



POSMUN 2022

Human Rights

Forced Labor in Asian Pacific
Countries

Camila Siqueira and Lucas Haola

SUMMARY

01.	Greeting letter	3-4
02.	Committee history.....	5-6
03.	Introduction letter	6-8
04.	Topic overview	
a)	Introduction to the topic	8-11
b)	The Asian-Pacific region	11-12
c)	Immigrants/ Refugees	12-13
d)	Human trafficking.....	14-15
e)	Discrimination.....	15-16
f)	Key Terms	16-17
05.	Position of involved countries	17-49
06.	Purpose of the council	49
07.	Guiding questions	50
08.	Useful sources	50
09.	References	51-52

01. Greeting letter

Distinguished delegates,

We are excited to welcome you to the Human Rights Committee at the 5th edition of POSMUN!!! We will be your chairs for the next three days and can't wait to hear your solutions and opinions on this extremely important topic.

It is essential that we recognize the importance of being part of this committee. As it is widely known, we are going through challenging times worldwide, in which countries find themselves facing various issues. In this regard, it is crucially relevant that we discuss and raise awareness about the topic of "Forced labor in the Asian Pacific countries". But before we dive into this sensational topic, we would like to tell you a little bit about ourselves.

I, Camila Siqueira, am 17 years old and very excited to be your chairperson during this simulation. I am currently in my fourth year of German high school and will hopefully be going to Germany to study medicine at the same time next year. I have already participated in two MUNs as a delegate and this will be my first time chairing the Human Rights Committee!

Like all of you, I am looking forward to participating in this year's edition and am grateful to have the opportunity to guide you through these days. I know many of you will be a little nervous or scared of what is to come (I am too, hahah), but this is a space to learn, ask questions, hear different opinions, express your ideas and HAVE FUN. Please feel free to ask me any questions, because there are no silly ones. I hope we will have a very fruitful debate and most of all, that each one of us leaves this simulation ready to fight for a better world!



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

In regards to me, my name is Lucas Haola, and I will be your vice-chair in what we hope to be three amazing days. I'm currently in my last year of Abitur and I want to study in Germany. I have already participated in MUNs before, but this will be my first time as a vice-chair. From my standpoint, this type of simulation is a significant opportunity to not only improve your interaction, debating and solution skills, but also to improve your foreign language level and meet new people.

Those who think this event is just an excuse to miss some classes, wouldn't believe how the knowledge acquired in the debate can be helpful in your academic and professional life. I hope that you all enjoy and extract the most of the discussions, and we wish you an excellent time at one of the greatest committees in the simulation!

Now that we know each other better, we can start discussing ways to fight the many cases of forced labor in the countries of the Asia Pacific. We hope you all enjoy these three days of debate and that together we can find a solution to this problem! We are here to help and we look forward to meeting you all!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at any time:

Email: camics04@gmail.com / Contact: +55 11 98335-1957

Email: haolalucas@gmail.com / Contact: +55 11 94113-1913



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

The chair and vice-chair strongly recommend the delegates to read this guidebook thoroughly and use it as an initial research tool, but also to research and find information beyond it, seeking a better and more complete understanding of every delegation's position in this matter.

It should also be noted the importance of mutual cooperation, respecting the morals and values of all countries present and always bearing in mind that the U.N. was created to collectively make the world a better and safer place. Lastly, they urge the elaboration of a resolution that aims at a consensus between the majority of delegations present in the council.

02. Committee history

The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system, responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and making recommendations on them. It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. It is also the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by its State parties.

The Council was created by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 March 2006 by resolution 60/251 and was assembled to replace the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights. One year later, the Council adopted its "Institution-building package" to guide its work and set up its procedures and mechanisms.



The Council is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UN General Assembly, and it meets at the UN Office at Geneva three times a year for four week-sessions, dealing with the categories of state reporting, individual complaints, general comments, and inter-state communications. All States parties are obliged to submit regular reports to the Committee on how the rights are being implemented. States must report initially one year after acceding to the Covenant and then whenever the Committee requests (usually every four years). The Committee examines each report and addresses its concerns and recommendations to the State party in the form of 'concluding observations'.

The most innovative feature of the Human Rights Council is the Universal Periodic Review. This unique mechanism involves a review of the human rights records of all 193 UN member states once every four years. The Review is a cooperative, state-driven process, under the auspices of the Council, which provides the opportunity for each state to present measures taken and challenges to be met to improve the human rights situation in their country and to meet their international obligations. The Review is designed to ensure universality and equality of treatment for every country.

03. Introduction letter

Dear Delegates,

Slavery has been a part of our world since the beginning of time. It has played a crucial role in the development of the modern world economy, providing the necessary labor force for the settlement and



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

development of the 'New World'. Slavery was an integral part of the first multinational credit and trade systems that emerged in the 15th and 16th centuries, and also produced for the first mass consumer markets. Although it promoted shipping, manufacturing, and trade-in products between countries, it exacerbated the exploitation of workers, who were abused by their superiors. It created a world of inequality, poverty, suffering of minorities and one of the most terrible acts against the rights of people, it originated Forced Labor.

Unfortunately, this type of labor still exists in the modern world. Multinational companies such as Zara and Uniqlo are facing investigations for profiting from the exploitation of forced laborers in China's Uyghur community. This problem is growing as the number of people affected by modern slavery is now estimated at 24,990,000. Although many people are aware of it, the number of victims has continued to grow over the years, and crimes like this continue to occur around the world.

Consequently, there is a need for an investigation into violations of international human rights, the rights of workers (including migrant workers) from abusive and fraudulent practices during the recruitment and placement process, and the failure to prevent human trafficking, child labor, and discrimination against other ethnic groups. If this problem continues, not only is the safety of the entire population at stake, but the lives of the poorest are strongly affected.

Therefore, we bring you the first important topics to reflect on: What are the causes of modern slavery? How can it be combated? What are the consequences of forced labor? How much does ethnic or racial discrimination have to do with this issue? To what extent is human trafficking forced labor?



These are some of the questions and difficulties you will encounter during this three-day discussion, and we hope that you can all work together to find a reasonable solution that aims to combat forced labor in Asia-Pacific countries.

Yours sincerely,
Camila Siqueira and Lucas Haola.

04. Topic overview

a) Introduction to the topic



As mentioned earlier, modern slavery is one of the worst problems in the 21st century. By definition, it can be understood as work performed involuntarily and under the threat of punishment. This includes the use of violence or intimidation, or more subtle means such as manipulated



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

debts, withholding identity documents, or the threat of denunciation to immigration authorities. In addition, forced labor is used in various sectors: agriculture and fishing, domestic work, construction, mining, quarries, brick kilns, manufacturing, processing, packaging, prostitution, sexual exploitation, market trade, and illegal activities.

Why does it still exist?

Poverty and discrimination foster the conditions in which forced labor persists. Once low income people are often in need of cash to fulfill their basic needs, they are forced to sell their labor in exchange for a lump sum or a loan. As a result, they find themselves forced to work for very little money, often for long periods of time, seven days a week.

