



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

## The Empowerment Series

### Fifth briefing: *Forced labour and human trafficking*

28 February 2023

#### Concept note

##### Context and rationale

Forced labour is defined as “all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily”.<sup>1</sup> Trafficking in persons means the “recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation”.<sup>2</sup>

Available data shows that of the 27.6 million people in forced labour, 17.3 million are exploited in the private sector; 6.3 million in forced commercial sexual exploitation, and 3.9 million in forced labour imposed by state.<sup>3</sup> Of the globally trafficked people, 70% are young girls and adult women<sup>4</sup> who are three times more likely to suffer explicit or extreme violence compared to boys and men while, overall, children are two times more likely to be subjected to violence than adults.<sup>5</sup> Hence, young people, especially those with risk factors, are extremely vulnerable to human trafficking.

Following United Nations General Assembly resolution *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, adopted in September 2015, declaring that “[w]e will eradicate forced labour and human trafficking and end child labour in all its forms”, increased legislative action at the international and national levels has been taken and a vast majority of countries have enforced laws prohibiting either forced labour or human trafficking, or both. Parliamentarians have a key role to play in winning this fight as they can inspire, guide, and lead the journey towards the eradication of forced labour.<sup>6</sup>

The IPU and its partners have developed tools and practical guides to support parliamentarians. These include the handbook *Eliminating the worst forms of child labour: A practical guide to ILO Convention No. 182* (2002) published jointly with the ILO; *Migration, human rights and governance* (2015) published jointly with the ILO and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); and the afore-referred to handbook *Eliminating Forced Labour* (2019) published jointly with the ILO.

In October 2022, the 145th IPU Assembly adopted the resolution entitled *Parliamentary impetus to local and regional development of countries with high levels of international migration and to stopping all forms, including state-sponsored, of human-trafficking and human rights abuses*. The resolution “calls upon all governments and parliaments to take holistic meaningful and coordinated action, including enacting and enforcing legislation criminalizing trafficking and smuggling”.

To shed light on these issues of concern and support the mobilization of young parliamentarians to work on solutions from a policymaking perspective, the IPU is organizing the fifth online briefing of its Empowerment Series for young parliamentarians on forced labour and human trafficking.

---

<sup>1</sup> International Labour Organisation (ILO), *Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)*, Article 2: [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:55:0::NO::P55\\_TYPE,P55\\_LANG,P55\\_DOCUMENT,P55\\_NODE:CON,en,C029,/Document](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:55:0::NO::P55_TYPE,P55_LANG,P55_DOCUMENT,P55_NODE:CON,en,C029,/Document).

<sup>2</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children*, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000), Article 3: <https://www.unhcr.org/refugees/pdf/protocol-to-prevent-suppress-and-punish-trafficking-in-persons-especially-women-and-children-supplementing-the-united-nations-convention-against-transnational-organized-crime-ohchr.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> ILO, Walk Free Foundation, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage* (Geneva, 2022): [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms\\_854733.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_854733.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), *Global report on trafficking in persons* (Vienna 2020): [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tip/2021/GLOTiP\\_2020\\_15jan\\_web.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tip/2021/GLOTiP_2020_15jan_web.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> UNODC, *Global report on trafficking in persons* (Vienna, 2022): [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2022/GLOTiP\\_2022\\_web.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2022/GLOTiP_2022_web.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> IPU and ILO, *Eliminating Forced Labour* (Handbook for Parliamentarians, No 30, 2019).

## Objectives

The aims of the online briefing on forced labour and human trafficking in persons are to:

- Increase awareness about forced labour and human trafficking among young parliamentarians.
- Take stock of advances made and challenges faced in eliminating forced labour and human trafficking at the international and national levels and identify possible legislation and policy-related actions including:
  - The ratification of the ILO Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930, and the implementation of the 2014 Forced Labour (Supplementary Measures) Recommendation (No 203).
  - The creation of an environment conducive to the fight against forced labour and human trafficking.
- Offer a platform to share good practices and policies between young parliamentarians.

## Methodology

Experts on forced labour and human trafficking will brief young parliamentarians on the subject matter in question. The briefing will be followed by a discussion among young MPs who will also be invited to share good practices on policies and legislation.

Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, French, Arabic and Spanish.

**Date, virtual venue and time:** The online briefing will take place on Zoom, on 28 February 2023, from 14:00 to 16:00 CET (Geneva time).

## Registration link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82591403950?pwd=ZSs5aGs2eDRWOW5leDZXUXNXUFFmUT09>