



# **GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX REPORT**

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*Slavery is abhorrent, more rampant than at any time in history, and entirely avoidable. Unlike major world epidemics such as malaria and HIV/AIDS, slavery is a human condition of our own making. While that in itself is a tragedy, it also means that we have the power to end it. And end slavery we must; we cannot allow future generations to fall prey to this hideous practice. Improving the rights of 45.8 million human beings is both wise and urgent for all leaders of countries and organisations. Eradicating slavery makes sense, morally, politically, logically and economically.*

*Hereby providing the gist of the Global Slavery Index, present scenario and recommendation with respect to India.*

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# GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX REPORT

## Introduction

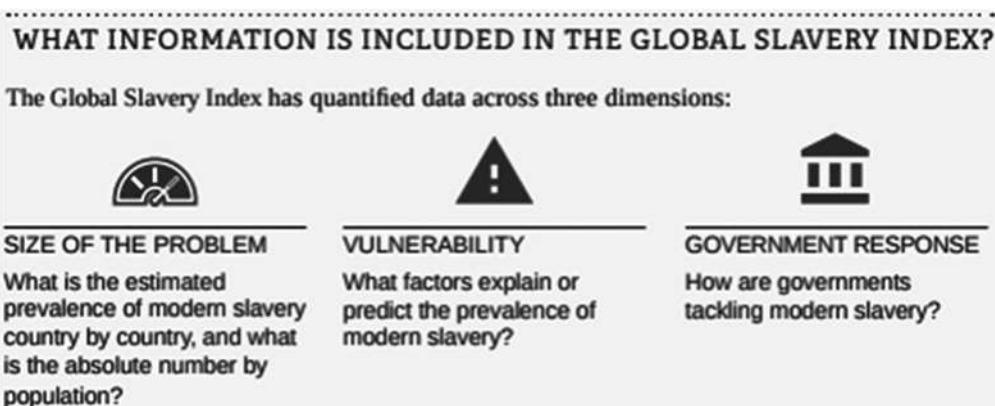
Modern slavery is a hidden crime that affects every country in the world. In 2015–2016, modern slavery was found in many industries including the Thai fishing, Uzbek and Turkmen cotton, and the Qatari construction industries. It was identified in the domestic households of diplomats, in Islamic State (IS)[1] controlled areas, and in areas that have experienced natural disasters, such as Nepal, and environmental destruction, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It impacts on all of us, from the food we consume and the goods we purchase. It is our responsibility to tackle this crime. Nearly every country in the world has committed to eradicate modern slavery through their national legislation and policies. Governments have a central role to play by enacting legislation, providing safety nets to their populations, and pursuing criminals who participate in this heinous crime. Governments need the support and engagement of civil society, the private sector and the community.

Slavery never happens in isolation. For people to be enslaved, several conditions must be in place. One of the most powerful of these is when the rule of law fails. A country may be poor, it may be struggling with climate change or a damaged economy, but if the rule of law holds, then even the most vulnerable are protected from slavery. When armed conflict breaks out, the rule of law is one of the first casualties. In the chaos of conflict and violence, a perfect storm of lawlessness, slavery, and environmental destruction can occur—driving the vulnerable into slave based work that feeds into global supply chains and the things we buy and use in our daily lives.

Slavery is a global problem, which is inextricably tied to other global problems like conflict and climate change, as well as feeding the global supply chains that tie us all together. But it is also true that understanding slavery at a global level opens the door to solutions. For example, expanding efforts to end slavery could slow or stop the growth of greenhouse gases driving climate change. Going further, employing freed slaves to re-plant forests they have been forced to destroy, work already underway on a small scale, would sweep CO2 from the air and possibly reverse climate change. While the right approach to climate change is sometimes controversial, slavery is not. There can be no special pleading for slave-based industries, growing from conflict, and feeding our supply chains. Closing down slave-based logging, brick-making, mining, or charcoal production will not hurt our lifestyles or the global economy. What it will do is get people out of slavery and slow global warming and climate change—a classic winwin situation. Making these global connections requires a global focus.

