

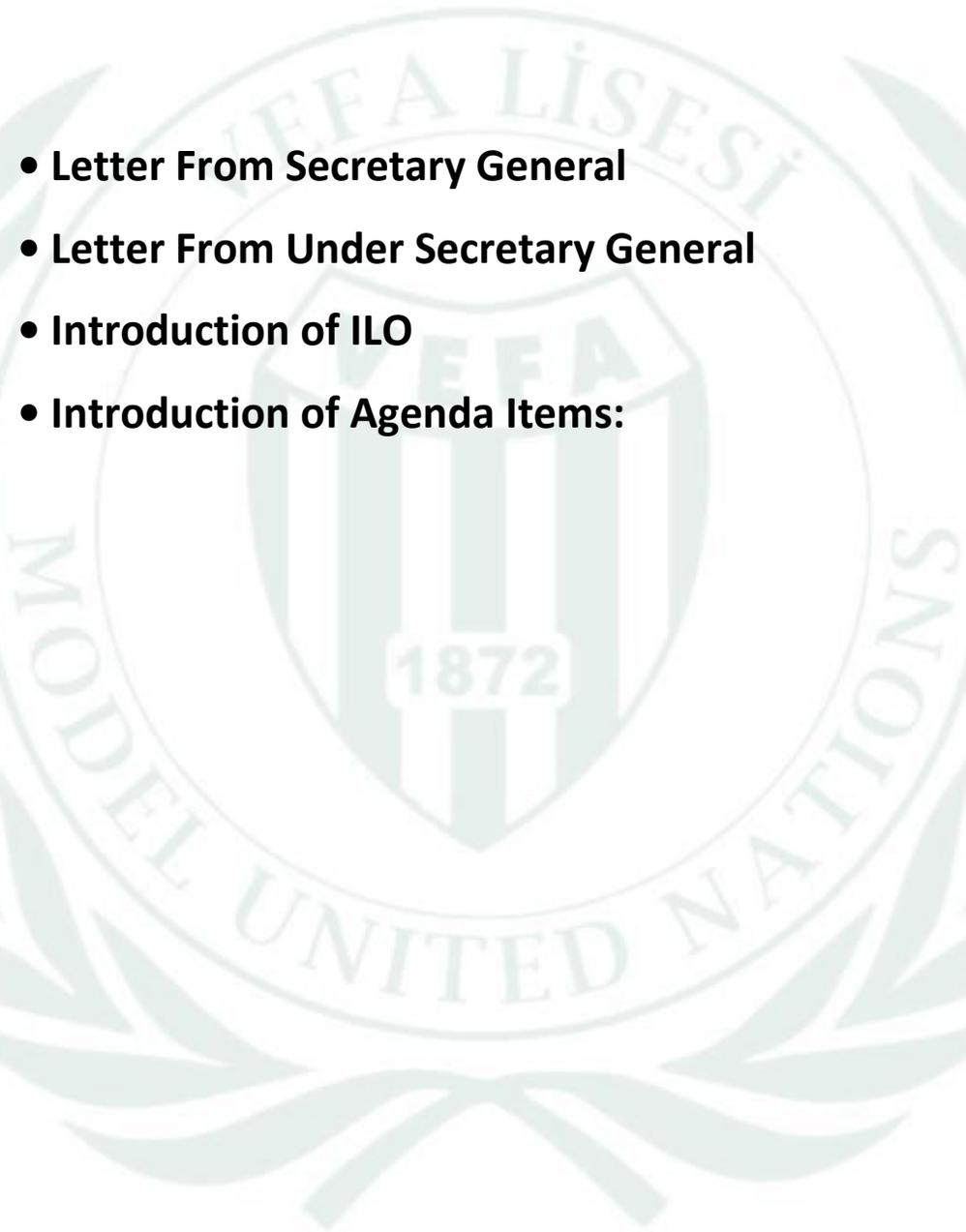
Vefamun'23

**INTERNATIONAL
LABOUR
ORGANISATION**



VEFAMUN'23 ILO STUDY GUIDE

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Letter From Secretary General

Most distinguished participants of VefaMUN'23,

After such a prolonged break, as the Secretary-General, I am more than pleased to extend a warm welcome to you at the 4th Vefa Lisesi Model United Nations Conference. After diligent preparation, it is my utmost pleasure to announce that we are ready to host you for one of the premier Model UN conferences. Both our VefaMUN'23 Academic and Organization team has worked tirelessly to cultivate an energetic and engaging atmosphere that will provide the perfect backdrop for tackling some of the world's most pressing issues. I know that your participation in this conference will be just the beginning of a long and meaningful commitment to justice and progress, and we find it to be a privilege to be a part of this journey.

