



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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# 149th IPU Assembly

Geneva  
13–17 October 2024



## Workshop

### ***Redoubling efforts to combat child labour and forced labour: What support can parliaments provide?***

*Tuesday, 15 October 2024, 14:00-16:00  
Salle Lausanne (CCV, annex to the CICG)*

#### **Concept note**

Child trafficking, child labour and forced labour are serious violations of human rights in general and children's rights in particular, as enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

According to global statistics from the International Labour Organization (ILO), some 160 million children aged 5 – 17 are affected by this phenomenon worldwide, despite ILO Convention No. 138 on minimum age (C138) and its Recommendation 146, as well as Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour (C182).

Regarding forced labour, the ILO's statistics indicate that 27.6 million people are impacted, of whom 39% are women and girls, and 12% are children. This is despite other ILO instruments, such as Convention Nos. 29 and 105 on forced labour, complemented by the 2014 Protocol P029.

These worrying trends illustrate the persistence of these scourges, which undermine development efforts, in particular those aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals – specifically target 8.7, which calls for taking “immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.” But with 2025 just around the corner, the current figures cast a rather gloomy light on an already bleak picture. A race against time has begun!

The IPU has made it a priority to engage parliamentarians in promoting child rights and joining the general mobilization against child trafficking and labour, as well as forced labour. To that end, the IPU has joined forces with the ILO and UNICEF to take action to build the capacity of parliaments and their members.

These actions – including handbooks, campaigns and workshops – are designed to raise parliamentary awareness that child trafficking and child labour remain a threat, that trivializing these issues encourages inaction, and that effective measures should be taken to eradicate both practices. Such measures include ratifying relevant ILO instruments, including Protocol P029, and altering or restructuring legislation to bring it into line with international human rights standards, both in terms of the content of the legislation and the effective implementation of its provisions.

Given the alarming persistence of child labour and forced labour, further and robust action is needed to remove child victims from these situations, restore their rights and ensure their access to education, while ensuring access to decent work for their parents. What is at stake is the preservation of the future of society, of which children are the cornerstone.

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The IPU, in collaboration with the ILO, UNICEF and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is therefore organizing a side event aiming to:

- Offer an opportunity for participants to take stock of the progress made both at the national and international levels;
- Share best practices;
- Reflect on the role of parliamentarians in achieving the objective of making societies free from child labour and forced labour.

**Panellists**

- **Ms. Aurélie Hauchère Vuong**, Senior Forced Labour Specialist, Bridge Project, ILO
- **Mr. Benjamin Smith**, Senior Child Labour Specialist, ILO
- **Ms. Linda Reynolds**, Member of the Senate, Australia

**Moderator**

- **Ms. Sophie Kiladze**, IPU focal point on the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), former Member of Parliament of Georgia