

## **NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE KAILASH SATYARTHI**

A visionary global thought leader and social reformer, Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi is at the forefront of globalising compassion. Satyarthi's life and mission embody the profound impact of compassion, illustrating its transformative power to drive meaningful change. He strongly believes that compassion is not a weak emotion but provides endless energy and drive to take compassionate action to alleviate others' suffering as if it were one's own. Through his latest movement Satyarthi Movement for Global Compassion, that was launched in 2024, Satyarthi aims to globalise compassion to promote a just, peaceful and sustainable world using Compassion as a guiding force. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 for his 'struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education.' Satyarthi's fearless and relentless efforts to eliminate violence against the vulnerable have sparked numerous mass movements and led to the creation of groundbreaking legislations worldwide.

Through his organisation Bachpan Bachao Andolan, Satyarthi has liberated more than 138,000 children from child labour, slavery, trafficking, and other forms of exploitation and developed a successful model for their education, rehabilitation, and reintegration into mainstream society. As a worldwide campaigner, he has been the architect of the single largest civil society network for the most exploited children, the Global March Against Child Labour. The physical march led to the adoption of ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour in 1999, which went on to become the only universally ratified convention in the history of ILO.

He is also the founding president of the Global Campaign for Education, an exemplary civil society movement working to end the global education crisis. He successfully spearheaded a countrywide movement, the Shiksha Yatra, to make education a Constitutional Provision which subsequently paved the way for the Right to Free and Compulsory Education in India in 2009.

In 2017 the Bharat Yatra, which began at Kanyakumari and culminated in New Delhi, was launched to raise awareness on child sexual abuse and trafficking. Spanning 12,000 kilometres across 22 states, it mobilised 1.2 million participants and led to the Union Cabinet approving the Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill in 2018. Satyarthi is credited for establishing GoodWeave International (previously known as Rugmark), a first-of-its-kind certification and social labelling mechanism for child labour-free carpets in South Asia. He has worked to advance ethical business practices, to help businesses liberate their supply chains from child labour.

He has been at the forefront of driving child-related agendas into the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which resulted in the UN Secretary-General appointing him an SDG Advocate in 2021. Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation is ensuring an end to the exploitation of children in India and around the world by addressing the inequality, injustice and discrimination that lie at the core of child labour.

In 2016, Satyarthi launched Laureates and Leaders for Children, a platform bringing together Nobel Laureates and leaders committed to working together for the world's most vulnerable children. Alongside former child labourers and students, he also launched the 100 Million campaign in 2016 to inspire and mobilise young people to stand up and act for their rights and the rights of their peers. Satyarthi has been at the forefront of demanding social protection for vulnerable children living in African nations and other low-income countries. For him, every minute matters, every child matters and every childhood matters.

Through SMGC, Satyarthi aims to create a compassionate world because he believes that compassion has the tremendous power of social transformation to attain justice, peace and sustainability and it can be measured and enhanced. Therefore, SMGC is working to develop a comprehensive framework called Compassion Quotient (CQ), which is a measure of an individual's ability for compassion.