

BUILDINGENERGY BOSTON

Design for Freedom: Eliminating Modern Slavery in the Building Material Supply Chain

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Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA)

March 1, 2022



Design for Freedom

eliminating modern slavery
in the building material supply chain

NESEA BuildingEnergy Boston
March 1, 2022



grace farms

Grace Farms Foundation's interdisciplinary humanitarian mission is to pursue peace through five initiatives – nature, arts, justice, community, and faith – and Grace Farms, a SANAA-designed site for convening people across sectors.

Our stake in the ground is to end modern slavery and gender-based violence, and create more grace and peace in our local and global communities.













The built environment has a relationship with nature and people.

Are your buildings ethically sourced, free of forced labor, as well as sustainably designed?



Design for Freedom
is a movement to create
a radical paradigm shift
and remove slavery from
the built environment.



impact



design for FREEDOM
by grace farms

A Call to Action for practicing professionals
within the ecosystem of the built environment

DesignforFreedom.org



Design for Freedom Working Group

(80+ CEOs, Principals, Industry Experts)



BURO HAPPOLD



EXTRAVEGA
ARCHITECTURAL FABRICATIONS



fxcollaborative

Gensler



MASS.

\ p à r . a . t u s \

Pentagram

Pratt



Sciame

sh p

Silman

SLADE ARCHITECTURE

SO-IL



THOMSON REUTERS®



**DEPARTMENT OF
GEOGRAPHICAL
SCIENCES**



**Weitzman
SCHOOL OF DESIGN
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

UrbanWorks

WXY

Yale ARCHITECTURE

VERITÉ

25 million people enslaved

Occurs in every region of the world

“...all work or service that is performed **involuntarily** and under the menace of any **penalty.**” (ILO)

Penalties include violence, intimidation, debt, retention of identity papers, immigration threats

forced labor

Work performed by a child under coercion applied by a third party either to the child or the child’s parents, or work performed by a child as a direct consequence of his or her parents being engaged in forced labor. (GEMS)

160 million children between the ages of 5 and 17 years old in 2020 (ILO)

child labor

are owners subsidizing their
ROI
with slavery?

likely, yes.



There is an inverse relationship between driving costs lower and the risk of raising human cost.



© Ahmed Salahuddin/ NurPhoto via Getty Images



Construction is the largest global industrialized sector and at the highest risk of forced labor.

150 billion
dollar value of the modern slavery criminal industry worldwide

152 million
children aged five to 17 are subjected to child labor

12 materials
(raw and composite)
at highest risk of forced labor in buildings

11.4 trillion
construction-related spending globally (USD)



Construction lags other industries in supply chain transparency



FOOD



CLOTHING



SHELTER



The next step in architecture justice must include social equity and ethical material transparency

climate justice
and
climate action

embodied
carbon
movement

social equity and
ethical material
transparency

Addressing on-site labor
is only half of the equation.