Respectfully,

Ali Kağan Aydıngör, Secretary-General

Letter From Under Secretary General

Dear participants of Vefa High School Model United Nation Conference 2023, It is my immense pleasure to welcome you all to the VEFAMUN'23 as an Under-Secretary-General of International Labour Organization (ILO). Let me introduce myself first, I am Nazrin Sadigova and do study at Kadir Has University. My department is Visual Communication Design. As you can understand from my name I am not Turkish. I am Azerbaijani living in Istanbul. I am very happy to be USG of this committee since the time the Director General

Ms. Cemre Yüksel invited me to the magnificent VEFAMUN. I accepted the invitation without hesitation. My dear delegates, In the ILO you will be discussing a very popular agenda item that the world cannot stop talking about. All of the sources that you need during the conference are attached to study guice which means I highly suggest you read the study guide carefully. Several headlines are also added at the bottom of the study guide, which you need to cover them during your negotiations. You dear attendants, you can always reach us via mail, do not hesitate.

nazrin.sadigova@stu.khas.edu.tr

Sincerely, Nazrin Sadigova, Under-Secretary General

Introduction of ILO

HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

The International Labour Organisation (ILO), was founded in 1919 which celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The ILO was founded as part of the Treaty of Versailles representatives nine countries: Belgium, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France, Italy, Japan, Poland, the means it will be after World War I. The organisation was drafted by the Labour organisation and started of with United Kingdom and the United States. The ILO is unique in its kind in the sense that it brings together three parties, representatives of governments, employers and workers in its executive bodies. The founders of the ILO recognized that is was important to ensure social justice in securing peace. The most important forces that were taken into account when the ILO was founded were security, humanitarian, political and economic considerations. These were important in times where, post war, a lot of countries were industrializing and the world's, more and more prevalent, economic interdependence. Which is very clear in the ILO constitution preambles. "Whereas universal and lasting peace can be established only if it is based upon social justice; and whereas conditions of labour exist involving such injustice, hardship and privation to large numbers of people as to produce unrest so great that the peace and harmony of the world are imperilled; and an improvement of those conditions is urgently required; Whereas also the failure of any nation to adopt humane conditions of labour is an obstacle in the way of other nations which desire to improve the conditions in their own countries. The areas of improvement listed in the Preamble remain relevant today, including the regulation of working time and labour supply, the prevention of unemployment and the provision of an adequate living wage, social protection of workers, children, young persons and women. The Preamble also recognizes a number

of key principles, for example equal remuneration for work of equal value and freedom of association, and highlights, among others, the importance of vocational and technical education.”

In 1920 the ILO moved to Geneva and in less than two years, nine International Labourconventions and 10 Recommendations were adopted in which standards adopted regarding key issues such as: hours of work, unemployment, maternity protection, night work for women, minimum age and night work for young persons.

TOPIC A: CREATING A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY PLAN FOR TARGET 8.7 OF AGENDA 2030

Target 8.7 on the 2030 agenda states "Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms." 13 This target is important because it tackles underlying causes of poverty.

