

SAIMUN 2017 Research Report

Committee: Human Rights Council

Issue: Obliterating forced labour, human trafficking, along with removing child labour in all dimensions.

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1. Description of Issue

Forced labour, human trafficking and child labour are all forms of contemporary or modern slavery and it is still one of the largest industries in the 21st century generating approximately \$150 billion annually. According to the Global Slavery Index, approximately 45.8 million people are involved in modern slavery across 167 countries; however, 58% of the 45.8 million people who are involved in modern slavery are concentrated in countries such as India, China and Pakistan which are all developing countries. Not only is modern slavery inhumane, but according to the [United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), modern slavery violates several articles.

Although there are approximately 30 million people in forced labour worldwide, some regions have more than others, for example 11.7 million of the 30 million are in Asia and Pacific whilst there are only 1.6 million in Central, Southeast, Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Furthermore, child labour does not only include children being forced to work in locations such as factories, construction sites, mines, bars and restaurants, but also includes children who are used by others for profit from methods such as pornography, forced begging and other illegal activities; additionally some are forced to participate in armed conflict as well. Most children who are part of child slavery are not able to escape from it and are abused, threatened and violated constantly which would not only violate their human rights, but it would also scar them both mentally and physically for the rest of their lives.

Human Trafficking

U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report 2016: Upgrades

20 nations are doing better in the fight against human trafficking than in 2015



U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report 2016: Downgrades

27 nations are doing worse in the fight against human trafficking than in 2015



Maps showing countries which are doing better/ doing worse in the prevention of human trafficking in 2016 by the U.S. State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report.

Obliterating human trafficking is also another issue that has to be addressed as there are more people who are vulnerable to human trafficking than ever due to migrant crises such as the European Refugees Crisis or the Syrian Refugee Crisis.

The diagrams above highlights the countries in which are doing better/ doing worse in the prevention of human trafficking in the year 2016 by the [U.S. State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report](#). This diagram also includes the [Tiers](#) which some countries have moved up or down to. Although there are some countries in such as Thailand which are putting more effort into tackling the problem of human trafficking, it is still only in Tier 2 or the “watch list” which includes countries that do not fully satisfy the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking although it is making an effort to. Even though there are some countries which have positively progressed, there are also some countries which have moved down to Tier 3, which are countries in which do not fulfill the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking and they are also not making a significant effort to tackle the issue.

2. Definition of Key Terms

Bonded Labour

[Bonded labour or debt bondage](#) is when one is demanded to work in repayment for a loan that one has borrowed. Although the employer and the bonded labourer have a mutual agreement between them, usually the agreement will favour the employer more therefore the bonded labourers are tricked into working long hours with very little or no pay whatsoever. Majority of the bonded labourers are not able to pay back their debt because of the interest that is charged, therefore the debt is passed on to different generations of the family.

Child Labour

[Child labour](#) refers to any employment of children which prevents them from having a proper childhood, interferes with their education or schooling and is harmful to both their mental and physical health. Child labour can be defined differently in various countries as it depends on the child's age, type of work, duration of work and the working condition, however, the most extreme cases of child labour can include the children being enslaved, separated from their families or exposed to a harmful environment which causes illnesses.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

[Commercial sexual exploitation of children](#) is the sexual exploitation of a child or adolescent of any gender and of any age under 18 years old by an adult; CSEC can include things such as prostitution of children, child pornography, child sex tourism, the use of children in public or private sex shows and the trafficking of children and adolescents for sex trade.

Additionally, CSEC also involves the payment in money to the child, adolescent or to third parties that are involved.

Child Soldiers

[Child soldiers](#) is the recruitment of children who are under 18 for military purposes either by a state or non-state group. Child soldiers can be used as suicide bombers, human shields, messengers, spies, cooks, fighters as well as for sexual purposes.

Domestic Servitude

[Domestic servitude](#) is a subcategory of labour trafficking which includes individuals who may have occupations such as maids, butlers, housekeepers, servants, child-care givers etc. Domestic servitude can also be linked to other forms of modern slavery such as bonded labour and forced marriage because migrant workers are generally quite vulnerable group of people to domestic servitude.