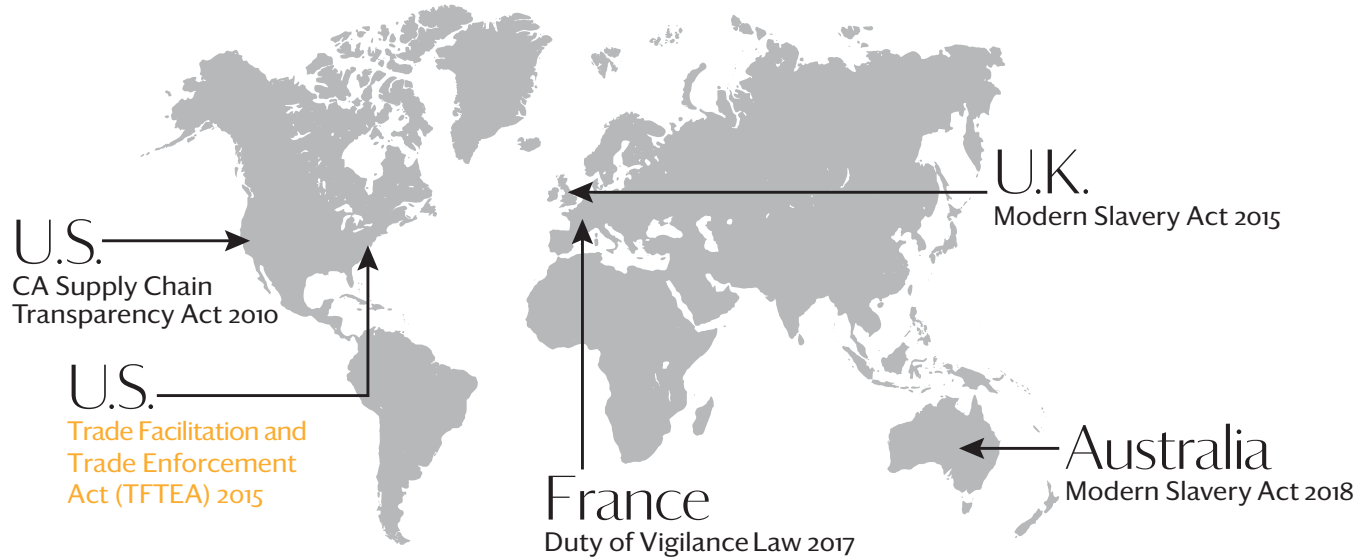




Global laws forbid the use of slave labor in the built environment, yet our buildings, and the materials that go into our buildings, are heavily reliant on slave labor.

Slavery is illegal in every country.

Countries are moving to make corporations more accountable.



178 jurisdictions are parties to the United Nations' Trafficking Protocol's call for prosecution, protection, and prevention. Supplementing other jurisdictions' reporting-based laws, the U.S. is using its tariff authority to prevent any products made with forced labor entering the country.

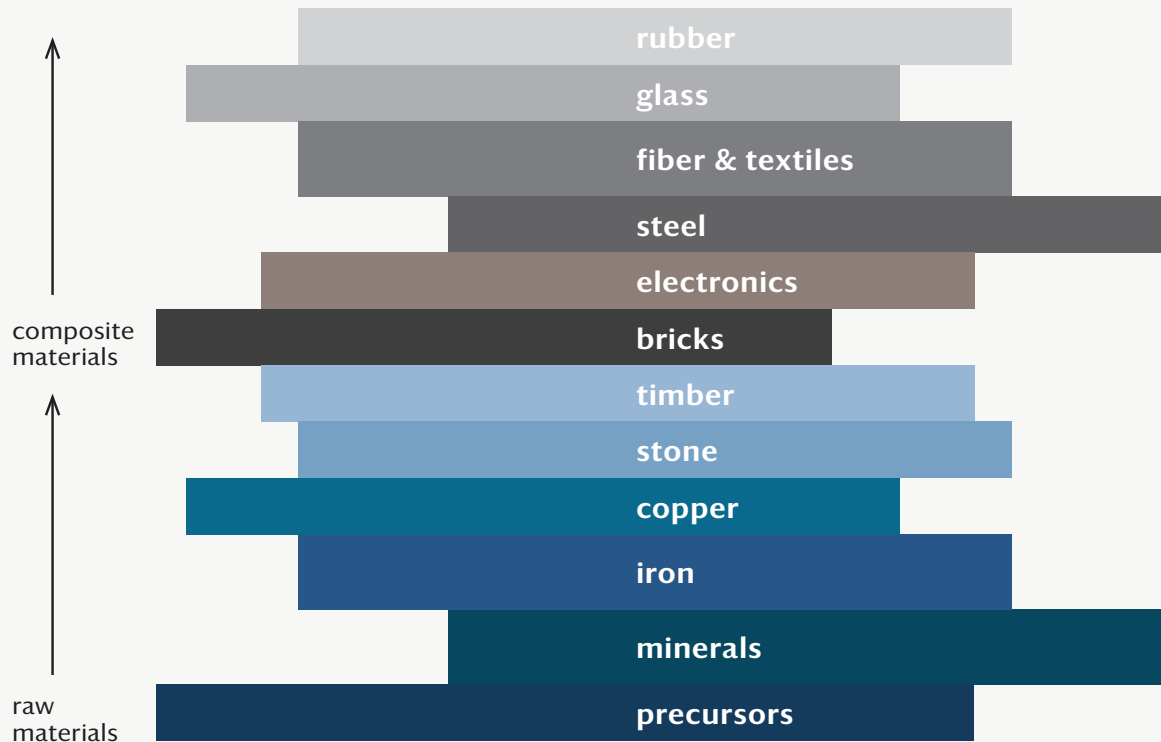
all forced labor produced goods
as well as illegally logged timber
are prohibited from importation
into the U.S.

what are

the riskiest products?



raw and composite materials at the highest risk of embedded slavery



Source: Verité "Commodities Atlas" and the U.S. Department of Labor's List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor, Grace Farms analysis

Timber

The US is the 2nd largest importer, following China

48.7
billion

value of timber products imported into the U.S. in 2018

38%

percentage of wood products globally used for buildings and construction.

