

Committee:	Special Conference on Modern Slavery
Issue:	Measures to foster emancipated former slaves
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Introduction

A year ago, in September 2015, the United Nations published the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. Even though eliminating slavery is not directly addressed, it has been established as “target 8.7” which is closely related to goal 8 (Decent work and Economic Growth). In order for goal 8 to be completed, it is vital that modern day slavery is eradicated. That is because its extermination leads to the freeing of all slaves and, thus, obtaining emancipated status means that the former slaves are granted their rights which slavery clearly violated. From that point on, it is every nation’s role to ensure that its own people will be slowly but surely integrated into the country’s society and become an active member of it. That way, the people will be granted their working rights, whereas the state’s economy will flourish. The economic growth can be traced to facts and especially modern slavery. As of now, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has estimated that, due to the trafficking and exploitation of people, more than \$150 billion are made per year solely for the profit of the slave owners. Therefore, it is essential that the member states of the UN cope with the issue step by step; firstly by abolishing slavery and then by fostering the former slaves.

According to the ILO, more than 20 million people are subjected to forced labor today. Even though the practice of modern slavery and the violation of people’s labor rights constitutes an illegal activity condemned by numerous international treaties, about 10% of the victims of slavery are exploited by their own country, usually in rebel military groups or in prisons that violate the standards that the ILO has set. On the other hand, the 29% have been estimated to be forced into labor only after having crossed countries’ borders. Even though many contemporary types of slavery are closely associated with supply chains, whether these are based on a local or international level, the practice of modern slavery, however, does not engage in transnational trading.

In accordance to a speech given by Ambassador Matthews, in the recent event of a gathering on Modern Slavery, and the Global Slavery Index, it is said that about 36

million people are subjected to modern slavery today in 167 countries. By those numbers, one can easily understand how that, no matter the vital help that nations received by the UN Voluntary Trust Fund, the vast majority of the countries in the world have failed to protect their people's rights and how monitoring suspicious acts inside the borders has proven to be inadequate and insufficient.

Definition of Key-Terms

Emancipation

The Oxford Dictionary defines emancipation as the process of freeing a person from slavery and, thus, "being set free from legal, social, or political restrictions".

Slavery

In accordance with the Slavery Convention of 1926, slavery is defined as the situation under which a person is in service of another person, with the latter exercising the right of ownership over the former. Recalling the 1930 Forced Labour Convention, the term is defined as the service of a person to another under circumstances to which they have not agreed and for whose failed completion they may be subjected to penalties of a violent character.

Modern Slavery

The term refers to the wider use and exploitation of people in today's world for the benefit of third party institutions, groups or companies with the estimated numbers reaching more than 40 million as of 2016. To be more specific, the Global Slavery Index defined modern slavery in 2016 as: "situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, abuse of power or deception". Numerous sub-categories constitute modern slavery.

Debt bondage/bonded labor: the act of having a person pledge his/her services to another person due to debt in an attempt to pay them back; failure to clear off the debt may result in the person's descendants inheriting it.

Serfdom: the lawful residence and living of a person on a piece of land which belongs to another person, under the agreement it is said that the former owes service to the latter without the option of "change of status".

The practice of marrying/transferring/inheritance of a woman (to another person) – for which act she has no say – so that her family or the group responsible has a gain, whether in kind or money.

The deliverance of an underage to a person who will be profited by the youngster's exploitation and labor usually through the cultivation of cotton, rice or cocoa or through their use as child soldiers.

Human trafficking: the illegal ownership, transportation, hiding of people so that the responsible will be profited in the form of money making by the practice of sexual exploitation and prostitution, forced labor or selling of organs of the abducted people.

Background Information

Historical Background

Following the rise of Enlightenment, we see a strong potential by people and organizations in the western world that motivated them to fight against slavery in its form known from the ancient years. Religious groups, especially the Quakers, were predominant in proposing acts and laws in their efforts to collectively abolish the infamous slave trade and holding and emancipate its victims. Other efforts would include the creation of the first human rights organization, the Anti-Slavery Society, that aimed at raising the public's awareness, circulating petitions and lobbying the government to outlaw the slave trade, as underlined in Kevin Bales, Zoe Trodd and Alex Kent Williamson's book on Modern Slavery. What the aforementioned failed at abolishing, however, was the "institution of slavery", a quite important step they dismissed that led to continuous eruptions of slavery every now and then and that was addressed afterwards.

