

Kailash Satyarthi

NOBEL PRIZE LAUREATE

Child labour is no longer a remote ethical issue. It sits inside the supplier networks, raw-material chains, and contract-manufacturing tiers of large global businesses, often three or four layers below the buyer of record. Boards face a sharper question every year: can they prove the goods and services they sell were not produced by exploited children, and can they defend that proof to regulators, investors, and customers who increasingly insist on it.

Kailash Satyarthi is a Nobel Peace Laureate and child-rights leader who helps boards and global businesses confront child labour and human-rights risk inside their supply chains.

Kailash Satyarthi's 2026 Biography

Why organisations work with Kailash Satyarthi

- He is the only living Nobel Peace Laureate whose work targets the exact intersection of supply chain, child labour, and corporate accountability that ESG committees now have to defend.
- He built GoodWeave, the first voluntary certification system that traced child labour out of the South Asian carpet industry, giving him operational experience of what works and what fails when companies try to clean a supplier base.
- His 1998 Global March seeded ILO Convention 182, the most ratified convention in the organisation's history, which means he can speak to the policy frame that regulators and procurement teams now have to align with.
- Bachpan Bachao Andolan, the movement he founded in 1980, has freed more than 130,000 children in India, giving his arguments the weight of measurable on-the-ground results rather than advocacy alone.
- He raises the moral altitude of a leadership conversation in a way few speakers can, which is why boards bring him in when they want a corporate purpose programme to feel earned rather than performative.

Biography highlights

- 2014 Nobel Peace Prize, awarded jointly with Malala Yousafzai for the struggle against the suppression of children and the right of every child to education.
- Founder of Bachpan Bachao Andolan (1980), credited with freeing more than 130,000 children in India from bonded labour, child labour, and trafficking.
- Founder of GoodWeave International (1994), the first independent certification system for child-labour-free carpets in South Asia.

AVAILABLE FOR

- Speaking

KAILASH'S SPEAKING THEMES

- Climate Action and Sustainability
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- ESG Strategy
- Purpose-Driven Leadership
- Storytelling & Business Communication
- Supply Chain Resilience

LANGUAGES: English

- Architect of the 1998 Global March Against Child Labour across 103 countries, whose demands directly shaped ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.
- UN Sustainable Development Goals Advocate; recipient of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award (1995) and the Defenders of Democracy Award (2009).
- Author of Every Child Matters and Will for Children (Prabhat Prakashan); co-author with the Dalai Lama of The Book of Compassion.

Biography

In 1980, an electrical engineer in India walked away from his profession to free children locked inside brick kilns, carpet looms, and quarries. The organisation he founded that year, Bachpan Bachao Andolan, has since liberated more than 130,000 children from bonded labour, child labour, and trafficking. Kailash Satyarthi has spent forty-five years turning that work into a system.

The system has three layers that matter to corporate audiences. The first is rescue and rehabilitation, run through a network of activists and shelters in India. The second is certification: in 1994 he founded GoodWeave, which built the first credible voluntary label proving that a carpet was made without child labour, an early prototype for the supply chain audit regimes that are now standard in apparel, cocoa, and electronics. The third is policy. The Global March he led in 1998 covered 103 countries and 80,000 kilometres, and its demands fed directly into ILO Convention 182, now the most ratified convention in ILO history.

The 2014 Nobel Peace Prize, shared with Malala Yousafzai, gave his argument a global platform. He uses it to press a single point at boards and policy bodies: child labour is not a problem of poor countries, it is a problem of global procurement, and any company with a multi-tier supplier base owns part of it. That framing is uncomfortable for executives who treat human rights as a CSR line item, which is exactly why it lands.

His books, Every Child Matters and Will for Children with Prabhat Prakashan, and The Book of Compassion co-authored with the Dalai Lama, sit alongside his role as a UN Sustainable Development Goals Advocate. The through-line is consistent: moral authority backed by operational evidence, applied to the supply chains and policy systems that decide whether a child works or goes to school.

Key speaking topics

- Child labour in global supply chains
- Ethical sourcing and supplier certification
- Human rights and corporate accountability
- Education as an economic and rights agenda
- ESG, purpose, and moral leadership
- Civil society movements and policy change

Ideal for

- Boards and ESG committees defining human-rights and supply-chain commitments
- Chief procurement officers and CSR leaders auditing supplier networks
- Investor groups and policy bodies setting standards on labour and human rights
- Purpose, values, and culture programmes for global organisations

Audience outcomes

- A clearer view of where child labour actually lives inside multi-tier supplier networks, and what credible mitigation looks like.
- A working understanding of the certification, audit, and policy levers that have moved the needle, and where they have not.
- A direct account of how ILO Convention 182 came to exist, and what it now requires of buyers and regulators.
- The moral and strategic case for treating human rights as a board-level commitment rather than a reporting category.

Kailash Satyarthi's 2026 talks & topics

Free & Compulsory Education is a Human Right

A talk on education as the foundation of any credible response to child labour, exploitation, and intergenerational poverty.

Key takeaways:

- Why education access is the most reliable lever against child labour at scale.
- How law, policy, and corporate practice interact to keep children in school.
- What organisations and governments can do to widen access in the regions most at risk.

The Global Movement Against Child Labor

A first-person account of building the international civil-society coalition that produced ILO Convention 182.

Key takeaways:

- How a global civil-society movement was organised across 103 countries.
- What it took to translate public mobilisation into binding international law.
- Where the unfinished work now sits for governments, regulators, and corporates.

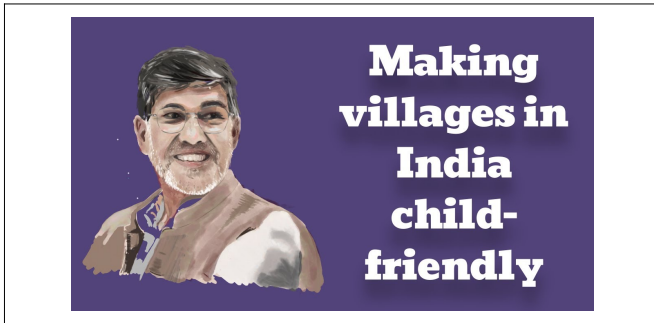
Corporations & Child Labor: A Worldwide Issue

A direct argument to boards and procurement leaders about child labour inside their own supplier networks.

Key takeaways:

- Where child labour typically hides in multi-tier global supply chains.
- What certification, audit, and supplier engagement models have actually worked.
- How to align human-rights commitments with credible operational follow-through.

Kailash Satyarthi's Videos

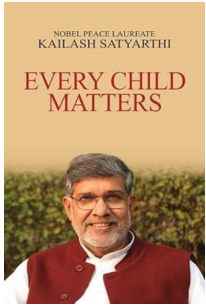


What Kailash Satyarthi's clients say

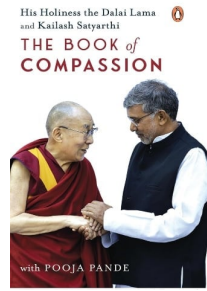
He clearly made an impact on the audience and everyone respects his work tremendously. He was a lovely man.

RSA Conference Europe

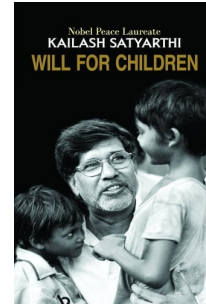
KAILASH'S LATEST BOOKS



EVERY CHILD MATTERS



The Book of Compassion



**WILL FOR CHILDREN:
Empowering Children Through
Wills**