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GREEN NEWS

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CHILDREN SLAVES OF GREEN DREAM

The dark side of Green technology

The key minerals used in today's batteries are cobalt of which 60% is sourced from one country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and lithium of which more than 50% is sourced from the Lithium Triangle in South America, which covers parts of Argentina, Bolivia and Chile. Today 20% of cobalt is mined by hand. Amnesty International has documented children and adults mining cobalt in narrow man-made tunnels, at risk of fatal accidents and serious lung disease.

The cobalt mined by children and adults in horrendous conditions in the DRC in Africa is entering the supply chains of some of the world's biggest brands. The richest most powerful companies in the world are still making excuses for not investigating their supply chains. Even those that are investigating are failing to disclose the human rights risks and abuses they find.

As demand for rechargeable batteries grows, companies have a responsibility to prove that they have ethical supply chains, a priority when implementing green policies, and are not profiting from the misery of miners working in terrible conditions like those in the DRC. The energy solutions of the future must not be built of human rights abuses.

When a company has contributed to, or benefited from, child labor or adults working in hazardous conditions, it has a responsibility to remediate the harm suffered. This means working with other companies and the government to remove children from the worst forms of child labor and support their reintegration into school, as well as addressing health and psychological needs. ([Read More](#))