



COMMISSION ON  
HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE  
(CHRAJ)

**PRESS STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE ON THE COMMEMORATION OF WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR, JUNE 12, 2026, UNDER THE THEME; “RED CARD TO CHILD LABOUR: FAIR PLAY FOR CHILDREN, DECENT WORK FOR ADULTS”**

As Ghana joins the international community to mark the 2026 World Day Against Child Labour under the theme, “Red Card to Child Labour: Fair Play for Children, Decent Work for Adults,” the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (the Commission) calls for renewed commitment to ending all forms of child labour and addressing the conditions that continue to place children at risk of exploitation.

The fulfilment of children’s rights is among the most fundamental measures of a society’s commitment to human dignity and social justice. Yet, in Ghana and across the world, child labour continues to deprive many children of their right to education, protection, development and a safe and dignified childhood. It remains one of the most pressing child rights challenges of our time.

Beyond its social and economic consequences, child labour constitutes a violation of children’s rights. It undermines the rights guaranteed under the Children’s Act, 1998 (Act 560), the 1992 Constitution of Ghana, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, among others, all of which recognise the right of every child to protection, education, development, and dignity.

The scale of the problem remains deeply concerning. The statistics on child labour are not merely indicators of a social problem; they represent children whose rights to education, protection, and development are being undermined. Globally, approximately 138 million children remain engaged in child labour, including nearly 54 million involved in hazardous work that threatens their health, safety, and development.<sup>1</sup> In Ghana, recent data from the Ghana Statistical Service indicate more than 1.1 million children aged 5–17 years were engaged in economic activity in 2023. Alarmingly, over 458,000 of these children were not attending school, highlighting the difficult reality that many children continue to miss out on education and opportunities that could shape a better future and help end the cycle of poverty.<sup>2</sup>

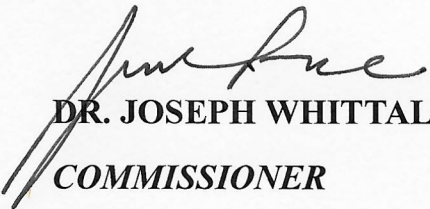
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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ilo.org/topics-and-sectors/child-labour>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.modernghana.com/news/1319397/world-day-against-child-labour-over-11-million.html>

This year's theme serves as a timely reminder that eliminating child labour requires more than removing children from exploitative work. It requires addressing the underlying conditions that push children into labour, including poverty, inequality, limited social protection, and barriers to quality education. These priorities align with commitments supported by Ghana under the Fourth Cycle Universal Periodic Review to strengthen poverty reduction efforts, expand social protection, and improve access to education for vulnerable children. Achieving these objectives will require sustained efforts to improve livelihoods, promote decent work for adults, and strengthen support systems for vulnerable families. These steps are critical to preventing children from entering the labour force prematurely.

As we commemorate this important day, the Commission calls on government and other stakeholders to intensify efforts to identify, protect, and rehabilitate children subjected to child labour, strengthen community awareness and reporting mechanisms, expand social protection programmes, and ensure that every child has access to quality education and opportunities to fully develop. Every child removed from labour and returned to the classroom represents a childhood restored and a future reclaimed.



**DR. JOSEPH WHITTAL**  
**COMMISSIONER**