



**CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES
IN NEW SOUTH WALES
CLRI (NSW)**

ABN: 52 476 362 010
Member of Catholic Church Religious Group

Mr Mark Callaghan
Managing Director
Cadbury
636 St Kilda Rd
Melbourne
Vic 3004

Dear Mr Callaghan,

I write on behalf of the NSW Justice Committee of the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes CLRI (NSW). CLRI(NSW) represents approximately 3,500 members and their associates in NSW. The Justice Committee is responsible for research, resourcing, reflection, advocacy and action in the areas of justice, peace, the environment, education and human rights.

The members of CLRI(NSW) were delighted to hear that Cadbury UK and Cadbury Ireland had made the decision to have Dairy Milk Chocolate and Cadbury's hot chocolate beverage certified as Fairtrade products.

CLRI(NSW) and its members have many concerns regarding the production of chocolate – low wages, exploitative labour practices and the use, in some cases, of child labour. The average yearly wage for cocoa farmers fluctuates between \$30 and \$110. Commodity markets, which control the price of cocoa, are volatile and make life very insecure for small farmers. Ivory Coast and Ghana, despite being major producers of cocoa, remain very impoverished countries.

Of greater concern is the issue of child labour. In 2000 a US State Department investigation estimated that 284,000 children were involved in the production of cocoa – small children wielding machetes, spraying pesticides and slicing pods. Of these children around 12,000 had been sold into slavery; indentured for a lifetime to provide the raw materials for western luxury items.

Given the commitment of Cadbury UK and Ireland I urge you to achieve Fairtrade certification for Cadbury Dairy Milk and associated products in Australia and New Zealand and make a stand against practices which impoverish people and enslave children.

I look forward to hearing of further developments.

Yours sincerely,

Sr Anne Lane
Chair, CLRI(NSW) Social Justice Committee
27 March 2009

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