of the many factors that cause hunger and poverty. They wrote letters directly to the leaders of major corporations expressing their concern for the effects their products have on health of the workers producing their well known products. Some of the letters expressed desire to foster change in working condition and pay of the employees.

Why do you think that that this action on the students' part will create a positive reaction from the manufacturers?

12 Westminster Road
West Hempstead, NY 11552

March 7, 2012

Mr. Gary M. Rodkin, CEO
ConAgra Foods Incorporated
One ConAgra Drive
Omaha, NE 68102-5001

Dear Mr. Rodkin:

I am writing to you to find out where you get your company's food supplies from, and what the working conditions are.

I am learning about how different companies get the supplies to manufacture their products from countries that make kids work in terrible conditions. The reason why I'm writing to you is because I am interested in the way ConAgra Foods, Inc. makes their food products and what they make them with. I would like to know more about your sugar, coffee and cocoa/chocolate supply. I researched your company and found out that you make Swiss Miss Cocoa. Where do the sugar and cocoa supplies come from? In those places, do they respect people's rights?

I hope your company doesn't get their supplies from countries that use child labor so I can continue to drink your delicious cocoa every morning as I usually do.

Thank you for taking time out of your day to read my letter because I know you are extremely busy.

An Interested Consumer,

Christine

Dear Mr. Goldman,

I am Kaitlyn H____ and I am a student at St. Thomas the Apostle School. I have just learned how growers of cocoa beans don't treat their workers with respect and don't pay them enough. I was also horrified to hear that children are working in ways that they can suffer and die. I'm writing you this letter to ask you a few questions about where you buy your cocoa beans from.

I love to eat Godiva, but I was wondering where the cocoa beans come from. Does Godiva buy their cocoa from certified growers? What is Godiva doing to make sure that millions of people in the U.S.A who love Godiva will not eat cocoa beans that will harm children around the world?

I really hope you will take my advice and not buy from uncertified growers. I hope that you will write back soon.

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn

12 Westminster Rd.
West Hempstead NY
March, 8, 2012

Mr. Enderson Guimaraes,
Global Operations
PepsiCo
700 Anderson Hill Rd.
Purchase, NY, 10577

Dear Mr. Guimaraes,

I am writing as part of a project for my school. We are learning about human rights and fair trade. I was just wondering what kind of enforcement you have against problems like human trafficking, child labor, and other types of human rights violations.

I would like you to tell me if your suppliers treat their workers fair and with dignity. I would like you to tell me where you get your sugar and if you get it from a source that does not violate human rights.

I enjoy drinking Pepsi very much and it will make me happy knowing that Pepsi doesn't break any laws or violate any human rights.

Sincerely,

Conor

12 Westminster Road
West Hempstead NY, 11552
March 9th, 2012

Clifford Burrows, President of Starbucks
Starbucks Customers Relations
P.O. Box 3717
Seattle, WA 98124-3717

Dear Mr. Burrows,

I am a student at St. Thomas the Apostle School. I am in the 6th grade. In class we are learning about child labor around the world. I am writing this letter to ask you where you get your ingredients from. When I last went to one of your cafes I had to ask for the certified fair trade coffee. Why doesn't Starbucks use the certified growers for all their coffee instead of the growers that don't respect human rights?

I love Starbucks coffee but am disturbed that you would support suppliers that are using child labor and other unfair labor practices. I guarantee that if people of America found out that your supplier uses child labor they would stop coming to Starbucks. The suppliers that your company uses should not be putting children lives in dangerous working conditions. Yes, you need to make money but making kids doing the work is not the way! Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Juliana

St. Thomas the Apostle School
12 Westminster Road
West Hempstead, NY 11552
March, 2012

Clifford Burrows, President
Starbucks Customers Relations
P.O. Box 3717
Seattle WA 98124 3717

Dear Mr. Burrows,

I am a 12 year old girl from the 6th Grade of St. Thomas the Apostle School. My grade is writing to companies that are unfair to their workers.

I love Starbucks so I was very upset to be informed that your company supports suppliers that use child labor. How would you like it if your childhood was spent working all day in bad conditions, earning much less than \$1 a day?

Not only that, but your suppliers' workers are not allowed to unionize and fight for good, fair working conditions.

I will refuse to buy anything from your company and continue this if you do not decide to use suppliers that treat their workers with care and give them freedom. Please fix this because I *will* convince many people not to buy from you, and that's a lot of customers that you're losing. Also, another reason why this *really* upsets me is because I love Starbucks coffee, and now I cannot drink it. Please respond to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Sinead

12 Westminster Road
West Hempstead, NY 11552
March 7, 2012

Clifford Burrows, President
Starbucks
2401 Utah Avenue
South 2401 Utah Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98134

Dear Mr. Burrows,

Hello. I'm Emily, a sixth grader at St. Thomas, and I'm writing this letter to you to learn more about where you purchase your ingredients or supplies for your products.

I'm learning about suppliers that treat their workers unfairly and get away with it in health class. I really want to know more about the background of your ingredients because in my opinion, no one should buy their sugar or coffee beans from a supplier that's unfair to workers.

They might have unfair wages or might not even get paid for their hard work. There might even be children working, which would go against Child Labor laws. I wouldn't want to be treated like that, would you? I hope the answer is no.

I hope you decide to check about where you purchase ingredients for Starbucks. Make sure it's certified, and that it's treating its workers fairly. I'm sorry, but if you don't, my family and I have decided to stop purchasing your products, though we do enjoy them. If we hear you have changed your ways, we'll gladly purchase your products.

Thank you for your time. I hope to hear from you soon.

Respectfully Yours,

Emily