Nations producing timber at risk of forced labor and human trafficking



■ forced labor ■ human trafficking

Source: Verité and *Global Forest Atlas*, Grace Farms analysis



Pre-Fab Construction: Mass Timber

Lauded as a major innovation in the sustainable building movement, timber itself is one of the most ubiquitous building materials that is at the highest risk of forced labor worldwide.

at-risk sawnwood



BRAZIL SOFTWOOD

Pine



BRAZIL & PERU HARDWOOD

Peru | White Oak and Walnut

Brazil | Tropical Lumber (Teak, Mahogany, Ipe, etc.)



RUSSIA SOFTWOOD

Pine, Spruce, and Fir



RUSSIA HARDWOOD

Oak, Birch, Aspen, and Elm



Textiles are found in shades and rugs, furnishings and walls; most anti-slavery efforts have been in garment production, but materials supply chains can include slave-made cotton, carpet, jute, sisal, and silk.





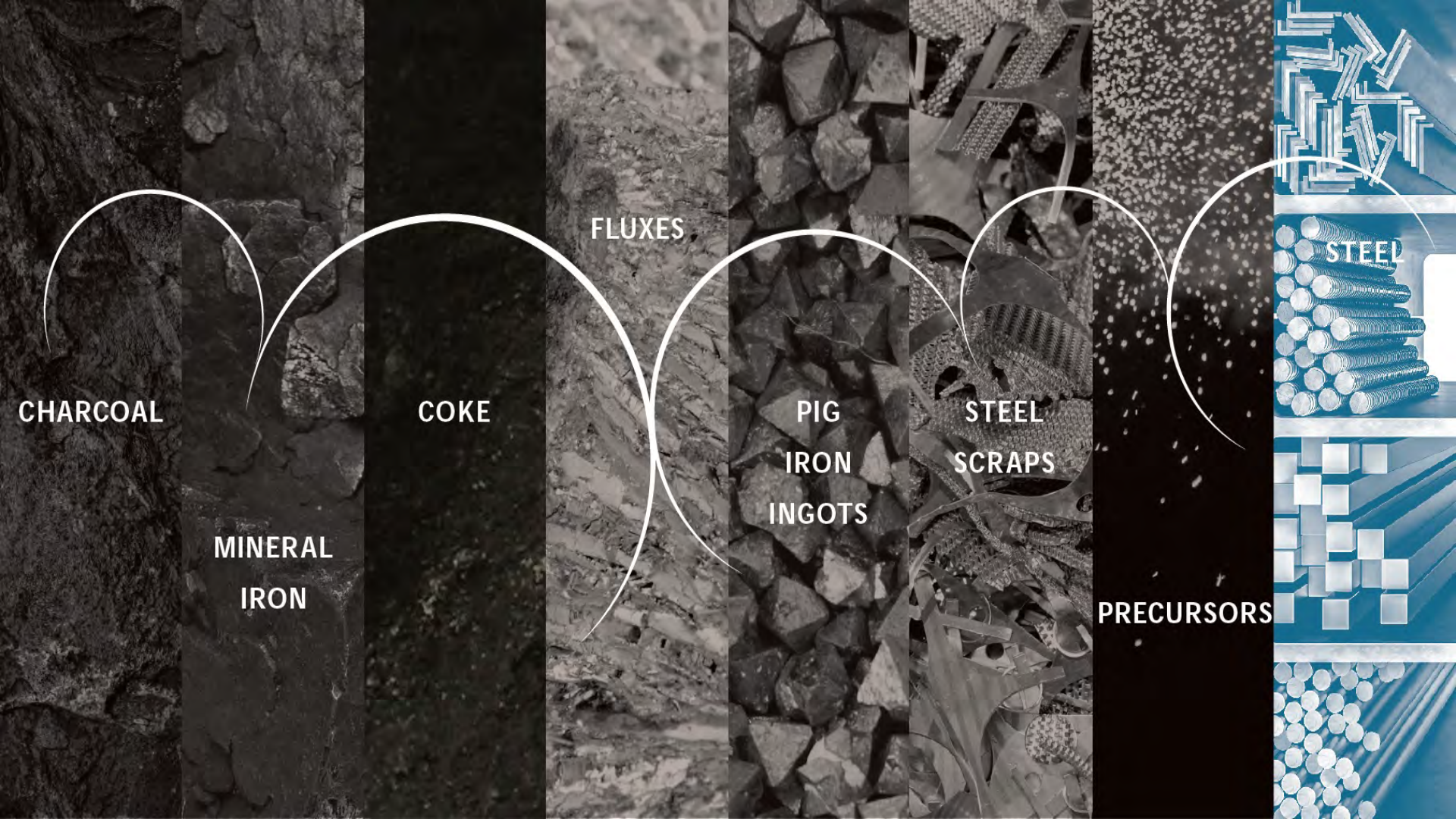
India and Bangladesh are the only countries in the world to produce jute in commercial quantities.

