



# Forms of Contemporary SLAVERY

## Forms of Contemporary Slavery

To many, the term “slavery” conveys images of the transatlantic slave trade of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries with all its deplorable horrors. Relegated to a barbaric past, few realize that the enslavement of human beings exists even today and remains a grave problem across our world. From traditional chattel slavery in Sudan to the contentious issue of trafficking in persons, international organizations such as Anti-Slavery International and Free the Slaves estimate that at least 27 million people are held in slavery like situations today. (Because of the hidden nature of modern slavery, it is difficult to determine precise numbers and data on modern slaves.)

Persistent modern-day slavery covers a variety of human rights violations and includes the practices of child labor, bonded labor, serfdom, servile marriage, trafficking in persons (especially women and children), and the exploitation of domestic and migrant labor. Such slavery-like practices remain clandestine in nature and, in certain cases, accepted as a part of society, making them difficult to root out and eliminate. Public ignorance has contributed to governmental and international inaction to abolish such forms of slavery. The problem is compounded by the fact that, worldwide, victims of contemporary slavery are characterized by their poverty and vulnerability.

An examination of international instruments to eliminate slavery and slavery-like practices reveals an ongoing evolution in the understanding of slavery and the many forms of enslavement. The Vienna Congress Declaration on the Universal Abolition of Slave Trade was adopted in 1815, though it was only in 1926 that the League of Nations gave an international definition to slavery. The 1926 Slavery Convention (<http://www.hri.ca/uninfo/treaties/28.shtml>) and its 1956 protocol “Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery” (<http://www.hri.ca/uninfo/treaties/30.shtml>) defined slavery as “the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised.” Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (<http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>) states: “No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.”

The slave trade was defined to include all acts involved in the capture, acquisition, or disposal of a person with intent to reduce the person to slavery; all acts involved in the acquisition of a slave with a view to selling or exchanging the person; all acts of disposal by sale or exchange of a slave acquired with a view to selling or exchanging; and, in general, every act of trade or transport in slaves. The Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery brought into focus institutions and practices resembling slavery but which were not covered by the Slavery Convention, such as debt bondage, servile forms of marriage, and the exploitation of children and adolescents. The objective of the Supplementary Convention was to intensify national and international efforts to abolish slavery and all institutions and practices similar to slavery.

## Chattel Slavery

Traditional slavery, often called chattel slavery, is probably the least prevalent of the contemporary forms of slavery. According to the American Anti-Slavery group (<http://www.anti-slavery.org>), in Mauritania, where slavery was legally abolished in 1980, 90,000 darker-skinned Africans still live as the property of the Muslim Berber communities. Although the Africans in Mauritania converted to Islam more than 100 years ago, and the Qur'an forbids the enslavement of fellow Muslims, in Mauritania race seems to outrank religious doctrine. Such chattel slaves are used for their labor, sex, and breeding, and are exchanged for camels, trucks, guns, or money. Children of chattel slaves remain the property of their master. And even among freed slaves, a tribute is often paid to former masters, who also maintain inheritance rights over freed slaves' property.

In Sudan, slavery is making a comeback as the result of a war waged over the past twelve years by the Muslim north against the Christians and Animists in the south. Sudan means "land of the blacks" in Arabic, and for centuries black Africans were abducted in Sudan as part of the Arabian slave trade. Anti-Slavery researchers describe a revival of a racially-based slave trade where armed northern militias raid the southern civilian villages for slaves. Reports to the UN Commission on Human Rights have underscored the racial aspect of such practices as victims are exclusively persons belonging to the indigenous tribes of the Nuba Mountains (darker-skinned Africans). Government-armed Arab militias are known to kill the men and enslave the women and children as personal property or to march them north to be auctioned off and sold.

### Prohibitions:

- The 1926 Slavery Convention
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

### Related Sites:

CASMAS, the Coalition Against Slavery in Mauritania and Sudan.