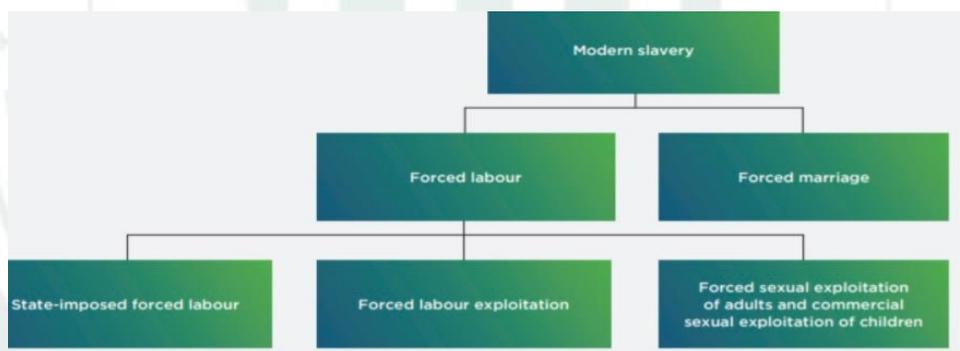
In 2015 all member states of the United Nations signed the Sustainable Development Goals, which makes up the 2030 agenda. This agenda consists of 17 goals which all countries aspire to achieve before 2030.16 These 17 goals are all social, economic and environmental goals to eradicate poverty and tackle climate change. The difference between the Sustainable Development Goals and Millennium Development goals is that Sustainable Development Goals are more focused on attacking the root of the problem.

To efficiently tackle the issue Alliance 8.7 was brought to life. This alliance consists of 15 countries and 141 organisations that are

committed to achieving target 8.7.18 Alliance 8.7 has 4 action groups organisations can join, which are: supply chain, migration, rule of law and governance and conflicts and humanitarian settings.

MODERN SLAVERY

When looking at modern slavery this can be separated into two categories: the first being forced labour, which itself can be divided in three categories, and forced marriage. Forced marriage is a form of modern slavery because people are entering a marriage without their consent, which then ties in with a notion of ownership of people. Forced marriage is also prevalent amongst children which will be discussed below.



An estimated 40.3 million people in 2016 had fallen victim to modern slavery: of these 24.9 million people were conducting forced labour and 15.4 million people were living in a forced marriage. Modern slavery is not as prevalent in all parts of the world. The regions that relatively had the biggest share of people in modern slavery were respectively Africa (7.6%) , Asia and the Pacific (6.1%), Europe and Central Asia (3.9%).²² However when looking at these results one must take into account that certain regions lack data,

mostly in the Arab states and the Americas, which somewhat creates a diluted image of the situation. However when looking at absolute numbers of people who are in modern slavery Asia and the Pacific by far has the largest share (24 990 000) followed by Africa (9 240 000) and Europe and Central Asia (3 590 000).

In the time period of 2012 until 2016 there were 89 million people who were victims of modern slavery, with the duration of their captivity varying widely. Some are able to escape after a few weeks or days and for others the duration can be up to years. This is mostly the case for hereditary forms of modern slavery and forced marriages. The average duration of forced labour being just over 20 months and for sexual exploitation this was 23 months.

FORCED LABOUR

FORCED LABOUR EXPLOITATION

Forced labour exploitation is a type of forced labour where a private actor coerces people to perform labour. This can be bonded labour or any other work imposed in the context of slavery. People are often forced by means of physical or mental threats to themselves or their families. Forced labour exploitation can be defined as:

“all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily”

As stated before, the ILO estimated the people that in 2016 were coerced into forced labour was about 24.9 million people. Amongst the people of who it was known in which sector they worked the biggest ones were respectively domestic workers (24%),

construction (18%), manufacturing (15%) and agriculture and fishing (11%). Not every group is equally affected by forced labour. One in four victims of forced labour is a child. This will be discussed below. However women are more likely to fall victim to forced labour.

“Women and girls are disproportionately affected by modern slavery, accounting for 28.7 million, or 71 per cent of the overall total. More precisely, women and girls represent 99 percent of victims of forced labour in the commercial sex industry and 58 per cent in other sectors, 40 percent of victims of forced labour imposed by state authorities, and 84 percent of victims of forced marriages.”

A very particular form of forced labour is bonded labour. People who are affected by this are often tricked by loan sharks, by providing them a loan which they then pay back through labour. However they have such high interests on their loans that they are unable to pay this back and get another loan, which they then again are not able to pay back which then lands them in a vicious cycle of loans of which they are never able to get out. Their loans are withheld and therefore they work but never receive wages. Most people in forced labour suffer from multiple forms of coercion, by way of threats and acts of violence, such as beatings and threats to their lives or the lives of their families.