gravel &
calcium chloride
(concrete)





Brick is one of the most used at-risk materials. Children and adults are often held in debt bondage and breathe hazardous dust all day.

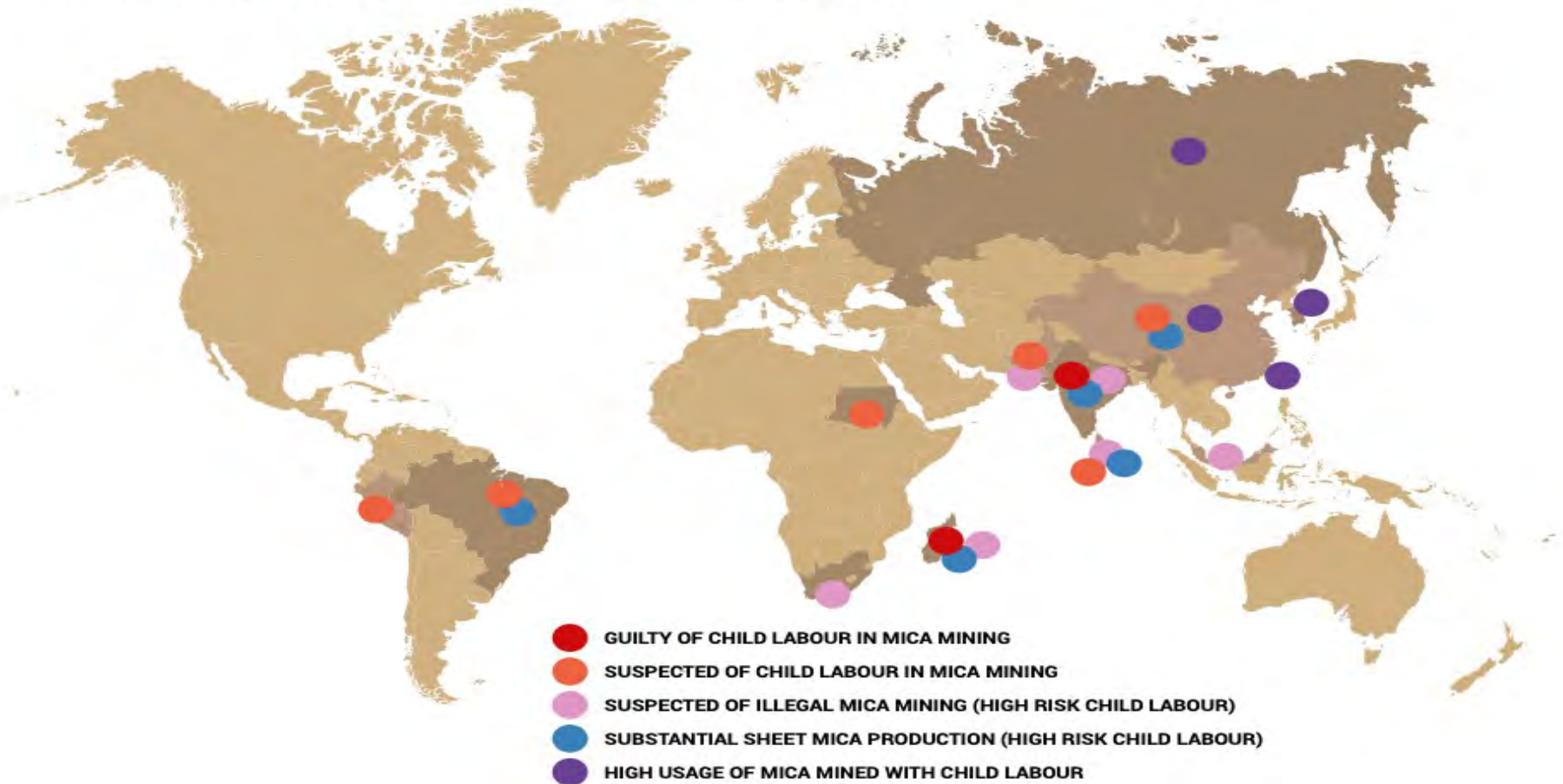




Mica is at high risk for forced labor

- Mica is used in building materials including insulation, concrete, and paint
- Mining is one of the worst forms of child labor
- Of all forms of hazardous work, mining is by far the most mortally dangerous for children

MICA PRODUCING COUNTRIES CLASSIFIED BY RISK



what can we do as
owners, designers,
engineers, and
construction
professionals?

Call to Action

1 _____

talk to your
clients and
colleagues about
the issue

2 _____

add requirements to
specifications and
contracts

3 _____

ask where
materials come
from

4 _____

use certifications and
measure impact

what certifications can help
identify ethical products?

There are dozens of certification and resources to help you examine your supply chain



United Nations
Global Compact



LIVING
PRODUCT
CHALLENGE



RESPONSIBLY
PRODUCED
COPPER



Just.



FAIR LABOR
ASSOCIATION

design for freedom
pilot projects

Design for Freedom pilot projects

- Accelerate awareness of forced labor in building materials supply chains
- Enhance Material Transparency by adding ethical labor inputs
- Add to the industry's body of knowledge with ethical provenance and risk assessment research and case studies
- Transform the market through pressure points and purchasing power



Design for Freedom Pilot Projects



Temporal Shift by
Alyson Shotz



design for FREEDOM summit

march 31, 2022

presented by grace farms





We have harnessed the knowledge and insight of our partners and team to advance a non-negotiable challenge: that every building should be designed and built for freedom.

once you know

you can't un-know it

and now

there is a duty to act



design for
FREEDOM
by grace farms



*“There is no sustainable future
without an equitable future.”*

Mahesh Ramanujam

PRACTICING A MISSION



