

## **COLLECTION LEVEL DESCRIPTION**

Dates: 1998-2005

Extent & Physical Description: 1 box, 39 folders

Class of materials specific details: 102.4m of textual & graphic material, 30 Photographs, 2 CDs, 1 USB

## **ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY OR BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Jane Irene Armstrong was a UAW/CAW (now Unifor) national representative from 1980-2004. Her work from the outset involved integrated paid and unpaid work which was encouraged for all from the rank-and-file leadership to national staff of the union.

Social unionism is integral to the history of the United Auto Workers union, then the Canadian Auto Workers union when it split from its American origins in 1985 and carries on in the present. It is a philosophy that recognizes the role of trade unionism goes beyond the conditions of the workplace to struggles that encompass the working class in their communities and around the world. To paraphrase the words of Mozambique leader, Samora Machel, 'solidarity is not an act of charity but an act of mutual respect'.

For the decade of the 1980s, Armstrong was an integral part of the South African Congress of Trade Unions Solidarity Committee (SACTU Solidarity Committee) working to build anti-apartheid solidarity within the Canadian trade union movement. Whether working evenings or weekends or arguing on the mic of conventions such as the Canadian Labour Congress for stronger actions, it was participation in internationalism, "An Injury to One is an Injury to All".

Work to eliminate child labour increased in intensity in the 1990s with unions exposing, around the world, children polishing gemstones, working in agriculture such as coffee and cocoa and enslaved in brickworks, rug making and soccer balls in India and Pakistan. In my capacity as a national representative, Armstrong worked with various organizations including Free the Children in the 1990s in addition to my role as CAW Communications Director (1994-2004). As well in the mid 1990s she was elected Vice-President of the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) where the issue of child labour catapulted on to the national news with the 1995 OFL convention speech by 12- year- old, Craig Kielburger. [See Kielburger, Craig, 1998, Free the Children, Chapter 2]. The extraordinary financial pledges made from the floor of the convention were placed in a trust fund and Armstrong chaired the discussions which settled on supporting an organization in India dedicated to freeing children from bonded and slave labour, the South Asian Coalition on Child Labour (SACCS).

Free the Children shifted away from eliminating child labour to other endeavors and Armstrong left the organization but continued with the labour movement to advocate for political change to ban child labour and enforce the rights of the child for education. To that end, Armstrong was part of the Canadian Labour Congress delegation to the International Labour Organization (ILO) meetings of 1998-1999 to create a new instrument, #182, to eliminate the worst forms of child labour.

The Canadian Auto Workers union continued to financially support the South Asian Coalition on Child Labour (SACCS) led by Kailash Satyarthi and in 2003, Armstrong was sent by the CAW to India to

observe the work at Bal Ashram in India, built by SACCS that the OFL and later, the CAW supported financially. In 2014 Kailash Satyarthi received the Nobel Peace Prize.

While Armstrong worked on other issues: universal childcare, women's issues, she was not unique, as thousands of trade unionists worked paid and unpaid on a host of local, national and international issues.

The Ontario Federation of Labour created in 1957, serves as an umbrella group for working people and their unions.

The Canadian Auto Workers Union is now Unifor. Unifor was formed on August 31, 2013, and marked the union of the Canadian Auto Workers union (CAW) and the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada (CEP). Unifor is now Canada's largest private sector union.

The South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude was founded in 1989 in Delhi India. Their aim is to create a child labour free society, where all children attend school; identify, liberate, rehabilitate and educate children in servitude through direct intervention, coalition building and mass mobilization.

## **SCOPE & CONTENT**

The material is comprised mostly of textual records from the Ontario Federation of Labour, the Ontario Auto Workers Union, and the South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude. Photographic (physical & digital) and moving image files are also included. The material content covers the topic of child labour, more specifically information related to the Bal Ashram Trust.

**Restrictions on access:** No Restrictions on access

**Language:** English and Hindi

**Arrangement:** Material was not arranged in any discernible order besides keeping documents from the same folder together. Files placed together during the donation have been kept together. The files are arranged into series.

## **SERIES LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS**

**Series 1.0:** Ontario Federation of Labour

**Date range:** 1997-1998

**Extent:** 18.6m of textual records (7 Folders)

**Scope and content:** Documents between the Ontario Federation of Labour, Children's Trust Fund, and South Asian Coalition on Child Labour.

**Arrangement:** Material was not arranged in any discernible order. Files placed together during the donation have been kept together.

