

## What is the issue??

- Large corporations are sourcing their coffee beans from plantations that use labor exploitation and unethical practices
- Coffee farmers in many developing countries are forced to work in harsh and inhumane conditions for little to no pay
- Large prevalence of child labor in the coffee industry

## Context

- 90% of coffee exports come from developing countries such as Brazil, Vietnam, Guatemala
- Fluctuations in coffee prices result in farmers earning as little as 1-3% of retail price, not livable
- Department of Labor estimates 34,131 child laborers growing coffee in Vietnam
- Study in Guatemala and Brazil found children under 13 working over 40hr/wk for \$0.50 per hour
- In 2016 large companies such as Nestle were admitted sourcing beans from blacklisted plantations

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- The Coffee Industry has grown and thrives off the exploitation of labor and unethical practices.
- Coffee is consumed at huge scales around the developed world, but most people are completely unaware of the harmful costs and human rights issues of coffee production
- Although there needs to be change at the structural level, individual choices should not be dismissed. It is everyone's responsibility to not support companies that use unethical practices when they have the means to do so.

## How does this intersect with social work practice (micro/mezzo/macro)

- **Micro:** Educating others and spreading awareness on the ethical issues within the coffee industry, using social media as a tool to do so
- **Mezzo:** Advocating at local and community levels for stores to only use and sell ethically sourced coffee brands
- **Macro:** Pushing for change in legislation and at the international level to combat forced/ child labor

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