Forced labour is not contained within a country's borders. Almost a quarter of people who fall victim to forced labour are migrants. Migrants are especially vulnerable for being caught in human trafficking and exploitation. Irregular migrants risk being kidnapped followed by ransom demands, violence, extortion, sexual exploitation or abuse and human trafficking. Whilst they might start of placing their faiths willingly in the hands of smugglers they risk being trafficked along the way. Once, and if, they reach their destination they are very vulnerable because of cultural and language barriers and because of their weakened bargaining power because of their limited knowledge of the country they're in.

STATE-IMPOSED FORCED LABOUR

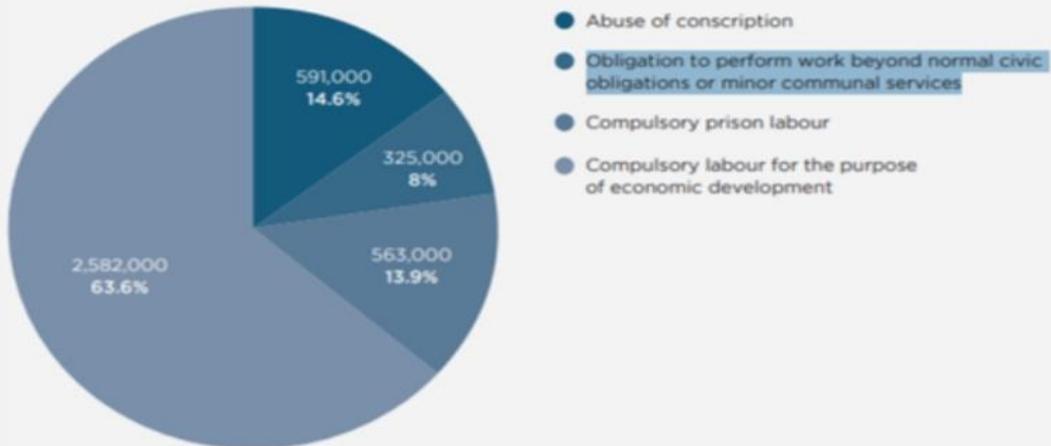
Forced labour is not only imposed by private actors. While most recently this is the biggest group of people affected by forced labour, 4 million people are conducting forced labour imposed by the government.

“This includes forced labour exacted by the military, compulsory participation in public works, and forced prison labour. The latter category includes not only forced labour camps but also work imposed in semi-privatised or fully privatised prisons.”

Most of the state imposed forced labour is for the purpose of economic development. This is usually performed in public construction, agriculture or industrial projects. Other reasons for state imposed labour are abuse of conscription, Obligation to perform work beyond normal civic obligations or minor communal services and compulsory prison labour. The duration of the forced labour varies a lot. It differs from a few days of construction work, to a few months working in a prison to years of being forcefully enlisted in the army.

State-imposed forced labour

Number and percentage distribution of victims of state-imposed forced labour, by form of state-imposed forced labour



FORCED SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF ADULTS AND COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

In 2016 4.8 million people were victim of forced sexual exploitation. This includes people who are forced to partake in commercial sexual exploitation and those who enter willingly but are then unable to leave. Furthermore it includes all commercial exploitation involving children. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by forced sexual exploitation to say the least. They make up more than 99% of the people who fall victim to forced sexual exploitation. 21% of all victims were children under 18. According to the ILO's Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention all children involved in commercial sexual activity are considered victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

The region where forced sexual exploitation is most prevalent is by far Asia and the Pacific (73%) followed by Europe and Central Asia

(14%) and Africa (8%). The average duration of forced sexual exploitation is about two years before victims are either released or able to escape.

