

**Committee:** International Labor Organization

**Issue:** Combatting Modern Slavery

**Student Officer:** Eirini Angelouli

**Position:** Deputy President

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## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

My name is Eirini Angelouli, I am a twelfth-grade student in Archbishop Makarios III Lyceum in Larnaca and I will have the honor to serve as the deputy president of this year's International Labor Organization. Firstly, I would like to congratulate you on being selected as delegates in the ACGMUN. Although this year our conference will be vastly different from any previous ones, since it will be held online, I can guarantee that MUN is truly an unforgettable experience, where we will discuss important issues and create life-lasting bonds with our fellow participants.

Furthermore, this year's agenda focuses on Global Unity, which has faced huge challenges over the last year. During the covid-19 outbreak many countries were unable to keep their citizens united, due to unclear communication, oppression and disbelief in their government. Hence, many countries struggled when tackling both internal and global issues and if unity cannot be achieved in each country individually then we will not succeed internationally. So, to reach that, the key principals are trust and freedom. And we cannot be discussing freedom without any regard to modern slavery. People all over the world are stripped off from their rights and any form of freedom and are forced to work for hours with zero pay and respect. Thus, tackling modern slavery is a vital step towards global unity and humanity's progression in general.

Lastly, I would like to stress that this guide is for introductory purposes and further research on it and your policies are needed so that you can get a vast understanding of the matter at hand. Should you have any questions on the topic, the study guide or anything else regarding the conference, you are more than welcome to contact me through my email address ([eirini.angelouli3@gmail.com](mailto:eirini.angelouli3@gmail.com)).

I am looking forward to our virtual meeting and our fruitful debate!

Sincerely,

Eirini Angelouli

## TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Slavery is a frightful phenomenon, which we have been facing ever since the origins of human history. From ancient times, in ancient Egypt and Greece, till today, this issue has yet to be eliminated. Even though its forms have evolved through the years, it still maintains one basic principle, the violation of human rights.



British awareness raising advertisement

<sup>1</sup> Modern slavery, specifically, means the severe exploitation of humans for personal gain, it is nonconsensual, and it is a lot closer than you may imagine. According to Anti-Slavery International, 40 million people are estimated to be captive in modern slavery. Most times such cases go under the radar, farmers, nannies, cleaners, or the people making our clothes, might seem employed, but are, in reality, severely exploited, forced to work under cruel conditions with violence and threats.

Even though slavery has been abolished and is declared illegal globally, many have been able to find holes in its definition and are continuing the exploitation in an underground manner. However, since slavery is abolished, any contemporary forms of it should be eradicated as well. This issue is of utmost importance and needs to be swiftly tackled, so that an end can be put to this chain of exploitation. People who abuse other's rights for their personal gain will never stop unless we act on it. This issue has been taking over our world for thousands of years and needs to finally be eradicated once and for all!

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### Slavery

Slavery is the state of being owned by another and being forced to work for them. A slave is considered and treated as the property of the person owning them. People who work without proper payment and are not allowed to quit their service, are also often considered slaves.

### Slave Trade

The slave trade is the capturing, selling and buying of enslaved people.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Image source: "Modern Slavery". *Durham.Police.Uk*, 2021, <https://www.durham.police.uk/Information-and-advice/safeguarding/Pages/Modern-Slavery.aspx>.

<sup>2</sup> "Slave Trade | Definition, History, & Facts". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 2021, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/slave-trade>.

## Modern Slavery

“There is no globally agreed definition of ‘modern slavery’. The term is used to cover a range of exploitative practices including human trafficking, slavery, forced labor, child labor, removal of organs and slavery-like practices.”<sup>3</sup>

## Forced Labor

“Work that is performed involuntarily and under the menace of any penalty. It refers to situations in which persons are coerced to work through the use of violence or intimidation, or by more subtle means such as manipulated debt, retention of identity papers or threats of denunciation to immigration authorities.”<sup>4</sup>

## Human Trafficking

“The illegal practice of procuring or trading in human beings for the purpose of prostitution, forced labor, or other forms of exploitation.”<sup>5</sup>

## Sex Slavery

A crime often linked to human trafficking, specifically sex trafficking. It is a form of sexual exploitation of individuals, men, women, and/or children, through the use of threat or force, often occurring in times of armed conflict.