**Access:** Open

For further details, see file list in appendix.

**Series 2.0:** Canadian Auto Workers Union

**Date range:** 1997-2002

**Extent:** 3.4m of textual records (2 Folders)

**Scope and content:** Documents pertaining to Canadian Auto Workers site visit in India.

**Arrangement:** Material was not arranged in any discernible order. Files placed together during the donation have been kept together.

**Access:** Open

For further details, see file list in appendix.

**Series 3.0:** South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude

**Date range:** 1998-2004

**Extent:** 60m of textual records (22 Folders)

**Scope and content:** Documents about South Asian Coalition on Child Labour.

**Arrangement:** Material was not arranged in any discernible order. Files placed together during the donation have been kept together.

**Access:** Open

For further details, see file list in appendix.

**Series 4.0:** News Clippings

**Date range:** 1998-2003

**Extent:** 5.6m of textual records (4 Folders)

**Scope and content:** News articles in English and Hindi about child labour.

**Arrangement:** Material was not arranged in any discernible order. Files placed together during the donation have been kept together.

**Access:** Open

For further details, see file list in appendix.

**Series 5.0:** Miscellaneous: Guidebooks and Maps

**Date range:** 1998-2000

**Extent:** 14.8m of textual records, 1 map (4 Folders)

**Scope and content:** Series consists of guidebooks for India and maps.

**Arrangement:** Material was not arranged in any discernible order. Files placed together during the donation have been kept together.

**Access:** Open

For further details, see file list in appendix.

**Series 6.0:** Photographs

**Date range:** n.d.

**Extent:** 30 photographs

**Scope and content:** Series consists of coloured photographs of various Bal Ashram events in India.

**Arrangement:** Material was not arranged in any discernible order. Files placed together during the donation have been kept together.

**Access:** Open

For further details, see file list in appendix.

**Series 7.0:** Digital Records

**Date range:** 2003-2005

**Extent:** 2 CD, 1 USB

**Scope and content:** Series consists of digital records.

**Arrangement:** Material was not arranged in any discernible order. Files placed together during the donation have been kept together.

**Access:** Open

For further details, see file list in appendix.

**APPENDIX A: BOX AND FILE LIST**

<b>SERIES 1.0: Ontario Federation of Labour</b>		
File Number	File Title	Date Range
2023.02.001	ITEM 1 IN A FOLDER: Correspondence, "OFL/SACCS agreement"/ between Jane Armstrong and Kailash Satyarthi	Jan. 29, 1998
2023.02.002	ITEM 2 IN A FOLDER: "Agreement between OFL Children's Trust Fund and South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS)"  Note: Incomplete	1998
2023.02.003	ITEM 3 IN A FOLDER: "Agreement between OFL Children's Trust Fund and South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS)"  Note: Incomplete	Mar. 30, 1998
2023.02.004	ITEM 4 IN A FOLDER: "Agreement between OFL Children's Trust Fund and South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS)"  Note: Complete with a receipt at the end	Mar. 30, 1998
2023.02.005	Brochure, "Ontario Labour attacking Child Labour"	Nov. 1998
2023.02.006	ITEM 1 IN A FOLDER: Correspondence, "OFL/FREE THE CHILDREN REHAB CENTRE PROJECT" / between Carol Phillips and Jane Armstrong	May 11, 1998
2023.02.007	ITEM 2 IN A FOLDER: "Project to develop a Transitory Rehabilitation/Education Centre for Freed Bonded Children Interim Evaluation Report"  Note: Light marginalia	Oct.1998
2023.02.008	ITEM 1 IN A FOLDER: Correspondence, "Evaluation of India"/ between Jane Armstrong and Patrick Quinn	Nov. 10, 1997
2023.02.009	ITEM 2 IN A FOLDER: "Agreement between Steelworkers Humanity Fund Inc. and South Asia Coalition on Child Servitude (9706-BA)"	1997
2023.02.010	ITEM 3 IN A FOLDER: Photocopy, "A Crusade of 16 Years Stop Child Servitude"	n.d.
2023.02.011	ITEM 4 IN A FOLDER: "Project to develop a Transitory Rehabilitation/Education Centre for Freed Bonded Children Interim Evaluation Report"	[1998?]

