

**Coalition Against
Forced Child Labour
in Uzbekistan**



Internationale
Arbeitsgruppe
für Friedensarbeit
gemeinnützig

Roundtable

Forced child labour in the Uzbek cotton industry and the position of the international community

Bremen, Germany, April 3, 2008

Program

9:30-10.00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

**10:00-11.20 Introduction and Session I
Forced child labour in Uzbekistan: Its domestic context**

- Forced child labour in the context of the overall situation with human rights in Uzbekistan
- How to evaluate the scale of the problem
- The involvement of the Uzbek government: its rationale and reasons
- National legislation on child labour in Uzbekistan

Discussants:

- Nadezhda Atayeva, Association Droit de l'Homme en Asie Centrale, France
- Alisher Ilkhamov, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, UK
- Utkur Juraev, former employee of the Uzbek cotton industry, US resident

11.20-11:40 Coffee Break

**11.40-13.10 Session II
Forced Child Labour in Uzbekistan: Its international context**

- International law on child labour and child's rights, and the Uzbek government's international commitments in these areas
- The potential for international cooperation on fighting the practice of forced child labour in Uzbekistan: engagement, sanctions, or other strategies

Discussants:

- Shahida Tulaganova, Uzbekistan Initiative London, UK
- Bernhard Classen, Internationale Arbeitsgruppe für Friedensarbeit, Germany

13.10-13.30 Conclusion and discussion of next steps

Background of the roundtable

Uzbekistan is the one of the leading cotton-producing countries of the world. It is the sixth-largest cotton producer, and the third largest exporter of cotton fibre.

In the Soviet past, the government of the USSR systematically used forced child labour for cotton picking in Uzbekistan and other cotton-producing republics. In Uzbekistan, this practice is still going on. Unfortunately, the international community is paying very little attention to this shameful phenomenon, which contradicts not only national legislation of Uzbekistan but also international law, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child (1989) and the ILO core labour standards, specifically Conventions 29, 105, 138 and 182.

Unfortunately, many international organisations are unaware of the scale of the use of child labour in Uzbekistan. This roundtable is a rare attempt to attract the attention of the international community to this phenomenon.

The organiser of this roundtable is the Coalition Against Forced Child Labour in Uzbekistan, which is made up of three Europe-based NGOs, namely:

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