



**TOGETHER AGAINST
MODERN
SLAVERY**

Facts & Action Points

ABOUT THIS LEAFLET

This leaflet has been developed for the Global Week against modern slavery. Global Week is a joint initiative by the churches in Norway to highlight and help combat modern day forms of slavery. The Christian Council of Norway is the coordinator of the initiative.

The motto for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) is Leave no one behind. If we are to reach these goals in Norway and the world, we must put an end to all forms of grave abuse, like forced labour (goal 8.7), child marriage and forced prostitution (goal 5) and child labour (goal 16.2). We believe in the right to freedom from abuse and oppression for every human being. The forms of slavery of our times are in breach of the human rights, exclude people from common goods and from a dignified and free life. Together we can – and must – put an end to all forms of exploitation.

You are also invited to join in this work! See ideas pages 11–14.

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WHAT IS MODERN SLAVERY?

Modern slavery is a collective description of situations where people:

- are undergo grave exploitation and coercion
- are controlled through abuse of power, manipulation, threats, violence, and insults, and are not free to leave the situation

Source: www.alliance87.org

Modern slavery is forbidden in all countries. It comprises gross neglect of an individual's human rights. This is on-going throughout the entire world. From outside modern slavery may look like ordinary work, but those who are exploited are being controlled by others.

Migrant workers, girls or women in male-dominated societies, refugees, stateless, persons with little or no formal education, people of low castes, religious and other minorities, and persons with disabilities, are particularly vulnerable.

Root causes that lead people into modern slavery are poverty, corruption, unjust structures, war and conflict and displacement due to climate change.

ILO has estimated that at least 40 million persons throughout the world are living under slave like conditions. The Covid-19 pandemic has pushed even more people into debt, poor working conditions, and sexual exploitation.

HOW IS MODERN SLAVERY OPERATING?

Exploitation takes various forms in different countries and local communities.

Forced labour

is a situation where children and adults are exploited for labour: Labour that they did not enter voluntarily, cannot escape from, or do not have alternatives to. There is a significant grey zone between dignified work and forced labour.



Debt bondage:

Persons who, due to poverty, borrow money thus becoming forced to work to repay the “debt” and thereby lose control over their own fiscal situation. In some cases people do inherit the debt of their relatives, friends or colleagues.



Forced war service:

Children or adults are forced to participate in acts of war or being held illegally in military service.

Sexual exploitation:

takes place as forced prostitution, abuse purchased as a service through the internet; or through violence, threats and abuse in vulnerable situations are forced to offer sexual services.

Forced marriage and child marriage:



Children or adults are forced to enter marriage against their will. 99% of cases involve girls or women.

Forced services:

Children or adults are forced to beg, sell drugs, or commit crime that enriches others.

Organ-harvesting:

Persons are deprived of or lured to sell their organs for illegal organ transplants.

- 1/4 in slavery situations are **children**
- 3/4 in slavery situations are **women and girls**
- The **10 countries** with the highest prevalence of slavery are in **war and conflict**, and have **oppressive regimes**.

Asia and the Pacific region have the highest number of exploited people, estimated at 62% of the global total. Africa has the highest occurrence per capita, estimated at 7.6 persons per 1,000 inhabitants. Europe and Central Asia are estimated to have 3.6 million people kept in slave-like situations, but the numbers that are uncaptured are estimated to be higher.

Norway

Human trafficking is used as the legal term in Norway’s criminal law. There is a demand for sexual services and cheap labour, and prostitution and forced labour are the most frequent forms of exploitation. “Agents” recruit people for labour in agriculture, building and construction, cleaning, restaurant, and other service sectors – or lure or force women and girls (and men and boys) into prostitution and sexual exploitation, also in digital platforms.



WHAT CHARACTERISES MODERN SLAVERY?

Modern slavery affects a wide variety of people. It often happens covertly and is difficult to detect. These are, nevertheless, some characteristics indicating that persons may be in a coercive situation:

- Excessive working hours
- Lack of protective gears, even if the job demands such
- Low or no salary; or workers are personally indebted to recruiter or hidden beneficiary
- The person is not learning the local language
- May look unkempt, withdrawn, wearing same clothes every day
- Was promised conditions different from those given
- Is afraid or sceptical towards police and public authorities
- Other people have control over his/her ID and important documents, and restricts his/her freedom of movement
- Afraid to be sent out of the country
- Regards him/herself not a victim of human trafficking, but as someone who "got a bad deal"
- Is reluctant to share about own situation or seek help, not knowing who to trust
- Shows fear towards his/her employer or recruiter; may regard own family to be in danger
- Shows sign of physical or psychological trauma e.g., anxiety, amnesia, bruises, and untreated injuries, illnesses, or infections
- Lives and works at the same address
- Cramped or undignified living conditions or changes address frequently

REPORT IT

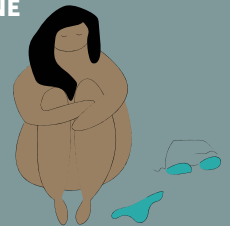
Anybody who suspects that a person might be exposed to punishable actions, has the obligation, according to Norwegian criminal law, to notify the authorities. If the case involves a minor, the child protection authority should be notified.

