

Forced Labor

Labor traffickers use **force, fraud, and coercion**, to compel persons to work against their will in a variety of industries. **Labor recruiters, contractors, and employers** lure persons—often those who are otherwise vulnerable because of **immigration status, poverty, isolation, or desperation**—with promises of high-paying jobs into difficult working conditions, working long hours with little to no pay.

Labor Trafficking Case Study 1:

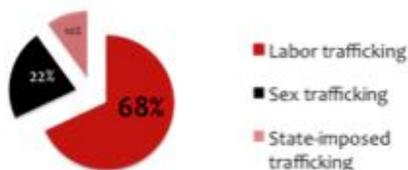
When a couple offered to pay Paul, 14 years old, to perform housework, he accepted. They forced him to clean their house for as many as 17 hours each day for no pay and did not allow him to go to school. They took his passport and monitored his movements.

Paul tried several times to escape; once he contacted the police, who told him they did not handle family matters. Eight years after that, Paul heard a radio report about modern slavery and reached out to an NGO who was able to help. The couple was arrested a few months later, they each received 10-year sentences six years for servitude and four other crimes (Adapted from Tip Report, 2016).

Labor Trafficking Case Study 2:

Natalia was raised in a small village in Ghana. Her family was struggling to pay the school fees for her education and welcomed an opportunity for her to receive an education in the United States. Shortly after she arrived in the U.S., the father she was living with began abusing her, creating an environment of fear. For the next six years she was forced to clean the house wash clothes, cook, and care for their three children, often working 8 hours a day while receiving no form of payment. She was never allowed to enroll in school, go outside, or even use the phone. Eventually she ran away, and was able to receive help from local authorities (Adapted from Polaris).

Labor trafficking represents **68%** of all human trafficking cases



The ILO estimates that there are **14.2 million** trapped in forced labor

The U.S. Department of Labor has identified



made by forced and child labor

Recommendations for Action

UN and Member States

- Examine supply chains to protect against forced and child labor.
- Supply ethically sourced products free of labor trafficking in offices, cafes, and gift shops.
- Collect and share data on labor trafficking.
- Create and enforce laws that protect against labor trafficking

Individuals and Communities

- Start a Fair Trade campaign in your town, university, school, or congregation learn more at FairTradeCampaigns.org.
- Take the Slavery Footprint survey to learn how many exploited people work for you and raise your voice for ethically sourced products. Visit www.slaveryfootprint.org.
- Invite some of your favorite companies protect against labor trafficking at madeinafreeworld.com/action.
- Download the “Sweat & Toil: Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking Around the World” app, it’s a comprehensive resource that provides information on child labor and forced labor worldwide.
- Host a Fair Trade event to raise awareness about the link between everyday commodities and labor trafficking, you can find a Fair Trade Event Kit under the “resource” section of UNICEFUSA.org/endtrafficking.
- Learn more about labor trafficking and download labor-trafficking focused episodes of the *Ending Human Trafficking Locally and Globally* podcast.

Businesses

- Engage with consultants from Finance against Trafficking initiative to find out best practices around elimination of modern slavery within your business and supply chain <http://www.financeagainsttrafficking.org/>
- Consult the [Combatting Forced Labor: A Handbook for Employers & Business](#) for guidance on how forced labor may affect operations and what businesses can do to address the issue. Recommendations include codes of conduct, corporate auditing, and remediation. Includes a discussion of good business practice models.
- Develop and implement policies against exploitative labor practices to encourage good business that eliminates unsound practices that could lead to rising prices and consumer boycotts.
- Train staff on the issue of human trafficking, including how to spot and prevent it.
- Source from suppliers who provide good working conditions and pay a living wage. Support labor inspections while educating and encouraging workers to cooperate with them.
- Be vigilant against the use of child labor in supply chains as well as monitoring suppliers’ implementation on the work floor.
- Sign The Code of Conduct at www.thecode.org and join the Global Business Coalition against Trafficking (GBCAT).

“In cases of labor trafficking, consumers provide the demand and profit incentive for traffickers”.

-The National Human Trafficking Hotline



The NGOCSTIP is committed to the prevention and eradication of human trafficking in all its forms through advocacy and education. The Committee recognizes trafficking in persons as a violation of human rights and advocates for policy and action plans to address all aspects of human trafficking. While the Committee’s work is primarily at the United Nations, it works in partnership with its member organizations and other stakeholders taking action on local and national levels.