



FIND OUT THE TRUE COST OF A PHONE CALL...

Mobile phones and other electronic devices have improved our lives in so many ways. But for the people who make these products, the story is very different. In the drive to keep prices as low as possible, electronics companies have been shifting production to countries where labour costs are low and environmental standards are not so strict. Much of the e-waste is also ending up in those same countries.

TOXIC SHOCK

Studies show that workers in the electronics industry are exposed to higher levels of toxic chemicals than workers in the chemical industry.

LONG HOURS

In many factories in Asia, working hours are usually 10–12 hours per day for six or seven days a week, with mandatory overtime.

LOW WAGES

In most factories, even when working overtime workers cannot earn a living wage.

NO TRADE UNIONS

In China, where most of the production of electronic gadgets takes place, there are no real unions that protect workers' rights. Without unions, it is hard to make changes to improve working conditions.

DEADLY CONFLICT

Mining of metals needed to make mobile phones has fuelled conflicts in countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa.

LOSS OF LIVELIHOODS

In South Africa, local communities have been forced to leave their farmland without proper compensation to make way for new mines to produce metals needed to make computers. In Zambia, mining communities extracting cobalt for rechargeable batteries have seen their land and waters becoming polluted.

DANGEROUS WASTE

If an old mobile phone is not recycled properly, harmful substances like arsenic and lead are discharged into the ground water or the atmosphere. Much of this e-waste is being exported to poor countries, where there aren't enough environmental regulations.

||| DID YOU KNOW?

||| *More than 95% of young people in Europe own a mobile phone.*

||| *Every year more than 160 million mobile phones are discarded in Europe alone – often these are only used for one or two years.*

||| *In 2011, over 1.5 billion mobile phones were sold around the world, an increase of over 11% compared to 2010.*

Making IT better

13-year-old Senna bought her first mobile phone when she was ten. Senna is surrounded by IT, but until now, **SHE KNEW VERY LITTLE ABOUT THE WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS** of the people on the other side of the world who make her gadgets.



“I don’t think I could change these conditions by myself, but with a group I could.”

SENNA, 13, STUDENT, AMSTERDAM

Now she knows more, Senna would be **WILLING TO PAY A LITTLE BIT MORE** for the products she buys, as long as they have been produced under better working conditions. Would you?

MAKEITFAIR is a European project focusing on the electronics industry, especially on consumer electronics like mobile phones, laptops and MP3 players. We want to let young people across Europe know about the labour abuses and environmental problems that are going on right now around the world. And we want young people to get active to improve the situation. Together we can hold big brand electronics companies to account.

What can I do?

Multinational companies can influence their suppliers. And the people who buy their products – especially young people like you – can influence these big name companies too. It’s high time for the companies to take responsibility for better working conditions for IT workers everywhere. And this is how you can help:

If you are buying a new mobile phone or the latest game product, **ASK WHERE IT WAS PRODUCED** and whether good social and environmental standards were followed!

TELL YOUR FRIENDS and your family what you have learnt and ask them to get active too!

Before you decide to buy a new product: think whether you can make do with your old one for another year or two! Or if you don’t reuse it, **TAKE IT TO A RECYCLING POINT** or leave it in the shop.

SUGGEST A PROJECT DAY ON THIS ISSUE at your school, college or with your local group or organisation!

Look out for other leaflets, more information and suggestions for activities at:



www.makeitfair.org



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