<http://members.aol.com/casmasalc>

"Black Chattel Slavery, It's not History" American Anti-Slavery Group at

[www.anti-slavery.org/slavery.html](http://www.anti-slavery.org/slavery.html).

## Bonded Labor

Bonded labor or debt bondage is the least known and most widely used method of enslaving people worldwide. Most prevalent in South Asia, especially India, Pakistan, and Nepal, such labor is localized within the caste system or similar forms of social stratification in spite of existing laws that prohibit slavery in all three countries. Bonded labor also affects migrant workers working in the developed world.

The UN Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery recognizes that some 20 million people are still held in debt bondage around the world. However, there continues to be considerable controversy regarding the number of people actually enslaved as bonded laborers. In India, estimates vary between Human Rights Watch's appraisal in 1999 of 40 million bonded laborers and the 280,340 that were identified by the Indian government as of March 1999. Similarly, in Pakistan, the Bonded Labour Liberation Front (an NGO), estimated in a submission to the UN that there were 20 million bonded laborers in Pakistan. A representative of the government of Pakistan recently stated that the total number of bonded laborers was between 5,000 and 7,000 (Anti-Slavery Submissions to the UN Commission on Human Rights).

The UN Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, 1956, defines debt bondage as "the status or condition arising from a pledge by a debtor of his personal services or of those of a person under his control as security for a debt, if the value of those services as reasonably assessed is not applied towards the liquidation of the debt or the length and nature of those services are not respectively limited and defined." Bonded laborers work like slaves, often not knowing when their debt will finally be considered paid. Normally, the bonded laborer's children inherit the debt.

Mini Singh  
April 2003

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### Prohibitions:

- The UN Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery (1956) prohibits bonded labor at an international level.
- Article 8 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights  
[http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/a\\_ccpr.htm](http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/a_ccpr.htm)
- 1948 Universal Declaration on Human Rights.
- International Labour Organization Conventions 29 and 105 concerning forced labor prohibit debt bondage.
- Many countries have national legislation.

### Related Sites:

Anti-Slavery International Campaign against Bonded Labor  
[http://www.antislavery.org/homepage/campaign/bonded\\_info.htm](http://www.antislavery.org/homepage/campaign/bonded_info.htm)

## Child Labor

The International Labour Organization (ILO) in 1996 estimated a global figure of 250 million child workers worldwide, of which 140 million were boy workers and 110 million girl workers. The Statistics and Monitoring Program in Child Labour, the statistical unit of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO/IPEC) in its 2002 report estimates that globally there were 211 million children aged 5–14 at work in economic activity in 2000. The total economically active child population between 5–17 is estimated at 352 million children. By region, Asia-Pacific harbors the largest number of child workers, though Sub-Sahara Africa has the largest incidence rate wherein almost 30% of all children in Africa between the ages to 5–14 are economically active.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (<http://www.unicef.org/crc/fulltext.htm>) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (<http://www.unicef.org/crc/annex2.htm>) recognize the right of the child to be protected from “economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.” The demand for child labor is immense not only because it is cheap but also because children are naturally more docile, easier to discipline than adults, and too frightened to complain. Their small build and nimble fingers are considered more suited to certain kinds of work.

With a view to achieving the total abolition of child labor the ILO Convention 138: Minimum Age Convention was adopted in 1973 (<http://ilolex.ilo.ch:1567/cgi-lex/convde.pl?C138> ). This Convention remains the fundamental international standard on child labor and has had a profound influence on national law and practice. However, growing international consensus recognized that eliminating child labor would take time and that there were certain kinds of child labor that required immediate action. The new standard, the ILO Convention 182 (<http://ilolex.ilo.ch:1567/cgi-lex/convde.pl?C182>), was adopted in 1999 and focuses national and international priority on children in slavery, prostitution, pornography, illicit activities, and hazardous work. Children in all countries, no matter the level of development, are now to be legally protected from such extreme forms of child labor.

### Prohibitions

- ILO Convention 138: Minimum Age Convention adopted in 1973.
- Under international law anyone under 18 is a child: The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).
- ILO Convention 182: Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention (1999).
- Most countries also have domestic legislation.