If a person seems to have trust in you, seize the opportunity. You do not have to be an expert. All you need to know is how to get in touch with agencies that can assist. This can be done anonymously. For more information, see: www.menneskertilsalgs.no

All of us can contribute to identification of possible victims, but it is the police and public authorities' responsibility to verify human trafficking, document incidences, prosecute criminals and provide follow up services to vulnerable persons.

ARE YOU CONCERNED THAT SOMEONE IS BEING EXPLOITED, OR ARE YOU IN SUCH A SITUATION YOURSELF?

Contact the 24-hours open national ROSA helpline:
+47 22 33 11 60



WHAT CAN YOU AND I DO?

- Report if you detect a suspicious situation (see p. 9) or if you are being exploited yourself
- Learn more about current forms of slavery and talk about it among friends, family and in your community
- Support good projects, see examples p. 15 or globaluke.no

USE YOUR VOICE:

Ask for increased engagement and action from those with most responsibility. Notify local authorities if you discover suspicious or chargeable conditions.

Explore whether a local plan of action against human trafficking exists, and ask how the Sustainable Development Goals are being addressed in your municipality.

Call for increased efforts to end work-related crime and illicit markets, and a judicial system which protects the rights of human trafficking -victims in Norway.

Demand that the government actively pursues their action plan against human trafficking

Ask the authorities in Norway to raise human rights-concerns in their dialogue with leaders of countries where these are not respected.

Get acquainted with The Norwegian Transparency Act, which requires large companies selling products and services in Norway to inform about subcontractors, and what actions they take to attend to human rights in their operations and supply chains – and to be able to communicate information about this externally, also to consumers who request for it.

USE YOUR POWER AS A CONSUMER:

Make conscious choices when you shop, and remember that it makes a difference! Choose items marked with Fairtrade, UTZ (coffee, chocolate), Rainforest Alliance or the Nordic Swan Ecolabel.

Ask for the origins of products and under which conditions workers are operating. When enough people ask, shops and companies feel obliged to provide moral answers.

Choose products from companies with open suppliers lists, check if they are members of Ethical Trade Initiative, Clean Clothes Campaign, or B- Corp certified.

Buy quality products that last longer, learn how to repair them, and buy second-hand when feasible.

Avoid illegal work and pay your taxes when you want to have your house or car cleaned, or hire manpower. Learn more on www.handlehivitt.no