## Forced Marriage

“A marriage that takes place without the consent of one or both people in the marriage. Consent means that you have given your full, free, and informed agreement to marry your intended spouse and to the timing of the marriage. Forced marriage may occur when family members or others use physical or emotional abuse, threats, or deception to force you to marry without your consent.”<sup>6</sup>

## Corruption

“Corruption is dishonest behavior by those in positions of power, such as managers or government officials. Corruption can include giving or accepting bribes

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<sup>3</sup> "3. Defining And Measuring Modern Slavery – Parliament Of Australia". *Aph.Gov.Au*, 2021, [https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/Foreign\\_Affairs\\_Defence\\_and\\_Trade/ModernSlavery/Final\\_report/section?id=committees/reportjnt/024102/25035](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Foreign_Affairs_Defence_and_Trade/ModernSlavery/Final_report/section?id=committees/reportjnt/024102/25035).

<sup>4</sup> "What Is Forced Labour, Modern Slavery And Human Trafficking (Forced Labour, Modern Slavery And Human Trafficking)". *Ilo.Ch*, 2021, <http://www.ilo.ch/global/topics/forced-labour/definition/lang-en/index.htm>.

<sup>5</sup> "Definition Of Human Trafficking | Dictionary.Com". *Www.Dictionary.Com*, 2021, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/human-trafficking#>.

<sup>6</sup> "Forced Marriage". *USCIS*, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/forced-marriage>

or inappropriate gifts, double-dealing, under-the-table transactions, manipulating elections, diverting funds, laundering money, and defrauding investors.”<sup>7</sup>

### Fast Fashion

“Inexpensive clothing produced rapidly by mass-market retailers in response to the latest trends.”<sup>8</sup>

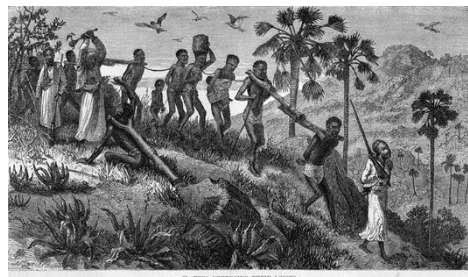
## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Historical Background

Slavery has been a global issue since the beginning of our history. From examples as early as 1500 B.C. in ancient Egypt and its popularity in ancient Greece in the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C., slaves became part of most societies. In the beginning only a few advanced and agriculturally strong areas were able to enforce them, but after many years they became a staple for rich households. In ancient Greece 25% of the population were slaves and each family had at least one.<sup>9</sup> In those times slavery was not considered inhumane but was rather an accepted phenomenon.

Overall, slaves in ancient times had a more comfortable living than peasants in the same era. Their treatment varied a lot, depending on who their owner was, but they were given housing, food and clothing, thus they rarely attempted to run away. No rebellions took place and there was a general peace in those societies. However, that drastically changed in the Middle Ages, because of global warfare, raiding and invasions.

Through war and violence many European leaders were able to conquer African and West Asian countries. Many times, they made those countries their colonies or simply stole the people living there and sold them to a worldwide market. That also marked the beginning of the global slave trade. At the same time, due to the Holy War in Spain and Portugal, many women and children were taken as slaves in the name of God or Allah. In Asia, many Indians were taken into slavery and in richer countries, such as China, royal families started purchasing Jewish



“Slaves Revenging Their Losses”

<sup>7</sup> "Corruption". *Investopedia*, <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/c/corruption.asp>.

<sup>8</sup> "Fast Fashion | Definition Of Fast Fashion By Oxford Dictionary On Lexico.Com Also Meaning Of Fast Fashion". *Lexico Dictionaries | English*, [https://www.lexico.com/definition/fast\\_fashion](https://www.lexico.com/definition/fast_fashion).

