

# CHILD LABOUR IN UGANDA



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## EVERYBODY'S DILEMMA

Do you own a house?

What is your house made of?

Do you know what went into the making of your house?

It could be the blood of a child, the sweat of a child, and the tears of a child.

Now as I read about child labour, I look at my house in Wakiso, the floor made of stones, the walls made of sand and blocks, the roof made of timber.

As I slowly walked around my house, I thought about what this means.

Wakiso is a major home to child labour as estimated by UBOS, thousands of children aged 5 to 17 work full time or more.

It's mostly likely that my house is a product of some unfortunate child forced by circumstances to work away his or her childhood in a sweat shop.

Between my head and my heart, I can't tell which of the two gives a twinge to my conscience. I could destroy my house though it's impossible to know for certain if one of the items was made by a child labourer.

What good would it do to destroy it now? The children have already suffered from building it. It would not do me any good either if I stopped sleeping in it. How can I feel saddened and guilty every time I enter my house?

On the other hand, we need the stone quarries, the cement industries and sand mines.

However the involvement of young children to work in stone quarries, cement industries and sand mines are not the only venues for child labour.

According to UBOS, IPEC, ILO; slavery, debt bondage, trafficking, sexual exploitation, the use of children in the drug trade and in armed conflict, as well as hazardous work are all defined as worst forms of child labour and affect the Ugandan children.

The rallying call to all Ugandan is to participate in the elimination of child labour.