Previous actions

P029 - Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labor Convention, 1930 (ILO).

"The Protocol and Recommendation mark a major step forward in the fight against forced labor and represent a firm commitment among governments, employer and worker organizations to eliminate contemporary forms of slavery," said ILO Director-General Guy Ryder.

"Forced labor violates the human rights and dignity of millions of women and men, girls and boys. It contributes to the perpetuation of poverty and stands in the way of the achievement of decent work for all," he added.

Possible outcomes/ what could be done?

Initiatives to combat forced labor should always be based on a human



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

rights approach, taking into account the needs and rights of the victims and addressing the state's duty to respect, protect and fulfill their rights. The implementation of core labor standards is crucial. Therefore, awareness-raising work with employers and consumers, as well as advocacy-work with trade unions, combined with legislative changes and better law enforcement are important steps that need to be taken. Focusing on the issue of forced labor can also help overcome many of the obstacles faced by the anti-trafficking movement and provide an effective framework for protecting trafficked and migrant workers, especially women and children.

Idea: Safe migration routes + family reunification programs for children and adolescent migrants.

- At any given time in 2016, an estimated 40,3 million people are in modern slavery, including 24,9 million in forced labour and 15,4 million in forced marriage.
- It means there are 5,4 victims of modern slavery for every 1,000 people in the world.
- 1 in 4 victims of modern slavery are children.
- Out of the 24,9 million people trapped in forced labor, 16 million people are exploited in the private sector such as domestic work, construction or agriculture; 4,8 million persons in forced sexual exploitation, and 4 million persons in forced labor imposed by state authorities.



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

- Women and girls are disproportionately affected by forced labor, accounting for 99% of victims in the commercial sex industry, and 58% in other sections.

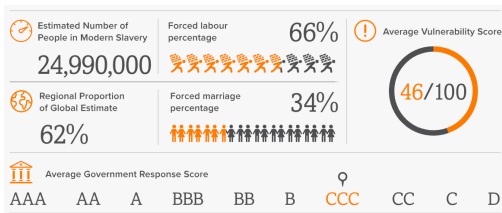
Source: [Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage](#), Geneva, September 2017

b) The Asian-Pacific region

Nisha from India: Nisha, 30, became bonded after marrying her husband. His family had been tied to the same landlord for four generations. The family took loans for marriage, for illnesses, and for education, so they had to pay off their loans. Nisha works 14 hours a day in the landlord's house: working, cleaning, cooking, and fetching water, as well as working with other family members on the landlord's farm. The landlord mistreats her and other women in her family and threatens them when they ask to work for someone else. Since Nisha has two young children, she wants them to break the vicious cycle and secretly seeks contact with a local aid organization. Most people affected by modern slavery are concentrated in the Asian-Pacific region, according to a survey by the International Labor Organization. This region varies in area depending on context, but it generally includes East Asia, Oceania, the Russian Far East, South Asia and Southeast Asia. With 36 countries and 56 percent of the world's population, the Asian-Pacific is the largest region in the world and is broadly diverse in terms of ethnicity, culture, religion, and development. On any given day in 2016, an estimated 24.9 million men, women, and children in Asia and the Pacific lived in modern slavery. The region had the second highest prevalence of modern slavery in the world, at 6.1 per 1,000 people.



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations



<https://www.globallslaveryindex.org/2018/findings/regional-analysis/asia-and-the-pacific/>

c) Immigrants/ Refugees

It is important to note that migrants fleeing violence and conflict, migrants who have been dislocated from community and family support structures, do not have access to legal forms of employment, legal status, or social protection; and that migrants moving or working through irregular channels are highly vulnerable to forced labor. Once these workers often do not speak the language, don't have a support system, and are in many ways dependent on their employers, they are considered prime targets.

The Asian-Pacific region is a big part of this scenario: in 2016 and 2019, most (88%) of current migrants in Singapore were likely victims of modern slavery. In Hong Kong, there was a big jump from 2016 (17 %) to 2019 (79%).



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

FAST FACTS

258m
MIGRANTS*

THERE ARE 258 MILLION
MIGRANTS.*

WITHIN THIS, AN UNKNOWN
NUMBER ARE ALSO PART
OF THE ESTIMATED 40
MILLION PEOPLE LIVING IN
MODERN SLAVERY.

40m
IN MODERN SLAVERY

HOW DO WE IMPROVE OUR
UNDERSTANDING OF THIS
OVERLAP SO THAT WE
CAN PREVENT MODERN
SLAVERY?

* Migrants refers to international migrants.

https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/migrants_and_their_vulnerability.pdf



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

d) Human Trafficking

Human trafficking affects every country of the world, as country of origin, transit or destination. Victims from at least 127 countries have been found to be exploited in 137 Nations. Women are disproportionately involved in human trafficking, as victims (2/3 of the reported victims). Nevertheless, the majority of traffickers are male.

This issue has many faces: forced or bonded labor; domestic servitude and forced marriage; organ removal; and the exploitation of children in begging, the sex trade, and warfare. However, probably due to statistical bias and national legislation, sexual exploitation (79%) is by far the most identified form of trafficking in persons, followed by forced labor (18%).

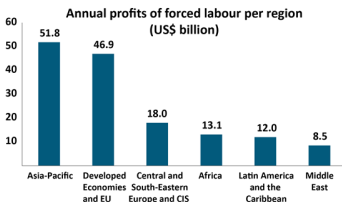
Human Trafficking victims make an alarmingly high number of people taken into forced labor, more precisely labor trafficking, which is a form of modern-day slavery in which individuals perform labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. It includes situations of debt bondage, forced labor, and involuntary child labor. Labor traffickers use violence, threats, lies, and other forms of coercion to force people to work against their will in many industries. Common types of labor trafficking include people forced to work in homes as domestic servants, farmworkers coerced through violence as they harvest crops, or factory workers held in inhumane conditions with little to no pay or freedom.

<https://respect.international/human-trafficking-and-forced-labour/>



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

Forced labour generates annual profits of US\$ 150 billion



<https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/policy-areas/statistics/lang--en/index.htm>

e) Discrimination/ Prejudice/ Xenophobia

Discrimination based on race, gender, caste and other factors shapes how people are treated in the labor market and helps to create and justify the supply of people vulnerable to forced labor in the global economy. The “social categorizations” at the root of these various forms of discrimination are not ‘natural’, nor are they new phenomena; they are rooted in the very same logics that justified European colonialism, the transatlantic slave trade, and other non-European systems of domination.

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), the incidence of forced labor is particularly high among ‘scheduled’ castes and tribes in India, Indigenous minorities in Nepal and non-Muslims



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

in Pakistan. In Africa, forced labor relations are particularly prevalent in countries that experienced slavery, or where continuing patterns of discrimination against people of slave descent are present. And in Latin America, the majority of forced laborers are Indigenous people.