### Related Sites:

Global March Against Child Labor, [www.globalmarch.org](http://www.globalmarch.org)

IPEC: International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labor,  
[www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipec](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipec)

International Labour Organization Child Labor Homepage <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/comp/child/>

Testimonies of rescued child laborers go to: <http://www.globalmarch.org/case-studies/index.php3>

## Domestic and Migrant Workers

Around our globe today, millions of people are on the move, trying to live in countries not their own. In some cases this movement is voluntary as people search for better life opportunities, education, or work. In many more cases, the migration is forced, as people flee poverty, civil unrest and war, or search for employment simply for survival.

A migrant worker is a person engaged in a remunerated activity in a state of which he or she is not a national. A domestic worker is defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO) as “a wage-earner working in a private household, under whatever method and period of remuneration, who may be employed by one or by several employers who receive no pecuniary gain from this work.” Domestic workers are usually occupied as housekeepers, nannies, cooks, drivers, gardeners, and other personal servants. Some domestic and migrant workers labor under slave-like conditions.

In the last decade, an increase in exploitation against foreign migrant domestic workers is bringing to light modern-day slavery in the “developed” or “first” world. Foreign domestic workers, who are brought to other countries by diplomats and corporate executives, are among the most abused and vulnerable migrant workers. (See: [www.aamovement.net/immigrant\\_labor/domesticworkers.html](http://www.aamovement.net/immigrant_labor/domesticworkers.html)). Although not bought as slaves, fundamental human rights of migrants are too easily violated or ignored. The exploitation can range from wage and hour violation to physical and sexual abuse. In many documented cases employers also withhold legal documents of migrant workers, thereby restricting their mobility. Not considered as “workers,” such domestic workers are not covered by labor protection legislation, making them easy targets for exploitation and rendering them powerless and vulnerable because of language and other cultural barriers.

Highlighting the plight of these workers in the United States, the Campaign for Migrant Domestic Workers Rights focuses primarily on domestic workers who have entered the United States through a special visa program that grants international bureaucrats and diplomats the privilege of bringing hired help in from overseas. The Campaign reports that most domestic workers are poor women from developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America who enter the United States on temporary visas. Once paper work is filed for these visas, international institutions and embassies take a “hands-off” approach to the plight of these domestic workers.

### Prohibitions:

- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Adopted by General Assembly resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990.

### Related Sites:

Portal for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Migrants.  
<http://www.december18.net/intro.htm>  
The Global Campaign for Ratification of the Convention on Rights of Migrants.  
<http://www.migrantsrights.org>

Campaign for Migrant Domestic Worker Rights: The Campaign for Migrant Domestic Workers Rights is a coalition of legal and social service agencies, ethnically-based organizations, social action groups and individuals devoted to protecting the rights of the migrant domestic working community. <http://www.ips-dc.org/campaign/index2.htm>

## Servile Marriage

When a young girl or woman has no right to refuse being entered into a marriage, the marriage can be deemed a “servile marriage.” In such an arrangement a young woman is often given in exchange for money or other payment, and can sometimes also be inherited by another person if her husband dies, or sold to someone else. In some cases, young girls and women are forced to marry wealthy older men to become sexual and domestic slaves. Servile marriage is listed in United Nations’ Conventions as “a practice similar to slavery” and Article I of the Supplementary Convention prohibits any institution or practice whereby

"(i) A woman, without the right to refuse, is promised or given in marriage on payment of a consideration in money or in kind; (ii) The husband of a woman, his family, or his clan, has the right to transfer her to another person for value received or otherwise; or (iii) A woman on the death of her husband is liable to be inherited by another person."