FORCED MARRIAGE

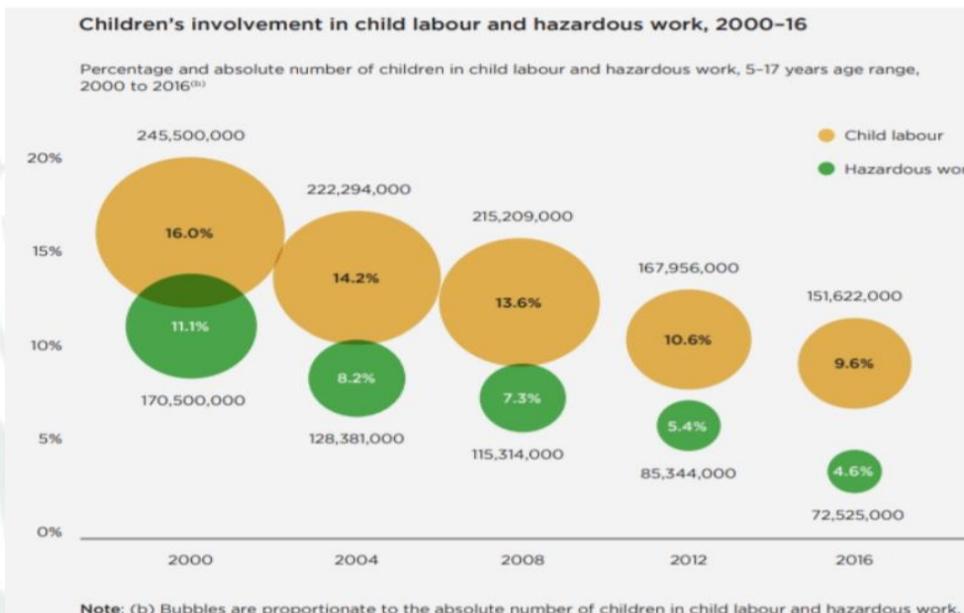
A form of modern slavery which not always comes to mind right away is that of forced marriage. When someone, regardless of their age, is forced to marry without their consent it is considered a forced marriage. People are forced to marry through physical threats, such as bodily harm, emotional pressure or financial duress. With a marriage in some cultures a dowry is offered which can lead to a forced marriage. Sometimes people are forced into marriage by deception by their spouse family members or others.

An estimated 15.4 million people were living in a forced marriage situation in 2016. Those who are living under these circumstances are more likely to be subjected to other forms of exploitation such as sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, and other forms of forced labour. The biggest share of forced marriages took place in Asia and the Pacific followed by Africa. However it is important to note that the measures for forced marriage are still fairly new and methodology is still being developed. Furthermore it can sometimes be hard to distinguish whether it is a forced marriage or not because sometimes forced marriage is deeply woven into culture.

CHILD LABOUR

Child slavery comes in many forms, one of the most prevalent issues when it comes to child slavery is children are participating in forced labour activities, with a lot of these children are also working under hazardous circumstances. Furthermore there is the recruitment of child soldiers which forms a big problem; another very common form of modern slavery is child marriage.

The period of 2000 - 2016 shows that there is a decline of 134 million children in employment. Children in employment is a broader measure containing children who are participating in permitted forms of child employment and children who are performing child labour. The latter shows a net reduction of 94 million children between 2000 and 2016. The number of children performing hazardous work dropped with more than half from 170 million children to 72 million children.

