



"This book proves again that child labour brutally interferes with the well-being of children. Key for preventing child labour is ensuring that children go to school and that their basic needs are within reach. That is why ING joined forces with Unicef. Together we aim to give children a chance to a better future through decent education."

Hans van der Noordaa
Member Executive Board ING Group
Chairman ING Chances for Children Foundation



"Child labour robs children of their childhood, denies them access to education and stunts their development. Peter de Ruiter's book will be of great value to all those working to improve children's life chances."

Monique van 't Hek
Interim Executive Director Bernard van Leer Foundation



"The smiles on the faces of the children in this book cannot hide the gross violations of their basic rights committed around the world. But they also show us the enormous potential these children have, as well as encourage us adults to do what we can to build them a better world."

Marc Dullaert
Chair KidsRights Foundation



"Child labour is not a necessary evil! This is the underlying principle of the book. It is possible to create a world in which children do not work, but where they go to school and are allowed to be children. ICCO & Kerk in Actie, together with partner organizations in developing countries, are gearing themselves up to do exactly this."

Jan van Doggenaar
International Program Director ICCO & Kerk in Actie



"Child labour is a disgrace to our world and should be abolished. Severe poverty forces children to work in dangerous and deadly conditions - from sweat shops to brothels - because their families are in need. World Vision each day is working to end child labour and to bring "life in all its fullness" to children in a hurting world."

Dean R. Hirsch
President and CEO World Vision International



"Education is the building block that provides millions of children with the opportunity and choice for a better and more prosperous future. By restricting access to education and promoting an endless cycle of poverty child labour not only limits that future, but violates children's rights. Plan is committed to a brighter future for millions of children by ensuring that education flourishes and this cycle of poverty ends."

Nigel Chapman
CEO Plan International

Child labour is not a natural phenomenon

There seems to be a persistent misconception about child labour: first the poverty problem must be solved and then child labour will no longer be necessary. This is putting the cart before the horse. Poverty is in fact not the cause of child labour but it is a result of child labour. The fight against poverty must begin with the fight against child labour. Children can contribute to the development of their country, in the future, but only if they are given a chance to go to school now.

In this book about child labour, author and photographer Peter de Ruiter, touches a raw nerve. During his travels in nine countries across three continents he began to understand the reality of child labour, how it originates and why. He made notes of the fallacies created to justify why children should work. He photographed the injustice the children are subjected to. And he offers solutions! The reader is given different ideas on how to personally take action against child labour.

Children must go to school. They must play and learn and be allowed to develop their full potential. It is up to adults to create a world in which children can do exactly that: a world for children. Child labour is not a natural phenomenon. It was created by man and can be ended by man.

This book is targeted towards a broad audience: consumers, employees of aid organisations, politicians, children from the age of about ten, anyone who feels touched by the subject. The more than 400 exceptional photos and the critical text spread just one message: stop child labour now!

Peter de Ruiter

Dutch travel photographer and author Peter de Ruiter (1960) spent many years travelling around the world. On his travels he was regularly confronted by children begging or working. To write this book he went in search for what was behind this distressing phenomenon. His degrees in sociology and mass communication helped him understand and publicize the subject. More information on this book can be found on www.aworldforchildren.net

Presented by the people of the Netherlands, to all the working children of the world.