The fact that these particular groups are most likely to be found in situations of forced labor suggests that the social discrimination leading to poverty and adverse incorporation is intimately bound up with legacies of hierarchy, domination and exclusion. At the same time, it is important to note that the dynamics fostering the exploitation of marginalized communities are not mere remnants from the past: they are actively reproduced and maintained by the global political economy.

f) Key Terms

Debt bondage:

Debt bondage, also known as debt slavery, bonded labor, or peonage, is the pledge of a person's services as security for the repayment for a debt or other obligation, where the terms of the repayment are not clearly or reasonably stated, and the person who is holding the debt thus has some control over the laborer.

Domestic servitude:

Involuntary servitude or involuntary slavery is a legal and constitutional term for a person laboring against that person's will to benefit another, under some form of coercion, to which it may constitute slavery.



Child labor:

Child labor refers to the exploitation of children through any form of work that deprives children of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular school, and is mentally, physically, socially and morally harmful.

Sex trafficking:

Sex trafficking is human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. It has been called a form of modern slavery because of the way victims are forced into sexual acts, usually non-consensually, in a form of sexual slavery.

05. Position of involved countries

Argentine Republic:

Instances of forced labor and trafficking for labor exploitation have been identified in Argentina, mainly in sweatshops and in agriculture, but also in a variety of other sectors such as street vending, charcoal and brick production, domestic work, and retail. According to the Ministry of Justice, between the enactment of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act in 2008 and April 2015, 8894 trafficking victims were rescued, about half of whom were victims of trafficking for labor exploitation. Abuses suffered by workers include the retention of personal documents, very poor or unsafe working conditions, wage manipulation, and unlawful wage



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

deductions, keeping workers in a continuous cycle of debt and precarious employment.

According to a report published in 2014 by the Attorney General's Office on Combating Trafficking in Persons, 70% of all victims of trafficking for labor exploitation identified in Argentina in recent years were foreign nationals, with Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru and China being the main countries of origin. Within the country, people are trafficked mainly from rural areas in the northern regions of Argentina, to urban centers, where labor exploitation takes place. In particular, the province of Buenos Aires and the autonomous city of Buenos Aires receive a significant influx of victims of human trafficking, forced labor, and debt bondage.

The Argentine Penal Code contains specific provisions that punish all forms of human trafficking with 4 to 10 years of imprisonment- as well as servitude, slavery, and forced labor punished with 4 to 15 years of imprisonment. The Argentine Criminal Code does not apply to legal persons, so this law does not ensure the criminal liability of companies for their involvement in human trafficking, forced labor, and slavery. However, while legal entities cannot be criminally prosecuted under the Criminal Code, the individual agents or representatives of the entity responsible for the commission of a crime can be held criminally liable. In addition, legal entities may be held liable for the payment of damages caused by a criminal offense.

- Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 55,000
- Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 1.26/1000
- Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 28.88/100



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

Commonwealth of Australia:

Cases of human trafficking for labor exploitation and forced labor have been found in a variety of employment sectors in Australia. Sectors such as agriculture, construction, hospitality, manufacturing, nursing and domestic work employ large numbers of migrant workers and have been frequently associated with labor trafficking in Australia.

Besides that, cases of labor trafficking of Chinese nationals into the construction industry have also been prosecuted before the courts. Similar criminal cases have been recorded for migrants exploited in the manufacturing and hospitality industries.

The Australian Federal Police received 169 new referrals relating to human trafficking and slavery matters in 2015–16, taking the total to 691 since 2004. Of these 169 referrals, 69 related to forced marriage, 39 related to sexual exploitation and 36 related to other forms of labor exploitation. Investigations into alleged cases of trafficking for labor exploitation have increased year on year from 22 in 2014, to 33 in 2015 and 36 to June 2016.

Australia criminalizes human trafficking, forced labor, slavery and servitude in the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth). The Criminal Code also contains offences for dealing with the proceeds or instruments of crime. In 2005 Australia ratified the United Nations *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children supplementing the Convention on Transnational Organized Crime* (the UN Trafficking Protocol). In addition, the Australian Government has in place a five-year National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery 2015-2019 that sets the strategic aims of Australia's whole-of-community response to human trafficking and slavery over the



five years and includes measures to quantify the impact and effectiveness of our collective efforts.

- **Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 15,000**
- **Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 0.56/1000**
- **Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 4.27/100**

Democratic People's Republic of North Korea:

The Democratic People's Republic of North Korea has the highest prevalence of modern slavery in the world, leading the North Korean population suffering from oppression and hunger. High-ranking North Korean officials who recently defected to South Korea have testified that North Korea is a huge slave society ruled by the Kim family. Even members of the privileged class in the North are living like slaves to the Kim family.

In North Korea, the communist regime is forcing slavery onto the people while claiming that it respects civil sovereignty and that its people are living in a “socialist paradise.” There are defectors who are hiding out in northeastern areas of China, and there are residents who are locked in notorious political prison camps in the country.

The North's leadership is still pursuing socialism, but no one can deny that the current political system is far from the true nature of socialism. The people's support and trust have already run out, and Kim Jong-un's leadership is hanging by a thread. The Kim regime appears to be a declining dictatorship, but when looking at its cruelty, which has even led to the execution of Kim's close confidants, the regimes should be more accurately called an oppressive tyranny.



The United Nations published a new report concluding that the North Korean government continues to commit rights violations that may amount to crimes against humanity.

The report, by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, found that North Korea currently engages in torture, wrongful imprisonment, and forced hard labor under exceptionally harsh conditions against anyone held in its short-term detention facilities system and its long-term hard labor prison camps for ordinary crimes, or *kyohwaso* – widespread and systematic abuses that could amount to crimes against humanity. The UN report documents of starvation, severe beatings, the prolonged use of stress positions, and psychological abuse. It also details the denial of medical care, sanitation, and hygiene products, all of which make for severe mental and physical suffering.

- Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 2,640,000
- Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery:
104.56/1000
- Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 73.30/100

Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal:

Nepal faces systematic challenges primarily as a source country, but also a destination and transit country, for men, women and children subjected to trafficking for labor exploitation and forced labor. The absence of decent domestic employment opportunities continues to drive Nepali men and women to migrate for work abroad. A significant number of Nepali overseas workers have been found to have been recruited for work overseas through fraudulent employment promises, and to have later been subjected to servitude, forced labor and debt



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

bondage in a variety of industries.

The management of significant migration flows, including transnational migration motivated by rising unemployment, remains a major challenge faced by the Government of Nepal. A total of 2,226,152 labor permits were issued over the six-year period from 2008 to 2014, with the annual rate increasing by 137% over this period; and an additional estimated 700 thousand unregistered Nepalese men and women work abroad.

Under Nepali legislation, human trafficking is defined as the act of selling or purchasing a person for any purpose, or using someone for the purpose of prostitution, or for the purpose of unlawfully extracting a human organ. Therefore, the Nepali definition does not criminalize the recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of persons by force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of forced labor or labor exploitation. As such, this provision does not meet the international standards set out in the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, in particular Women and Children.

- Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 171,000
- Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 5.95/1000
- Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 44.13/100

Federative Republic of Brazil:

Slave labor in Brazil has traditionally been linked to agricultural work, including cattle, crops and plantation farming – such as cotton, coffee, maize, rice, cocoa, soya and beans – in rural areas. In 2013 and 2014, however, the number of workers found to be working in conditions analogous to slavery in the urban sector – particularly in construction



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

and garment manufacturing—was greater than in the rural sector.

Forced and slave labor are intricately related to poverty and the issue of concentrated landownership in Brazil. Forced labor is prevalent in the agricultural sector of Brazil, where men particularly are lured by deceptive promises of a good salary and working conditions, only to become entrapped in debt bondage. They are required to pay excessive prices for lodging, food, transportation, and the use of their working tools, in addition to enduring appalling working and living conditions. This practice is known as the 'truck system' or 'política de barracão'. Frequently, the practice of subjecting workers to conditions analogous to slavery is associated with the degradation of the environment, bearing in mind this type of manual labor is used in activities such as illegal deforestation, logging for timber and the production of charcoal.

Although modern slavery is widespread in this country, it has found ways to combat this problem. For example, the Brazilian Penal Code contains specific provisions on forced labor and fraudulent inducement to employment. It punishes the crime of 'degrading a person to conditions similar to slavery' with two to eight years' imprisonment and a monetary fine. And also criminalizes fraudulent enticement with the promise of employment in another part of the Brazilian territory or overseas.

- Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 369,000
- Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 1.79/1000
- Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 36.38/100

Federal Republic of Germany:

The Global Slavery Index estimates that on any given day in 2016 there



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

were 167,000 people in conditions of modern slavery in Germany, indicating a prevalence rate of 2.0 modern slavery victims for every thousand people in the country.

Forced sexual exploitation represented the vast majority (90 percent, or 488 cases) of all identified cases of modern slavery in Germany in 2016. The most common nationalities of the reported victims were German, Bulgarian, Romanian, Hungarian, Nigerian, and Ukrainian. Thirteen of the victims originated from Asia. Most of the perpetrators of these crimes were from Germany, Bulgaria, and Romania.

In addition, research shows that migrants in Germany are at increased risk of modern slavery, and that they tend to be more frequently employed in low-paid jobs than non-migrants. Migrant victims of forced labor may be vulnerable due a lack of knowledge of their legal rights in Germany, as well as limited language skills. Private recruitment agencies have been found to prey on individuals from Southeast Europe to lure them to work in sectors such as meat processing, construction, and transport and logistics.

On 19 June 2019, Germany deposited the instrument of ratification of the, with the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930, with the Director General of the ILO, thereby becoming the third-sixth country worldwide to ratify the Protocol. Through this ratification, Germany has made a formal commitment to apply this international instrument, which gives new impetus to action against all forms of forced labor, including trafficking in persons. It has a significant meaning in the year the ILO celebrates its centenary.

- **Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 167,000**
- **Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 2.04/1000**
- **Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 10.44/100**



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

Federal Republic of Nigeria:

Nigeria occupies a central position in West Africa as a country of origin, transit and destination for victims of human trafficking for labor exploitation and forced labor. Men, women and children from Nigeria are trafficked to Western Europe, the Middle East, and West and Central African countries. Victims from neighboring countries of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali and Niger are also exploited in Nigeria in a wide range of industries, including domestic work, mining, stone quarrying, manufacturing, and work in farms and plantations.

Internal trafficking from rural areas to urban centers is also pervasive, particularly among women and children trafficked for domestic labor, agricultural work, farming, manufacturing, begging and sexual purposes. Between 2012 and 2014, 58% of detected victims of human trafficking were children, while 42% were adults. Children are often moved within Nigeria and abroad, ostensibly for the purposes of education but frequently with the result that children are placed in exploitative labor, such as domestic servitude. Children from other West African countries are also moved through Nigeria to work in forced labor in Cameroon and Gabon, or are subjected to forced labor in Nigeria, including in granite and gold mines.

In 2015, the Nigerian government identified 943 victims of trafficking, including 429 victims of sex trafficking and 514 of labor trafficking.

Drivers of exploitation in Nigeria include high unemployment, economic issues such as devaluation of the local currency, and political unrest, each of which contribute to high rates of both internal and external migration.

There continues to exist a high level of impunity for human



trafficking and forced labor in Nigeria, which is attributed to weak legal systems and problems of corruption. Low prosecution rates and light penalties are also blamed, with a lack of knowledge or concern about human trafficking among many criminal justice officials and police. For example, despite the 2015 amendments that removed judges' ability to sentence convicted traffickers to fines in lieu of imprisonment, Nigerian courts continue to penalize traffickers with fines alone or offering the option to pay a fine instead of serving time.

- Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 1,386,000
- Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 7.65/1000
- Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 74.07/100

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

Afghanistan is one of the source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children who are subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced labour and forced prostitution. Trafficking within Afghanistan is more prevalent than transnational trafficking, and the majority of victims are children. In 2005 the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) reported 150 child trafficking cases to other states. Afghan boys and girls are trafficked within the country and into Iran, Pakistan and India as well as Persian Gulf Arab states, where they live as slaves and are forced to prostitution and forced labor in brick kilns, carpet-making factories, and domestic service. In some cases, the boys and girls were used for organ trafficking.

The Government made minimal progress in protecting victims of trafficking. Afghanistan did not have a formal procedure to identify victims of trafficking. The government continued to run two referral



centers in Parwan and Jalalabad.

Under a formalized referral agreement established in late 2007, Afghan police continued to refer women victimized by violence to the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA), UNIFEM, IOM, and NGOs. The government lacked resources to provide victims with protective services directly; NGOs operated the country's shelters and provided the vast majority of victim assistance, but some faced hardships due to threats from the local community, particularly when assisting in cases that involved perceived "honor crimes", such as rape.

- Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 749,000
- Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 22.19/1000
- Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 93.92/100

Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

The issue of forced labor in Pakistan until about the late 1990s was a veiled and highly politicized one. Not only was there an element of denial by key national stakeholders due to vested interests despite Pakistan having ratified the ILO Conventions 29 and 109 as early as 1960's, the existence of national laws such as the Bonded Labour System (abolition) Act 1992 and the Children (Pledging of Labour) Act 1933 and other national policies most notably the National Policy and Plan of Action for the Elimination of Bonded Labour etc, but there was an element of complacency and inaction as a whole by national actors. This inaction was mainly the result of little empirical knowledge regarding the issue, a general lack of institutional capacity to take appropriate action and a socio-cultural acceptance of this age- old and traditional system of labor relation in the highly stratified social framework of the



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

country. The issue is complex and multi- tiered, linked directly to the issues of poverty (both human poverty and income poverty), social exclusion (especially political and social disenfranchisement), general widespread unemployment in the country, lack of effective social protection and entrenched cultural practices.