<b>SERIES 2.0: Canadian Auto Workers Union</b>		
File Number	File Title	Date Range
2023.02.012	ITEM 1 IN A FOLDER: Email Correspondence, "Evaluation of India Project" / between Jane Armstrong and Patrick Quinn	Sept. 30, 1997
2023.02.013	ITEM 2 IN A FOLDER: "Patrick Quinn Evaluation of OFL/SACCS Project India" / [by Patrick Quinn]	n.d.
2023.02.014	ITEM 3 IN A FOLDER: Correspondence, [Advice of credit] / HSBC Group	Aug. 11, 1997
2023.02.015	ITEM 4 IN A FOLDER: Photocopy, "Receipt" / Key Travel  Note: Light annotations	Aug. 13, 1997
2023.02.016	ITEM 5 IN A FOLDER: Photocopy, [Airplane tickets]  Note: Light annotations	[1997?]
2023.02.017	ITEM 6 IN A FOLDER: "Hotel Accommodation"	[1997?]
2023.02.018	ITEM 7 IN A FOLDER: Photocopy, "YWCA Of Delhi Blue Triangle Family Hostel [Invoice]"	1997
2023.02.019	ITEM 8 IN A FOLDER: Photocopy, "[Accommodation cash receipt]"	[1997?]
2023.02.020	Email Correspondence, "India Project" / between Jane Armstrong and Patrick Quinn	Oct. 1, 1997
2023.02.021	ITEM 2 IN A FOLDER: Correspondence, "246 million Children Working During World Days for Children" / between Anne Chetwynd and Global March Against Child Labour	Nov. 19, 2002
2023.02.022	ITEM 1 IN A FOLDER: Correspondence, "Education - A Fundamental Right" / between Jane Armstrong and Kailash Satyarthi	Dec. 6, 2001

<b>SERIES 3.0: South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude</b>		
File Number	File Title	Date Range
2023.02.023	“Press Release discussing the details regarding child labour found in a secret raid organized by Bachpan Bachao Andolan” / by R.S. Chaurasia	Feb. 12, 2003
2023.02.024	ITEM 1 IN A FOLDER: Photocopy, [Email correspondence with Dr. Debdutt Panda]  Note: 2 copies	Feb. 4, 2004
2023.02.025	ITEM 2 IN A FOLDER: Photocopied Press Clippings, "55 bonded labourers freed from stone quarries" / The Times of India  Note: 2 copies	Feb. 2, 2004
2023.02.026	ITEM 3 IN A FOLDER: Photocopied Press Clippings, “12 child labourers rescued from dhabas” / Hindustan Times  Note: 2 copies	Feb. 1, 2004
2023.02.027	ITEM 4 IN A FOLDER: Photocopied Press Clippings, “55 bonded labourers rescued from Haryana” / Deccan Herald  Note: 2 copies	Feb. 2, 2004
2023.02.028	Empty book post/registered mail Envelope with postal stamps / addressed to Jane Armstrong  Note: Envelope with the SACCS address and Jane Armstrong’s CAW address	n.d.
2023.02.029	ITEM 1 IN A FOLDER: Project Report, “Child Labour Rehabilitation Centre” / SACCS	2001
2023.02.030	ITEM 2 IN A FOLDER: Photocopied Correspondence, “Ref: Project #2001-60” / Between Michelle Bondt and V.N. Mani	Oct. 25, 2001
2023.02.031	ITEM 3 IN A FOLDER: Printed Email Correspondences / between CAW International Department and V.N. Mani	2001
2023.02.032	“Agreement between The Canadian Auto Workers’ Social Justice Fund and South Asian Coalition on child Servitude (SACCS) L-6, Kal Kaji, New Delhi, 110 019, India”	Nov. 20, 2001
2023.02.033	Project Proposal, “Rehabilitation Centre near Jaipur (Bal Ashram)”	[199-]

