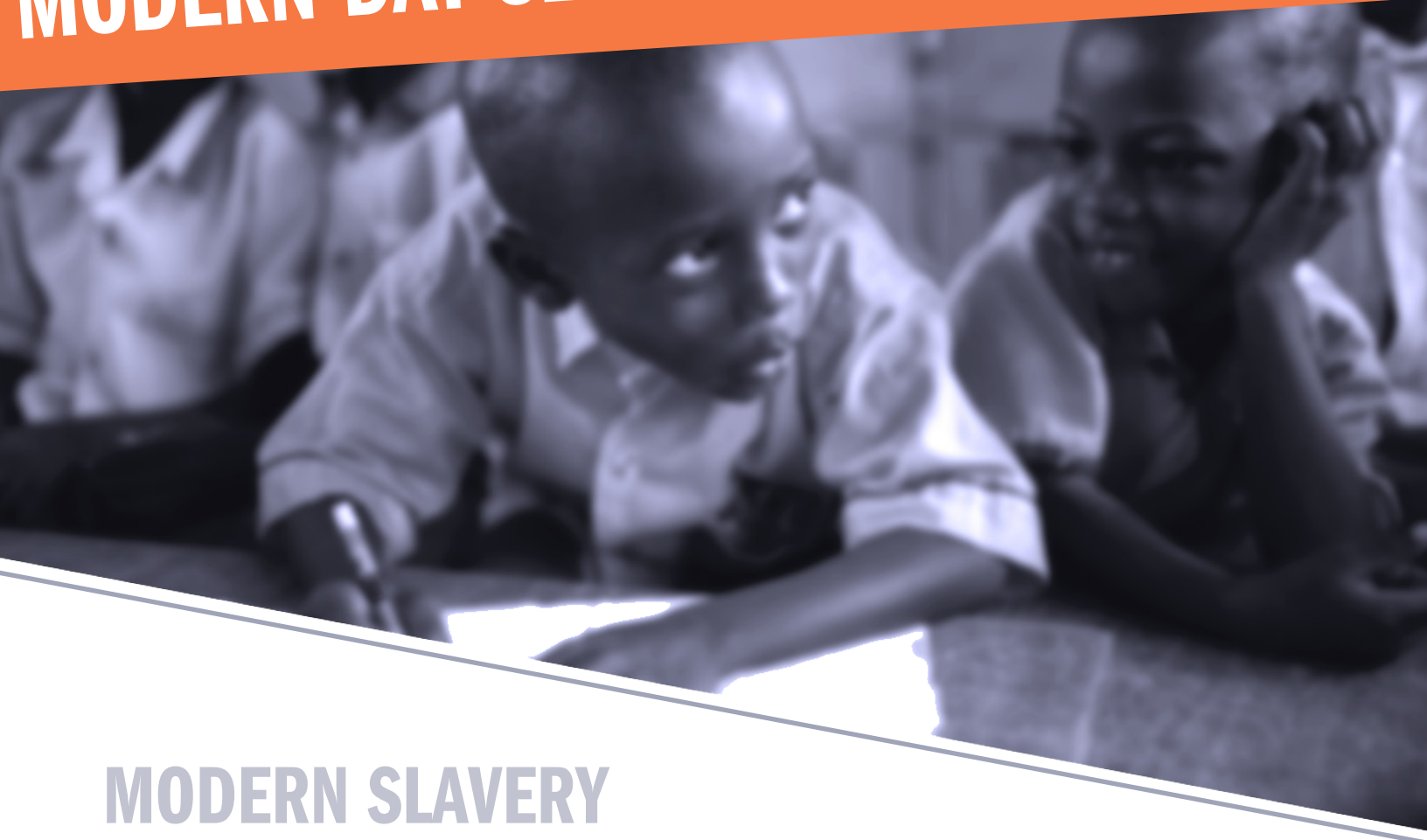


MODERN-DAY SLAVERY & HUMAN RIGHTS



MODERN SLAVERY

What do you think of when you think of slavery?

For most of us, slavery is something we think of as a part of history rather than the present. The reality is that slavery still thrives in our world today.

There are an estimated 21-30 million slaves in the world today. Today's slaves are not bought and sold at public auctions; nor do their owners hold legal title to them. Yet they are just as surely trapped, controlled and brutalized as the slaves in our history books.

What does slavery look like today?

Slaves used to be a long-term economic investment, thus slaveholders had to balance the violence needed to control the slave against the risk of an injury that would reduce profits. Today, slaves are cheap and disposable. The sick, injured, elderly and unprofitable are dumped and easily replaced. The poor, uneducated, women, children and marginalized people who are trapped by poverty and powerlessness are easily forced and tricked into slavery.

Definition of a slave:

A person held against his or her will and controlled physically or psychologically by violence or its threat for the purpose of appropriating their labor.

What types of slavery exist today?

Bonded Labor

A person becomes bonded when their labor is demanded as a means of repayment of a loan or money given in advance.

Forced Labor

Those who are illegally recruited by governments, political parties, or private individuals, and are forced to work, usually under the threat of violence.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Women and children who are exploited through prostitution, trafficking and pornography. They are often kidnapped, bought, or forced to enter into sexual exploitation.

Worst Forms of Child Labor

Child labor involving slavery, trafficking, forced labor, child soldiering, commercial sexual exploitation, children used for illegal activities that harm children's health or morals.

Trafficking

This involves the transport and/or trade of humans, usually women and children, for economic gain and involving force or deception. Often migrant women and girls are tricked and forced into domestic work or prostitution.

Early or Forced Marriage

Women or girls are married without choice and forced into a life of servitude and often physical violence.