Forced labor in Pakistan, primarily in the form of debt bondage, is found amongst agriculture workers in Sindh and many areas of Punjab. In addition, a high incidence of bonded labor is found in brick kilns, domestic service (particularly women and child labor), carpet weaving and mining. In the above sectors apart from mining, women feature as a major labor force. Bonded laborers are mostly from socially excluded groups, including minorities and migrants who suffer additionally from discrimination and political disenfranchisement.

- Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 3,186,000
- Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 16.82/1000
- Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 74.12/100

Kingdom of Belgium:

Instances of forced labor and human trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation have been found in a wide range of economic sectors in Belgium, including agriculture, clothing factories, construction, cleaning services, carwashes, the hospitality industry and retail. According to a report published by the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), over half of the victims of trafficking identified in Belgium during 2009-2012 had been trafficked for the purpose of labor exploitation. The majority of the victims of trafficking identified in Belgium in recent years have been foreign nationals, one



third of them being EU nationals. Prominent countries of origin of victims of trafficking include Bulgaria, Romania, Albania, Nigeria, Morocco, China, Turkey, Brazil, and India. Belgium is one of the few jurisdictions where companies, alongside the physical persons running them, have been successfully prosecuted for their involvement in human trafficking for labor exploitation.

Furthermore, in 2012, Belgium also introduced a system of joint and several liability for the payment of workers' wages, which is particularly relevant to the exploitation of workers in cases where victims are severely underpaid, or their wages are withheld or manipulated. This creates a chain of successive responsibility, linking subcontractors and contractors within a production chain, all the way up to the main contractor or principal placing the order. Principals and head contractors can therefore be held responsible for the underpayment or non-payment of wages to workers by a subcontractor located at the base of this chain system.

- Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 23,000
- Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 2.03/1000
- Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 13.05/100

Kingdom of Spain:

Forced labor and human trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation exist in a wide range of industries in Spain, including in the agriculture, construction, hotel and food services, domestic work, cleaning and eldercare, manufacturing and textile sectors. The Spanish authorities reported identifying 169 trafficking victims in 2015, out of which 104 were victims of labor trafficking. The majority of the



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

trafficking victims identified in Spain have been foreign nationals, including men, women and children from Eastern Europe (particularly Romania, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Russia), Portugal, Nicaragua, Ecuador, China, Morocco and Pakistan. Victims are often recruited through false promises of employment, and are subjected to forced labor at their arrival to Spain. Spanish victims have also been found to have been trafficked within the country.

Nevertheless, the Spanish Criminal Code penalizes the crime of human trafficking with five to eight years of imprisonment, or eight to twelve years of imprisonment in certain aggravating circumstances, including in case of risk to life or to the physical or mental integrity of the victim; increased vulnerability of the victim; commission of the crime through abuse of a position of authority; or if the offender was part of an organization dedicated to a particular business or profession (in addition to the prohibition from engaging in activities related to that specific trade or profession).

- Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 105,000
- Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 2.27/1000
- Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 12.80/100

Kingdom of Thailand:

Human trafficking, forced labor and slavery are a significant and ongoing issue in Thailand, which is both a source and destination country for exploited migrant labor. Severe labor abuses have been reported in the Thai fishing, seafood and fruit processing factories, and in the garment sector, among others. Thai nationals have also been trafficked from Thailand on large scales to work in exploitative conditions in other



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

countries, including the United States and Israel.

Key sectors of the Thai economy rely heavily on migrant labor, and it is estimated that Thailand currently has up to three million migrant workers, the majority of whom are from neighboring Burma, Laos and Cambodia. Furthermore, some NGOs report increased effort on the part of the Thai government and police to address corruption and investigate human trafficking cases following pressure from the United States and the European Union.

The Labour Protection Act B.E. 2541 (1998) is the principal labor law statute in Thailand and sets out the duties and obligations of employers and the rights and responsibilities of the employees. Key protections provided under the Act include the payment of minimum wage, overtime, maximum working hours and days, and special provisions for child workers.

In order to reduce the vulnerability of undocumented workers, the Thai Government began a policy of registering “illegal migrants” in 2014, with incentives including reduced fees and temporary work permits. Under this program, 1,626,235 migrant workers and their dependents were registered from June to October 2014, making a total of over 2.5 million registered migrant workers.

- Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 610,000
- Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 8.88/1000
- Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 51.10/100

People's Republic of Bangladesh:

Forced labor and human trafficking for labor exploitation are



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

believed to be extensive in Bangladesh, both within the country and across borders to India, Pakistan, the Persian Gulf, Lebanon, Maldives, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Sudan, Mauritius, the United States, and Europe. A significant number Bangladeshis, primarily young men, are recruited for work overseas through fraudulent employment promises but are later subjected to exploitative conditions of labor through forced labor or debt bondage.

In February 2012, Bangladesh introduced a new national anti-trafficking law, the Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Act 2012, which criminalizes all forms of human trafficking, and punishes trafficking with 5 years to life imprisonment. The Act explicitly criminalizes forced labor and debt bondage, and prescribes a penalty ranging from 5 to 12 years' imprisonment and a fine.

Under the Act, the government undertook to set up a specialized Anti-Trafficking Offence Tribunal for the purposes of ensuring effective and speedy trial of trafficking cases, as well as a fund to support the victims of trafficking. However, the government has yet to establish both the tribunal and the fund. Furthermore, the government has not adopted the implementing rules of the 2012 Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Act.

Moreover, the enforcement of the Act remains limited, with a total of 146 investigations of cases of sex trafficking and 12 of cases of forced labour in 2014, according to the US Trafficking in Persons Report of 2015, resulting in low conviction rates for human trafficking offences under this Act.

- Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 592,00
- Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 3.67/1000
- Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 50.05/100



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

People's Republic of China:

China is the largest export economy in the world. If you own a computer or a smartphone, there is a good chance at least some of its parts came from China. These parts, however, may have been made by a member of a Chinese minority forced to work in a prison factory.

China has defied an international outcry against the vast internment program in Xinjiang, which holds Muslims and forces them to renounce religious piety and pledge loyalty to the party. The emerging labor program underlines the government's determination to continue operating the camps despite calls from United Nations human rights officials, the United States and other governments to close them.

The program aims to transform scattered Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other ethnic minorities – many of them farmers, shopkeepers and tradespeople – into a disciplined, Chinese-speaking industrial workforce, loyal to the Communist Party and factory bosses, according to official plans published online.

Reports have alleged that millions of Uyghurs and other ethnic-minorities have been detained in re-education camps and forced to work in factories in Xinjiang, as well as transferred to areas outside of Xinjiang under a government-led labor transfer scheme. Mounting evidence has indicated that Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities are being employed under conditions of forced labor in factories supplying major global companies.

- Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 3,864,000
- Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 2.77/1000
- Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 50.65/100



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

Republic of Austria:

Instances of forced labor and human trafficking for labor exploitation have been found in various sectors in Austria, in particular the agriculture, construction, tourism, domestic work and the cleaning sectors are prone to exploitation.