<sup>9</sup> "The Principles Of Slavery In Ancient Greece". *The Great Courses Daily*, 2021, <https://www.thegreatcoursesdaily.com/the-principles-of-slavery-in-ancient-greece/>.

and European slaves.

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Lastly the most recent and in many cases ongoing chapter in the history of slavery is American slavery. In 1619 the first African slaves arrived in America. British colonies started acquiring a huge number of slaves and the slave market was booming with business. This however did not come without a cost. Many issues appeared during their transportation. The ships were packed, and slaves were often not given food for days. Many did not survive, and diseases frequently spread throughout the ships.

Although slavery does not look exactly like it did in the past, it still is very much present. Many people, especially in vulnerable groups are being enslaved every day. Women and children are not able to defend themselves and are taken by force. Many refugees looking for asylum are also being exploited, for instance, the Rohingya Muslims, that are working in many Thai fishing companies. Thus, even though slavery has taken a different form after so many years, it remains a huge issue for many enslaved individuals.



*Rohingya Muslims at Thai fishing companies*

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## Causes

There are many reasons why slavery is still as prominent as it is today. Some of the most important ones are:

### Financial issues

In earlier times, most slaves were taken in during wars or conflicts. Nowadays people in need of money might even sell their own children to survive. People are taken from the street and from their houses and are forced to work under cruel conditions. In all these cases the people enslaved are used for the financial gain of their "owner". In many Less Economically Developed and industrialized countries slaves are used for free labor. Because of the awful pay and dangerous environment in the factories, many are reluctant to working there. That shortage usually needs to get filled quickly, and employers do not usually consider raising their employees' pays or improving the working conditions. They would rather just buy a slave for a relatively low price and have them work for free.

<sup>10</sup> Image source: "The History Of Slavery - Restavek Freedom". *Restavek Freedom*, 2021, <https://restavekfreedom.org/2018/09/11/the-history-of-slavery/>.

<sup>11</sup> Image source: "Rohingya Muslims Found Stranded On Thai Island - UCA News". *Ucanews.Com*, <https://www.ucanews.com/news/rohingya-muslims-found-stranded-on-thai-island/85402>.

### Lack of education

Furthermore, the lack of education is often considered the root of this issue. The educational system in many countries is lacking in several ways. So even if students learn how to write and read, they still may not be aware of their basic human rights and how to legally defend themselves. Especially people born in slave families are at the latter end of the scale, since they probably never received any education and believe that either nothing is wrong or that they cannot act on their situation. Lastly, as far as education is concerned, in many Less Economically Developed nations young children need to work to provide for their families. In those instances, they do not have the luxury to attend school.



EU's education program in Africa

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### Discrimination

Another important cause is discrimination. In many cases people of a different color, ethnicity, religion and gender are discriminated against. Refugees especially are a highly vulnerable group. Moving to a new country might bring many opportunities, but their overall quality of life depends on their community. Many are considered outcasts and are isolated in their new country. Thus, they crave social interaction and inclusion, which gives predators a chance to persuade them and even abduct them. In many countries, women are scared to walk alone, and young children need to always be accompanied by an adult. In Japan, many young children were abducted when returning from school alone. They were also in danger from car accidents since drivers could not spot them easily. Now young students are required to wear yellow hats, which warns passers-by and neighbors to keep an eye on them, because they are alone. This has allowed children to go out freely, while their parents are working.



Children in Japan wearing yellow hats

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<sup>12</sup> Image source: "EU Support For Education In Developing Countries: Targeting Those Most In Need And In Situations Of Fragility". *European Parliamentary Research Service Blog*, 2021, <https://epthinktank.eu/2013/03/05/eu-support-for-education-in-developing-countries-targeting-those-most-in-need-and-in-situations-of-fragility/>.

<sup>13</sup> Image source: "Portrait In Hats". *Flickr*, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/28064283@N00/112419168/?epik=dj0yJnU9VF94azVJcHQzRXQxQWHiYVION2t3Q1E4bG0yeFh4QnQmcD0wJm49aXFZVEg5NmNsR1lxNGdYYXdVazA0USZ0PUFBQUFBROFUdIVZ>.

