

## Research Report

**COMMITTEE : Fundamental Rights (ILO1)**

**ISSUE : How can measures to tackle modern slavery be strengthened?**

**CHAIRS : Alice Watelet, Clémire Acelor, Jan Oldenburg.**

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### INTRODUCTION

Hello, fellow delegates! My name is Jan Steen Oldenburg Carranza and I am 18 years old. I was born and raised in Costa Rica, where I currently study at the American International School of Costa Rica. I love staying at home playing video games with my friends and going to the beach with my family. I joined MUN back in 2021, and since then I have attended



more than 9 conferences. The experience I gained from these has allowed me to manage to become an outgoing person and eventually a chair in my school's own conference. This time our committee will focus on the measures that have been taken to combat modern slavery. A problem that has become far more for any nation to handle alone and requires a coordinated global effort. That's why it's imperative for this committee to seek measures which will tackle every form of exploitation around the world. In the past five years there has been an increase in modern slavery, that is why it's important that passionate individuals discuss these issues and try to find solutions. It's up to those who can best engage in

diplomacy and proper discussion to manage to create a better world, one where no one is oppressed and constrained by modern slavery. I look forward to meeting you in January at the conference, and I can't wait to see what kind of solution you manage to find.

### KEY WORDS

**Modern Slavery:** Various forms of exploitation, such as forced labor, human trafficking, forced marriages, and other actions that deprive individuals of their freedom and rights. This occurs in almost every country despite ethnic, cultural, or religious background.

**Forced Labor:** Situations in which people are forced to work through the use of violence or intimidation, or in more subtle ways such as accumulated debts, retaining identity papers, or threatening to denounce immigration authorities. It is a work or service demanded by any person under the threat of a penalty, in which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily.

**Human Trafficking:** The recruitment, transportation, transfer, or receipt of men, women, and children through force with the purpose of exploiting them for profit. The traffickers, the

ones who engage in the illegal trade of human beings, usually use violence or fake employment agencies to trick and coerce their victims.

**Forced Marriage:** A marriage in which one and/or both parties have not expressed their full and free consent to the union. This can happen to anyone from any background or nationality and can affect both males and females. In these cases, individuals are often coerced into marriage through the use of violence or threats.

**Exploitation:** Taking advantage of someone or something for personal gain, including the use of manipulation in a way that benefits one party while it causes injustice, harm, or disadvantage to another.

## OVERVIEW

### *What is Modern Slavery?*

Although slavery has existed since ancient times, in 1815 the “Declaration Relative to the Universal Abolition of the Slave Trade” was the very first international instrument to convict it. Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, “No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.” However, the fact that individuals all around the world are still being sold or exchanged against their will, has led to conclude that the United Nations must take action to abolish all forms of forceful labor. Modern slavery is an extremely relevant topic that is affecting every country in the

world. As forced labor is a subset of modern slavery, it has been defined internationally by the tripartite actors in Convention 29 and its protocol and in Convention 105 and refers to any work or service exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily. The focus of this report is **forced labor**.

Globally there are countries that are aware of this, and the United Nations has collected information regarding the growing amount of victims all around the world. However, it is a fact that traffickers continue to target women and girls, as they become the vast majority of the victims of sexual exploitation, and forced labor. Reports prove the situation continues to deteriorate.