What needs to be noted, in regards to failed attempts to eliminate slavery, is that official government efforts to abolish slavery may equal and lead to the end of slavery. Correlation, though, does not mean causation and therefore, one can understand how the Emancipation Proclamation, for instance, was not all that efficient. During this time is when present day slavery, with its previously mentioned types, came to existence with the first signs of peonage coming to sight.

With US officials ignoring the practice of debt bondage, the owners were encouraged to enlarge their trade in early twentieth century. This is how enforced exploitation and prostitution came to surface. In other parts of the world, namely

Pakistan, India, Nepal and Bangladesh, debt bondage started to flourish. In China, children were traded and in the Sahara desert people were abducted and sold over to the Arab market. During this time, domestic servitude of women largely expanded in South America and many slaves were subjected to the harvest of cocoa globally. Before its dissolution, Soviets saw their country engage in the enslavement of citizens that opposed Union in its principles. During WWII, Axis allies saw Jews and Asians in the East forced into labor, especially construction and mining.

Noteworthy is the boom of modern day slavery that followed the end of WWII. By the time that countries started to recover, it was already evident that the global population was already growing. This led to more people being regarded as potential slaves and, thus, the fall on the prices of slaves was justified. As a result, more people were admitted and fell victims to the practice of slavery.

As of 1981, the act and trade of modern day slaves has become illegal in all countries of the world. In spite of the worldwide condemnation, the practice soon erupted again with the end of the Cold War in 1989 due to the newly sparked flow of goods and people between countries. Slavery emerged again in nations where it appeared to have been brought to an end. The fact that the practice had become illegal resulted in its well-thought-of practice being hidden from countries' federal organizations, like serious offences to the criminal justice system. Because of having the trade been legal in the past, one can understand that, until 1981, it was much easier for government officials to collect data on slave owners' actions and the imposed value on the slaves.

Today

It is common knowledge that modern day slavery is vastly different from the slavery most of us learned in history. Today's form is clearly exploitative towards the victim: in the past, people were forced into work either in the household or on the fields, whereas today the sole purpose of the practice is to benefit the owner economically, whether through the practice of forced labor, sexual exploitation, etc.

According to ILO statistics, most slaves today are organized into the rebuilding and flourishing of local economies with about 80% being exploited by private groups in secrecy. On the other hand, the remaining 20% is subjected to the will of either state or rebel military groups. It is important to say that, whereas about 10% of slavery accounts to sexual exploitation globally, it is the ruling form of slavery in the industrialized countries of the West, in which it reaches 75% of the total labor methods implemented. This underlines the variety of modern day slavery forms and that the exploitation varies from country to country and is in accordance to the local area's needs whether these be agriculture, carpet-making, etc.

The main reasons as to why the practice of slavery has flourished today are many. The most prevalent include conditions of poverty, a corrupt system of punishment and prevention (i.e. court jurisdiction, organs of enforcing the laws insufficiently fulfilling their jobs), unhelpful and ineffective laws about migration or the abolishment of slavery and the lack of awareness. At the same time, it would still be difficult for the owners and traders to stop their practice given the fact that they are largely and easily benefitted.

The hardest part about modern day slavery is, understanding its nature. Even though the slaves account to more than 20 million worldwide, this does not conclude to the existence of big systems of exploitation. It is estimated that the profit-makers are about 8 million in number which, given the existence of a few but major “slave-owning industries”, sums up that there are owners averaging five slaves each. This makes the issue even harder to deal with because the bigger in number the owners are, the more easily they can continue their exploitation in secrecy unbothered. Simultaneously, it is noteworthy that since the 1980s, during which money started to flow uncontrollably worldwide, the slave owners and traders did not have so much of a problem in adapting to the constantly changing globalized world.

