

GoodWeave International Standard-Setting System Report



Version 1.1

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GoodWeave International is an organization working to stop child labor in the carpet industry and to replicate its market-based approach in other sectors. This public report provides an overview of GoodWeave's certification standard and its development and revision process. The purpose of this report is to ensure transparency and demonstrate compliance with the ISEAL Standard-Setting Code. The content of this report is renewed annually.

The GoodWeave Standard

Why is it needed?

Child labor is a crime committed against one out of every seven children around the world. Despite international norms and laws prohibiting it, child labor is rampant in South Asia's handmade rug industry. Children ages 4 to 14 are kidnapped or sold and forced to work as many as 18 hours a day to weave rugs destined for export markets such as the US and Europe. They are subject to malnutrition, impaired vision, deformities from sitting long hours in cramped loom sheds, respiratory diseases from inhaling wool fibers and wounds from using sharp tools. Those working as bonded laborers have no chance to earn their freedom and frequently earn little or no money. This exploitation is a form of modern slavery.

GoodWeave is helping to combat this problem and transform the rug industry by certifying child-labor-free rugs and by providing education and opportunities to rescued and at-risk children. By building both the supply of and demand for child-labor-free rugs, GoodWeave has catalyzed a profound shift in the marketplace. Since GoodWeave's founding 20 years ago, more than 11 million certified carpets have been sold in Europe and North America, and the number of children trapped in exploitative carpet-making work has dropped by an estimated 75%.

Recognizing that the problem of child labor is intertwined with bonded labor, trafficking and other fundamental rights at work, as well as working conditions for adults, GoodWeave has developed a new, expanded standard for the carpet industry. The expanded standard has been finalized and approved by the GoodWeave Standards Committee, and is being phased in beginning in 2016.

Where does it apply?

In order to earn the GoodWeave label, manufacturers must meet GoodWeave's certification standard and agree to independent regular, unannounced inspections. The product standard attests to the conditions under which the product was made. It applies to rug-making processes carried out in all production sites in a company's supply chain including factory, subcontractor, and home-based work. At present GoodWeave works in three carpet producing countries: India, Nepal and Afghanistan. This represents the current geographic and sector scope of the certification standard.

GoodWeave is also developing pilot programs in new industries. The Better Brick Nepal initiative launched in 2014 was the first initiative to test replication of the GoodWeave model in a new industry. It does not, however, fall within the scope of GoodWeave’s current carpet standards. Standard development processes planned to commence in 2017 will determine whether the GoodWeave standard will be expanded in scope for additional sectors, or to develop separate standards for new industries.

What issues does it address?

The current GoodWeave standard came into effect in 2016 and expanded the scope of the certification baseline requirements from one certification principle, namely child labor, to also include forced and bonded labor as well as the transparency required to ensure compliance. It also contains progress principles, which set criteria for continuous improvement but are not mandatory certification requirements. These addresses issues inter-related to child labor that include adult labor working conditions, fundamental human rights and environmental impacts.

	Previous Standard	Current Standard – effective January 2016
Certification Principles <i>(baseline requirements)</i>	No Child Labor	A1: No Child Labor is Allowed A2: No Forced or Bonded Labor is Allowed A3: Conditions of Work are Documented and Verifiable
Progress Principles <i>(improvement criteria)</i>	n/a	B1: Freedom of association and collective bargaining are recognized B2: No discrimination is practiced B3: Decent working conditions are respected a: Workplace safety and health b: Wages c: Working hours d: No harsh or inhumane treatment B4: Negative environmental impacts of production are identified and minimized

GoodWeave consulted with a wide range of experts and members of the carpet industry to identify and define the seven principles of the expanded standard aimed to create a more stable, safe and ethical carpet supply chain. The broader scope of labor-related criteria is designed to help improve GoodWeave’s efficacy in addressing the root causes of child labor. The lack of secure incomes for adults and the exploitation of children are interrelated, while fair and decent work for adults will translate into families having their own children in school.

The standard is supported by policies and guidelines that address implementation issues specific to the countries where GoodWeave works, such as application of the standard in home-based settings, as well as child protection and remediation of child labor.

Standard-Setting and Revision Process

Who sets the standard?

GoodWeave’s Standards Committee develops and decides on the content of the GoodWeave standard. Its composition is designed to ensure a balance of interests including carpet manufacturers and importers/retailers (users of the GoodWeave certification system), civil society/NGO and independent external experts representing child rights, adult workers’ rights and environmental issues expertise, and members of GoodWeave initiatives from producer and consumer countries. The Standards Committee reports to the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) of GoodWeave International, which reviews and determines whether a proper process was followed in the development of the content of the standard, and determines steps for its implementation.

