



WHO WE ARE

We are the Institute for Global Labour and Human Rights. The mission of the Institute is to fight alongside and provide solidarity to some of the poorest and most exploited workers in the world. The race to the bottom in the global sweatshop economy will never end until all workers have a voice and the right to organize unions to protect their rights. While corporate products and trademarks are protected by laws — intellectual property and copyright laws — there are no similar laws to protect the rights of the human being who makes these products. This must change. Worker rights are a fundamental human right.

The Institute, under its director Charles Kernaghan, has built a network of undercover staff and trained worker-researchers in China, Mexico, Central America, Haiti, India, Jordan, Bangladesh and many other countries.



AROUND THE WORLD

WE ENGAGE WORKERS, COMPANIES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS

INSTITUTE EXPOSES WAL-MART ON "GOOD MORNING AMERICA"

On November 6, 2009, 21 million people watched ABC's "Good Morning America" story covering the Institute's exposé of Wal-Mart's sick leave and attendance policies, forcing Wal-Mart to end its draconian practice of giving demerits (that could lead to firing) and no sick pay to punish employees who had to stay home to take care of their sick children.

KATHIE LEE'S CROCODILE TEARS: CHILDREN MADE HER CLOTHING LINE FOR WAL-MART



Children as young as 12 sewed "Kathie Lee" clothing for Wal-Mart under miserable sweatshop conditions in Honduras. They worked 14 hours a day and earned just 22 cents an hour. When the children got out late at night, there was no bus service, so they ran home together singing and whistling, hoping they would not be robbed or sexually assaulted.

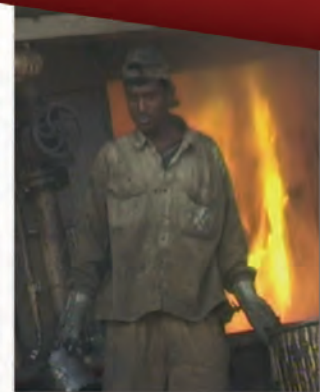
- After Congressional hearings, Kathie Lee Gifford apologized.
- President Clinton set up a special anti-sweatshop taskforce.
- Frank Gifford tried to fight Charlie on a flight to Washington, D.C.
- The Kathie Lee campaign jump-started the entire anti-sweatshop movement in the United States.

“EVEN COMPANIES THAT MR. KERNAGHAN HAS NOT FOCUSED ON HAVE BEGUN CLEANING UP THEIR FACTORIES, IF ONLY TO AVOID HIS WRATH.”

The New York Times

WE ARE THE INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL LABOR AND HUMAN RIGHTS

SHIPBREAKING IN BANGLADESH: A UNION ORGANIZING DRIVE IS LAUNCHED



For more than 30 years, over 30,000 shipbreakers in Bangladesh have been treated like slaves, forced to toil 12 hours a day, seven days a week, doing one of the most dangerous jobs in the world for just 22 to 32 cents an hour without safety gear, health care, access to clean water or even a work contract. On average, a worker is killed every two to three weeks. Workers are seriously injured every day. One quarter of all shipbreaking workers are children or teenagers. The workers have no rights and are housed in primitive, miserable dorms not even fit for animals.

The Institute has teamed up with the USW, Unite the Union and the militant Port and Dock Workers Union in Bangladesh to start union organizing drives at three of Bangladesh's largest shipyards. We now have hundreds of workers affiliated in each yard. The next step will be to organize a federation of shipbreakers. This train has left the station! There will be no more slaves in the shipbreaking yards.

“CHARLES KERNAGHAN IS A LEGITIMATE AMERICAN HERO... KERNAGHAN HAS DONE MORE TO EXPOSE CHILD LABOR THAN HAS THE WHOLE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR THAT HAS A BUDGET OF HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, BECAUSE HE HAS THE GUTS AND DETERMINATION TO DO IT.”

Senator Bernie Sanders (D-VT)



THE WORLD'S FIRST GLOBAL UNION

The Institute is proud to work with the world's first global union, Workers Uniting, which was formed by the USW in the U.S. and Canada and Unite the Union in the UK. The Institute and Workers Uniting supported the over-3.5 million young women garment workers in Bangladesh to win a 24 percent wage increase in late 2010, which took \$350 million a year out of the pockets of the factory owners and into the hands of the women, who are some of the hardest workers in the world, and also among the poorest. We also helped win the release of several progressive trade union leaders who were imprisoned under false charges for daring to lead the wage demonstrations.



FIGHTING FOR

GLOBAL JUSTICE

WE DEMAND FAIR TRADE TO END THE RACE TO THE BOTTOM IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

The Institute has taken on the largest export factory in Jordan, the Jordanian government and the world's largest retailers — Wal-Mart, Hanes, Target and Sears — and we are winning!

Scores of young women guest workers from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh were repeatedly and brutally raped by Classic factory managers while sewing clothing which enters the U.S. duty-free. The women guest workers were routinely beaten, groped and humiliated, forced to work 14 to 16 hours a day, six and seven days a week, for just 61 cents an hour. They are housed in filthy, bed bug infested dorms. The workers had zero rights.

Today, we can tell you that no more young women are being raped at the Classic sweatshop. The workers toil 12 hours a day, six days a week and have received an 18 percent wage increase. Under massive pressure, management has improved working conditions slightly. But we will not stop until the three rapist managers are imprisoned for life!

In just three days — September 7, 8 and 9, 2011 — the Institute's media campaign generated 16,200 results on Google, including print, radio and TV news, blogs and websites. (By way of comparison, a search on the name of Hanes' CEO, Richard Noll, produced 20 results during the same period.)

