George Clooney 'saddened' over child labour links

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The Oscar-winning actor and director George Clooney has spoken about allegations of child labour at the Nespresso coffee company, for which he is brand ambassador. Clooney is a member of Nespresso's sustainability advisory board, which aims to ensure coffee is sourced from ethical and sustainable suppliers. He said: "We knew it was a big project when it started seven years ago, and honestly I was surprised and saddened to see this story." An undercover investigation by the UK TV company Channel 4 filmed children on six coffee plantations in Guatemala picking coffee beans and carrying large sacks of coffee on their backs. The farms supply coffee beans to Nespresso.

Mr Clooney has vowed that, "work will be done" by Nespresso to eradicate any forms of child labour within its operations. Clooney spoke about his own upbringing, living on a tobacco farm in the USA and picking tobacco during his school holidays. He said: "Having grown up working on a tobacco farm from the time I was 12, I'm uniquely aware of the complex issues regarding farming and child labour." Nespresso said it has launched a "thorough investigation" and has suspended all purchases from the plantations. It added: "Nespresso has zero tolerance of child labour. It is unacceptable. We will continue to do all we can to stamp out child labour. It has no place in our supply chain."

Sources: *theguardian.com / sky.com / reuters.com*

Writing

An international boycott should be imposed on companies using child labour. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

actor / director / allegations / brand / ambassador / child labour / project / plantations / vowed / upbringing / tobacco / farm / aware / complex / issues / zero / tolerance

True / False

a) George Clooney is a brand ambassador for the company Nespresso. T / F

b) Mr Clooney is a member of Nespresso's board of directors. T / F

c) Mr Clooney said he wasn't surprised when he heard the news.   T / F

d) An undercover investigation filmed 16 coffee plantations. T / F

e) Clooney promised Nespresso would end child labour in its operations. T / F

f) Mr Clooney picked tobacco on a farm when he was 12 years old. T / F

g) Nespresso is still buying coffee from plantations using child labour. T / F

h) Nespresso said it has zero tolerance towards child labour. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**allegations**	a.	see to it
2.	**ensure**	b.	rigorous
3.	**ethical**	c.	promised
4.	**undercover**	d.	complicated
5.	**supply**	e.	acceptance
6.	**vowed**	f.	provide
7.	**eradicate**	g.	claims
8.	**complex**	h.	moral
9.	**thorough**	i.	end
10.	**tolerance**	j.	covert

Discussion – Student A

a) Why does child labour exist in this world?

b) What do you think of child labour?

c) What is the earliest age at which someone can work?

d) Is a child helping in their parent's business child labour?

e) What should happen to companies using child labour?

f) How much do you care about ethical sourcing?

g) How important is sustainability?

h) What can George Clooney do to stop child labour?

Phrase Match

1. spoken about allegations
2. a member of Nespresso's sustainability
3. ensure coffee is sourced from ethical and
4. An undercover
5. carrying large sacks of coffee
6. Mr Clooney has vowed that
7. Clooney spoke about his own
8. I'm uniquely aware of the complex
9. zero
10. do all we can to stamp

a. tolerance
b. on their backs
c. work will be done
d. of child labour
e. issues
f. upbringing
g. investigation
h. advisory board
i. out child labour
j. sustainable suppliers

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you think about what you read?
b) What instances of child labour are there in your country?
c) How old were you when you first started working?
d) Should we boycott companies that use child labour?
e) Are profits more important for companies than ethics?
f) Should celebrities do more to highlight social issues?
g) What advice do you have for exploited children?
h) What questions would you like to ask Nespresso officials?

Spelling

1. leoglaitsan of child labour
2. he is brand ambsoadrsa
3. vdrsiyao board
4. ethical and lisabsenuta suppliers
5. An undercover ivtnsgneoiita
6. coffee tlntaonpasi
7. eetcaadir any forms of child labour
8. spoke about his own nrnibgpigu
9. I'm lnueuyqi aware
10. the cmpeoxl issues
11. sdependsu all purchases
12. zero erteoanlc

Role Play

Role A – Coffee Chocolate
You think coffee chocolate is the best coffee product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their products. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): coffee brownies, coffee candy or coffee ice cream.

Role B – Coffee Brownies
You think coffee brownies are the best coffee products. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their products. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): coffee chocolate, coffee candy or coffee ice cream.

Role C – Coffee Candy
You think coffee candy is the best coffee product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their products. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): coffee brownies, coffee chocolate or coffee ice cream.

Role D – Coffee Ice-Cream
You think coffee ice cream is the best coffee product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their products. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): coffee brownies, coffee candy or coffee chocolate.

Speaking – Coffee

Rank these with your partner. Put the best coffee products at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Coffee brownies
- Coffee candy
- Coffee-rubbed steak
- Coffee ice cream
- Coffee chocolate
- Cafe au Lait
- Coffee milkshake
- Coffee cookies

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.

Answers – Synonym Match

1.	g	2.	a	3.	h	4.	j	5.	f
6.	c	7.	i	8.	d	9.	b	10.	e