According to Anti-Slavery International, the tradition of servile marriage still exists in Ethiopia, where it is common for a man to rape an underage girl. Once the girl is raped, the rapist goes to her father and demands the girl as his wife. The father and the rape victim have no option but to agree: if they refuse, no other man will marry her. Other recorded forms of servile marriages are instances of girls being pledged to priests in Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria to atone for offences committed by a family member, and in certain south Asian countries where young girls are “bought” by paying a bride price and without the assent of the girl. These girls are often abused physically and sexually by their rapists, their buyers, or the priests.

### Prohibitions:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1999).
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979, stipulates in its Article 16 that: "2. The betrothal and the marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and all necessary action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry Compulsory."
- UN Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery (1956).



## Trafficking in Persons

The term "trafficking" is used by different international agencies to describe activities that range from voluntary to forced movement of persons under the threat of violence for certain exploitative purposes including prostitution. The subject of trafficking in women has received increased international attention since the 1980s. International developments regarding migration flows, the increase in child prostitution, sex-tourism, and AIDS have raised concerns among international NGOs, human right groups, feminist organizations, as well as the media.

Trafficking in human beings is probably the fastest-growing business of organized crime. Traffickers use threats, intimidation, and violence to force victims to engage in sex acts or to labor under conditions comparable to slavery. Women, children, and men are trafficked into the international sex trade for the purposes of prostitution, sex tourism, and other exploitative work. Obtaining reliable data on human trafficking is difficult owing to a lack of clear definition and the clandestine nature of the activity. Although trafficking afflicts men and women equally, rough estimates by the UN suggest that between 700,000 to 2 million persons trafficked across international borders annually are women and girls. (<http://www.unfpa.org/gender/trafficking.htm>)

According to the US Department of State, over 225,000 victims of trafficking each year are from Southeast Asia and over 150,000 from South Asia. The former Soviet Union, believed to be the largest new source of trafficking for prostitution and the sex industry, sees an estimated 100,000 women trafficked each year. An additional 75,000 or more are trafficked from Eastern Europe. Over 100,000 come from Latin America and the Caribbean, and over 50,000 victims are from Africa. Not limited to global south–north movements, there are increasing instances of inter-regional traffic (Bangladeshi and Nepali girls being smuggled into India) with the numbers of destination countries on the increase.

The issue of trafficking in women, especially in regards to sexual exploitation and prostitution, presents some of the more pressing moral challenges on the international human rights agenda. Categorizing sex-trafficking as contemporary slavery has led to a heated debate involving ideological and conceptual differences among those working to ensure that the human rights of trafficked persons are protected by international authorities and agencies. On one side of the debate are feminist organizations which argue that all forms of prostitution, in essence, exploit women and reduce them to sexual objects. On the other side are advocacy groups, some of them feminist, who defend sex work as a legitimate profession that some women choose freely and advocate the importance of the right to self-determination. At the core of the controversy lies the question whether adult prostitution, when voluntary and not coerced, should be accepted as a legitimate form of work. (See also on our web site: Debate on Trafficking and Sex-Slavery).

The first international legal instrument to deal with trafficking was the 1949 Convention of the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of



Others (<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/33.htm>). For the first time in an international instrument, the Convention declared prostitution and the traffic in persons to be incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and to endanger the welfare of the individual, the family, and the community. The 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime ([http://www.uncjin.org/Documents/Conventions/dcatoc/final\\_documents\\_2/convention\\_%20traff\\_eng.pdf](http://www.uncjin.org/Documents/Conventions/dcatoc/final_documents_2/convention_%20traff_eng.pdf)) broadens its definition of "trafficking in persons" to include a range of cases where human beings are exploited by organized criminal groups, particularly where there is an element of duress involved and a transnational aspect, such as the movement of people across borders. The Protocol highlights the inhuman, degrading and dangerous exploitation of trafficked person and is expected to standardize the terminology, laws, and practices of countries.

#### Prohibitions:

1949 Convention of the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

#### Related Sites:

Trafficking in Persons Report. Released by the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, June 5, 2002. (<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2002/>)

## Forced Labor

According to Anti-Slavery International, forced labor is not an alternative term for slavery. The use of forced labor does not carry with it the same notions of "ownership" as slavery or slavery-like practices. However, international standards do prohibit the use of forced labor other than by the state, clearly circumscribing the circumstances in which individual citizens can be obliged to perform forced labor.