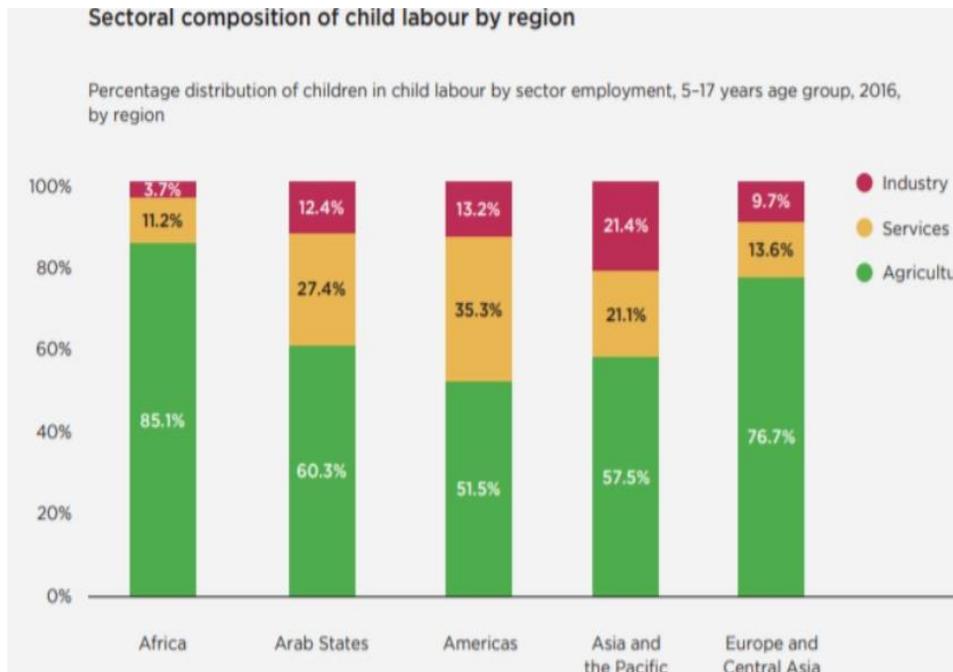


When looking dividing 2000 - 2016 in 4-year periods it is apparent that the effects of taken measures fluctuate. 2000 - 2004 showed nice progress (9.5%) which gave the idea that the end of child labour was in sight. However during 2004 - 2008 progress severely stagnated (3.2%) . 2008- 2012 showed very promising results (22%) but between 2012 and 2016 progress again stagnated (9.2%).

“The reduction in the number of children in child labour amounted to 16 million for the 2012 to 2016 period, just one third of the 47 million reduction recorded during 2008 to 2012. Expressed in relative terms, the share of children in child labour fell by only one percentage point during 2012 to 2016 compared to three percentage points in the previous four-year period. The decline in hazardous work slowed in a similar fashion.”

CHILD LABOUR CHARACTERISTICS

When looking at the sectors where child labour is most prevalent, agriculture is by far the biggest sector (70.9%) followed by services (17.9%) and industry (11.9%), respectively.⁴⁶ It should be noted that child labour is not limited to the work conducted under an employer; this is in part why the agricultural sector has the highest levels of child labour. The reason for this is due to the fact that working in agriculture is most prevalent in the family unit where this work is being conducted without payment. Therefore co-dependence amongst family members is a very important issue to consider when addressing this issue. This is also very concerning because this kind of labour is also usually done under very hazardous circumstances. However, this is a global estimate, the division amongst these sectors very much varies per region.



The biggest group of children working in child labour are aged 5-11, followed by the age groups of 12-14 and 15-17, respectively. What can be viewed as troubling is that recent developments have stagnated for the group of children aged 5-11 whilst this is the biggest share of children. However when looking at children performing child labour in hazardous circumstances these group rankings change to: 15-17, 5-11 and then 12-14.

Looking at the gender differences it becomes clear that there is a huge gender gap between boys and girls performing child labour, with the larger part being male. A reason for this may be that they are viewed to be more capable to perform manual labour. This same gap is also prevalent when looking at children performing hazardous work.

However this gap is narrowing, as measures to eradicate child labour are only half as effective amongst girls when compared to with boys. Furthermore girls are also more likely to work at home, performing

household chores. These kinds of chores are not taken into account in the estimates of children performing child labour.

CHILD SOLDIERS

The recruitment of child soldiers is most prevalent in Africa, in rebel groups or even in state army or militia. Being enlisted as a child soldier does not only imply the risk of bodily harm when in combat, but also suffering from significant mental hardships. Research states that two thirds of the children who are enlisted joined armed forces voluntarily. However the matter of “voluntary” participation can and should be questioned:

“For many of the child “volunteers”, joining the armed group was an escape from a situation in which they were marginalized either at school or in the family. This explains why, in many cases, only one child in a family decided to enrol. These children, for whom the armed group represented an opportunity for social integration, generally say that the ambience in the group was good or even very good.” The children who joined voluntarily, so they were not kidnapped nor obliged to join under threat, are at times under serious psychological pressures. Children who were kidnapped were threatened more roughly once they were in a camp and sent into combat much faster. Amongst the children who were kidnapped boys are usually sent into combat, girls are used as servants or sex slaves. All children who are enlisted as soldiers were treated as adults but weren’t provided with proper training which causes greater risk of getting hurt during combat. Children who are demobilized, whether by escaping or organizational efforts, however frequently suffer severe physical and psychological harm. This is why reintegration programs are a necessity especially since demobilized children are often not accepted back into their community.