## Corruption

Finally, in many countries, there is a corrupt government in charge that allows slavery to happen and might even profit from it. Weak laws and regulations often allow slavers to find ways to continue their acts. Furthermore, in many cases, governments are paid off to ignore their actions and they might even own a couple slaves of themselves. Thus, as long as they are profiting from it, they will not make any attempts to improve the education system, the working conditions, give workers proper rights or tackle discrimination.

## Contemporary Forms of Slavery

Slavery today is disguised behind ordinary-looking people. Many “workers” might be living in misery since the modern forms may be difficult to spot at first sight. Some of its most common forms are:

### Forced Labour – Fast Fashion

Over the past few years we now have the golden opportunity to purchase new trendy clothing at low prices. Every day we see something new on the shelves and if it is to our liking, we never give it a second thought before purchasing another top that we will probably wear only twice. Even when our closet is full, it does not stop us, we will just toss a few away and make space again.

Let us, however, take a moment to look at the tags, “Made in Bangladesh”, “Made in Pakistan”, “Made in Turkey” etc. How are these Less Economically Developed countries able to produce so much clothing in such little time? If people were actually paid for their work the country’s economy would be booming! That is however not the case with 71% of all slaves being the ones exploited by forced labor.<sup>14</sup> But why is nobody stopping this?<sup>15</sup>



*Fashion workers protest*

Many groups and organizations around the world are trying to act, but that is easier said than done. Cases of corrupt government and the laws and regulations, that vary from country to country, make spotting slavery extremely difficult. However, the fashion industry is not the only one affected by this. Even big companies, like Nestle, have admitted to exploiting young children for the collection of cocoa crops.<sup>16</sup> NGOs are doing



*Enslaved fashion workers*

<sup>14</sup> "Compare Ethics". *Compareethics.Com*, 2021, <https://compareethics.com/slavery-isnt-over-especially-in-the-fashion-industry/>.

<sup>15</sup> Image source: "Inside The Ugliness Of The Fast Fashion Industry". *Medium*, 2021, <https://medium.com/maverickyouth/inside-the-ugliness-of-the-fast-fashion-industry-ac40f6a24e01>.

their best to raise awareness but, in this case, action needs to be taken by us, the consumer, to stop this.

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### Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is also a lot closer than most might think. Many cases have come to light of human trafficking predators using social media to track their next victims. They appear friendly and only want to get to know new people on the web. They find vulnerable and easily manipulated people, usually young teenagers, and contact them, while hiding their real intention. And so, the chain of exploitation continues.



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According to a report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on human trafficking, 79% of people being transported are sexually exploited, predominantly young women and girls. What might come as a surprise is that in 30% of the countries that provided information, women make up the largest number of traffickers. Worldwide 20% of the people being trafficked are underage, but in some West African countries, children are the majority and may come up to 100%.<sup>19</sup> Lastly, traffickers often transport their victims, to places close to their homelands.

<sup>16</sup> "Nestlé Admits Slavery In Thailand While Fighting Child Labour Lawsuit In Ivory Coast". *The Guardian*, 2021, <https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2016/feb/01/nestle-slavery-thailand-fighting-child-labour-lawsuit-ivory-coast>.

<sup>17</sup> Image source: 2021, <https://ourgoodbrands.com/real-impact-fast-fashion-industry-world/>. Accessed 13 Jan 2021.

<sup>18</sup> Image source: Asrar, Shakeeb. "The Cost Of Human Trafficking". *Aljazeera.Com*, 2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/7/30/the-cost-of-human-trafficking>.

<sup>19</sup> "Global Report On Trafficking In Persons". *United Nations : Office On Drugs And Crime*, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html>.



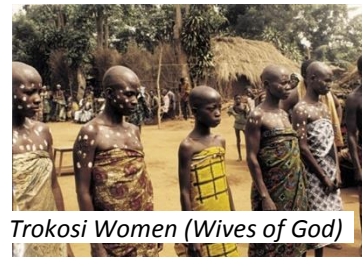
Even though this report was able to provide useful data on human trafficking, many governments are still in denial, claiming that nothing of the sort happens in their country. Unfortunately, if the governments of those countries are not convinced, progress will never be made to ensure the safety of their citizens.