Stakeholders

1. Profit-makers

Knowing that modern slavery is an equivalent of illegal action, the money that the slave owners made in 2005 were estimated to be about \$45 billion, which makes forced labor the “third-largest global criminal industry” after the illicit drug and arms trafficking. At the same time, it is clear that the global economy is vastly hurt by the aforementioned practice since slavery is also involved in the practices of market and economy. For instance, as proven in the past, products originating from child exploitation can be easily found in supermarkets.

In the contrary, child labor is said to have decreased ever since 2000 by one-third, whereas the number of enslaved children remains at 5.5 million ever since 2005. However, Africa and Asia-Pacific continue to be the main areas of exploitation with about 60 and 80 million slaves respectively while the slaves of forced labor are 20 million.

2. Victims

The ILO has published statistics according to which "more than half of the victims of forced labor are women and girls" who have been used mainly for

domestic working or that have been sexually exploited. On the contrary, men and boys have been taken advantage of in the fields of agriculture, building construction, production, and mining.

3. Governments

Even though attempts have been made on both an international and domestic level by many countries, slavery continues to grow today. The problem with that would be the insufficient measures implemented in the nations' laws as for both freeing and the process of emancipating the slaves. Otherwise, the rates of forceful deportations due to illegal immigration would be lower and the integration of the people in their society would be easier. Mauritania, being a prime example of ongoing high prevalence rates of slavery, outlawed the practice in 1981 but it wasn't until 2007 that it was regarded as a crime offence. That way, one can understand how the measures taken so far are not all that preventive. In conclusion, if the actions taken by governments globally were enough, the practice would have been terminated long ago.

4. Contributors

These do not necessarily come from inside the system but rather are constituted by us, people who rather were and are not aware of the ongoing problem and its dimensions. Contribution has two major branches: investment and consumption. If we, as citizens of the global community, do not directly or indirectly invest in slavery, then we probably do it through consumption. The latter one is as easy as buying products that were produced by slaves, whether these are handmade cocoa bars or clothes sold at Gap or Nike.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Africa

UNESCO has gone through strenuous efforts to combat people's human trafficking in the continent of Africa. Through a work called "Project to Fight Human Trafficking in Africa", the organization has focused on ways which will respect and support – in a "culturally appropriate" context – the race against women's and youth's illegal trafficking in the region of Southwestern Africa.

Côte d'Ivoire

The percentage of the country's children that are or have been admitted into slavery against their will amounts to almost 35%, which means there is an estimate of 1.7 million kids between the ages of 5 to 14, according to the CIA World Factbook.

Gabon

Primarily a country that collects slaves coming from the central or western Africa, the illegal people's clubs are subjecting them all to forced labor and sexual exploitation.

Gambia, The

As opposed to Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia has around 100,000 children who have been sold away but whose percentage equals around to ¼ of the total child population aged 5 - 14. Domestic servicing is also quite common.

Ghana

One of the countries in which the elimination of slavery is harder than it seems because the practice is entailed with people's religious beliefs. In the same way that the Pope used to make use of those who wanted to rue their actions until Martin Luther, Ghanians do the same by giving off their daughters as slaves to priests.

America

Brazil

The country has significantly decreased the presence of contemporary forms of slavery ever since the 1970s. To be more specific, more than 5,0000 workers were freed and emancipated from the practice of slavery inside the nation. Still, people are forced into signing contracts that lets them be exploited and forced to work at gunpoint.

USA

One of the greatest sources when it comes to the abolition of slavery and a great example to not follow: about a million African Americans died after their granting of their freedom thanks to the Emancipation Proclamation. However, the newly reformed state, not having established a great economy at the time, could not foster and care for the well-being of its people. Ergo, the freed slaves either died because of the horrible conditions in which they lived, having never cared for the well-being of themselves before, or admitted themselves back to slavery.

In the era of Jim Crow, segregation boiled up and slavery reached its peak again. That way we see how the States needed to reach the Civil Rights Movement where great, dynamic personalities sparked the African Americans' spirit of racial equality and fierceness to obtain their rights.