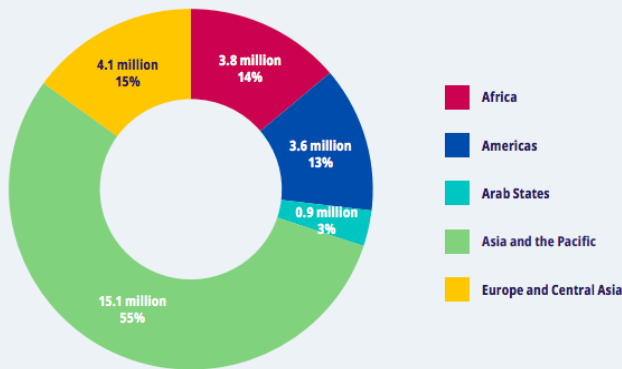
### Modern slavery: summary results

#### *Number and prevalence of persons in modern slavery, by region*

	FORCED LABOUR <sup>(a)</sup>		FORCED MARRIAGE		MODERN SLAVERY <sup>(a)</sup>	
	No. <sup>(a)</sup>	% <sup>(b)</sup>	No.	%	No.	%
World	27,577	3.5	21,993	2.8	49,570	6.4
Africa	3,819	2.9	3,189	2.4	7,008	5.2
Americas	3,593	3.5	1,496	1.5	5,089	5
Arab States	886	5.3	814	4.8	1,700	10.1
Asia and the Pacific	15,142	3.5	14,207	3.3	29,349	6.8
Europe and Central Asia	4,137	4.4	2,287	2.5	6,424	6.9

## *The Magnitude of the Problem*

The Asia and the Pacific region has the highest number of people in forced labour and the Arab States the highest prevalence



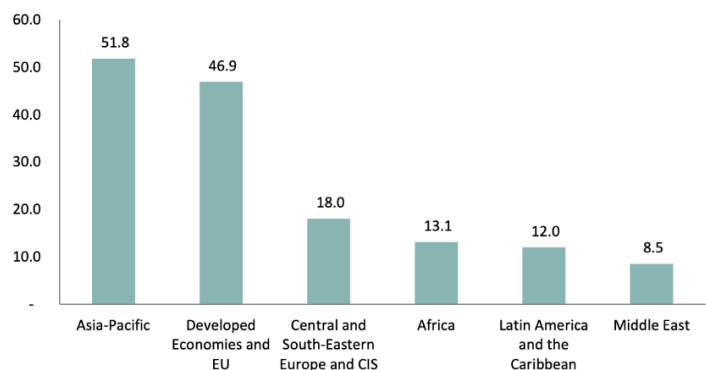
Forced labour by region: percentage distribution

External circumstances are pushing thousands of people into risky situations that have made them risk their lives for basic human needs. For instance, the economic shock wave that the COVID-19 pandemic left millions of workers worldwide in vulnerable positions, which were accompanied by loads of reports that show the effects of this on the least protected segments of society with the highest rates of forced labor. This crisis put in evidence the structural problems that prevailed. Even though it affects all regions of the world, statistics show that Asia and the Pacific hold by far the largest group of people in forced labor.

## *Root Causes and Contributing Factors*

Modern Slavery flourishes economically under very specific conditions that include countries with more developed Economies, higher levels of education and those closer in the Asian continent. As a matter of fact, many marginalized populations such as immigrants, and refugees have become a common target for traffickers to take advantage of them in exchange for cheap labor. People can often become enslaved working laboriously trying to escape poverty. Another factor contributing to this are the systemic issues like lack of effective protection, and improper sanctions towards perpetrators. This is further complicated by the many societal norms that reinforce conditions in which many women and children are left with no option outside of forced labor.

Annual profits of forced labour per region (US \$ billion)



Eradicating modern slavery is a challenge that requires international commitment and cooperation; however, the scale of complexity of the issue has made it hard for international legislation to strengthen the measurements in order to create a world where every individual enjoys the most basic human right, freedom. It is crucial for everyone to understand that many people are vulnerable because of possible negligence in the laws that don't properly protect them.

## RELEVANT UN TREATIES AND EVENTS

**30/03/2007**

United Nations Global **Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons**([here](#)) is a policy mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to make a global plan to attack the trafficking of people. It recognizes the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons **ICAT** as the communication mechanism among UN international agencies. Its ultimate goal was to combat the trafficking of people, provide support and protection to victims, and provide a platform for good practices in anti-trafficking activities.

