

# GOAL 8 UPDATE

## MODERN SLAVERY - 50 MILLION AND COUNTING!

The number of people living in modern slavery conditions has jumped 25% to 50 million over the last five years. Trade among wealthy nations in the G20 is worsening forced labour conditions as products are shipped from countries with weak worker protections.

## GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX 2023

The most vulnerable - women, children and migrants - remain disproportionately affected.

Fundamentally, modern slavery is enabled by power imbalances. For women and girls, this imbalance is exacerbated by gender inequality and discrimination that is deeply engrained within our society.

28 million are in forced labour and 22 million in forced marriage. 12 million children are in modern slavery.

Child trafficking affects children of all ages, with children aged 13-17 being the largest group of victims

## UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ARE MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

The world is far off track in achieving sustainable development, as indicated by the midpoint assessment of the UN SDGs. The previous failure to meet the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 highlights the current approach of setting ambitious goals and repeatedly missing them risks normalizing global poverty and hampering collective action.

## FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DECADES, DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS IS REVERSING

With the UN Summit approaching in September, the UN's global campaign aims to urgently call for ambitious action and engage the global public in this shared agenda.

## "WE'RE AT THE RISK OF A LOST DECADE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT" - GUILLAUME LAFORTUNE, VICE PRESIDENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK (SDSN)

The EU is currently failing to meet the SDGs, but there is potential for it to lead the way and provide financial support. The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) has given recommendations, including strengthening EU domestic policies and advocating for increased international cooperation to scale up SDG financing.

## THE GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX REPORT REVEALS THE LINK BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND MODERN SLAVERY

It states that industries tied to forced labour contribute to climate degradation, emphasizing the alarming connection between the pursuit of clean energy and human rights violations.

## THE DEVELOPED WORLD IS MISSING THE POINT ABOUT MODERN SLAVERY!

Critics argue that the Modern Slavery Index overlooks modern slavery within Western nations and the role of Western capitalism in perpetuating the problem - driven by the demand for cheap labour and the economic model creates an exploitative labour market.

## OVER HALF OF CHILD TRAFFICKING VICTIMS ACROSS THE WORLD ARE TRAFFICKED WITHIN THEIR OWN COUNTRY, ACCORDING TO A NEW REPORT BY IOM.

**\$468 B**

**G20 countries import \$468 billion  
in at-risk products - Global Slavery  
Index 2023**

**THE POSITION OF THE  
ANTI-SLAVERY  
COMMISSIONER, WHICH  
HAS BEEN VACANT SINCE  
APRIL 2022 IS LEADING  
CONCERNS OVER  
ROLLBACK OF  
SAFEGUARDS AMIDST  
THE NEW ILLEGAL  
MIGRATION BILL IN THE  
UK**

**THE RENEWABLES SUPPLY  
CHAIN'S INTRICACY  
FOSTERS MODERN  
SLAVERY IN ASIA, AFRICA,  
AND SOUTH AMERICA. A  
PROPOSED SOLUTION IS  
THE 'CERTIFICATE OF  
ORIGIN' TO COMBAT  
SLAVE LABOR IN MINERAL  
EXTRACTION AND  
RENEWABLE ENERGY  
MANUFACTURING**

## **HOW BIG TECH AND AI ARE PUTTING TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS AT RISK!**

Efforts towards combating slavery and trafficking are obsessed with collecting vast amounts of data, combined with the lack of survivor involvement in tool development. This indicates a disregard for privacy, the potential misuse of data, and a failure to address comprehensive survivor support and empowerment.

## **THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO ENGAGE MORE WITH THE BUSINESS SECTOR ON THE DELIVERY OF THE UN SDG GOALS**

Government policies should incentivize action and penalize inaction to level the playing field for businesses. Awareness of SDGs among the business community, developing sectoral toolkits and fostering collaboration between the government, businesses, and civil society to achieve the SDGs.

## **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MODERN SLAVERY ACT, AUSTRALIA - INTRODUCING CIVIL PENALTIES FOR NON- COMPLIANCE**

The Australian Attorney-General's Department has presented a report which includes key recommendations, including lowering the compliance threshold, expanding mandatory reporting criteria, introducing a mandatory due diligence obligation, implementing a three-year reporting cycle, and establishing penalty provisions and a public complaints mechanism.

## **THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VOTED TO IMPOSE MANDATORY HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DUE DILIGENCE REQUIREMENTS ON VARIOUS CORPORATE ACTORS**

The Legal Affairs Committee of the European Parliament has passed a measure requiring companies to address and mitigate the negative impact of their activities on human rights and the environment, including issues like child labour, slavery, pollution, and biodiversity loss, with potential penalties for non-compliance.

**93 %**

A study by [Rights Lab](#) has found that nearly half of all countries have not made slavery a crime. [Ninety-four countries lack legislation prohibiting slavery, and 93% of countries have not enacted laws against servitude.](#)



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



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

If you would like to share any relevant news or ideas related to SDG Goal 8, please write to [allen@gsngoal8.org](mailto:allen@gsngoal8.org).

According to the latest '[Global Estimates of Modern Slavery](#)' (2022) from Walk Free, the [International Labour Organization](#) and the International Organization for Migration: 49.6 million people live in modern slavery. Alongside is the International Labour Organisation and UNICEF in one of their [June 2021 Press Release](#) that state that child labour has risen to 160 million.

There is something clearly odd with these numbers, and it's alarming! Stay tuned for our next issue to explore this further.