## About Global Slavery Index

The Global Slavery Index ('the Index') provides an estimate of the number of people in modern slavery, the factors that make individuals vulnerable to this crime, and an assessment of government action across 167 countries.



## Global findings

**In 2016, the country with the highest estimated proportion of modern slavery by population is North Korea.** Though information on North Korea is difficult to verify, pervasive evidence exists that citizens are subjected to state-sanctioned forced labour, including through forced labour as political prisoners and as workers on overseas contracts.

**Uzbekistan has the second highest estimated proportion of prevalence of modern slavery by population.** While some steps have been taken to address forced labour in the cotton industry, the Uzbek Government continues to subject its citizens to forced labour in the cotton harvest each year.

**In 2016, Cambodia has the third highest estimated prevalence of modern slavery.** In Cambodia, extensive literature details the prevalence of commercial sexual exploitation and forced begging. Our survey data highlight the existence of modern slavery in manufacturing, farming, construction and domestic work.

**In 2016, we estimate 18.3 million people are in some form of modern slavery in India.** This estimate reflects extensive surveying conducted in 2016 in 15 states. While impressive efforts are being taken by the Indian Government to address vulnerability, survey data suggest that domestic work, construction, farming, fishing, manual labour and the sex industry remain sectors of concern.

The ten countries with the largest estimated absolute numbers of people in modern slavery include some of the world's most populous countries: **India, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, North Korea, Russia, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Indonesia.** Several of these countries provide the low cost labour that produces consumer goods for markets in **Western Europe, Japan, North America and Australia.** Some of these countries are taking important steps towards stamping out abuses in key industries. For example, Indonesia's work on rescuing and repatriating 2,000 trafficked fishermen is commendable.

**While the lowest prevalence of modern slavery continues to be found in countries in Western Europe, North America, and Australia and New Zealand, estimates for these countries have increased following the application of a new** estimation technique called Multiple Systems Estimation. This allows more precise measurement when random sample surveys are not appropriate. The United Kingdom was the first government to adopt this technique, which increased the UK estimate to 11,700 people in modern slavery. In 2016, a further test of this technique was completed in the Netherlands. This is reflected in the Netherlands estimate of 17,500 people in modern slavery.

## What factors explain or predict the prevalence of modern slavery?

Vulnerability to modern slavery is affected by a complex interaction of factors related to the presence or absence of protection and respect for rights, physical safety and security, access to the necessities of life such as food, water and health care, and patterns of migration, displacement and conflict. Statistical testing grouped 24 measures of vulnerability into four dimensions covering: 1) civil and political protections, 2) social health and economic rights, 3) personal security, and 4) refugee populations and conflict.

Dimension 1: Civil and Political Protections	Dimension 2: Social health and economic rights	Dimension 3: Personal security	Dimension 4: Refugee populations and conflict
Confidence in judicial system	Financial inclusion: borrowed any money	Financial inclusion: availability of emergency funds	Impact of terrorism
Political instability	Financial inclusion: received wages	Violent crime	Internal conflict

Weapons access	Cell phone subscriptions	Women's physical security	Refugees resident
Discrimination: sexuality	Social safety net	GINI coefficient	
Displaced persons	Undernourishment	Discrimination: intellectual disability	
The Index 2016 Government Response	Tuberculosis	Discrimination: immigrants	
Political rights measure	Water improved access	Discrimination: minorities	

### Slavery in India

According to the Report, all forms of modern slavery continue to exist in India, including intergenerational bonded labour, forced child labour, commercial sexual exploitation, forced begging, forced recruitment into nonstate armed groups and forced marriage.

*Different forms of slavery have been discussed below:*

- **Bonded labour:** While bonded labour has been outlawed for decades, survey data and pre-existing research confirms that this practice still persists. In debt bondage, slaves are chained to an illegal financial obligation that they are forced to repay through endless labor. An entire family—men, women, and children—is forced to work for the person who holds the debt. If a slave gets sick and misses work, the debt grows.

It also has serious negative health impacts for those affected, who typically work in unsanitary and dangerous working conditions with no access to health care.

