



International  
Labour  
Organization



**50**for**freedom**



**Sign up** to end modern slavery



The background is a solid teal color with several large, semi-transparent geometric shapes overlaid. On the left, there is a large, light teal circular shape. In the center and right, there are several overlapping triangles and trapezoids in various shades of teal, creating a layered, abstract composition.

**[www.50forfreedom.org](http://www.50forfreedom.org)**



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**21 million people in forced labour**

**US\$ 150 billion in illegal profits**

**A crime committed on every continent**

Our goal is to persuade at least 50 countries to ratify the ILO's Forced Labour Protocol by 2018.

This is your chance to help end slavery once and for all.

Sign up now and call on world leaders to ratify the Forced Labour Protocol.

**[www.50forfreedom.org](http://www.50forfreedom.org)**



## Stories of modern day slaves

My mum told me her sister was planning to come and get me so that I could start living with her. It was my auntie who promised to pay for my school expenses. Instead she turned me into a maid.

### **A young Zambian woman**

There were bars on the windows and an iron door, like a prison. It was impossible to escape, not even worth contemplating.

### **A 16-year old girl from Kazakhstan, trafficked for prostitution in Russia**

The abuse started immediately after I arrived and became more frequent and violent. I was regularly slapped, whipped and punched.

### **A 22-year-old Cambodian domestic worker in Malaysia**

I had to work 19 hours a day without any rest, overtime payment or holiday. They treated me like an animal.

### **A Nepali migrant worker**

When I told the woman I was working for that I wanted to leave, she threatened me and said that unless I paid \$600, she would go to the police and tell them I had no papers. There was nothing I could do because I don't have papers, and I know the police will not help me.

### **A 31-year-old Ethiopian migrant worker in Lebanon**

As I passed through immigration, the driver grabbed my passport. I cannot leave because my passport is with the employer, and I cannot move around without it.

### **A Nepali man working as a cleaner in the United Arab Emirates**

The workers were housed in plastic shacks, drinking contaminated water, and they were kept in holes behind bushes in order to hide them until we left.

### **A labour inspector describing the conditions in a Brazilian plantation**

I met a Chinese maid who worked 365 days a year and who was totally dependent on her employer because of the language, non-stop work and isolation. She was a modern-day slave.

### **A labour inspector in France**



## The Forced Labour Protocol

The Forced Labour Protocol is a legally-binding treaty that will require governments to take new measures tackling modern slavery in all its forms. It works on three main levels: protection, prevention and access to justice. Our goal is to persuade at least 50 countries to ratify the Protocol by 2018.



Slavery and civilization cannot coexist, because they are an inherent contradiction – it's intolerable, it's unacceptable and it's not negotiable. We have to act now; we have to do it now. All countries should ratify the ILO's Protocol against forced labour.



Kailash Satyarthi  
Nobel Peace Prize winner, 2014







## Q&As

### How can the Protocol help the victims of modern slavery?

It requires countries to ensure the release, recovery and rehabilitation of people living in modern slavery. It also shields victims from prosecution for any laws they were made to break while in slavery.



If we want to make a significant change in the lives of the 21 million men, women and children in forced labour, we need to take concrete and immediate action. Let's not just be angry at slavery, let's make change happen.



**Guy Ryder**

Director-General

International Labour Organization





## How can the Protocol prevent forced labour?

Ratifying countries will have to make sure that the relevant legislation protects all workers in all sectors. They'll have to strengthen labour inspections and other services that protect workers from being exploited. They'll also have to take extra steps to educate and inform people and communities about crimes like human trafficking.



Countries, please sign the Forced Labour Protocol. And when you sign it, put it into your laws, because that sends a message that fundamental rights and freedoms are non-negotiable.



**Sharan Burrow**

General Secretary

International Trade Union Confederation





## How would the Protocol improve enforcement?

The Protocol guarantees victims access to justice and compensation — even if they're not legal residents of the country they're working in. Governments would also have to crack down on abuses and fraudulent practices by job recruiters and employment agencies.



This signature is the logical next step in our efforts to fight this plague that is infecting our society... Having ratified the Protocol to the Forced labour Convention, we are responding to a very strong political commitment.



**Salissou Ada**

Minister of Employment of Niger,  
first country to ratify the Protocol



Ada



## Isn't there already a treaty on forced labour?

Yes! In fact, most countries are signatories of the landmark Forced Labour Convention of 1930. But since then, new forms of slavery have emerged which are even more complex and difficult to tackle. The Forced Labour Protocol complements the Convention by adding new elements, such as addressing root causes, so that slavery can be eliminated once and for all. It also requires public and private employers to exercise “due diligence” in avoiding modern slavery in their business practices or supply chains.



What is significant is that we recognize that this is an issue we as employers need to tackle together... Addressing the topic - actively naming it.

Saying it's still an issue.



**Linda Kromjong**

Secretary-General

International Organisation of Employers







## Myths and Facts

### MYTH

Slavery is a thing of the past.

### FACT

While it's true that slavery has ancient roots in history, it still exists today and in many different forms. Human trafficking, bonded labour and even forced domestic work are just a few examples.

### MYTH

Modern slavery only happens in the developing world.

### FACT

Modern slavery happens everywhere. There are over 1.5 million people working in slavery-like conditions in Europe, North America, Japan and Australia.