Our intention is either to clean up this factory or to shut it down. And, in the process, we will clean up the failed U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement by demanding that guest workers must have the right to organize.



“IT IS A TESTAMENT TO THE GROUNDBREAKING WORK OF CHARLIE AND THE INSTITUTE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HOLD SOME OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST MULTINATIONALS ACCOUNTABLE AND WIN SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN WORKER RIGHTS. HIS RESEARCH HAS BECOME A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR THE U.S. CONGRESS AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA OUTLETS.”

Leo W. Gerard, USW International President

WHO DO YOU BELIEVE?

Halima was 11 years old. She worked 14 hours a day, seven days a week sewing Hanes underwear for just six cents an hour. Her supervisor, a man much bigger than she, often slapped Halima to make her work faster. This happened every day. Halima told us she often “fell down” — meaning she fainted from exhaustion.

Hanes says Halima is a malnourished adult who is 18 years old, but looks younger.

Who do you believe? Halima or Hanes?

We rescued Halima and she is now in school. She wants to be an engineer.



WORKERS RIGHTS

ARE TOO OFTEN VIOLATED BY MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS

FIGHTING ABUSE IN CHINA



In a single month, six fingers were severed from workers' hands at the Kaisi sweatshop in China. The workers were making furniture parts for the U.S. company Knappe and Vogt, sold at Home Depot.

The workers were at the factory 100 hours a week and earned just 32 cents an hour.

At the Yuwei factory in Dongguan, management made the workers shut off the infrared safety guards on their machines so they could work faster.

Each year, over 40,000 fingers are severed in the Pearl River Delta region of China (north of Hong Kong) alone.

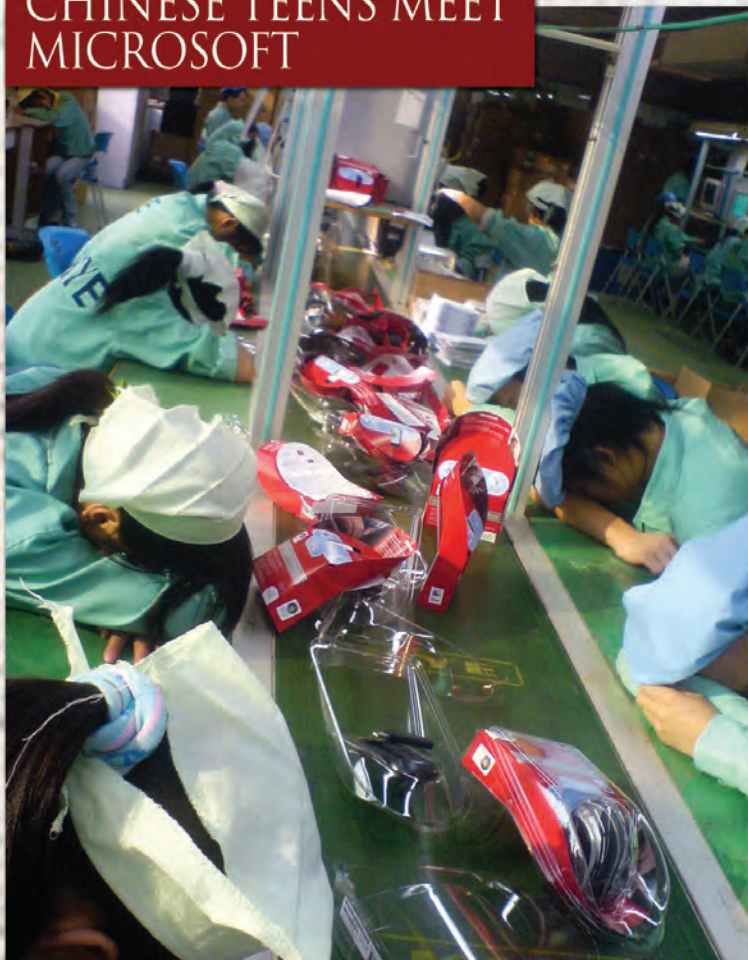
“BECAUSE OF THE IGLHR’S CRUSADES... WE’RE BEGINNING TO LEARN THE AWFUL TRUTH ABOUT WORKERS AROUND THE WORLD WHO ARE SLAVING AWAY THEIR LIVES IN SWEATSHOPS, WHO ARE DENIED THE RIGHT TO JOIN OR FORM A UNION IN ORDER TO FIGHT BACK AND PROVIDE A BETTER LIFE FOR THEIR FAMILIES.”

John Sweeney, President Emeritus, AFL-CIO

In April 2010, the Institute exposed Microsoft’s use of teenage workers at the KYE sweatshop in China. The teenagers worked 15-hour shifts, six and seven days a week while earning a take-home wage of just 52 cents an hour. Factory security guards routinely sexually harassed the young women. Workers reported they were drenched in their own sweat.

Some 795 newspapers from all over the world reported on the Institute’s research, and KYE photos on our website were viewed by 620,000 visitors in four days!

CHINESE TEENS MEET MICROSOFT



WE CAN END THE RACE TO THE BOTTOM
IN THE GLOBAL SWEATSHOP ECONOMY.

STAND UP AND FIGHT BACK FOR FAIR TRADE



You can become a member of the Institute and receive all of our alerts, reports, campaigns, videos, photos and more. The Institute's videos are available on YouTube and in higher resolution on DVDs.

You can donate online at:

www.globallabourrights.org – click on Donate.

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