- **Domestic service:** Domestic workers are a particularly vulnerable group as work takes place in private homes and largely out of the reach of regulation. Official figures in India suggest that there are more than 4.2 million men, women and children working as cooks, cleaners, drivers, gardeners and caregivers across the country. Domestic workers in some states are excluded from labour laws and can experience excessive overtime, withholding of wages or receive insufficient remuneration. It is reported that girls as young as ten continue to be hired in private homes. Domestic workers can be subject to threats of and actual physical violence and in, some cases, sexual abuse.
- **Forced begging:** Street begging by adults and children is a prominent feature of many Indian cities. Though many beggars do so out of economic desperation, criminals also force people to beg
- **Commercial sexual exploitation:** Existing research and the 2016 survey data confirm the existence of forced prostitution.

Existing National Crime Records Bureau data indicate there were almost 5,500 cases across India under existing human trafficking laws in 2014. As the law does not differentiate between human trafficking and sex work, and there are no formal guidelines on who is identified in rescue and raid situations, it is impossible to know if every one of these cases involved force or children, or whether some were simply cases of economic survival.

- **Forced marriage:** More than 50 percent of women are married in India before the legal age of 18. Despite the illegality of sex-selective termination of female foetuses, the introduction of sex determination by ultrasound has seen some areas of India experience significant gender disparity and a dearth of available brides. The subsequent demand for brides, particularly in rural communities where many girls of marriageable age have migrated to cities for employment, has fuelled the trafficking of women for forced marriage. It is reported that in some instances, girls are forced into marriage and then used as unpaid labourers—local

day labourers cost US\$140 for a season but a bride can cost only US\$100 as a once off payment. The northern state of Haryana has India's most distorted sex ratio—114 males for every 100 females.

- **Forced recruitment for armed services:** A number of regions in India continue to experience armed violence and conflict between state-armed forces and armed opposition groups (AOGs). There is ongoing evidence to suggest that children are forcibly recruited into AOGs in Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand and West Bengal, Assam, Manipur and Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Some children as young as six are used by Naxalites as informers and trained to fight with crude weapons, such as sticks. Once children reach 12 years, they receive training in weapon handling and the use of improvised explosive devices. Some women and girls have reported experiencing sexual violence in militant camps.

Vulnerability to slavery in India has some common elements, with poverty and the lack of capacity to absorb shocks, and deep structural inequalities reflecting gender, caste and tribe all being highly relevant. However, vulnerability is also distinct state by state. For example, in Bihar, agricultural shocks, high prevalence within the population of members of the Scheduled Castes, combined with borders to Nepal, result in forced labour connected to migration for work both within and from India.

Also, Bihar is one of the states affected by the Naxalite conflict. According to the UN Security Council, Naxalites in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha states recruited boys and girls between six and 12 years of age into specific childrens units. Uttar Pradesh which has the highest proportion of castes and tribes of all Indian states, the issues are quite different. For example, so-called —manual scavenging is reported to be still widely practised, in which members of a certain caste are required to clean out dry latrines. When they seek to leave or refuse to do this work, they face violence and abuse.

Women and girls face significant discrimination and high rates of sexual violence across India, and this is particularly true for women and girls from the Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

Across India, but particularly in some southern states, Indian migrant workers actively seek jobs in construction and care industries, primarily in the Gulf, Europe and North America. There are reported to be 14 million Indian men and women working overseas, primarily in the Gulf, many of whom will have sought work through their networks rather than formal channels. Official migration processes are complex and often tainted by corruption, which further encourages irregular migration. These channels leave migrants with little recourse against practices such as unilateral contracts, dangerous working and living conditions, limited movement and access to communications, withholding of passports and wages, and physical and sexual abuse.

#### How is the India Government tackling modern slavery?

Given the scale and complexity of the issue in India, it is significant that the government of India has taken many steps designed to address vulnerability on a broad scale. Recent amendments to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act makes it an offence to, among other things, compel a member of a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe to do begar or other forms of forced or bonded labour; dispose or carry human or animal carcasses, or dig graves; or do manual scavenging. The 2016 amendments also make it an offence to promote dedicating a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe woman to a deity, idol, object of worship, temple, or other religious institution as a devadasi or any other similar practice.