**08/01/2001**

United Nations **Convention against Transnational Organized Crime**([here](#)) decides to establish an open-ended committee that focuses on elaborating a comprehensive international convention against international organized crime. However, this resolution focuses on the trafficking of women and children and the illegal transportation of migrants including by sea. This convention promoted better legislation against organized crime groups with several ways to combat it more effectively.

**18/05/2014**

The United Nations **Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention**([here](#)) at Geneva recognizes the fundamental role established by the Forced Labour Convention to develop a plan of action that suppresses forced labor by employers and workers' organizations. This plan involves specific actions reaffirmed by the UN in order to prevent compulsory abusive labor and educate and implement strengthened legislation on all workers, particularly migrant workers.

**16/02/2023**

The resolution of **Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse**([here](#)) was taken by the United Nations to strengthen the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation, and abuse. It prioritizes maintaining the rights and dignity of the victims involved in events of a sexually abusive nature and upholds the elimination of sexual misconduct. Much of what has been accomplished ensures a transparent method to develop humanitarian assistance to support the victims.

Moreover two fundamental conventions on forced labor and on the measures to abolish it, [Convention 29](#) ( and its [Protocol 29](#) adopted in 1999) and [Convention 105](#) , were adopted in 1930 and 1957 and largely ratified by ILO Member States.

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- ❖ First of all, there is an urgent need to strengthen the legislative structure in order to provide governments all around the world with adequate resources to attack all forms of modern slavery with concrete criteria, clear definitions, and proper sanctions on all lawbreakers.

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- New laws protect the victims and guarantee social justice and proper working conditions.
- ❖ We need to see the way the United Nations can coordinate with law enforcement in order to allocate resources to governments around the world, in order to make an effort to strengthen the power of authorities over all forms of criminal acts.
  - Over time, this must include investment into proper training of migratory officials, and international associations in order to deconstruct all trafficking networks.
- ❖ Next, it is crucial that there is an investment in proper data-collecting methods and research to gain updated information, and trends on the specific countries and regions that are more susceptible to traffic networks so that the United Nations can assist accordingly.
- ❖ This committee must find a feasible way to attack the root cause which involves socioeconomic inequalities, poverty, and lack of education, which are contributing factors to endless generational poverty, resulting in generational exploitation.
  - Our priority is to provide education to individuals to break these tendencies
- ❖ Implement campaigns to raise public awareness to educate the world on the importance of modern slavery in all of its different forms, so that civilians are able to identify labor exploitation and even report suspicious activities in different institutions.
- ❖ Finally, we need to help victims by reinforcing rehabilitation endeavors so that there is an effective way to support them in a human-centered way that facilitates their incorporation into society in a way that is accessible to anyone.

### *Questions to consider*

1. How is your country affected by modern slavery?
2. Does your population have access to any effective methods for the protection of victims?
3. Is your country adopting the necessary legislative measures against criminal groups directly?
4. How would your country invest in better law-enforcing officers to combat criminals?
5. Does your country have any NGOs engaging directly with the civil society to raise awareness, and work directly with vulnerable groups?
6. Does your country have updated migrational policies with lawful origins that prosecute the alleged offenders?
7. Which countries should you ally with in order to have better support to attack root problems?
8. What kind of measures are you taking to educate the public with clear and consistent messages about the dangers and the current effects of modern slavery?

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Websites and pictures:

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- [\*Stories of human trafficking survivors\*](#) (Report)
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### Videos :

- [!\[\]\(756219e9389f679d57027482aa5cf5fc\_img.jpg\) \*Human Trafficking in the context of COVID-19 - Spanish – 21 May 2020\*](#)
- [!\[\]\(fcb77b2d9531d23794a07d244b7a89bc\_img.jpg\) \*What is human trafficking?\*](#)
- [!\[\]\(8175e06aff05874f50e11ffc448e6860\_img.jpg\) \*Introducing Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants\*](#)
- [!\[\]\(d7fb7ebced2c712ed3052caf75d30501\_img.jpg\) \*More than 900 million child brides by 2030\*](#)