

# Meet the Actors

The Story of Gold: From Mining to “Mine”



## 1. EXTRACTION – MINING

### Actors:

- Small-scale miners (legal or illegal)
- Predatory mining groups (illegal armed actors)
- Large mining companies (legal, multinational)

## 2. LOCAL SALE

### Actors:

- Middlemen / Gold traders / Local buyers
- Sometimes criminal networks (using fake papers to “legalise” illegal gold)

## 3. REFINERY

### Actors:

- Factory owners/workers who process the raw material and melt it down for export

## 4. CERTIFICATION BODIES

### Actors:

- Fairtrade Gold, Fairmined certifications and ethical sourcing labels—not all gold is certified

## 5. MANUFACTURERS

### Actors:

- Goldsmiths and jewellery factories (often in India, China, Europe)
- Brands creating jewellery lines
- Technology factories

## 6. HIGH STREET

### Actors:

- Buyers for retail shops including jewellers, fashion brands

## 7. “MINE”

### Actors:

- Customers – you!

## 3. INTERNATIONAL SALE

### Actors:

- Exporters / Transporters
- Customs authorities (sometimes bribed or bypassed)
- International wholesalers and gold traders (London, Dubai, Switzerland etc.)
- Banks, hedge funds, private investors (some extracted gold is not sold to consumers but sold into the financial market).

