

Topic 4: FOR

- What are the current labor law policies in the U.S., China, India, Bangladesh, Ethiopia etc.? Should we hold other countries that we contract with for production purposes to the same standards as the U.S.? What would be the potential benefits or drawbacks of doing so? Is it ethical to try to compel other countries to change their labor laws at all? Consider whether it is better for a child/teen to have the opportunity to work to help support their family when they may otherwise go hungry. How would you define exploitation?

A great economist known by Thorstein Veblen once said “Labor wants pride and joy in doing good work, a sense of making or doing something beautiful or useful is to be treated with dignity and respect as brother and sister.” This speaks great volume with the labor in the fashion industry. Just logically thinking in order to create business we need to have production and in this situation the labor in other countries is the production. This is the variable in the industry that can get misconstrued. Labor in the industry can be seen harsh but from my standpoint I will show the positive side on this subject.

United States is a free country so we have a great amount of laws that can protect our human rights. Although we get many of our resources through these other developed nations we have protection that can keep us secured. According to this article Burtless, G have mentioned after WW1 the International Labor Organization was created to protect the workplace safety. The ILO has created strong core standards that can protect anyone from getting treated unfairly in a work environment. It is a social justice that applies in over 100 countries. The World Trade Organization is the trading system that ensures a good flow between the countries. Their labor

standards do not discriminate against any unfair treatment. If child labor or discrimination is involved the deal of the trade will not be executed.

In our business today the United States has created many trade agreements with other countries. Many of these top brands is developed based on the United States and its partnership with the other countries. Brands like H&M, Nike , Zara, Uniqlo, and etc. have all had claims to utilize explicit labor. In the opposition of the argument to labor laws I can understand why many people stand against it. In these developed countries many of them start at a very young age and they are abused in their workplace. Due to their poor conditions, many of them even lose their life. It is important to understand in these developing countries the workplace safety may not be in good condition but it is an opportunity for them to survive.

These factories jobs help them provide for their family. Unfortunately they are born in a poor country which will have them face hardship either way but working in a factory is a great opportunity for them to help grow. It helps them to become stronger and take on more responsibilities. I believe it can be more beneficial to them. A comparison to us, who have it easy takes us forever to learn one thing than a 6 year old kid in a developed country. Exploitation in my opinion is based on being exposed to being treated unfairly. It is an exposure to bad things that you should not witness.

As you can see, I do not believe it is ethical to change other countries laws. These labor laws between our trading agreement is what help us make business. It creates less production and help us protect our rights with each country we work with. The factory jobs that happens around the world has made enormous changes. It helps the production of the United States to function.

Reference:

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