In reality, however, there is and has been much abuse of this right by political authorities and others in positions of power. Through coercion, individuals have been forced to work without payment, often in harsh and hazardous conditions. Recent reports of forced labor from countries afflicted by civil conflict highlights the indiscriminate use of individuals in fighting and elsewhere. In the worst cases, people have been used as "human mine detectors" or arbitrarily killed by the soldiers for whom they have worked.

#### Prohibitions:

- International Labour Organization Convention 29, 1930 concerning Forced Labor.
- International Labour Organization Convention Number 105 of 1957, concerning the

Abolition of Forced Labor.

- UN 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 8.3).

## Important Links

### Anti-Slavery International

Web address: <http://www.antislavery.org>

Email Address: [info@antislavery.org](mailto:info@antislavery.org)

Address: Anti-Slavery International  
Thomas Clarkson House, The Stableyard  
Broomgrove Road

London, United Kingdom SW9 9TL

Tel: +44 (0)20 7501 8920

Fax: +44 (0)20 7738 4110

Notes: Anti-Slavery International is the world's oldest international human rights organisation, founded in 1839. It is the only charity in the United Kingdom to work exclusively against slavery and related abuses. Anti-Slavery works at local, national, and international levels to eliminate the system of slavery around the world by urging governments of countries with slavery to develop and implement measures to end it, lobbying governments and intergovernmental agencies, supporting research to assess the scale of slavery and, in educating the public about the realities of slavery and campaigning for its end.

### CAST: The Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking

Web address: <http://www.trafficked-women.org>

Email: [cast@trafficked-women.org](mailto:cast@trafficked-women.org)

Address: Little Tokyo Service Center  
231 E. 3rd St., Suite G104  
Los Angeles, California 90013

Notes: Founded in 1998, CAST is a network of not-for profit organizations, service providers and grassroots advocacy groups to highlight the issue of modern day slavery. CAST's mission is to assist persons trafficked for the purpose of forced labor and slavery-like practices and to work towards ending all instances of such human right violations.

### CASMAS: Coalition Against Slavery in Mauritania and Sudan Web Web Address:

<http://members.aol.com/casmasalc>

Email: [CASMASALC@AOL.COM](mailto:CASMASALC@AOL.COM)

Address: CASMAS

P. O. Box 3293

New York, NY 10027

Tel: (212) 774-4287

Notes: CASMAS is a human rights, abolitionist movement started by activists from Mauritania, Sudan, and the United States. The mission of CASMAS is to bring together abolitionists/human rights groups from Mauritania, South Sudan and North America to collectively fight for the eradication of institutionalized and chattel slavery and other forms of human rights violations in Africa, especially in Mauritania and Sudan.

### **CATW: Coalition Against Trafficking in Women**

Web Address: <http://www.catwinternational.org>

Email: [info@catwinternational.org](mailto:info@catwinternational.org)

Address: CATW has many regional and National Offices. All office locations and contact information is available on the web-site of CATW.

Notes: CATW is a non-governmental organization that promotes women's human rights. It works internationally to combat sexual exploitation in all its forms, especially prostitution and trafficking in women and children, in particularly girls. CATW is composed of regional networks and of affiliated individuals and groups and serves as an umbrella that coordinates and takes direction from its them to work against sexual exploitation and in support of women's human rights.

### **Free the Slaves**

Web Address: <http://www.freetheslaves.net/>

Email: [info@freetheslaves.net.net](mailto:info@freetheslaves.net.net)

Address: 1326 14th St. NW

Washington, DC 20005

Tel: 1.866.324.FREE; 202.588.1865

Fax: 202.588.1514

Notes: Free the Slaves has been founded by Americans who do not want to live in a world with slavery and pledges to use every donated dollar in the way that will end slavery the fastest. Contributions to Free the Slaves fund grassroots organizations working to liberate and rehabilitate slaves, educate policymakers about slavery, and raise awareness about modern slavery through the media and through public events, fund research to develop effective solutions to slavery, and build global partnerships to address slavery from all sides.

