

Children in Bolivia fight for their right to work

Hundreds of thousands of children work in Bolivia even though the minimum working age is 14. But as most of them have to help support their families, they depend on their jobs. Some have united to improve their lives.



There are many faces of child labour in Bolivia. Some children are happy to work for a few hours to help their families and pay for things like schoolbooks and bus fares. Others have a really hard time, working long hours through the night and in the heat, sometimes doing backbreaking work.



According to the laws of Bolivia, children under the age of 14 should not be doing any work. Children under the age of 18 are not allowed to do “hazardous” work, for example working at night.

However, not only do many children in Bolivia work, some have come together to form “the Union of Child and Adolescent Workers of Bolivia (UNATsBO)”, an organisation of young workers united to defend themselves against exploitation.



UNATsBO wants governments to stop saying that children below a certain age shouldn't work at all, and instead focus on protecting the young people who do work. In particular they campaign against poor wages, the physical and psychological abuse that children face at work and the kinds of work that prevent children from going to school.

UNATsBO also provides a place for young people to find solidarity with others who understand them.