### Forced Marriage

Forced marriage is another big issue in many Less Economically Developed Countries. Parents or relatives force their children to get married at a young age against their will. In most cases the relatives gain something from this agreement, either money or status. These children are usually forced by emotional manipulation or threats. According to *Anti-Slavery International*, 15.4 million victims are forced into marriage worldwide and over a third of them are children.<sup>20</sup>

### The Trokosi system

One last not really known form is the Trokosi system, a type of shrine slavery. In Ghana, many young girls are sent into ritual servitude at shrines and become a Trokosi (Wife of God), as a sacrifice to atone for their or a relative's sin. They are kept in the shrines their whole lives, they are forced to work, being verbally, physically and sexually abused and often give birth to children fathered by the priest. In case any of them die or decide to run away another young girl from her family takes her place in the shrine.



Trokosi Women (Wives of God)

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Although the practice was abolished in 1998, it is still practiced in several areas with a few variations. It is an ancient ritual that is considered normal by many African religions, thus governments and law enforcement bodies refuse to arrest the families and priests, when one is spotted, because of their religious beliefs.

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

### The United States of America

The most vivid and recent example that come to mind when discussing slavery is slavery in the USA. Millions of African people were transported to America and became enslaved to the people living there. Now slavery is abolished but the

<sup>20</sup> "Official: Forced Marriage Is Slavery As 40 Million In Slavery Across The World". *Anti-Slavery International*, 2021, <https://www.antislavery.org/official-forced-marriage-slavery/>.

<sup>21</sup> Image source: "Trokosi: Today'S Slavery". *The Welles Report*, <https://wellesreport.wordpress.com/2014/02/13/trokosi-todays-slavery/>.

issue is not solved in the USA. The country has admitted that modern slavery exists in their nation and according to research by the Walk Free Foundation 1 in 800 people living in the USA are enslaved.<sup>22</sup>

Now the USA is trying to tackle modern slavery all around the globe by launching the Program to End Modern Slavery (PEMS) in 2017, which in total has accumulated over 125 million dollars for its funding. It aims towards reducing and preventing modern slavery in targeted populations in specific regions around the world.

### The United Kingdom

In the UK, the introduction of anti-slavery measures happened in 2015, when they provided a helpline and resources urging people to report any possible slavery cases. In the last year, they have been tracking victims and aiding them, while collecting data for the slavery in their country. Furthermore, *Anti-Slavery International* was created in the United Kingdom and has been helping people all around the world for many years. The organization has its office in the UK while funding, assisting and cooperating with smaller groups in Less Economically Developed Countries. Lastly, they are in charge of most anti-slavery campaigns in the United Kingdom, to bring attention to the matter.



*Modern slavery in the UK*

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### China

Forced labor is a common phenomenon in China. With the rise of their economy in the past years they are now the second-largest economy in the world. Cheap and intense labor was needed to keep up with the production needs. According to the Global Slavery Index there were more than 3.8 million people living under modern slavery condition in China in 2016.<sup>24</sup> A garment factory was also accused of enforcing child labor and after investigation it was discovered that they were beaten to work for exhausting hours and their passports and mobile phones were confiscated to ensure that they would not run away.

China has been exposed to many modern slavery crimes, such as state-imposed forced labor, forced sexual exploitation of adults and children, forced

<sup>22</sup> 2021, <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/articles/2018-07-20/1-in-800-people-in-the-united-states-may-be-living-in-modern-slavery-group-warns>. Accessed 14 Jan 2021.

<sup>23</sup> "Modern Slavery". [Http://Www.Turn2us.Org.Uk](http://www.Turn2us.Org.Uk), <https://www.turn2us.org.uk/About-Us/News/Guest-blog-Modern-Slavery>.

