

Child Labor in the Leather Industry
By Sister Maureen Michael Byrne

I saw a pair of shoes on line and thought about how unique they were and how arty they looked. Then I started to wonder how in the world do you get multicolored leather? Who tans the leather? What dyes and chemicals are used to produce the color? Where are they made? Then I sat on a leather couch and asked the same questions. Well, I discovered that much of the of the leather used in the western world comes from Pakistan and Bangladesh and most of the labor force is made up of children who begin working by the time they are eight years old and unfortunately many have died by age 50 because of the toxic conditions.

There is so much information about this published by [SOMO](#) (the Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations). Once you read a bit you will think twice about the leather you have on your feet or the chair upon which you sit. Consider visiting [Ethical Consumer](#) for help with making sustainable and ethical purchasing decisions!