According to a 2014 situation report by the Austrian Criminal Intelligence Service, sexual and labor exploitation were the main forms of exploitation prevalent in Austria. Labor exploitation was identified mostly in forestry, agriculture, construction and the domestic work sectors. These instances of labor exploitation mainly occurred in small-size companies.

In recent years, victims of exploitation had largely come from EU countries, with the majority from Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria. Non-European victims mostly come from Nigeria and China.

The Austrian Anti-Wage and Social Dumping Act allows the possibility to hold contractors liable for wages unpaid by their subcontractors in the construction industry. Posted workers who are employed in one EU Member State but work in a different Member State can hold the contractor higher up in the chain in the receiving State liable for unpaid wages. However, the contractor is only liable if he knew that the employer (subcontractor) would not pay the wages, or if there were obvious signs indicating that the employer might not pay the due wages. A further provision of this Act would apply to all employees – not just posted workers – but the contractor would be held liable to pay unpaid wages of a subcontractor's workers in instances in which the contractor has violated public procurement laws concerning subcontracting.



- Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 15,000
- Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 1,74/1000
- Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 3.35/100

Republic of Burundi:

According to the 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report, trafficking risk may be found among Burundian children and young adults in export supply chains including agriculture, gold mining, and fishing, as well as in the recruitment of children for armed labor and sexual exploitation.

The Burundi government reportedly has not effectively enforced laws that intend to ban most types of forced labor or compulsory labor. A National Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Persons aimed to create new measures and structures to stop trafficking, especially of women and children, but as recently as 2020, there had not been sufficient allocation of resources to put the plan in place.

Burundians are compelled by law to carry out community-level service work to promote the social and economic development of municipalities, and even to construct buildings for the ruling CNDD-FDD party. Armed anti-government groups recruit children as young as fifteen who are attacked or harassed if they did not agree to join. According to the U.S. Department of State, children are recruited for sexual exploitation in restaurants and entertainment venues, and children and adults with disabilities are used for street begging schemes.

- Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 408,000
- Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 39.95/1000
- Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 72.93/100



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

Republic of India:

Forced labor and human trafficking for labor exploitation are pervasive issues in India. Forced labor and debt bondage are common practice across the primary, secondary and tertiary economic sectors in India, with widely reported cases in a significant number of industries, including brick kilns, carpet weaving, embroidery, textile and garment manufacturing, mining, manual scavenging, and agriculture. Some Bangladeshi and Nepali migrants are also subjected to forced labor in India through recruitment fraud and debt bondage.

Indian workers also migrate for work abroad, primarily to the Gulf, Europe and North America. These workers often pay exorbitant recruitment fees and are particularly vulnerable to a wide range of exploitative labor practices, including contract substitution, withholding of documents, non-payment or withholding of wages, and exhausting working hours; and are often subjected to varying degrees of deception and coercion. In some cases, this exploitation amounts to human trafficking for labor exploitation, forced labor or slavery.

Bonded labor is deeply entrenched in India's socio-economic structure. More than a mere economic model for the organization of labor, debt bondage is an exploitative practice reinforced through coercion and custom. Moreover, evidence suggests that members of marginalized castes and tribes, religious minorities, refugees and migrant workers are disproportionately affected by debt bondage. The social and economic marginalization of these communities in India, coupled with the limited ability for people to move out of these groups, renders members of these groups particularly vulnerable to severe labor exploitation, including trafficking and forced labor.



Despite a number of steps taken by the government in this regard, much higher degree of poverty and illiteracy remain among these communities than in the general population. Additionally, members of these groups often lack viable livelihood opportunities and access to credit and financial services, resulting in a culture of constant indebtedness. While laws do exist to protect these communities, enforcement remains weak.

The practice of debt bondage persists predominantly in the informal and unregulated sectors, which are estimated to employ around 94% of the workforce in India. The absence or lack of implementation of labor standards in these sectors creates severe power imbalances in employer-worker relationships and exacerbates workers' vulnerability to exploitation. Furthermore, due to the chronic underpayment of minimum wages in low-skilled and semi-skilled work, large portions of the labor force have to resort to debt bondage in order to meet basic consumption needs, comply with social rituals, or deal with medical emergencies.

The labor legislation in India is complex, with over 40 central legal mechanisms segmented by industry or type of work, including a variety of Acts regarding work in factories, plantations and construction work. The legislation addresses issues such as maximum working hours, minimum wage, health and safety, and working conditions. However, it is estimated over 90% of workers in India work in the informal economy and are therefore vulnerable to exploitation in an informal and unregulated environment.

- **Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 7,989,000**
- **Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 6.10/1000**
- **Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 55.49/100**



Republic of Indonesia:

Although the protection of migrant workers has been identified as a priority in successive national development plans of Indonesia, the actions of the Indonesian Government have proved insufficient to protect migrant domestic workers, who remain one of the population groups most susceptible to abuse and exploitation. In the main destination countries for migrant domestic workers in South East Asia and the Middle East, policies and administrative practices generate and compound the vulnerabilities of migrant domestic workers, and they are indeed the main cause of the massive and growing incidence of trafficking and forced labor practices against migrant domestic workers throughout the migration process.

- Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 1,220,000
- Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 4.73/1000
- Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 50.45/100

Republic of Philippines:

The Philippines faces significant challenges as a source country and, to a lesser extent, a destination and transit country for men, women, and children subjected to trafficking for labor exploitation and forced labor. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), one million Filipino men and women leave the country every year to work overseas, and a total of 10 million Filipinos live and work abroad. A significant number of these Filipino overseas workers have been found to have been trafficked and subjected to servitude, debt bondage and forced labor in a number of industries, including in the manufacturing, construction, agricultural, fishing, seafaring, and the domestic work and



service sectors in Asia and in the Middle East.

Poor socio-economic conditions prevalent in parts of the country – including poverty, high levels of unemployment, discrimination and gender-based violence – as well large-scale displacement due to armed conflict and natural disasters, render large sectors of the population highly vulnerable both to transnational and internal trafficking. Within the country, people are trafficked mostly from rural areas of the Philippines to urban centers. Children and adults are exploited for their labor through debt bondage and forced labor in agriculture, including in tobacco fields, sugar cane and banana plantations, small-scale manufacturing, and in the fishing industry.

The Philippines has been recognized as a regional leader in the fight against trafficking and as a regulatory model for migration. However, the high vulnerability of large sectors of the population, coupled with the promise of better work prospects abroad, has led to the proliferation of illegal recruiters and to a significant number of Filipino workers being trafficked and exploited overseas. According to the Special Rapporteur on Human Trafficking, traffickers lure victims through false promises of good working and living conditions or sham offers of employment, and often operate with the acquiescence of local officials. Meanwhile, recruitment agencies – legal and illegal – involved in the trafficking chain, charge victims enormous placement fees.

The Philippine Labor Code provides some rights and protections for workers, such as substantive provisions regarding working hours, weekly rest, health and safety, minimum wages, and against wage manipulation and the withholding of wages. Importantly, the Code establishes the joint and several liability of employers, as well as of



any person, partnership, association or corporation which, not being an employer, contracts with an independent contractor for the performance of work, in the event that a contractor or subcontractor fails to pay the wages of his employees. Similarly, the Code provides that every employer or indirect employer shall be held responsible together with his contractor or subcontractor for any violation of any provision of the Code.

- Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 784,000
- Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 7.70/1000
- Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 60.24/100

Russian Federation:

Forced labor in Russia predominantly occurs in informal and less regulated industries. Forms of labor exploitation can be found in a variety of sectors, such as agriculture, construction, domestic work, begging, trash collection, and illegal logging. Forced labor involves migrant workers, who are either already in the country (including irregular migrants), or foreign citizens who are brought to Russia for the purpose of exploitation. Migrant workers who fall victim to exploitation primarily originate from Central Asian countries (such as Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan), Ukraine, Vietnam, China, and North Korea.

There were documented cases of exploitation of construction workers working on stadium sites for the 2018 FIFA Soccer World Cup. Research conducted by Human Rights Watch identified a range of abuses among these construction labourers, including non-payment and delayed payment of wages, as well as lack of employment contracts and other documentation required for legal employment. Workers also reported



having to work outside in extremely cold temperatures and facing retaliation or threats for raising concerns about their labor conditions. Seventeen workers have reportedly died on World Cup stadium sites in Russia.

Internal migrants from Russia's poorer regions and migrants from the former Soviet satellite states are reportedly trafficked (sometimes involving drugging and kidnapping) and then forced to work against their will in brick factories and small farms in the North Caucasus republic of Dagestan. This involves unscrupulous recruiters who target migrants at train stations in major Russian cities. These migrants come to Russia searching for work and are tricked into forced labor by recruiters offering fraudulent employment opportunities, but then kidnapped or drugged and brought to far away Russian republics, such as Dagestan, where they are forced to work against their will. There are also reports of workers from Ukraine and Myanmar who have experienced forced labor in Russia's fishing sector, involving recruitment agencies that deceived these workers about their working conditions.

Children exploited in forced begging is also increasingly an issue. This type of forced labor mainly occurs in large cities. Victims are lured by promises of jobs, brought to the cities from other Russian provinces or foreign countries and then forced to beg in the streets. If they do not bring back a certain amount of money a day, they may be punished.

Compulsory prison labor was re-introduced as a criminal punishment from January 2017. Under the current legislation, convicted prisoners may be forced to perform labor at state prisons or private companies. Although prisoners' working conditions are technically covered by general labor laws, the voluntary consent of the prisoner to perform



such work is not required. Therefore, there are concerns that prisoners are forced to work for private companies against their will. In addition, Russian law allows for compulsory labor to be imposed as a punishment for various activities, including the expression of political or ideological views which are deemed to be 'extremist'. The definition of 'extremist activities' is vague, which could therefore result in arbitrary imprisonment involving compulsory labor. Recent amendments to the law also allow changing the punishment from compulsory labor to a prison sentence if the convict evades the conviction or violates the regime of compulsory work.

- Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 794,000
- Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 5.51/1000
- Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 51.62/100

Socialist Republic of Vietnam:

On 8 June 2020, the National Assembly in Vietnam voted for the ratification of the Abolition of Forced Labor Convention, 1957 (No. 105). Convention No. 105 is the seventh ILO fundamental Convention ratified by Vietnam, and is testimony of its deep commitment to advancing fundamental principles and rights at work and paving the way for the ratification of all eight ILO Fundamental Conventions.

Through this ratification, Vietnam is demonstrating its firm commitment to combating forced labor in all its forms. This ratification is all the more important since the ILO's global estimates show the urgency of adopting immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor. Moreover, by ratifying the Convention, Vietnam is moving ahead towards the achievement of decent work and the



delivering at the country-level of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals , in particular SDG target 8.7 .

At the country level, the Government has taken significant measures to develop the legal framework for combating forced labor, including the enactment of the Law on Self-defense Forces on 22 November 2019, as well as the revision of the Law on Execution of Criminal Judgments.

- Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 421,000
- Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 4.50/1000
- Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 41.49/100

State of Eritrea

Eritrea is a presidential republic which is characterized by an authoritarian executive branch led by president Isaias Afwerki. While citizens technically have universal suffrage at age 18, there has only been one election in the country (1993), directly after the small East African nation gained independence from Ethiopia.

The Trafficking in Persons Report highlights the fact that “The government continues to subject its citizens to forced labor through the national policies and mandatory programs, which cause many citizens to flee the country and subsequently increases their vulnerability to trafficking abroad.”. Compulsory service is particularly noted in public works projects, so, although trafficking is not noted in specific export supply chains, any sectors associated with public works or infrastructure development may have adjacent trafficking risk.

Eritrean law prohibits forced labor, but mandatory prison labor and conscription into public service is legal and pervasive. All citizens



This includes six months of military training followed by 12 months of active duty service. Many are required to stay longer, under the threat of detention or family reprisals. During this extra time, conscripts are rarely promoted or receive a pay raise. It is also very hard for those in active duty to leave the country or obtain a passport.

The United Nations Human Rights Council has likened Eritrea's system of forced labor to slavery and has called on Eritrea's government to be referred to the ICC for crimes against humanity. According to a 2016 report, between 300,000 and 400,000 are currently conscripted out of Eritrea's population of just over 6 million.

- Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 451,000
- Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 93.03/1000
- Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 69.55/100

State of Qatar:

Labor exploitation in the Qatari context is inextricably linked to migrant work, mainly due to the fact that there are an estimated 1.2 million migrant workers in Qatar, who make up 94% of the country's workforce and 88% of the total population. The majority of these workers have migrated to Qatar from South and South-East Asia, including Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka to work as low- and semi-skilled workers, primarily in construction, services and domestic work.

After their arrival in Qatar, some workers face exploitative labor conditions, working excessive hours, without rest, for little or no pay, and under hazardous working conditions. Much has been reported about the level of accidents on construction sites and unsafe working



conditions resulting in injury or death. Other frequently reported cases of abuse against migrant workers include wage manipulation, confiscation of passports, substitution of contracts, refusal to give exit permits to leave the country, or “no objection” certificates which would allow migrants to change employers, and refusal to pay migrants’ plane tickets to return home. Moreover, living conditions in labor camps are often very poor and in violation of Qatari law.

The main law governing migration in Qatar is Law No. 4 of 2009-Regarding Regulation of Expatriates’ Entry, Departure, Residence and Sponsorship (the Sponsorship or Kafala Law). The kafala system regulates the relationship between employers and migrants in Qatar. Article 18 of the Law provides that each expatriate granted an entry visa to Qatar shall have a sponsor, and ties migrants’ visa status and work permits to the sponsor, who is often also the employer (although this is not always the case).

Under this system, migrants are required to stay with their employer, and cannot change employers unless they can obtain a “no objection” certificate from their employer. Migrants who leave their employers without a “no objection” certificate are charged with absconding and labeled “runaways”. As a result, migrants lose their residence permits and face fines, deportation and prison. Furthermore, under the Sponsorship Law, migrants can only leave the country with an exit permit issued by their sponsor.