Stung Meanchey landfill, Phnom Penh, Cambodia





Neeson Cripps Academy, Phnom Penh, Cambodia



MANIFESTO

COOKFOX Architects pledges to do our part to purge the building industry of unethical labor practices by shining a light on forced labor within the building supply chain. As we continue confront the social and racial injustices that surround us, we must use this same lens to focus on the injustices within the construction industry.

We believe:

Freedom is fundamental to the equity, health and well-being of humans.

The well-being of humanity depends on a healthy planet.

Sustainable buildings are vital to creating a healthier planet.

A sustainable future is meaningless without an equitable future.

We have a professional, ethical and moral responsibility to pursue sustainable, equitable design.

We must:

Eradicate the inhumane practices that permeate the supply chain and harm individuals and the global community.

Educate industry colleagues and consumers on the hidden and pervasive nature of forced-labor practices.

Establish resources that enable our studio to specify healthy, ethically sourced, forced labor-free building materials and products.

Create documentation and accountability practices.

Use our practice to set a new standard for forced labor-free buildings.

WHAT
CAN
WE
DO?



EDUCATING OURSELVES

We can:

Commit early in the design process to ask where each material comes from and revise selections to avoid benefiting from slavery.

We must:

Heighten requirements for slave-free materials in the proposal process.

Enact a system for tracking and monitoring where materials and equipment originate.

Proactively collect, analyze, and share information about products.

Assess what is in our materials library.

Get buy-in from all other stakeholders on the project.

WHAT
CAN
WE
DO?



GOING PUBLIC

We can:

We can become aware of which Force Labor Free products are available to specify in project manuals and educate ourselves about slavery free labor in the building industry.