### **GAATW: Global Alliance against Traffic in Women**

Web address: <http://www.thai.net/gaatw/>

Email Address: [gaatw@mozart.inet.co.th](mailto:gaatw@mozart.inet.co.th)

Address: the International Coordination Office

P.O. Box 36, Bangkok Noi Office,

Bangkok 10700, Thailand

Telephone: (662) 864-1427

Fax: (662) 864-1637

Notes: The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) was formed in 1994 at the International Workshop on Migration and Traffic in Women held in Chiang Mai, Thailand. It is a global network of organizations and individuals and aims to ensure that the human rights of trafficked persons are respected and protected by authorities and agencies. The organization also aims to empower women at the grassroots level.

### **Global March Against Child Labour**

Web Address: <http://www.globalmarch.org>

Email: [yatra@del2.vsnl.net.in](mailto:yatra@del2.vsnl.net.in)

Address: Global March Against Child Labour

L-6, Kalkaji, New Delhi - 19, India.

Tel : 91-11-26224899, 26475481.

Fax : 91-11-26236818

Notes: Global March Against Child Labour is a movement borne out of hope and the need felt by thousands of people across the globe - the desire to set children free from servitude. Global March movement began with a worldwide march when thousands of people marched together to jointly put forth the message against child labour.

### **Human Rights Internet**

Web Address: <http://www.hri.ca/welcome.asp>

Email: [hri@hri.ca](mailto:hri@hri.ca)

Address: Human Rights Internet

8 York Street, Suite 302

Ottawa, Ontario K1 N 5S6

Canada

Telephone: (1-613) 789-7407

Fax: (1-613) 789-7414

Notes: HRI was founded in 1976 to provide and exchange information within the human rights community worldwide. HRI has established communication with more than 5,000 organizations and individuals working for the advancement of human rights. HRI is dedicated to the empowerment of human rights activists and organizations. It also works to educate governmental and intergovernmental agencies and officials on human rights issues and the role of civil society.

### **iAbolish, The Anti-Slavery portal**

Web Address: <http://www.iabolish.com>

Email: [info@iabolish.com](mailto:info@iabolish.com)

Address: 198 Tremont St., #421

Boston, MA 02116

Telephone (toll free): 1-800-884-0719

Notes: iAbolish is a project of the American Anti-Slavery Group (AASG), a grassroots organization founded in 1993 to combat slavery around the world. AASG has broken a virtual media blackout on slavery and helped free over 45,000 slaves.

### **IHRLG: International Human Rights Law Group**

Web Address: <http://www.hrlawgroup.org>

Email Address: [HumanRights@hrlawgroup.org](mailto:HumanRights@hrlawgroup.org)

Address: International Human Rights Law Group

1200 18th Street NW, Suite 602

Washington, DC 20036

Telephone: 202- 822-4600

Fax: 202-822-4606

Notes: The International Human Rights Law Group comprises human rights activists and legal professionals from over 20 countries engaged in advocacy, strategic human rights lawyering and training around the world. IHRLG seeks to empower local advocates to expand the scope of human rights protections and build human rights standards and procedures at the national, regional, and international levels. The group

has launched the "Initiative against Trafficking in Persons" to assist advocates and NGOs in building advocacy, legal literacy, and case monitoring skills.

### **ILO: International Labor Organization**

Web address: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/index.htm>

Email: [ilo@ilo.org](mailto:ilo@ilo.org)

Address: 4, route des Morillons

CH-1211 Geneva 22

Switzerland

Tel: +41.22.799.6111

Fax: +41.22.798.8685

Notes: The International Labor Organization is the UN specialized agency which seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labor rights. The ILO formulates international labor standards in the form of Conventions and Recommendations setting minimum standards of basic labor rights: freedom of association, the right to organize, collective bargaining, abolition of forced labor, equality of opportunity and treatment, and other standards regulating conditions across the entire spectrum of work related issues.