The government has also drafted a National Policy for Domestic Workers , which is currently awaiting Union Cabinet approval. If enacted, the Policy would safeguard a minimum salary of Rs 9,000 (approximately \$135 USD) per month for skilled fulltime domestic workers, paid leave and maternity leave, social security, and the right to collectively bargain. It also includes calls for provisions against sexual harassment and bonded labour for domestic workers. The fact that domestic workers were identified in forced labour in the 2016 Walk Free Foundation state surveys underscores the urgency of policy change on this issue.

In June 2015, the Ministry of Women and Child Development launched Khoya Paya , a Lost and Found website, which operates in addition to the Ministry of Home Affairs Track Child site. Track Child provides a forum for police to exchange information on missing children, while the new site extends to the public, allowing registration of missing children by their families in coordination with police efforts.

In terms of more specific responses to modern slavery, India has criminalised most forms of modern slavery, including trafficking, slavery, forced labour, child prostitution and forced marriage, as part of its penal code or under specific legislation. However, there is no distinction drawn under the existing trafficking legislation between human trafficking and sex work which makes interpretation of results difficult. There is also no current legislation covering the use of children in armed conflict.

India continued to take steps toward collaborating across the region to respond to transnational trafficking crimes and provide protection for Indian citizens migrating overseas. Indian police have cooperated with regional counterparts on transnational human trafficking investigations. In 2014, Indian and Bangladeshi police undertook a joint investigation to identify two Bangladeshi girls sold into commercial sexual exploitation in India. Both girls were found and successfully repatriated; the offenders are being prosecuted under new anti-trafficking provisions. In March 2016, India and Bahrain agreed to increase bilateral cooperation on human trafficking issues, especially women and children in the Gulf. This agreement provides protection for victims, including repatriation, and provides for close cooperation and information exchange between police and other concerned authorities. In April 2016, media reports suggested India will sign a similar agreement on anti-human trafficking collaboration with the United Arab Emirates shortly.

## Recommendations

### Government

- With many of the necessary laws in place and under development, the focus must be on implementation and tracking improvements in implementation. For example, given the high levels of internal migration, there is a clear need to ensure State police are encouraged and enabled to continue investigations across borders. This needs to be in addition to any central investigations bureau which will likely focus on only the most complex cases. Ratify and implement the Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.
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- Ratify and implement the Domestic Workers Convention.
- Proactively require all states to follow up on the Supreme Court Judgment of October 15, 2012, to identify and release those in bonded labour, and report on progress. Require States who report zero cases of bonded labour to show what steps have been taken to actually find and assist bonded labourers.
- Update regulations and processes for the implementation of the Bonded Labour Act, and report on its implementation. Focus on practical ways to regulate and monitor practices of placement agencies.
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- Implement a new National Action Plan that targets the full spectrum of modern slavery, while recognising the differences between highly organised crime (which is likely to be cross-border) and more localised practices of bonded labour.
- Ensure that victims are not criminalised or detained both by law enforcement and in the shelter system. Victims must be protected (including protecting their identities) throughout the duration of their court cases. Repeal laws which permit detention of victims.
- Increase the proportion of female police officers in enforcement. Create and monitor implementation of standard operating procedures for shelter homes to support quality and rights based post-rescue rehabilitation of survivors.

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- Prevent the recruitment of children into AOGs and provide targeted rehabilitative services to rescued children.

### Business

- Partner with civil society organisations to provide safe work and vocational training to survivors of modern slavery, under the *Company Act 2013* corporate social responsibility requirements.
- Export-oriented industries such as textiles, agriculture and carpet weaving should work through their industry bodies and with appropriate third parties to create industry-wide supply chains that are free of modern slavery.
- Domestic industries, such as construction, manufacturing and brick kilns, should work with state governments and local organisations to find innovative ways of eliminating the need for child and bonded labour in their businesses.

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