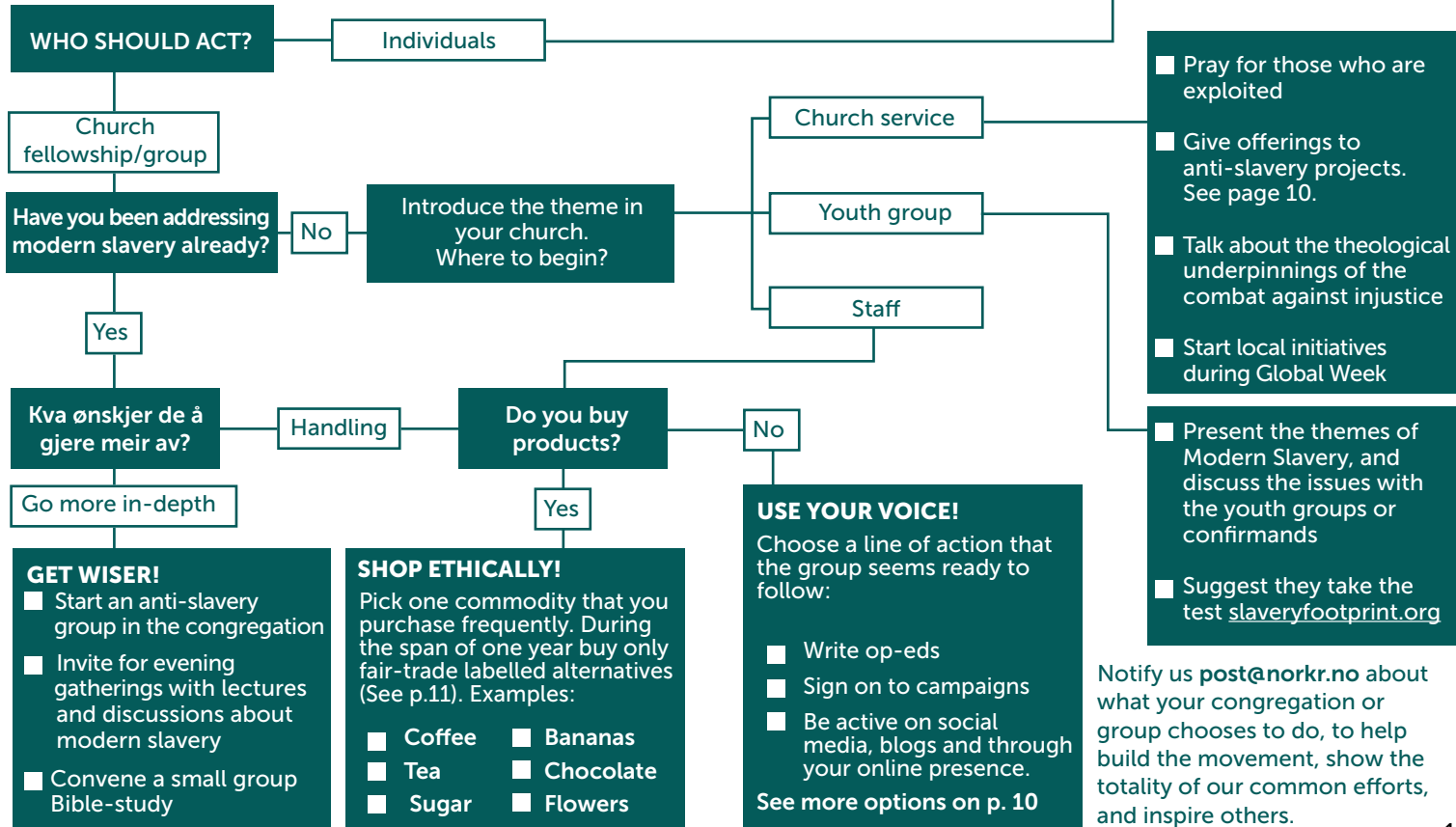
Invest your money ethically: Use www.etiskbankguide.no (Ethical Bank Guide). Inquire with the bank if they have a “slavery-free” investment policy.

Take a clear stance against pornography, sexualisation of minors and objectification of the body.

HOW TO CHOOSE AN ACTION TO PURSUE?

No one can do everything, but everyone can do something! If as many as possible pursue one action point to combat modern slavery, it will make a difference.

Start the conversation:



ADDITIONAL ACTIONS FOR THE CONGREGATION/GROUP

- Raise the theme in gatherings with different groups, during church service and church coffee. Make the topic relevant in schools and other places of study.
- Find a way of marking Global week together with other church denominations, and invite municipality-, police-, or labour inspection authorities and anti-slavery actors.
- Give offerings to projects and organisations that work for prevention and combat of modern slavery. Invite them to visit and share stories.
- Encourage your leaders to raise the theme in their own contexts, and as they meet with Norwegian and international cooperating partners.
- Make sure that you, or the ones from whom you buy services, do not use illegal labour.
- Shop ethically as far as possible. Choose products labelled Fairtrade, Utz, Rainforest Alliance, Nordic Swan Ecoabel.
- Put up posters in church with information and action points on how to address slavery.
- Check if your church/community is a member of KNIF www.knif.no and use their environmentally and ethically certified procurement agreements.
- Build inclusive fellowships that offer language training, social fellowship, and practical support to persons in vulnerable situations.

SOURCES AND RESOURCES:

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| menneskertilsalgs.no | FN-sambandet (UN Association Norway) |
| rosa-help.no | |
| Caritas Norway | Kirkens Nødhjelp (Norwegian Church Aid) |
| Salvation Army frelsesarmeen.no and anti-trafficking.no | ADRA Norway |
| Kirkens Bymisjon (Church City Mission) | framtiden.no |
| Lightup Norway | freedomunited.org |
| A21 Norway | antislavery.org |
| Hope for Justice - Norway | ILO (United Nations' Labour Agency) |
| The Guardian | slaverefreetoday.org |
| | globaluke.no |

**Lord God of freedom,
some of us deliver goods and services
under coercion and without decent pay.**

**They are violated while others abuse their bodies.
They toil in mines and factories
while they are forsaken schooling and equal treatment.**

**Jesus, you gave your life for all,
look with mercy on us, so that our eyes are opened
and we may rise and do our part
for a more just world.**

O, God of love, let freedom and justice come to all!



Norges Kristne Råd

norkr.no

Global Week against Modern Slavery
globaluke.no

Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security; and NORAD



Justis- og
beredskapsdepartementet



Norad