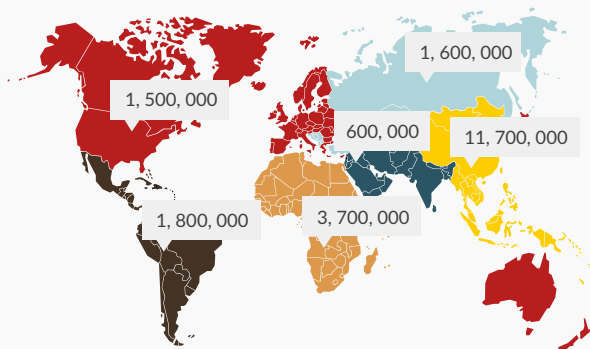
### MYTH

Trafficking for sexual exploitation accounts for most cases of modern slavery.

### FACT

Most people in slavery work in industries such as agriculture, fishing, construction, manufacturing, mining, utilities and domestic work. Around one in five are victims of sexual exploitation.

### Victims of forced labour by region



**Total: 21 million**

### MYTH

Modern slavery has more to do with culture than with money.

### FACT

Modern slavery is big business. A recent study estimated that modern slavery generates annual profits of over US\$ 150 billion per year. That's about the same amount as the combined profits of the world's top four companies.



### MYTH

Most of the money from modern slavery is made in the developing world.

### FACT

The annual profits per victim of forced labour are far higher in developed economies and the European Union than they are anywhere else in the world.

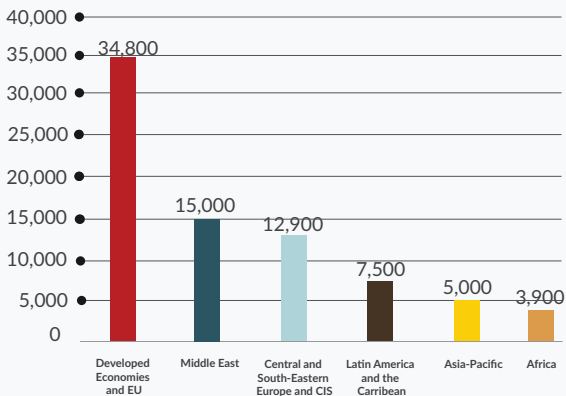
### MYTH

Modern slavery doesn't affect me.

### FACT

Modern slavery affects everyone. Even if you're not a victim of modern slavery, you're still affected by it. Businesses, for example, face unfair competition from unscrupulous companies who reap the profits of modern slavery. That may put pressure on them to lower wages or cut benefits. Meanwhile governments lose out on tax revenues while facing huge legal costs from prosecuting modern-slavery cases - money which could be spent on public services like education, healthcare or public transport.

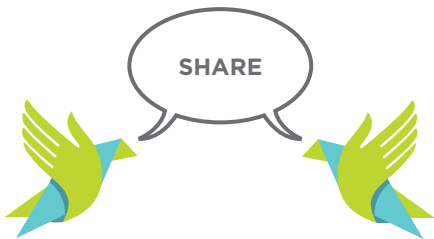
### Annual profits per victim of forced labour per region (US \$)



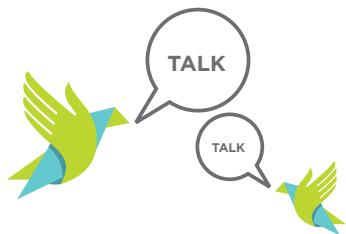


## Make change happen

Everyone has a role to play in the fight against modern slavery. Here's how you can help make the change happen.



Be passionate and share the #50FF campaign with the world. We have a great selection of stories and videos for you to post, from animated shorts to celebrity voices telling the story of modern-slavery victims. Get your friends to do the same.



Modern slavery is a complex issue that goes beyond victims working in chains. Helping more people to understand that is critical to ending modern slavery for good. You can help by learning how to talk about modern slavery with the people around you. Going to [www.50forfreedom.org](http://www.50forfreedom.org) to find out more about modern slavery can help you become a more effective advocate.



Take action in your own lives. If you hire people, pay them a decent wage and make sure they have a formal contract. Don't shop at stores that you know sell products made with questionable labour practices. If you aren't sure, ask. Even if the businesses don't know where their products come from, just asking them lets them know that customers care.



Join a grassroots organization fighting modern slavery in your community. By combining forces, we'll be able to eradicate modern slavery quicker.



Modern slavery happens everywhere. Learn how to recognize it if you see it and know where to go for help. Call a local hotline to report cases of suspected modern slavery or contact a local organization fighting modern slavery.





Create some noise about modern slavery by planning an event that will grab people's attention and get them talking. If you need inspiration here are some ideas: set up a flash mob; stage a poetry slam; organize an

artwork contest, cartoon, photo or a sports competition; record a video; set up a concert with local artists to raise funds; write a mini theatre play.



Write an email or send a letter to your local government representatives. Tell them that you support the Forced Labour Protocol and why you think your government should ratify it. Let them know that ending modern slavery is important to you and that you want to see concrete action. Even one message from a concerned supporter sends policy makers a powerful message that citizens care.



## About us

The 50 for Freedom Campaign is led by the International Labour Organization, together with the International Trade Union Confederation and the International Organisation of Employers.





# Notes











**[www.50forfreedom.org](http://www.50forfreedom.org)**

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