



# Fair Trade Principles and Jewish Values

## Fair Trade Value

## Jewish Value

## Jewish Text

Provide Fair and Timely Wages

Halanat Sachar - Pay wages in a timely manner

You shall not abuse a needy or destitute laborer, whether a fellow countryman or a stranger in one of the communities of your land. You must pay his wages on the same day, before the sun sets, for his needs and his life depend on it. *Deuteronomy 24:14-15*

Ona'ah – Do not deceive or defraud

It is forbidden to cheat people in buying or selling or to deceive them, whether they are Jewish or gentile – they are equal in measure. *Rambam, Mishneh Torah, Hilchot Mechirah 18:1*

Oshek – Do not cheat; pay what is earned

Whoever withholds an employee's wages, it is as though he had taken the person's life from him. *Talmud, Baba Mezia 112A*

Prohibit Child Labor and Support Gender Equity

Tzelem Elohim – Sanctity of all humans, as we're made in the Divine image

Beloved is all humankind for they were made B'tzelem Elohim (in the image of Gd). Doubly beloved are they, for they were told that they were made in the image of Gd. As it says: "In the image of Gd was humankind made." *Mishnah, Pirkei Avot 3:14, Genesis 1:27*

Ahavat HaGer - Love the Stranger as Yourself

Gd upholds the cause of the orphan and the widow, and befriends the stranger, providing him/her with food and clothing. -- You too must befriend the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. *Genesis 9:6; Deuteronomy 10:18-19*

Right to Education

Communities everywhere have an obligation to appoint teachers for their children. A city without school children will be destroyed. *Sefer HaChinuch, Mitzvah 419*

Provide Healthy and Safe Working Conditions

Ma'akeh Le-gagechah – Mitzvah to protect people from risk

It is a positive commandment to eliminate every hazard that endangers life... If one did not eliminate it, but preserved the hazards that cause danger, one has overlooked a positive commandment and transgressed "you shall not bring blood-guilt into your house." *Shulchan Aruch, Choshen Mishpat, (427:8)*

Preserve and Respect Cultural Identity

Umot ha-Olam – Respect for Other Nations

A gem in the mouths of the Rabbis of Yavneh: I am Gd's creature and my fellow is Gd's creature. My work is in the city and their work is in the field. I rise early for my work and they rise early for their work. Just as they do not presume to do my work, so I do not presume to do their work. Will you say, I do (learn) much and they do (learn) little? We have a tradition: One may do much or one may do little; it is all the same, provided one directs one's heart to heaven. *Talmud, Brachot 17a*

Come and learn. Human dignity is so important that it supersedes even a Biblical prohibition. *Talmud, Brachot, 19b*



Fair Trade Judaica

Crafted With Jewish Values

[Ilana@FairTradeJudaica.org](mailto:Ilana@FairTradeJudaica.org)

[FairTradeJudaica.org](http://FairTradeJudaica.org)



# Fair Trade Principles and Jewish Values

## Fair Trade Value

## Jewish Value

## Jewish Text

Cultivate Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability

Bal Tashchit - Do Not Waste or Destroy

When Gd created the first human beings, Gd led them around all the trees of the Garden of Eden and said: "Look at My works! See how beautiful they are—how excellent! For your sake I created them all. See to it that you do not spoil and destroy My world; for if you do, there will be no one else to repair it." [Translation by AJWS] *Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:13*

Whoever breaks vessels, or tears garments, or destroys a building, or clogs a well, or does away with food in a destructive manner violates the negative mitzvah of Bal Tashchit. *Rambam, Hilkhhot Melakhim 6:10*

L'Avda U'Ishamra – Till and Protect the Land

Gd placed Adam in the Garden of Eden to till it and tend it. *Genesis 2:15*

Support Community Development & Sustainability

Tzedakah – Obligation for Righteous Giving

The highest level of tzedakah is when you support others by giving them a gift, or a loan, or enter into a partnership with them, or create a job so that they can support themselves until they no longer need to depend upon others. *Maimonides, Mishneh Torah 10:7-1*

Do not let others slip down until they fall completely, for then it will be difficult to raise them; rather, strengthen others as they begin to fall. To what is this comparable? To a burden upon a donkey. While it is still on the donkey, one person can hold it and set it in place. If it falls to the earth, even five people cannot set it back. *Rashi, Leviticus 25:35 (cf. Torat Kohanim, Sifre Behar, Chapter 5)*

Support Organizational Integrity and Transparency

Ona'at Mammon – Do not engage in price deception or fraud

When you sell anything to your neighbor or buy anything from your neighbor, you shall not deceive one another. *Leviticus 25:14*

The people of the city are authorized to stipulate weights and measures and to set workers' wages and establish penalties for breaking the rules. *Talmud Tractate Bava Batra 8b*