Another problem risk factor for the enlistment of child soldiers is the spread of AIDS/HIV. The huge spread of this sexually infectious disease across Africa causes extra risk for children. When their parents fall victim to AIDS/HIV and pass away children are easy prey for recruiters. Seeing they don't have anyone to take care of them they are either easily abducted or easily fall prey to manipulations to join armed forces.

To tackle the problem one must not only address the issue by demobilizing children through organization efforts and try to rehabilitate them, seeing the problem is not only with rebel groups. Governments also enlist children to join their armed forces. They even use false documents to incorporate volunteers in their regular armed forces. Children who are unable to attend school have no other choice but to volunteer to protect their local population against forces. However, often they find themselves patrolling alongside regular army groups. Therefore there is also a legislative side to this issue seeing some governments are part of the problem.

CONSEQUENCES

All of the above described are not only violations of human rights but also have negative effects on the labour market linking back to the 17 topics on the 2030 agenda. The first mentioned group of people who are victims of modern slavery have no fair chance on the labour market. This means they have no fair chance in earning wages and escape poverty.

The second mentioned group are children who are caught in modern slavery. One of the consequences this has on these children is that they are unable to attend (properly) attend school. If they have to put time and energy in engaging in forced labour they're school

performance will suffer which then eventually will negatively affect their chances on the labour market.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION SHOULD ANSWER

The resolution should contain very clear and specific matter to be taken to tackle this issue. This issue is one that is a very practical matter and therefore practical measures should be taken. Of course legislation is important because these form the foundation for tackling an issue like this. However legislation alone will by no means actually change the situation. There are practical measures needed to enforce legislation and prevent the issue from arising again in the future.

- *Bayer, C. P., Klasen, F., & Adam, H. (2007). Association of trauma and PTSD symptoms with openness to reconciliation and feelings of revenge among former Ugandan and Congolese child soldiers. Jama, 298(5), 555-559:* This paper may provide clearer insights into the effects of children being enlisted as soldiers.
 - *Rosen, D. M. (2007). Child soldiers, international humanitarian law, and the globalization of childhood. American anthropologist, 109(2), 296-306:* This paper contains the current laws that are in place against child soldiers
 - *Ray, R. (2000). Analysis of child labour in Peru and Pakistan: A comparative study. Journal of population economics, 13(1), 3-19:* This paper compares different measures to combat child labour.
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- *Feingold, D. A. (2005). Human trafficking. Foreign Policy, 26-32: This paper provides insights on human trafficking which leads to forced labour, mostly in the sexual industry.*
 - *Lerche, J. (2007). A global alliance against forced labour? Unfree labour, neo-liberal globalization and the International Labour Organization. Journal of Agrarian Change, 7(4), 425-452: This paper critically assesses the ILO's approach on forced labour*
 - *Joffres, C., Mills, E., Joffres, M., Khanna, T., Walia, H., & Grund, D. (2008). Sexual slavery without borders: trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation in India. International Journal for Equity in Health, 7(1), 22: This paper discusses measures to tackle sexual exploitation.*

CLOSING REMARKS

This issue can be hard to tackle since it is very broad in the sense that it has so many facets that need to be addressed. However by working systematically it is possible to have all the areas covered, so try to stay very direct in writing this resolution. Seeing all the areas you have to address, do this in a very efficient way and be specific. There is a lot of research done on these topics so use the existing body of knowledge to your advantage. There is a very clear precedent on measures taken so build on these and don't just reiterate their importance but really try to come up with new measures to tackle this issue. Good luck!

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