### **IOM: International Organization for Migration**

Web Address: <http://www.iom.int>

Email: [info@iom.int](mailto:info@iom.int)

Address: 17, Route des Morillons

CH-1211 Geneva 19 - Switzerland

Tel: +41/22/717 9111

Fax: +41/22/798 6150

Notes: IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As the leading international organization for migration, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration, and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

### **NSWP: Network of Sex Work Projects**

Web address : <http://www.nswp.org>

Email: [secretariat@nswp.org](mailto:secretariat@nswp.org)

Address: P.O. Box 13914

Mowbray 7705

Rep. of South Africa

Tel: +27 21 448 2883

Fax: +27 21 448 4947

Notes: The Network of Sex Work Projects was formed in 1991 and consists of sex workers and organizations which provide services to sex workers in over 40 countries. NSWP aims to provide practical information and opportunities for information sharing among organizations and projects which provide services to men, women, and transsexuals who work in the sex industry. They advocate policies and action at the

regional and global level to further the human rights of sex workers such as the right to health and a safe working environment free from abuse, violence and discrimination. NSWP believes the anti-sex work and anti-trafficking agenda is a threat to sex workers' health and human rights.

### **Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery:**

Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, United Nations

Web address: <http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home>

Email: [webadmin.hchr@unog.ch](mailto:webadmin.hchr@unog.ch)

Address: OHCHR-UNOG

8-14 Avenue de la Paix

1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Telephone: (41-22) 917- 9000

Fax: (41-22) 917- 9016

Notes: The fund was established by the General assembly in 1991. The purpose of the fund is to assist non-governmental organizations dealing with contemporary forms of slavery and to provide, through the established channels of assistance, humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individual victims of such violations.

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## **UN Links**

### **Human Rights**

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR): <http://www.unhchr.ch>

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

On December 10, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the full text of which appears in the following pages:

<http://www.hri.ca/uninfo/treaties/1.shtml>

### **Slavery, Servitude, Forced Labour and Similar Institutions and Practices**

Slavery Convention , signed at Geneva on 25 September 1926.

<http://www.hri.ca/uninfo/treaties/28.shtml>

Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, adopted at Geneva on 7 September 1956.

<http://www.hri.ca/uninfo/treaties/30.shtml>

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families , adopted by General Assembly resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990.

[http://193.194.138.190/html/menu3/b/m\\_mwctoc.htm](http://193.194.138.190/html/menu3/b/m_mwctoc.htm)

Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, approved by General Assembly on 2 December 1949 and entered into force in 1951.

<http://www.hri.ca/uninfo/treaties/33.shtml>

Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, entered into force April 30, 1957.

<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/instreet/f3scas.htm>

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, (2001).

<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/instreet/trafficking.html>

Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Crime (2001).

<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/instreet/smuggling.html>

ILO Conventions: All Convention texts from C1 in 1919 to C184 in 2001.

<http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/arab/docs/convdisp1.htm>

## Rights of the Child

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 20 November 1989.

<http://www.unicef.org/crc/fulltext.htm>

Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child:

1) Optional protocol on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography, entered into force on 18 January 2002.

<http://www.unicef.org/crc/annex2.htm>

2) Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, entered into force on 12 February 2002.

<http://www.unicef.org/crc/annex1.htm>

## Women's Rights

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, entered into force 1981.

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm>

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, entered into force 22 December 2000.

[http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/opt\\_cedaw.htm](http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/opt_cedaw.htm)



United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM):

<http://www.unifem.org/>

Womenwatch: UN Gateway on the Advancement and Empowerment of Women

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/>

The United Nations Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/index.html>

Commission on the Status of Women

<http://www.un.org/Conferences/Women/PublInfo/Status/Scrn5.htm>

United States Information Agency Resources to Protect Women's Human Rights

<http://usinfo.state.gov/topical/global/traffic>