In recent years, many areas have been exposed as "friendly" towards the practice of modern day slavery. States like these would include Miami, Florida. Furthermore, government data suggests that about 15000 people are illegally imported and enslaved in the country every year.

Arab States

No matter the infamous strict and limited implementation of Human Rights in the Arabian Peninsula and Northeastern Africa, the ILO has stated that over the last 10 years the Arab States have shown a determination and immense will in abolishing slavery, especially child labor.

In support of this argument, ILO-IPEC has issued a collaboration with organizations in Jordan, Yemen, the occupied Palestinian territory and Lebanon in an effort to prevent and exterminate child labor by implementing international plans and surveys. Additionally, they provided technical assistance and training so as to foster coordination among the nations and strengthen consolidation of the stakeholders' systems of surveillance.

Jordan

Jordan actually constitutes a predecessor of Lebanon and a paragon in terms of conducting surveys and developing a "national database" on important issues for the nation, one of them being child labor. Simultaneously, it also endorses the execution of the National Framework to Combat Child Labour.

Lebanon

The country espoused Decree 8987 in its efforts to deal with the issue of the WFCL.

Mauritania

The country with the highest prevalence of slavery as of today, especially when it comes down to sexual exploitation and forced labor. The numbers are so high that current and former slaves have been officially recognized by the country as ethnic groups. At the same time, it is the only country with high rates of the old slavery still prevalent. That is to say that the slaves live under their master's household, often taking their family name. As of today, only one slave master has been successfully persecuted.

Yemen

The Central Statistical Organization (CSO) of the country carried out in 2010 the nation's first survey on National Child Labor (NCLS) with the help of ILO-IPEC, UNICEF, and the Social Development Fund.

Asia Pacific

Bonded labor is more present in southern Asia than any other place in the world due to its descent-based form and thanks to native's traditions and customary practices.

Regarding the high numbers in Europe, as stated below, it is important to underline that certain Asian countries constitute some of the most populous states on Earth. That being said, it is essential to note that Asia indeed has the highest numbers of slaves.

China

In China, it is known how the country has high rates of child labor, forced labor, and parties that make use of sexual exploitation.

India

India is one of the countries with the most prevalent and high rates of contemporary types of slavery with more than 10 million people being enslaved. The most obvious forms would be child labor and debt bondage, the latter being more apparent in this particular country than elsewhere. As for the most prominent, it would have to be domestic servitude and forced marriage. The reasons behind the flourished and never-going slavery are poverty, discrimination on ethnic grounds and the corrupt justice system that allows the police to abuse their power and the courts to find slaveholders innocent.

Myanmar

The military junta in the country would use its own people for the completion of projects and building of infrastructure.

Pakistan

The Pakistanis have been subjected to almost all kinds of modern slavery with an estimate of 63 million people constituting the unfortunate ones

whereas Pakistan comes 10th in comparison to the world's countries with immense problems on fighting back slavery.

Thailand

Women and children are exploited for the pleasure of Thai men as well as tourists.

Caribbean

Haiti

There have arisen severe issues with combating modern day slavery in the worldwide community whereas Haiti was heavily benefited by the trafficking to the point that the nation's economy blossomed.

Europe

Out of the 21 million recorded slaves, Europe, especially in the center of the continent and towards the south-eastern borders with Asia, has the highest concentration of modern-day slaves in prevalence to each country's population.

Moldova

As of 2009, the country of Moldova had around 15% of its underage population exploited to modern means of slavery such as but surely not limited to child labor and prostitution, sexual use.