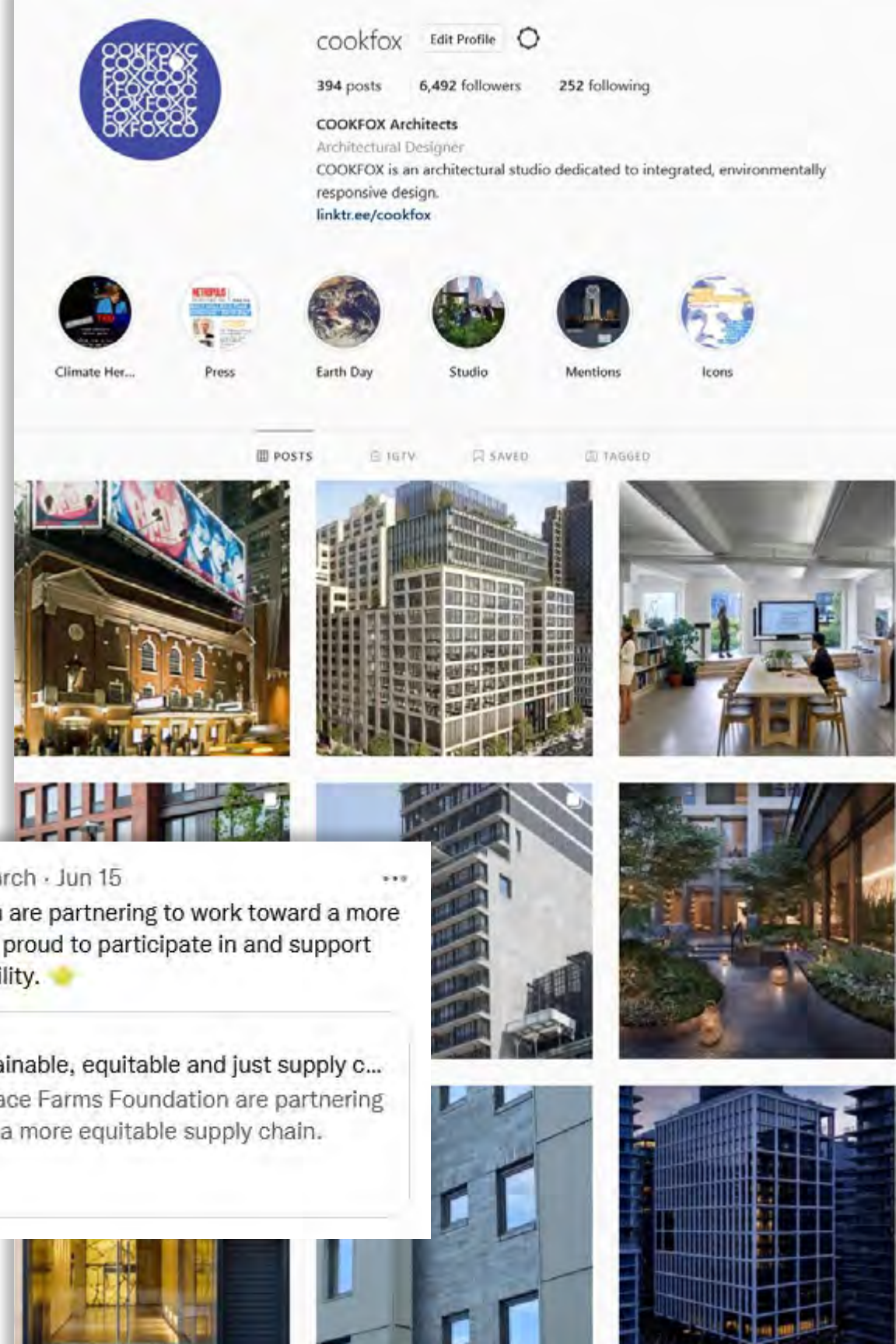
We must:

Publicize our policy

Participate in efforts to change the industry

Publicly disclose anti-slavery commitments

WHAT
CAN
WE
DO?



COOKFOX Architects @COOKFOXarch · Jun 15

USGBC and Grace Farms Foundation are partnering to work toward a more equitable supply chain. COOKFOX is proud to participate in and support this movement to advance sustainability. 🌱



Time for a sustainable, equitable and just supply c...
USGBC and Grace Farms Foundation are partnering to work toward a more equitable supply chain.

[usgbc.org](https://www.usgbc.org)

CREATING A MOVEMENT

We must:

Join the Design For Freedom movement and social media campaign.

Together, we can:

Work to make sure that the environment we design into reality does not embody forced labor.

Spread the word about slave-free labor practices in the building industry so we can affect market transformation.

