HAGAR

Become An Informed Consumer

5 Ways to Shop With Your Eyes Open and Help End Human Trafficking



Every *Purchase* is a small decision for justice

Every purchase you make may feel like a small decision.

But multiply that by millions of people, and those small decisions shape a massive global marketplace, one that is tainted by forced labour and human trafficking.

Human Trafficking Hidden in Plain Sight

Human trafficking is a hidden crime, but it generates $236 billion annually.
And, much of it hides inside everyday products we take for granted: the clothes we wear, the food we eat, and the electronics we carry.

Most people have no idea how connected their shopping cart is to this problem.

That's exactly why we built this guide: so you can shop with your eyes open and direct your spending towards ending trafficking instead of funding it.

$236 Billion

made in illegal profits from forced labour every year

(ILO, Profits and Poverty, 2024)

50M+

people globally are trafficked and enslaved right now

(Walk Free Foundation)

$468 billion

of at-risk goods imported yearly by wealthy nations

(Global Slavery Index, 2023)



5 Ways to Shop With Your Eyes Open

1 Know Which Industries Carry the Highest Risk

Some products are far more likely to involve forced or child labour than others. Pay closer attention to the purchases in the following categories:

- **Garments & Textiles:** clothing manufacturing is one of the largest sources of forced labour worldwide.
- **Agriculture:** cattle, coffee, cocoa, and sugarcane often rely on forced or child labour, especially on remote farms.
- **Fishing & Seafood:** workers are sometimes trapped on fishing boats for months or years at a time.
- **Electronics & Solar Panels**: the mining of materials such as cobalt, used in phones and laptops, carries risks of forced and child labour.
- **Palm Oil:** Forced labour is well-documented in palm oil supply chains.

New Zealand consumer information standards require country-of-origin labelling for new clothing and footwear and for certain foods. Use this information as a starting point, then check what brands disclose about their suppliers, labour practices and certifications.

Source: New Zealand Commerce Commission, Country of Origin Labelling; Consumer Information Standards (Origin of Food) Regulations 2021



Modern-Day *Hagars* Are All Around Us

2 Know Where Forced labour is Most Common

The countries with the largest total numbers of people in forced labour are India, China, North Korea, Pakistan, and Russia. That doesn't mean every product from these countries involves trafficking — it means it's worth asking a few more questions about where and how something was made, especially for goods in the high-risk industries above.
Source: Global Slavery Index (Walk Free, 2023)

3 Check Labels and Supply-Chain Information

Look for country-of-origin details, credible certifications and clear information from the brand about where and how products are made. Labels are a useful starting point, but also check whether the business openly explains its suppliers and labour practices.



Modern-Day *Hagars* Are All Around Us

4 See How Your favourite Brands Score

Look for brands that are transparent about their supply chain. Many publish sustainability reports or a page about their labour practices. Certifications like Fair Trade or B Corp are a good sign — nearly 5,000 companies in 79 countries carry B Corp certification. Sites like Good On You and Ethical Consumer let you look up how specific brands score on labour and ethics before you buy. Watch out for greenwashing. Words like "natural," "sustainable," or "eco-friendly" aren't certifications — they're marketing. A real certification comes with a name you can verify, like Fair Trade or B Corp. If a brand only uses vague language with no verifiable claim behind it, treat it as a yellow flag, not a green light.

5 Know Your Slavery Footprint

Tools like slaveryfootprint.org estimate how many forced labourers your own lifestyle and shopping habits touch. Buying less, buying second-hand, and choosing fair trade are all simple ways to shrink that number.