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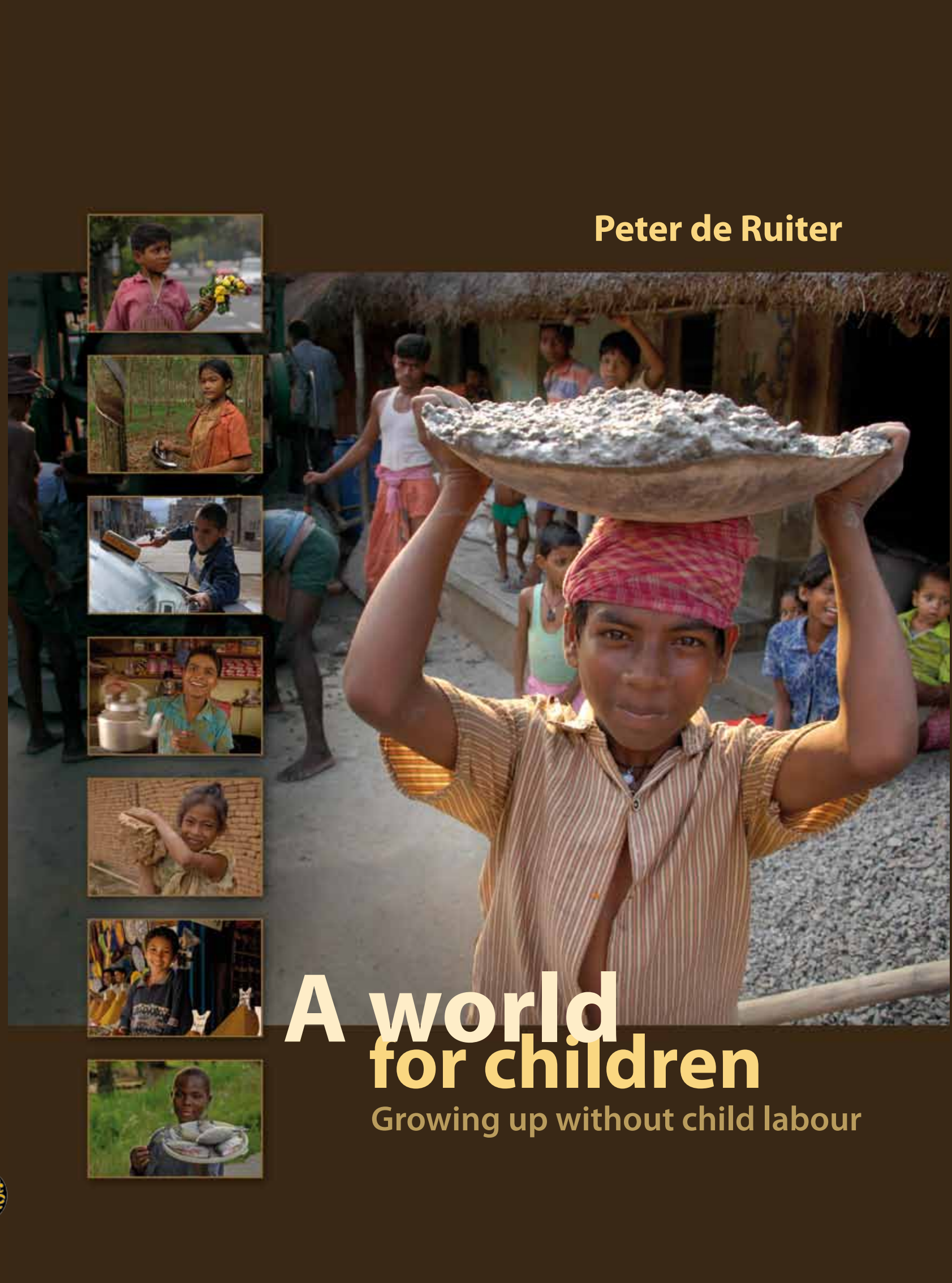


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Peter de Ruiter

A world for children | Growing up without child labour



Peter de Ruiter

A world for children

Growing up without child labour



"By not allowing children to work but sending them to school, you lay the foundation for prosperity and well-being for everyone. Peter de Ruiter's appeal deserves all your attention and the positive response from governments, campaigners and anyone wanting to help rid the world of the sad fate of working children for once and for all."

Frans Röselaers, Former director of ILO/IPEC, International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour



"Becoming aware of the existence of child labour is the first step towards eliminating it. This photo book contributes to this awareness and creates a basis for the fight against child labour. Two very good reasons for the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment to support this book."

J.P.H. Donner, Dutch Minister of Social Affairs and Employment



"Around the world, there are more than 200 million children just like those who appear in this book - they are made to carry out hard and dangerous work for a pittance, or even for no wages at all. This is unacceptable. To end this injustice, everyone - government, the private sector and consumers - must take responsibility. We must seize every opportunity to eradicate child labour and give these children a chance of a better future."

M.J.M. Verhagen, Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs



"Dickens once shook the world with his story about Oliver Twist, by exposing the work houses in which orphans were set to work. This ghastly situation still exists in the world today. But now it is Peter de Ruiter, who is trying to shaking us awake. This time not in a novel but with pictures of child labourers from around the world, beautifully combined in one book that I can wholeheartedly recommend."

Yvonne Keuls,
Awarded Dutch author and playwright



"This book gives child labourers a voice. Only once child labour is fully recognised for the problem it really is, can the fight against it become effective. I hope that this book will contribute to this awareness."

Bert Koenders,
Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation



"Allow the children to play and learn so that they can become happy adults. Child labour is a curse. This is why we are working with other organisations on a campaign with the motto: Stop Child Labour, School is the best place to work!"

Agnes Jongerius Chair FNV Federation of Dutch Trade Unions