2023.02.034	[Annual Report], "Stepping into a Child friendly Millennium"	Jan. 2000 – Dec. 2000
2023.02.035	[Booklet], "Bal Ashram: A Retreat to Bring Back the Childhood"  Note: 2 copies	[200-]
2023.02.036	Annual Report, "We shall Fight! We shall Win!"	2001
2023.02.037	[Brochure], "Bal Mitra Gram Child Friendly Village"	[200-]
2023.02.038	[Report], "Half yearly Activity Report of Bal Ashram"	July 1 – Dec. 31, 2002
2023.02.039	ITEM 1 IN FOLDER: [Email Correspondence], "Re: Visit Schedule"/ Anne Chetwynd	Jan. 27, 2003
2023.02.040	ITEM 2 IN FOLDER: [Brochure], "India Welcomes You Tourist Map"	n.d.
2023.02.041	ITEM 3 IN FOLDER: [Handwritten note]	[2003?]
2023.02.042	ITEM 4 IN FOLDER: [Schedule for Ms. Jane's Bal Ashram Visit]	[2003?]
2023.02.043	ITEM 1 IN FOLDER: [Email Correspondence] "Project Transit Rehabilitation Centre near Alwar (Rajasthan)" / Between Jane Armstrong, Marc Kielburger and Kailash Satyarthi	Jan.6, 1998
2023.02.044	ITEM 2 IN FOLDER: Photocopied, "Phased Schedule of Workplan"	[1998?]
2023.02.045	ITEM 3 IN FOLDER: Photocopied, "The works estimate by architect vis-a-vis our revised proposal"	[1998?]
2023.02.046	Case History about past child labourers	n.d.
2023.02.047	"A Project Proposal for Establishing a Transitory Rehabilitation Cum Educational Training Centre for Freed Bonded Children"	n.d.
2023.02.048	ITEM 1 IN FOLDER: [Email Correspondence], / Between Jane Armstrong and V.N. Mani	April 5, 2001
2023.02.049	ITEM 2 IN FOLDER: "Shiksha Yatra Update"  Note: An update on an educational campaign	n.d.
2023.02.050	ITEM 3 IN FOLDER: "Activity Report Bal Ashram"	Apr. – Dec. 2000
2023.02.051	ITEM 4 IN FOLDER: Project Proposal, "Rehabilitation Centre Near Jaipur (Bal Ashram)"	n.d.



2023.02.052	ITEM 5 IN FOLDER: “Summary Report of the Follow-up 2002”	2002
2023.02.053	Report, “Every Child Counts New Global Estimates on Child Labour” / International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) and Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on child Labour (SIMPOC)	Apr. 2002
2023.02.054	“Administrative Chart of Bal Ashram”	n.d.
2023.02.055	Brochure, “Global March Against Child Labour”	n.d.
2023.02.056	ITEM 1 IN FOLDER: Brochure. “Celebrate Diwali by Lighting Lamps! Not by Blasting Childhood!!”	n.d.
2023.02.057	ITEM 2 IN FOLDER: Flyer. “Celebrate Dewali by Lighting Lamps Not by Blasting Childhood”	n.d.
2023.02.058	Brochure, “Breaking the shackles of servitude since 1980” / SACCS	n.d.
2023.02.059	Brochure, “Child Friendly Trade A SACCS Initiative”	n.d.
2023.02.060	Brochure, “Shiksha Yatra India Marches for Education”	Jan. 21 – June 19, 2001
2023.02.061	ITEM 1 IN FOLDER: [Newsletter] Freedom Now Vol. 2 Issue 8	Oct. - Dec. 2002
2023.02.062	ITEM 2 IN FOLDER: [Newsletter] Freedom Now Vol. 3 Issue 11	July – Sept. 2003

<b>SERIES 4.0: News Clippings</b>		
File Number	File Title	Date Range
2023.02.063	Child relief and you  Note: Published in City Life	Nov. 4, 1998
2023.02.064	Child Labour News Service  Note: Copied in an email from Child Labour News Service to Anne Chetwynd	Dec. 1, 2002
2023.02.065	No! To Child Labour & Sweatshops  Note: Published in STA Bulletin Surrey Teachers' Association, Volume 7 Edition 2	1998
2023.02.066	ITEM 1 IN FOLDER:  Note: News clippings are written in Hindi	2003
2023.02.067	ITEM 2 IN FOLDER:  Note: News clippings are written in Hindi	2003
2023.02.068	ITEM 3 IN FOLDER:  Note: News clippings are written in Hindi	2003
2023.02.069	ITEM 4 IN FOLDER:  Note: News clippings are written in Hindi	2003

<b>SERIES 5.0: Miscellaneous: Guidebooks and Maps</b>		
File Number	File Title	Date Range
2023.02.070	An Activist's Guide for Challenging Child Labor	n.d.
2023.02.071	Your Complete Guide to the Sub-Continent	Aug. 1998
2023.02.072	Map	n.d.
2023.02.073	Ramkrishna Jaidayal Harmony Award 2000	2000