Exploitation

[Exploitation](#) can be defined as either the unfair treatment of someone, or the incorrect use of a certain situation in order to benefit oneself.

Forced Labour

[Forced labour](#) is any work or services in which people are forced to do against their will or under the threat of someone or something. The majority of forced labour victims can be found in labour intensive industries such as:

- Agriculture and fishing
- Domestic work such as being a maid or butler (this can be linked with domestic servitude as well)
- Construction and mining
- Manufacturing, processing and packaging

- Prostitution and sexual exploitation

Forced Marriage

A marriage in which there is no consent from either one or both of the parties and if it is in the case of minors, it is also considered as child enslavement.

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is the illegal transportation of people from one country to the other, usually due to forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation. Traffickers can use methods such as force, fraud and/ or coercion in order to control the victims of human trafficking.

3. Timeline of Key Events

Event	Date	Description
The UN passed the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons.	November 2000	The <u>protocol</u> was passed as a part of the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime. It was the first treaty that contains an internally agreed on definition of trafficking in persons. The protocol includes articles in which clarifies several key terms which are linked to human trafficking as well as discussing the protection and assistance that victims of human trafficking may need and the prevention of trafficking in person.
Economic Community of Western African States Action Plan (ECOWAS)	December 2001	Countries of the Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) established an <u>action plan</u> to address the issues of slavery and human trafficking in that region. The action plan includes the re-enforcement of several protocols in which have already been created as well as the creation of a specialised anti-trafficking and strengthening of border control.
Protection of children from child labour and the elimination of child labour by the International Cocoa Initiative.	July 2002	In 2002, the International Cocoa Initiative, along with anti-slavery groups and major chocolate companies joined forces to protect children and contribute to the abolition of child labour through <u>several protocols</u> as well as conducting surveys in order to clarify how severe the issue is.
The United Nations appoints a Special	April 2004	The United Nations appointed the first <u>Special Rapporteur</u> who focused on human trafficking,

Rapporteur on Human Trafficking		especially women and children. The Special Rapporteur submits annual reports to the Commission of Human Rights along with their recommendations of what has to be done to protect the human rights of human trafficking victims.
National Pact for the Eradication of Slave Labour	May 2005	In 2005, Brazil, along with the International Labour Organisation introduced the National Pact for Eradication of Slave Labour which gathered civil organisations, businesses and the government in order to establish a “dirty list” of companies that sells products that are made by slaves.
The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission passes the Conflict Minerals Rule	April 2014	The Conflict Minerals Rule , required corporations and firms to disclose any products that contain certain metals which are from mines in areas such as eastern Congo and the countries nearby eastern Congo. Recently the Conflict Mineral Rule is being reconsidered as the acting chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Michael Piwowar wants the the SEC to “ consider whether the 2014 guidance is still appropriate and whether any additional relief is appropriate in the interim. ”
Britain’s Modern Slavery Act	March 2015	Britain’s Modern Slavery Act in March 2015, increased the maximum jail sentence for human traffickers from 14 years to the possibility of a life sentence. In addition, British authorities are also allowed to seize the human traffickers’ assets in order for them to pay compensation to the victims of human trafficking.
Sustainable Development Goals adopted.	September 2015	Continuing from the Millennium Development Goals that were adopted in 2000, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or the Global Goals aim for the end of slavery and the eradication of forced labour and human trafficking. The SDGs have goals in which are specific to the issue of slavery and poverty such as goals 1 and 8 which aims to eradicate poverty as well as having full employment and ensuring that the work people do is not harming them.

4. Positions of Key Member Nations and Other Bodies on the Issue

Countries

India

As of 2016, according to the U.S. State Department Trafficking in Persons Report of 2016, human trafficking is one of India's biggest issues as many of the victims who worked in debt bondage were not able to pay back their debt therefore the debt is inherited by their family members, thus increasing the number of human trafficking victims. Many in India are forced to work in brick kilns, rice mills, agricultural areas or embroidery factories. Unlike Thailand most of the people who are trafficked in India are not migrants which makes it more difficult for organisations such as the ILO to keep track of the number of human trafficking victims in India. Other specific sectors in which forced labourers have to work in are construction, manufacturing of underground cables, factories, fish farms, ship breaking as well as street begging.