<sup>24</sup> "China | Global Slavery Index". [GlobalSlaveryIndex.Org](https://www.globallslaveryindex.org/2018/findings/country-studies/china/), 2021, <https://www.globallslaveryindex.org/2018/findings/country-studies/china/>.

marriage and organ trafficking. The country has made attempts to solve the issue, but none have been effective thus far.

## India

In 2016 it was estimated by the Global Slavery Index that there are nearly 18 million slavery victims living in India.<sup>25</sup> Forced labor, forced marriage, sexual exploitation, and the use of children in armed conflict are some of the most serious types in the country. After this shocking revelation, the government has started taking action against human trafficking and trying to curb exploitation through different legislations.



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## Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

North Korea is the country with the worse slaves to population ratio, where 1 in 10 people living there is modern slavery victims.<sup>27</sup> So, with 2.6 million slaves being mostly exploited for labor, the DPRK has had one of the weakest responses to the issue while North Korea stated itself that it is involved in forced labor inside and outside the country.

It mostly seems like North Korea when discussing matters internationally prefers to address their nuclear power other than slavery. 50 North Korean defectors were interviewed and 49 of them had been subjected to living conditions that met the international definition of "forced labor".

## Sudan

Slavery has been taking place in Sudan for thousands of years, however recently because of the civil war more than 14.000 children, women and men were abducted and are now enslaved.<sup>28</sup> After outside pressure to solve the issue the Committee to Eradicate the Abduction of Women and Children (CEAWC) was established in 1999, but its prosecution was never applied. The government reported incidents at an extremely slow pace and with only a small amount of people being freed.

<sup>25</sup> "India | Global Slavery Index". *Globalslaveryindex.Org*, <https://www.globalslaveryindex.org/2018/findings/country-studies/india/>.

<sup>26</sup> Image source: "Blood Bricks: Ending Modern Day Slavery". *International Business Times UK*, <https://www.ibtimes.co.uk/blood-bricks-ending-modern-day-slavery-1434131>.

<sup>27</sup> 2021, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2018/07/19/north-korea-has-2-6-million-modern-slaves-new-report-estimates/>. Accessed 14 Jan 2021.

<sup>28</sup> "Sudan And Modern Slavery - Human Rights House Foundation". *Human Rights House Foundation*, 2021, <https://humanrightshouse.org/articles/sudan-and-modern-slavery/>.

Lastly Sudan often cooperates with many other countries in need of more soldiers for their military force. The most recent case of this happening is the Gulf monarchies' plan for regional domination. Sudan provided them with troops and in return they were promised financial support, which they never got. After many years of being exploited, Sudanese people have finally started to fight back, with many protests taking place all around the country, asking for their freedom.

## Mauritania



Slavery in Mauritania

<sup>29</sup> Many local anti-slavery groups in Mauritania have estimated that 20% of the country's population are slaves, with one in two Haratines being forced to work on households or farms, never given any pay or educational opportunities.<sup>30</sup> Even though slavery was pronounced illegal in 1981, the last country to enforce this measure, it is still a highly relevant issue. What is even worse, is that the people enslaved are considered actual slavery victims by the definition of slavery. They are owned by another and forced to oblige. Although in 2007 the act of owning another person was criminalized, sadly, only few have been prosecuted.

## Ghana

In Ghana there is still a huge issue with the Trokosi system that is applied to the nation. Because of the people's religious beliefs, any previous attempts to tackle it have failed, leaving many young girls helpless. According to some African religions sacrifice is the best way to atone for one's sins. Even recognizing Trokosi as a crime and a form of slavery, law enforcers in Ghana could not apply to those new regulations, due to fear of their god.

## Haiti

Restavèk children are victims of child labor and exploitation; they are often given to relatives or strangers. 1 in 15 children in Haiti lives as restavèks with 60% being girls.<sup>31</sup> In Haiti, many women seek out children in rural areas and ask their family for the kid to be taken to the urban city. Those families are usually very poor and simply want to ensure a better future for their children, so they allow them to

<sup>29</sup> "The Unspeakable Truth About Slavery In Mauritania". *The Guardian*, 2021, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/jun/08/the-unspeakable-truth-about-slavery-in-mauritania>.

