

## COCOA TRUTH

### **‘Eating my flesh’**

“When I think of all that suffering it hurts my heart deeply. I want to say so much, but I just can’t find the words. We have never eaten chocolate.

If I had to say something to them [people who eat chocolate], it would not be nice words. They enjoy something I suffered to make; I worked hard for them but saw no benefit.

They are eating my flesh.”

From a teenage boy who was forced to work on a cocoa plantation.

Source: Slavery: A Global Investigation True Vision Productions, @14 minutes  
(free to watch on YouTube or Vimeo)

### **The work is dangerous**

About 60% of the world’s cocoa is grown in two West African countries – Ghana and Cote D’Ivoire (the Ivory Coast). A report in 2018 estimates that over one million children, aged 5-17 work on cocoa farms in these two countries. The children have to work long hours, sometimes more than 12 hours a day. They have to carry 20 kilos sometimes, and they must use a machete – a very long, sharp knife. They also must use dangerous chemicals. They are often hungry and exhausted. These children are losing their childhood. They should be in school, learning - not working.

[www.globalsslaveryindex.org](http://www.globalsslaveryindex.org)

### **CREER**

CREER is an organisation in Cote D’Ivoire that looks after children who were forced to work on cocoa farms. CREER provides shelter, protection and support to children and teenagers who have been exploited and abused.

### **Children are bought and sold**

“There is a large mango tree in the village and every week traffickers put children under this tree. The children are bought and sold for different prices. It is like watching something from 300 hundreds years ago when slavery was still legal. The children are usually forced to work on the cocoa farms. This cocoa could be in the chocolate you buy.”

From Kira, Director at CREER.

### **‘When you eat chocolate, my blood is in your mouth.’**

So, will you pay a little more for chocolate that does not have child slavery in its supply chain? Visit these websites to see which chocolate companies are trying to avoid using forced labour.

[www.tonyschocolonely.com/us/en/our-story](http://www.tonyschocolonely.com/us/en/our-story)

[www.slavefreechocolate.org/ethical-chocolate-companies](http://www.slavefreechocolate.org/ethical-chocolate-companies)

[www.thegoodtrade.com/features/fair-trade-chocolate](http://www.thegoodtrade.com/features/fair-trade-chocolate)