Thailand

Approximately 3 to 4 million people in Thailand are forced into labour and sex trafficking and many are exploited in industries such as fishing, manufacturing, agriculture, domestic work as well as street begging. Many of the human trafficking or forced labour victims in Thailand are from surrounding countries like Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar, although many do not remain in Thailand for long because Thailand is the gateway of transporting the victims to other countries for the purpose of forced labour. Many migrant victims are transported to countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Russia, South Korea, the United States of America (USA) and many other Western European countries. In addition, Sex trafficking victims in Thailand are frequently found in brothels, massage parlors, bars, karaoke lounges however, many can not be discovered as many of these places in Thailand are concealed as other businesses such as a boutique or a hair salon.

Further Reading: <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/258882.pdf>

Organisations

International Labour Organisation

Founded in 1919, The International Labour Organisation (ILO) is an UN agency in which governments, employers and workers of 187 countries which are member states work together in order to set labour standards, develop policies regarding labour and establish programmes in which promotes decent work for people worldwide. The main aims of the

ILO include the promotion of human rights in the workplace, the encouragement of quality employment opportunities as well as increasing the protection of workers.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights or the OHCHR is a UN agency that aims to promote and protect human rights which are guaranteed under international Law as well the as Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948. In terms of the issue of human trafficking, the OHCHR has published [Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking](#) which includes guidelines for the identification of trafficking victims or human traffickers as well as measures which could prevent further human trafficking.

United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

Created in December 1946, UNICEF is a UN programme in which provides humanitarian assistance to mothers and children in developing countries. Furthermore UNICEF also works with international organisations such as the ILO to raise awareness of the issue of child labour and to consider the concerns of child labour. Moreover, UNICEF also works with national governments in order to ensure that working conditions are up to the standard and also that the children are old enough to work. As for child workers, UNICEF provides support to them and their families through satisfactory youth employment and working conditions. The child workers may also be offered schooling opportunities in order to decrease the risks of them falling victim to human trafficking or exploitation. Additionally, UNICEF are partners with many multinational corporations such as H&M, Procter & Gamble and Unilever to promote the prohibition of underage workers in supply chains, encourage the partnered private sector firms to fulfill their responsibility as a firm to respect the rights of younger workers and creating programmes in which supports the eradication of child labour.

5. Suggested Solutions

- The reason why so many individuals become human trafficking victims is because they want to escape from discrimination and poverty as well as improving their lives and their families’ lives. Minimising poverty and providing people with basic needs

such as food, water, clothing, shelter, healthcare etc. would decrease the amount of people who are desperate enough to turn to human trafficking or modern slavery for help.

- Further reading of some causes of human trafficking:

<http://www.invisibletraffick.org/causes-of-human-trafficking/>

- Furthermore, [education](#) is also another factor in which can help eliminate modern slavery as it increases awareness of what human traffickers can do to lure people into being victims. For example, having specific sessions in school which teaches students things such as how human trafficking works or why many people get lured into human trafficking and would increase the amount of knowledge students have on the matter therefore they would be less vulnerable.
- Due to many modern slavery victims being migrants or refugees, many suffer physical and [psychological](#) abuse, therefore, some may be extremely vulnerable. Urging UN agencies, entities as well as non-governmental organisation to support the refugees and minorities by counselling or therapy would reduce the amount of people who wish to take their own life as well as others. The counsellors or therapists that will be hired to help the victims must have at least several years of experience in the field and there should be range of professionals from various ethnic backgrounds as well have professionals in which can communicate both in English and other languages which are common among the refugees. In addition having experts on the issue of modern slavery educating refugees and migrants would prevent them from being tricked into being a victim when they are located in foreign countries.

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