Make every effort to effect positive and sustainable change to eliminate forced labor in the built environment.

WHAT
CAN
WE
DO?



BUILDING RESOURCES

Forced Labor Free Resources

We are creating a consolidated list of forced labor free certifications and starting a database of certified materials.

Company Name	Certification	Website	Product(s)
Marshall	BES 6002 Ethical Labour Sourcing Standard	https://www.marshall.com	Hardscape
Sr Robert McAlpine	BES 6002 Ethical Labour Sourcing Standard	https://www.srm.com/	Construction and Civil Engineering
Tarmac - a CRH Company	BES 6002 Ethical Labour Sourcing Standard	http://tarmac.com/	Aggregates and related products for paving and other construction
Herules Site Services	BES 6002 Ethical Labour Sourcing Standard	https://www.herules.com/	Construction and Civil Engineering
Danny Sullivan Group	BES 6002 Ethical Labour Sourcing Standard	http://www.dannygroup.com/	Construction labor
Randstad	BES 6002 Ethical Labour Sourcing Standard	https://www.randstad.com/	Human resources consulting firm
Miliken & Company	BES 6002 Ethical Labour Sourcing Standard	http://www.miliken.com/	Custom chemicals and floor coatings
Reliable Contractors	BES 6002 Ethical Labour Sourcing Standard	https://reliablecontractors.com/	Construction contracting for infrastructure projects
O'Neill & Brennan	BES 6002 Ethical Labour Sourcing Standard	https://www.oneillandbrennan.com/	Construction labor and site logistics
Hardscape Inspire, Select, Supply	BES 6002 Ethical Labour Sourcing Standard	https://hardscape.co.uk/	Hardscape
Sky Blue, Fortel, Nexus	BES 6002 Ethical Labour Sourcing Standard	https://www.skyblue.com/	A range of labor management and security services
BCDI Construction Company	Just	https://www.bcdiconsulting.com/	Commercial general contractor
Industrial Louvers	Just	https://www.industrial-louvers.com/	Custom architectural metal components
Cordell	Just	https://www.cordell.com/	Sustainable engineering consultants
Penta y Veinticuatro	Cradle to Cradle (silver)	https://www.pentayveinticuatro.com/	Perifoc HP Eco+ (Gypsum based fire resistant and ecologic mortar for fire protection)
AEATotes	Cradle to Cradle (silver)	https://www.aeatotes.com/	Fire resistant metal doors
Hueck Aluminium Systems	Cradle to Cradle (silver)	https://www.hueck.com/en/	HUECK Trigon FS 040/050/060 & SG - Aluminium Façade and Door System
AGC Glass Europe	Global Sustainable Enterprise System	https://www.agc-glass.com/	Magnelion Coated/Painted/patterned/laminated/acid etched glass, and lead-free mirrors

SYSTEMIC REVIEW OF FORCED LABOR FREE CERTIFICATIONS

2 Forced Labour Free (FLF) Certifications

2023 FLF Summary (Items 1-10)

CERTIFICATION NAME	SUMMARY	Carrying out Environmental Impact?	General Certification Type	Quote - Link	REPORTING STRATEGIES	Comment
Sustainable	FLF (Sustainable) Summary: This FLF average company is focused on supply chain and audit suppliers.	Y	Client service	Quote: "We are committed to ethical sourcing and ensuring our supply chain is free from forced labor." Link: https://www.sustainable.com/	Supplier network survey	Supplier network
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STEPS WE ARE TAKING



PRACTICE

Pilot Project

We are working on a white paper and a parallel path innovation model to investigate the ways COOKFOX can adapt the design and specification process of a speculative, developer-driven large-scale project in NYC to reduce the impact of forced labor.

STEPS
WE
ARE
TAKING



MARKET TRANSFORMATION

We must:

We are educating colleagues, clients, and peers about forced labor issues.

We are:

Including Design for Freedom principles in all discussions with clients and proposals for new projects.

STEPS
WE
ARE
TAKING



WHAT
CAN
YOU
DO?

Our vision is to achieve forced labor free building supply chains. While it is easy to be overwhelmed by the enormity and complexity of this challenge, we believe that all of us can contribute, one building block at a time, to our vision of material transparency and reduced risk of forced labor in our buildings.



DISCUSSION

STEPS
YOU
CAN
TAKE.

HOW WOULD YOU BEGIN IN YOUR CONTEXT?