Although, Qatar has made some laws to combat modern slavery, a report released by the International Labor Organization, a U.N. agency that has an office in the country’s capital, Doha, said that 50 migrant workers across all sectors died in work-related accidents last year. In addition, there were 38,000 work-related injuries last year, 500 of them



classified as severe. The report didn't specify how many were related to the World Cup of 2022.

- **Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 4,000**
- **Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 1.50/1000**
- **Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 37.72/100**

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

Instances of forced labor and human trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation have been found in a wide range of economic sectors in the UK, including agriculture, food processing, construction, block paving, fishing, manufacturing, car washes, and domestic work.

According to the National Crime Agency, 2,340 potential victims of human trafficking were encountered by the National Referral Mechanism in the UK in 2014, one third of whom had been referred as potential victims of labor exploitation. The majority of the victims of trafficking identified in the UK in recent years have been foreign nationals. Prominent countries of origin of victims of trafficking include Albania, Nigeria, Vietnam, Romania, Slovakia, China and Poland. Cases involving highly vulnerable British men, who were subjected to forced labor within the UK or trafficked to other European countries, have also been reported.

The labor legislation in the UK provides numerous rights and protections for workers, such as: health and safety requirements, a national minimum wage, maximum working hours, the right to a written statement of working conditions, the right not to have unauthorized deductions of their wages, and to bring claims in the Employment Tribunal. However, access to employment tribunals is



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

restricted to workers with the right to work in the UK, and is further limited by the imposition of fees. Undocumented workers are limited in their ability to enforce labor rights, and able to only make claims based on discrimination or health and safety, leaving them few options for recourse when their pay is withheld or unfairly deducted.

- **Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 136,000**
- **Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 2.08/1000**
- **Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 11.13/100**

United Mexican States:

The Government of Mexico does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making efforts to do so. The government demonstrated increasing efforts compared to the previous reporting period. These efforts included investigating and prosecuting more traffickers, such as the successful prosecution of a transnational sex trafficking ring under their new accusatory system; identifying more victims in Mexico and abroad; investigating and prosecuting allegedly corrupt or complicit government officials, including the conviction of a government official to 39 years' imprisonment; maintaining law enforcement cooperation with the United States; providing increased resources for victim services; and initiating more investigations as a result of hotline referrals. However, the government did not meet the minimum standards in several key areas. The government convicted fewer traffickers than in the previous year, although those convicted were sentenced to significant prison terms; provided inadequate specialized services for trafficking victims, which were unavailable in most parts of the country; and maintained an inadequate number of shelters compared to the scale of the problem.



The government sometimes erroneously detained trafficking victims during operations. The government investigated and prosecuted a few complaints of forced labor.

- **Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 341,000**
- **Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 2.71/1000**
- **Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 57.31/100**

United States of America:

Forced labor and human trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation exist in a wide range of industries in the United States (US), including hospitality, restaurants, domestic service, agriculture, manufacturing, cleaning, construction, shipyards, health and care, and beauty salons. Victims are often from vulnerable populations, such as migrant laborers, rural workers, homeless youth and adults, and domestic workers. Visa regimes and exploitative recruitment practices for migrant and seasonal workers generate particular vulnerability due to debt bondage, tied accommodation and employment restrictions.

The National Human Trafficking Resource Centre has recorded 3,829 cases of labor trafficking since 2007, involving 7465 potential victims. Victims originate from all over the world, including from the US. According to the US Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report, the top three countries of origin of identified victims in 2014 were the United States, Mexico, and the Philippines.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 – and its reauthorizations in 2003, 2005, 2008 and 2013 – provide a relatively comprehensive legal framework for addressing human trafficking, forced labor and slavery in the US. Together, the Acts have established



and elaborated criminal offences, provided for a range of victim's rights and protections, and set out US Government policy and activities to monitor and address human trafficking in the US and abroad.

- **Estimated Number living in Modern Slavery: 403,000**
- **Estimated Proportion living in Modern Slavery: 1.26/1000**
- **Vulnerability to Modern Slavery: 15.88/100**

06. Purpose of the council

This Human Rights Council aims to adopt a resolution that includes measures and solutions to reduce forced labor and other forms of modern slavery in the above-mentioned countries. During the debate, the delegations should always keep in mind the "Declaration of Human Rights" and the formal and ethical nature of the debate. Therefore, the focus of the discussion should not only be on how to prevent forced labor, but also on how this problem arises and how it is related to poverty, discrimination and oppression.

All delegations are expected to participate in the debate, never forgetting to represent the position of their respective countries. We advise all delegates to read this study guide carefully, but please keep in mind that this should only be the starting point for your research if you all want to have a fruitful debate. Finally, we expect that the debate will be held respectfully and that the resolution will represent a consensus among the delegations!



07. Guiding questions

- How are forced labor and trafficking of persons interrelated?
- Why does forced labor still exist?
- Who is exploited through forced labor?
- Who benefits from this practice?
- What can be done to combat trafficking of human beings for forced labor?
- How bad is it in my country?
- Is my government interested in solving the problem?
- How does forced labor affect society?

08. Useful sources

<https://delegatepal.com/>

<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/>

<https://imuna.org/resources/country-profiles/>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm

<https://www.loc.gov/research-centers/law-library-of-congress/about-this-research-center/>

<https://www.britannica.com/> <https://www.researchgate.net/>

<https://www.globalslaveryindex.org/>

<https://accountabilityhub.org/countries/>



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

09. References

<https://fortune.com/2021/07/02/zara-uniqlo-skeckhers-investigation-uyghur-forced-labor-china/>

<https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm>

https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/UNVTF_fs_HT_EN.pdf

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/type-trafficking/labor-trafficking>

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/beyond-trafficking-and-slavery/confronting-root-caus-2/>

<http://www.endslaverynow.org/act/action-library/learn-about-forced-labor-in-china>

<https://www.freedomunited.org/news/chinas-uyghur-internment-camps-turn-to-forced-labor/>

<https://www.business-humanrights.org>

https://www.ilo.org/global/standards/subjects-covered-by-international-labour-standards/forced-labour/WCMS_747466/lang--en/index.htm

https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/WCMS_083188/lang--en/index.htm

https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/WCMS_090982/lang--en/index.htm

<https://www.businessinsider.com/north-korea-forcing-youth-into-hard-labor-rights-group-says-2021-9>

<https://www.globalslaveryindex.org/2018/findings/country-studies/russia/>



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-trafficking-in-persons-report/mexico/>

<https://www.globalslaveryindex.org/2018/data/maps/#response>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/qatar-world-cup-exploited-migrant-workers-human-rights-rcna2889>

<https://www.freedomunited.org/advocate/eritrea/>

<https://www.verite.org/africa/explore-by-country/eritrea/>

<https://forcedlabour.seefar.org/projects/key-findings/>

<https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/44896368.pdf>

https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/migrants_and_their_vulnerability.pdf



POSMUN 2022
Porto Seguro Model
United Nations