

# PRESS RELEASE

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## MARSSHALLS & UNICEF WORKING TOGETHER TO TACKLE CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

Leading landscaping firm Marshalls has announced plans to support UNICEF's work to prevent child labour in the stone quarries of Rajasthan in India.

Marshalls has pledged to donate £1 to UNICEF from the sale of every square metre (1m<sup>2</sup>) of its ethically sourced Fairstone® paving range as part of a new three-year partnership with the organisation.

Marshalls and UNICEF UK are urging customers to stop and think about how the products they are choosing for their patio have been produced and opt for Fairstone® products which will help play a part in transforming the lives of vulnerable children in India's poorest stone quarrying communities.

Indian Sandstone has become an increasingly popular product with those seeking a high-end luxury look for their gardens. Despite many people opting to buy fair trade when choosing clothes and food items, many people will be unaware that an issue even exists in this sector.

Marshalls is only company in its sector to have a partnership with UNICEF. Since 2009, Marshalls has been leading the way in eliminating child labour from its Indian supply chain and this partnership is recognition of this industry leading work.

Chris Harrop, Director of Sustainability at Marshalls, said: "I could not be more proud of our partnership with UNICEF UK.

“Child labour is a persistent, unacceptable and complex global issue, and despite many British consumers being more aware of the need to choose ethically sourced products I doubt that many people realise that an issue even exists when they are choosing Indian Sandstone for their garden makeover. “It is appalling that children, some as young as five or six, work in dangerous and terrifying conditions in quarries. How would we feel if these were our own children? It doesn’t bear thinking about.

“We want people to be able to buy this beautiful product with a clear conscience. By choosing Marshalls Fairstone® you can be sure that everything possible has been done to ensure child labour has not been used in its production.

“Our customers can feel proud that they have become part of the solution to this appalling issue.” David Bull, UNICEF UK’s Executive Director said: “Our partnership with Marshalls will help to tackle child labour in Rajasthan.

“Marshalls is putting child rights at the forefront of its business practice and the Fairstone® paving stone is a fantastic way of enabling their customers to play a part in tackling the reprehensible practice of children labouring in quarries.”

UNICEF UK raises funds and awareness to support UNICEF’s work to protect [child rights](#) worldwide, in accordance with the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child \(CRC\)](#). By combining our skills, resources and expertise with those of Marshalls, UNICEF can create change for children in India.

- Ends -

#### Notes to Editors:

**Marshalls** is the UK’s leading supplier of hard landscaping materials in both the domestic and commercial markets. Marshalls strives to improve environments for everyone by using its expertise to create integrated landscapes that promote well-being, from using fairly traded stone to providing products that alleviate flood risks. [www.marshalls.co.uk](http://www.marshalls.co.uk), Tel: 01422 312000.

**UNICEF** promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere. UNICEF UK raises funds for UNICEF’s emergency and development work and advocates for lasting change for children everywhere. We are a UK registered charity, supported entirely by voluntary donations. We do not receive any money from the UN. For more information, please visit [unicef.org.uk](http://unicef.org.uk)

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