Traditional or 'Chattel' Slavery

One person assumes complete legal ownership over another. Chattel slavery is the only type where the slave is considered the legal property of the slaveholder, and it exists today primarily in Mauritania and other parts of Northern Africa. (Slavery is technically illegal in these countries, but law enforcement there often returns escaped slaves to their slave holders based on the asserted ownership just as if the practice was legal.) This is the type of slavery that existed in the American South.

Examples of Modern-day Slavery:

- An eleven year old child in Pakistan is forced to weave carpets to repay a debt his father owes; he works 14 hours a day, sleeps by his loom and cannot leave the carpet factory or he will be caught and beaten.
- A poor young woman from Thailand is tricked into going to Europe where she is promised a job in a restaurant; she is forced to work as a prostitute and is prevented from leaving as she has no identity papers.
- A twelve-year-old girl in India is married to a 60 year-old man. She has no choice in this and must work as a servant in his household.
- A man is twenty; he is owned by a farmer in Benin, West Africa. His father, mother, brothers and sisters are also owned by this man. They all work on his farm; they are given a little food but no pay.
- A prisoner in Burma is forced to work building roads for the government; he is chained to his fellow-prisoners and is given no pay for his work. He is often beaten by guards.
- A man in India is forced to work in a mine to repay a debt to the mine-owner but the interest he is charged means that he will never be able to repay the loan. He is trapped.

Why does slavery exist?

People become slaves because they are poor, vulnerable and their basic rights are not protected. Lack of access to work, land, education and the lack of enforcement of laws prohibiting the holding of people in bondage, result in slavery. Slavery provides 'employers' with a form of extremely cheap labor which they will fight to hold on to.

A person who is poor and in need of money, perhaps for an emergency or because one of the family is ill, finds it hard to get a loan. The only option is to pledge their labor to repay their debt. Some resort to selling one of their children.

People who are enslaved are usually unaware that they have legal rights to freedom or are unable to take action to defend their rights, because of the threat of violence. They may be bound by a sense of misplaced duty or may be mentally accustomed only to slavery.

Slavery is illegal in virtually every country worldwide, but governments are rarely willing to enforce the law or to punish those who profit from slavery.

Free the Slaves supports local organizations, which are working to liberate people from slavery. Free the Slaves also campaigns at the international level to have slavery abolished.

KEY STATISTICS

21-30 million people are trapped in slavery around the world

Slavery generates \$150 billion for traffickers each year¹

The U.S. has 60,000 victims in slavery today²

78% of slavery victims today are in labor slavery³

22% of slavery victims today are in sex slavery³

55% of slavery victims today are women and girls³

45% of slavery victims today are men and boys³

26% of slaves today are children under age 18³

India has the largest number of people in slavery: 14 million²

Mauritania has the highest percentage of its population in slavery: 4%²

Where is slavery worst?

1. Mauritania
2. Haiti
3. Pakistan
4. India
5. Nepal
6. Moldova
7. Benin
8. Cote d'Ivoire
9. Gambia
10. Gabon

¹ International Labour Organization. Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour, International Labour Office (ILO), Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour (SAP-FL), Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch (FPRW), 9789221287810; 9789221287827 (Geneva: ILO, 2014).

² Walk Free Global Slavery Index 2013 - http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/findings/?gclid=CMAq08Tq5LoCFS4aOgOd_AoALA#overview

³ U.N. International Labor Organization Global Estimate of Forced Labor 2012 - http://www.ilo.org/washington/WCMS_182004/lang-en/index.htm



HUMAN RIGHTS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The United Nations drew up the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. It sets out the rights to which all people are entitled.

Summary of Articles:

EVERYONE...

Is born free and should be treated in the same way.

Is equal despite differences in language, sex, color, etc.

Has the right to life and to live in freedom and safety.

Has the right not to be held in slavery.

Has the right not to be hurt or tortured.

Has the right to be recognized before the law.

Has the right to be treated equally before the law.

Has the right to ask for legal help when their rights are not respected.

Has the right not to be imprisoned unjustly.

Has the right to a fair trial.

Has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Has the right to privacy.

Has the right to travel within and to and from their own country.

Has the right to asylum.

Has the right to a nationality.

Has the right to marry.

Has the right to own property and things.

EVERYONE...

Has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Has the right to meet with others. Has the right to take part in government and to vote.

Has the right to social security.

Has the right to work and join a trade union.

Has the right to rest and leisure.

Has the right to an adequate standard of living and medical help.

Has the right to education.

Has the right to take part in their community's cultural life.

Is entitled to a social and international order that is necessary for these rights.

Must respect the rights of others.

No one can take away any of the rights in this Declaration.

Categorization of Human Rights

Civil and Political Rights: deal with legal and political issues, such as freedom and equality for all people. In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, these rights are covered in Articles 1-15 and include Article 4 on Slavery.

Social, Economic and Cultural Rights: deal with issues around the day-to-day quality of life for all people. These rights are covered in Articles 16-30, including the last three rights, which cover global rights freedoms and responsibilities.

It is important to remember that many rights are interconnected and can be Civil and Political or Economic, Social and Cultural. The Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression (Article 19) could be interpreted as a Civil and Political right, as this may be outlawed in some countries, or it could be considered as a Social and Cultural right, where the voices of some people, such as children and women, are not heard as easily as those of others.

Rights are frequently indivisible; that is, certain rights cannot be guaranteed while others are denied. If a person does not have access to basic necessities (food, shelter etc.) then it is almost impossible to access other rights. Equally, unless a person has the right to education, they are unlikely to be able to claim the right not to be discriminated against (Article 2) or to stand up for their right to fair treatment by the courts (Article 8).