



# GOAL 8 UPDATE

OCTOBER 2023 ISSUE IV

## MODERN SLAVERY: A WEAPON AND CONSEQUENCE OF WAR

Each year, people living in war zones and those fleeing them are subjected to horrific violence and abuse, leading to increased vulnerability to slavery and trafficking. For women, children, the elderly, and everyone in between, sexual and gender-based violence, psychological trauma, torture, family separation and disappearance, recruitment and use by armed groups, abductions and kidnapping for ransom, forced marriage, forced labour, starvation, and being left for dead, are a daily risk. Perpetrators range from the organised to the opportunistic, including smugglers, traffickers, parties to the conflict, community members, and sometimes state actors.

### GLOBAL COMMISSION ON MODERN SLAVERY & HUMAN TRAFFICKING TO LEAD INTERNATIONAL BATTLE TO END FORCED LABOUR

The Commission's task will be to make a real difference around the world in helping governments, businesses and civil society to reverse the recent alarming increases in slavery and trafficking in order to get us back on track towards achieving the agreed aim of the UN SDGs by 2030.

### NEW ANTI-SLAVERY COMMISSIONER FOR UK IN DECEMBER 2023

The commissioner role was vacant for 18 months and is now set to be filled by Eleanor Lyons, the current Deputy Children's Commissioner.

### THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN SEXUALLY ABUSED TO ORDER ON ENCRYPTED VIDEO CALLS

Local traffickers sexually abuse Filipino children, while one or more viewers watch and direct the action over encrypted video calls from Western customers, majorly from U. S, Australia, the UK and Canada - [Report](#) from [Rights Lab](#), University of Nottingham and [IJM](#).

### MODERN SLAVERY AND WHY WE MUST PIERCE 'THE VEIL OF INDIFFERENCE'

When individuals and whole industries, choose not to look too closely at their supply chains or the cost of labour, this is not because modern slavery is invisible, but because it is too often shrouded in what Pope Francis has called a "veil of indifference" in which human dignity is relegated below other concerns.

### FROM BAIT TO PLATE: HOW FORCED LABOUR IN CHINA TAINTS AMERICA'S SEAFOOD SUPPLY CHAIN?

PRC-based companies that use the forced labor of Uyghurs and North Koreans process a large amount of seafood for the U.S. market.

### NAVIGATING MODERN SLAVERY RISKS: IS YOUR ORGANISATION PREPARED?

Even the most well-intentioned organisations can unknowingly become entangled in modern slavery. The reality is that modern slavery may not directly be apparent. The biggest risk is often hidden within the intricate web of global supply chains, where you have the least oversight.

### 2023 WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES: FREE TO CHOOSE WHETHER TO MIGRATE OR TO STAY

The decision to migrate should always be free, yet millions of people each year have no choice and are forced to leave their homelands because of conflicts, persecution, natural disasters or more simply because of difficulties in living a dignified life in their own country.

## **MIGRATION SYSTEM ENABLED WORST CRIMES KNOWN TO HUMANITY**

Gaps and weaknesses in immigration system have allowed organised criminals and unsavoury characters to facilitate human trafficking, modern slavery, illegal sex work, drug importation and money laundering.

## **GREEN ENERGY: ADDRESSING MODERN SLAVERY AND RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS**

Renewable energy with long and complex supply chains, the production and distribution of many products in today's economy are increasingly being linked to modern slavery – it is an issue that the renewable energy industry must take seriously.

## **EVERSTREAM ANALYTICS: WORLD'S FIRST SLAVE-FREE ALLIANCE-VALIDATED MODERN SLAVERY AND FORCED LABOR RISK MANAGEMENT SOLUTION**

Everstream Analytics harnesses technologies like generative AI, advanced analytics, and graph technology to counter modern slavery and enhance transparency within supply chains.

## **CAN THE MODERN SLAVERY ACT REVIEW DRIVE MEANINGFUL CHANGE?**

The Australian Government tabled a report in Parliament on the first review of Australia's Modern Slavery Act 2018. The Review makes 30 recommendations to reform the legislation that, if adopted, would position Australia as a global leader in addressing modern slavery.

## **INDIA WILL MISS 2030 TARGET TO END BONDED LABOUR-BY 98%**

Experts say that there is a reluctance to accept bonded labour at the state level and that release certificates, mandatory to access rehabilitation entitlements, are not issued.

## **URGENT CALL TO ACTION: UN AMBASSADORS MUST STRENGTHEN COMMITMENT TO ERADICATE MODERN SLAVERY**

As stated by the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Tomoya Obokata, "I am disappointed that the SDG Political Declaration does not reaffirm the commitment to eliminate contemporary slavery as per SDG 8, Target 8.7. We are running out of time and need stronger leadership by the international community now."

## **THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND MODERN SLAVERY**

The World Bank predicts that by 2050, 216 million people will be forced to migrate within their own countries solely because of climate change. This forced migration will make them more vulnerable to the risk of human trafficking and modern slavery.



BECOME A MEMBER



## **COMMON MYTHS ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

## **UNGC: DEFINING SUSTAINABILITY AND ETHICS IN THE AI ERA**

## **FROM SUMERIAN GODS TO MODERN DAY: THE LONG HISTORY OF SLAVERY AND LOST CHILDREN**

## **ACCELERATING CHANGE: THE POTENTIAL OF CAPITAL MARKET ACTORS IN ADDRESSING MODERN SLAVERY**



## **SPOT THE SIGNS OF SLAVERY IN THE UK**



## **SPOT THE SIGNS OF TRAFFICKING IN THE US**

If you would like to share any relevant content or ideas related to SDG Goal 8, please write to [allen@gsgoal8.org](mailto:allen@gsgoal8.org).