<b>SERIES 6.0: Photographs</b>		
File Number	File Title	Date Range
2023.02.074	ITEM 1 IN ALBUM: BAL ASHRAM Group Photo	n.d.
2023.02.075	ITEM 2 IN ALBUM: Bal Ashram Organized Programme for Making Village Free of Child Labour	n.d.
cit2023.02.076	ITEM 3 IN ALBUM: Children Participating in Dussereah Festival	n.d.
2023.02.077	ITEM 4 IN ALBUM: Doctor Examining Children	n.d.
2023.02.078	ITEM 5 IN ALBUM: Children Learning Painting Job	n.d.
2023.02.079	ITEM 6 IN ALBUM: Children Learning Electrical Jobs	n.d.
2023.02.080	ITEM 7 IN ALBUM: Children Doing Carpentry Work (Vocational Training)	n.d.
2023.02.081	ITEM 8 IN ALBUM: Non-formal Education	n.d.
2023.02.082	ITEM 9 IN ALBUM: Welding Job Vocational Training	n.d.
2023.02.083	ITEM 10 IN ALBUM: Children Learning Songs	n.d.
2023.02.084	ITEM 11 IN ALBUM: Capacity Building Workshop for Activist/Trainers	n.d.
2023.02.085	ITEM 12 IN ALBUM: Fixing Hand Pump for Water Supply	n.d.
2023.02.086	ITEM 13 IN ALBUM: Children Participating In "Firecrackers Boycott Campaign"	n.d.
2023.02.087	ITEM 14 IN ALBUM: Cultural Programme	n.d.
2023.02.088	ITEM 15 IN ALBUM: Children Singing Folk Songs	n.d.
2023.02.089	ITEM 16 IN ALBUM: Children Enjoying Holi Festival	n.d.
2023.02.090	The Site of the New Ashram Viewed from the Road	n.d.
2023.02.091	No Description	n.d.

2023.02.092	Children At SACCS Village Meeting	n.d.
2023.02.093	No Description	n.d.
2023.02.094	Areshi, A 6 Year Old Former Domestic Servant, Nas "" Mukti Ashram	n.d.
2023.02.095	Evening Games At "" Ashram	n.d.
2023.02.096	No Description	n.d.
2023.02.097	Children At SACCS Meeting	n.d.
2023.02.098	No Description	n.d.
2023.02.099	Organized Games and Dancing at Mukti Ashram	n.d.
2023.02.100	Children Practice New Writing Skills At "" Ashram	n.d.
2023.02.101	Dinner At Mukti Ashram	n.d.
2023.02.102	Kailash Satyarthi Speaking at Village Meeting	n.d.
2023.02.103	Photocopy, [Photograph]	n.d.

<b>SERIES 7.0: Digital Records</b>		
File Number	File Title	Date Range
2023.02.104	ITEM 1 IN FOLDER: Email Correspondence / From Umesh K. Gupta	2005
2023.02.105	ITEM 2 IN FOLDER: CD, "THE NEW HEROES"	n.d.
2023.02.106	CD, "Speak Your Mind"/ by Ravina Tandon	n.d.
2023.02.107	USB, [Bal Ashram Photographs]  Note: Includes handwritten photo list identification	2003

Supplied Letter by Jane Armstrong

Transcription:

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October 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I donate this material in recognition that "facts", documents inform history.

The union movement is about more than wages, benefits and working conditions in one plant. It is also about internationalism: 'An injury to one is an injury to all'.

With respect to the campaign to eliminate child labour it is struggle for centuries and continues to this day.

The document submitted are about one aspect: funds for SACCS

1. The Ontario Federation of Labour Convention "pledged \$150,000" from many union locals. The actual submission of funds was less than that, closer to \$100,000. Every union by-law require the membership to VOTE on donations over a minimum amount before a cheque can be written. Hence some local pledged money but could not get the requisite votes.

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2. The Ontario Federation of Labour established a trust fund and decided to send the entire amount to support the establishment of an ashram in India for children freed from child labour.  
The SOUTH Asian Coalition ON CHILD SERVIDTUDE (SACCS) was led by Kailash Satyarthi  
Satyarthi Received the NOBEL PEACE PRIZE in 2014
3. Other documents recognize the continuing support for SACCS from the CANADIAN AUTO WORKERS union (CAW) later called UNIFOR
4. Social justice at home and abroad is one struggle.

Sincerely Jane I Armstrong

Former OFL Vice President

CAW National Communications Director 1994-2004