United Kingdom

It is believed, regarding statistics by the Global Slavery Index, that around 8,300 people are not free in the UK. However, the United Kingdom has fought modern types of slavery that have been present in the country with means like those claimed by the Modern Slavery Act of 2015. The nation has passed a series of anti-slavery laws prohibiting the practice, such as the 2004 Sexual Offences Act and the Immigration and Asylum Act. As a response to the efforts, Anti-Slavery International reported that the measures are insufficient because they fail to ensure the victims' protection and integration to society. The fact that they imported illegally means that the country gives them illegal immigrant status and, ergo, urges them to deport.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
July 2, 1890	The Brussels Act is signed
September 25, 1926	The Slavery Convention of the League of Nations is created
November 29, 1930	Forced Labour Convention (ILO C29)
September 7, 1956	The Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery is signed
June 25, 1957	Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (C105)
1981	Slavery officially becomes illegal in all countries
June 18, 1998	ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW)
June 17, 1999	Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour
June 11, 2014	Protocol on the Forced Labour Convention
March 26, 2015	Modern Slavery Act (UK)

Relevant UN Treaties, Resolutions, and Events

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

As mentioned in the declaration adopted by the UNGA, all United Nations member states shall endeavor to enforce and secure the implementation and “universal and effective recognition and observance” of the rights and freedoms of their people. That being said and having signed and ratified the UNC, all member states shall comply with the needs of the United Nations in the context of maintaining international peace. Thus, there is the need to abolish slavery and its contemporary

forms in any and all countries, as well as to admit former slaves in the society and encourage their development as free and independent citizens. Having a state fail to meet the aforementioned, results to an immediate violation of its people's rights. In regards to this topic, special focus will be put into Article 4:

Article 4

The act of engaging in slavery and its trade is strongly condemned by the UDHR: "no one shall be held in slavery or servitude" and, thus, member states are called upon to abolish its continuation.

Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery

Numerous treaties, as well as the Supplementary Convention, have condemned the act and engagement of owners in any and all types of contemporary slavery. To be more specific, this document has characterized the act a "criminal offense under the laws of the States Parties to this Convention". During the Convention, the signatory members tried to come up with effective and efficient solutions to the issue that will be further analyzed below.

The Modern Slavery Act

In the opinion of the signatories, the creation of the position of an independent Anti-slavery Commissioner is needed. Moreover, in contrast to the more practical measures of other resolutions, the MSA expanded the maximum sentence for the people associated with slavery to life imprisonment and has set forward the plan of receiving reports related to the issue by having the member states file them.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Brussels Act (1890)

The document, having been signed in 1890, contains some measures that some might characterize as out of date. However, types of contemporary slavery had already started grabbing the international community's attention back then. Moreover, nowadays, not all countries are equipped with the latest intelligence machinery, nor are they asked to comply with the effective tackling of the issue with certain and specific measures. Thus, the Act included measures that may be useful and applicable to some states even today. For instance, all signatories to the document were called to organize their sovereign services and better monitor their places of an arrival of means of mass transportation, like ports.

Slavery Convention (1926)

Passed by the League of Nations, it was the nations' collective effort to abolish slavery. It condemned the trade and holding of slaves and declared the practice a "crime against humanity". In addition, the signatories were given the right to exercise court jurisdiction when it came down to the persecution of the owners and traders.

ILO Convention N. 29 (1930)

Initially signed as a response to indigenous populations' mass forced labor and exploitation by colonial powers, it outlawed the practice. A problem with the particular resolution would be that it defined forced labor but with exceptions. Since exceptions were present, many traders could easily find loopholes and use them to their advantage.

Convention for the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and the Exploitation of Others (1949)

The convention was the first international attempt, under the unification of states by the UN, to prohibit the practice of human trafficking. Solely focused on this type of modern slavery, also known as "white slavery", it was successful in proposing effective measures for the elimination of the certain practice. However, the resolution still failed to address issues other than sexual exploitation, thus, tracing and dealing with other forms of slavery linked to human trafficking was difficult.

Geneva Conventions (1949)

Still in effect today, it is vital that people pay attention to the regulations applied in the documents that allow prisoners of war, for instance, to be forced into any type of work. Today, we might not be engaged into interracial and interethnic conflicts but ongoing wars such the ones in Syria and the Central African Republic play a key role in the elimination of slavery. ISIS is a paragon of groups that have exploited civilians and/or prisoners of war that, under the Geneva Conventions, are partially justified.

Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery (1956)

Focusing on this treaty's measures, the heavy weight was put on the trade of slaves to and from countries. Exactly because of that, the convention left it upon the signatories' discretion to ensure the prevention of the transportation through the use of airplanes, ships and, in a case of successful operations, the conviction of the responsible traffickers. Another important measure addressed was the one about

international co-operation between the state parties so as to eliminate and block the slave trade.

The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, (ILO No. 182):

The aforementioned convention, in collaboration with The Hague Roadmap, aims in terminating the Worst Forms of Child Labor such as but not limited to debt bondage, forced labor, serfdom, trafficking and military use of children in armed conflict, prostitution and pornographic imagery or videos, illicit trade of drugs and arms. It is vital to terminate child labor since it is estimated that 85 million kids constitute it.

In an attempt to control the situation in West Africa, the ILO stated working with the industry of cocoa. By following the above-mentioned method, the organization hopes to resolve the issue by promoting people's education on the matter of forced and/or child labor, by achieving unification and cooperation of workers in the area and by monitoring the actions of the civilians inside the society's boundaries.

Possible Solutions

Even though usually referred to as an ineffective measure, the education of people on the matter and the raising of their awareness is vital to the elimination and extermination of modern slavery. According to the ILO, after member states managed to achieve the aforementioned and the desired political mobilization was achieved, it is proven that people who've undergone the process of being admitted into slavery can now be easier found and reported.

Once these are achieved and, whether modern day slavery is successfully exterminated or not, it is necessary that the freed slaves are now normally and efficiently admitted into today's society. As mentioned in a number of treaties, like the UDHR, the now emancipated people are given the choice to select the country of residence if they've been transported to another country than their own. Whether becoming again a member of the society is associated with children or adults, the member states will need to make sure that they get the necessary education so as to be able to live up to the community's standards.

Bringing up the example of the United States in 1863, it is essential that the countries will be able to support their people's integration into their society and, in case they cannot, due to economic reasons, it is necessary that they look for funds,

i.e. the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Slavery, or that they seek help in other countries since international cooperation on the matter is heavily encouraged.

It is known that these people must have been through a lot in their time admitted as slaves. Therefore, the States have to show the proper understanding and ensure that they will establish a psychological stability, that they will be provided with the necessary personnel to serve as guidance, and that they will (re)gain an active participation in the community life.

Moreover, as stated in numerous UN resolutions and treaties, the member states shall seek to cooperate with each other to set forth the elimination of immense and imminent questions like the fostering of emancipated former slaves. The delegates should refer to previous attempts to solve the issue and understand why their nation failed to eradicate slavery and foster emancipated slaves at the time, what the country's abilities are as of today while they should also manage to pursue different methods.

Thanks to globalization and the specialization of each country in a certain area, effective diplomacy, and rhetoric, adequate negotiations could lead to the desired result. The delegates should focus on their country's strongest features and weaknesses whether these are a flourishing economy, latest technology and intelligence, inspections of acts committed in secrecy, establishment of new jobs and refuge in the fight against modern slavery or effective and sufficient border control.

All in all, to effectively combat slavery, it is essential that we bear in mind the most prevalent issues upon which slavery continues to operate. These would have to be the "profitability and violence" to which the slaves are subjected, according to Kevin Bales, the co-founder and previous president of Free the Slaves. On top of that, the slaves also fall victims of numerous threats. For instance, in the US, slaves or their descendants have their official documents destroyed and are threatened with deportation or being ratted out to the police in case they attempt to free themselves. Therefore, one needs to deal with the issue of freeing and emancipating the slaves delicately from all aspects, bearing in mind the dangers and potential threats.

Further Research

Delegates are expected to use this study guide as a means to help them start off with their preparation for the conference in October. For the making of strong and effective clauses, it is vital that you educate yourselves on the issue as much as possible. For this purpose, linked below are sites that should be used for further research, whereas the bibliography should also help you in the drafting of your own

resolutions. Still, you are kindly asked to not base off your research on this document but rather expand it.

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<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/37008846/spotting-the-signs-of-modern-slavery> (three-part BBC series)
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