Standards Committee	Executive Leadership Team
<p>A. Exporters/Manufacturers - 2-4 voting members representing the industries from producer countries.</p> <p>B. Importers/Retailers/Purchasers - 2-4 voting members representing the industries from consumer countries.</p> <p>C. Civil Society/NGOs/Independent Experts - 2-4 voting members representing civil society organizations (NGO sector) and independent external experts representing child rights, adult workers and environmental issues expertise.</p> <p>D. Internal - 3 voting members drawn from GoodWeave’s Board, consumer, producer country offices, and one observer (non-voting) member from the GoodWeave Certification Committee.</p> <p>E. Other - Additional external experts may be nominated for specific issues (non-voting).</p>	<p>A. Ex officio members - GWI Executive Director - Director of GWI Certification Division - Director of each country Affiliate and country Program (including both consumer and producer countries)</p> <p>B. Appointed members - Up to three additional officers of the GoodWeave International Secretariat</p>

How is it developed?

GoodWeave reviews its standard at least every five years. The process for developing/revision the standard is based on the good practice guidelines from the ISEAL Standard-Setting Code. The GoodWeave International Secretariat manages the process and undertakes the research and coordination work for the Standard Committee.

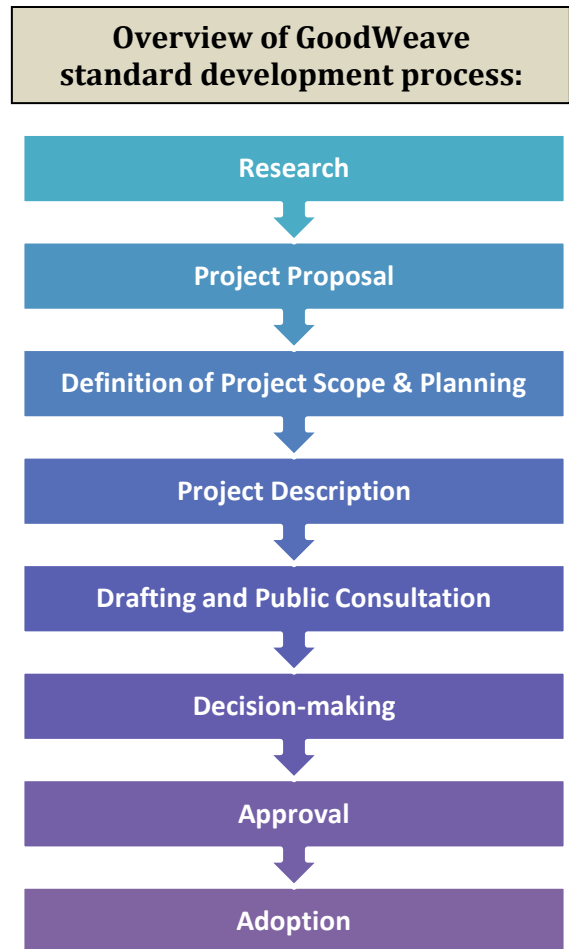
The Standard Operating Procedure – Development of GoodWeave Standards describes the process in more detail. A summary is depicted below.

Research often precedes the development or revision of standards, or it may be undertaken at any time during the process. Once a proposal is made, it is reviewed by the ELT in order to decide whether to approve the project of developing or revising a standard. During the planning stage the scope, objectives, timelines, work plans, budget and allocation of responsibilities are determined and a main contact point is assigned.

At this stage a project description is developed, along with the draft standard for consultation. A mapping exercise is conducted to identify key stakeholder groups for outreach and public consultations. There are many types of activities that can be used, such as individual and group meetings, phone calls, emails, surveys, workshops and online webinars. GoodWeave offices in each producer and consumer country determine a list of priority stakeholders to contact and the most appropriate method for consulting them, taking into account any potential barriers to participation. Many of the direct users and beneficiaries of GoodWeave’s programs do not have access to online/electronic communications, thus in-person meetings and surveys are typically prioritized for reaching these groups.

The Standards Committee decides on the content of standards based on the findings from research, consultations and pilot projects. Decisions are made by consensus where possible, or by majority vote (weighted to ensure balance of interests represented) if consensus cannot be achieved. Once the content of standards has been approved, the Executive Leadership Team decides whether the standard may be adopted based on whether a proper process was followed, and determines the steps necessary for implementation. The decision-making processes are described in more detail in the respective Terms of Reference of each body.

In addition to public consultations, GoodWeave also engages a broad range of stakeholders on an ongoing basis through the participation of representatives on various committees, local and international boards as well ongoing communications and pilot projects. Feedback related to the GoodWeave standard is accepted at any time and collected to inform future standard development. Any interested parties may also submit complaints against the standard or processes as described in the Standard Operating Procedure – Complaints and Appeals.



References

- A. Standards Committee Terms of Reference
- B. Executive Leadership Team Terms of Reference
- C. Standard Operating Procedure – Development of GoodWeave Standards
- D. Standard Operating Procedure – Complaints and Appeals

More information about past standard development processes, including stakeholder comments and previous drafts can be viewed at: <http://www.goodweave.org/standard/standard-development>