<sup>30</sup> Image source: "The Unspeakable Truth About Slavery In Mauritania". *The Guardian*, 2021, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/jun/08/the-unspeakable-truth-about-slavery-in-mauritania>.

<sup>31</sup> "Learn - Restavek Freedom - Ending Child Slavery In Haiti". *Restavek Freedom*, <https://restavekfreedom.org/issue/>.

be taken away, not knowing what awaits them. The women seeking out those children reassure their families several times, but the child is taken to a rich urban family where it is enslaved.

They are verbally and physically abused by their “owners” and are forced to work under them, while their basic needs, such as water and food are often neglected. It is estimated that 225,000 restavèk children are now living in Haiti, but many experts claim that that number is close to 500,000.<sup>32</sup>

### Anti-Slavery International

Anti-Slavery International has its roots in the abolition movement that took place 180 years ago and is considered the first-ever attempt to abolish slavery. Now Anti-Slavery International is one of the oldest organizations combatting contemporary slavery. Their primary focus is to investigate and report any cases of modern slavery, to find the best way to stop the abusers, to press better laws and legislations, to support victims in their journey to freedom and empower communities vulnerable to slavery. They are located in the United Kingdom but are taking both local and global action.<sup>33</sup>



*Anti-Slavery International's logo*

### The Walk Free Foundation

Walk Free is a human rights group, which focuses on the eradication of slavery around the globe. They do extensive research in many countries and provide useful data about their situation. One of their priorities is talking with the government and religious leaders and trying to persuade them, since they are the most influential people in their society. Using the data they collect, they create reports with which they advocate for the freedom of enslaved individuals.

## BLOCS EXPECTED

In one bloc, countries that recognize slavery as the huge issue it is today and wish to combat it globally, such as the USA, the UK and the Netherlands, can cooperate to provide permanent solutions. In the second bloc, countries that deny the existence of modern slavery, at least in the scale it is presented, such as India, China and Sudan, can focus more on tracking the issue in their country and

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<sup>32</sup> "Hundreds Of Thousands Of Haitian Children Suffer In Slavery – And Women Play A Key Role In Perpetuating The System". *The Conversation*, 2021, <https://theconversation.com/hundreds-of-thousands-of-haitian-children-suffer-in-slavery-and-women-play-a-key-role-in-perpetuating-the-system-115398>.

<sup>33</sup> Image source: "Anti-Slavery International - Let's End Modern Slavery Together". *Anti-Slavery International*, <https://www.antislavery.org/>.

improving education and workers' rights, to prevent modern slavery from happening in the future.

### TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
9000 B.C.	First record of slavery.
600 B.C.	Slavery becomes part of ancient civilizations.
1600	African slave trade begins in the USA.
8 <sup>th</sup> of February 1815	The Declaration of the Eight Courts Relative to the Universal Abolition of the Slave Trade.
22 <sup>nd</sup> of September 1862	The preliminary Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln.
1 <sup>st</sup> of January 1863	Slavery was officially abolished in the USA, the first country to do so.
25 <sup>th</sup> of September 1926	Convention on the abolition of slavery in Geneva.
1981	Mauritania was the last country to abolish slavery.
15 <sup>th</sup> of November 2000	The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons as part of the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime was passed by the United Nations, the first global legally binding treaty with an internationally agreed-upon definition of trafficking in persons.
1 <sup>st</sup> of March 2005	The International Labour Organization's (ILO) first Global Report on Forced Labour estimates the number of slaves worldwide at 12.3 million. The 2012 update increases the number to 20.9 million.
16 <sup>th</sup> of June 2011	A convention laying down basic rights of domestic workers is adopted by the ILO.
1 <sup>st</sup> of June 2012	An update of the ILO first Global Report on Forced Labor increases the number of slaves to 20.9 million.
June 2014	A protocol on forced labour is adopted by the ILO, bringing its 1930 Convention on Forced Labour into the current era to address modern practices such as human trafficking.
September 2015	The adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by the UN, including a target of ending slavery and eradicating forced labor and human trafficking.
2 <sup>nd</sup> of December 2016	The International Anti-Slavery day was established.

## RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

### 1815 Declaration Relative to the Universal Abolition of the Slave Trade<sup>34</sup>

Inspired by the actions of the British navy to fight slavery in the 19<sup>th</sup> century many treaties were produced, among them the Universal Abolition of the Slave trade in Vienna. It was signed by the 7 leading anti-Napoleonic powers Austria, Britain, Prussia, Russia, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden. It is one of Britain's greatest achievements and is generally considered the first international instrument to condemn slavery.

### 1926 convention on the abolition of slavery<sup>35</sup>

One of the best attempts to tackle slavery was the 1926 slavery convention, which was signed at Geneva and was appointed by the Council of the League of Nations. Its primary objective was to suppress slavery and the slave trade throughout the world and more specifically, it focused on African American slavery. It was a very significant step towards the abolition of slavery and provided concrete rules and articles that were able to save many people living in slavery. Lastly the convention defined slavery and aimed towards its complete elimination. The convention was later amended by the United Nations in 1953.

### The OHCHR treaty on abolishing slavery and its contemporary forms<sup>36</sup>

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human rights, specifically David Weissbrodt and Anti-Slavery International have been working together for many years and their treaty provides summaries and reviews of previous treaties and conventions, together with modern efficient solutions to modern slavery. The treaty defines slavery and explains in-depth all its contemporary forms, such as child labor, Serfdom, and debt bondage.

### International Day for the abolition of slavery (2<sup>nd</sup> of December)

The United Nations declared the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December as the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery to mark the date of the adoption of the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, by the General Assembly. The focus of this event is eradicating any and all forms of modern slavery and raising awareness to the general public.

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<sup>34</sup> "Vienna And The Abolition Of The Slave Trade | Oupblog". *Oupblog*, <https://blog.oup.com/2015/06/vienna-abolition-slave-trade/>.

<sup>35</sup> *Ec.Europa.Eu*, [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/ilo\\_1926\\_slavery\\_convention\\_en\\_1.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/ilo_1926_slavery_convention_en_1.pdf).

<sup>36</sup> "OHCHR | Protocol To Prevent, Suppress And Punish Trafficking In Persons". *Ohchr.Org*, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/protocoltraffickinginpersons.aspx>.

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

### **Defining modern slavery**

Unfortunately, there is still no internationally agreed-upon definition for contemporary slavery, which allows many slavers to continue their actions without facing any legal issues. By defining modern slavery and its forms and recognizing them as illegal we can also then abolish them, without leaving any space for potential exploitation. This will also provide a clearer perspective and both victims and abusers will be identified more easily.

### **Individual action**

Everyone needs to be more aware of modern slavery. If cases are observed but not reported, no progress can be made. People need to know how to recognize modern slavery and what they should do to help. Thus, awareness-raising campaigns are essential to keep citizens up to date and promote organizations that can act and assist potential slavery victims. However, we should also start discussing modern slavery more often and share our own knowledge with our social circles. This way we are spreading the word and more people will be able to help combat the issue at hand.

### **Education**

The minds and personalities of young children are shaped by their education. It is the root of every society and prepares students to eventually become a part of their community. Thus, tackling slavery with the use of the educational system will help students understand better and will also teach them how to protect themselves. In many Less Economically Developed countries children are not aware of their human rights and what unethical or forced labor is, which allows slavers to manipulate them. If students are taught these fundamental things from a young age it can hopefully be prevented.

### **Global action**

All nations need to cooperate in order to finally put an end to slavery. Stricter universal laws and regulations are needed so that international organizations can have more freedom to act in different regions. Also, many conventions and treaties need to be updated to keep up with slavery's evolution. Lastly, many countries will deny the existence of slavery and will not wish to cooperate with newly reformed laws. This should really be taken into consideration, because more flexible regulations for certain regions might be more beneficial to the overall goal that we are trying to reach.



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