



TOGETHER AGAINST
MODERN SLAVERY

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 14–18.

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WHAT IS MODERN SLAVERY?



«Modern slavery»

is a collective term for situations where people

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

Source: www.alliance87.org

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

Migrant workers, girls and women, 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 50 million persons throughout the world are living under slavery-like exploitation. The Covid-19 pandemic and wars in Ukraine and other places pushed more people into debt, poor working conditions, forced marriage 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.



Forced marriage and child marriage

Children or adults are forced to enter marriage against their will. More than 70% comprise girls or women.



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 situation.



Sexual exploitation

takes place as forced commercial sexual exploitation, including exploitation of children for production of sexual abuse material, or other situations where someone is forced to offer sexual services through coercion or abuse of vulnerable situation.



Forced war service

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



Forced servitude

Children or adults are forced to beg, sell drugs, or commit crimes.



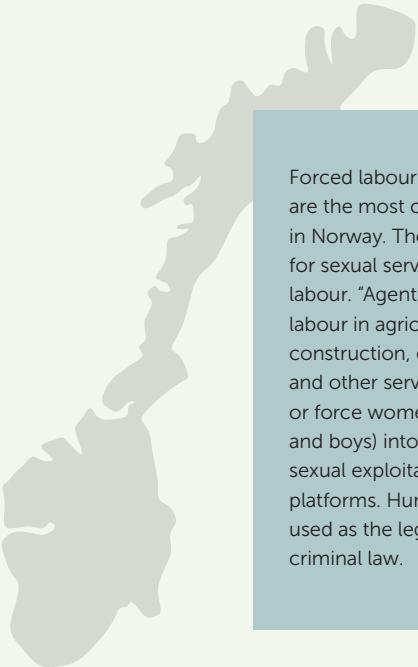
Organ theft

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 ten countries with the highest prevalence of slavery are in war and conflict, and have oppressive regimes.

HVOR FOREGÅR MODERNE SLAVERI?

Asia and the Pacific region have the highest number of exploited people, estimated at 62% of the global total. Countries with totalitarian rule have a higher number of exploited persons per capita than others. The number of people in slavery in Europe and Central Asia amounts to an estimated 3.6 million, and 7 millions in Africa.



Forced labour and prostitution are the most common forms in Norway. There is a demand for sexual services and cheap labour. "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. Human trafficking is used as the legal term in Norway's criminal law.

SPOT THE SIGNS OF MODERN SLAVERY

A person may be in a coercive situation if he or she

- works excessive hours
- lacks protective gears, even if the job demands such
- receives low or no salary, or is indebted to recruiter or hidden beneficiary
- does not speak the local language
- may look unkempt, withdrawn, wearing same clothes every day
- was promised conditions different from those given
- is afraid of or sceptical towards police and public authorities
- other people keep control over his/her ID and important documents, and he/she cannot travel freely
- fears to be sent out of the country
- regards him/herself not a victim of trafficking, but as someone who "got a bad deal"
- is reluctant to share about own situation or seek help, not knowing who to trust
- seems to fear 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, untreated injuries, illnesses, or infections
- works and stays overnight at the same address
- stays in cramped or very poor housing or changes address frequently

DUTY TO REPORT



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 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.utnyttelse.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 follow up and support exploited persons.

**Are you concerned
that someone is being
exploited, or are you in
such a situation yourself?**

Call the national ROSA
Helpline **+47 22 33 11 60**
or contact other agencies
listed on p. 17.

WHAT CAN YOU AND I DO?

If you suspect that someone is being exploited or you yourself are at risk: Report it (see p. 11). Learn more about current forms of slavery and talk about it among friends, family and in your community, and support good projects: See p. 17 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 government efforts to end work-related crime and improved judicial protection and remedy for victims forced labour and trafficking to Norway.
- Demand that the government put in place an updated action plan, increase fundings to anti-trafficking initiatives and improve the coordination of national efforts.
- Ask the authorities in Norway to raise human rights concerns with leaders of countries where these are not respected.
- Get acquainted with The Norwegian Transparency Act. It requires companies to identify, cease, prevent, mitigate and publicly account for negative human rights impacts. Use the right to public information that the new act provides consumers.

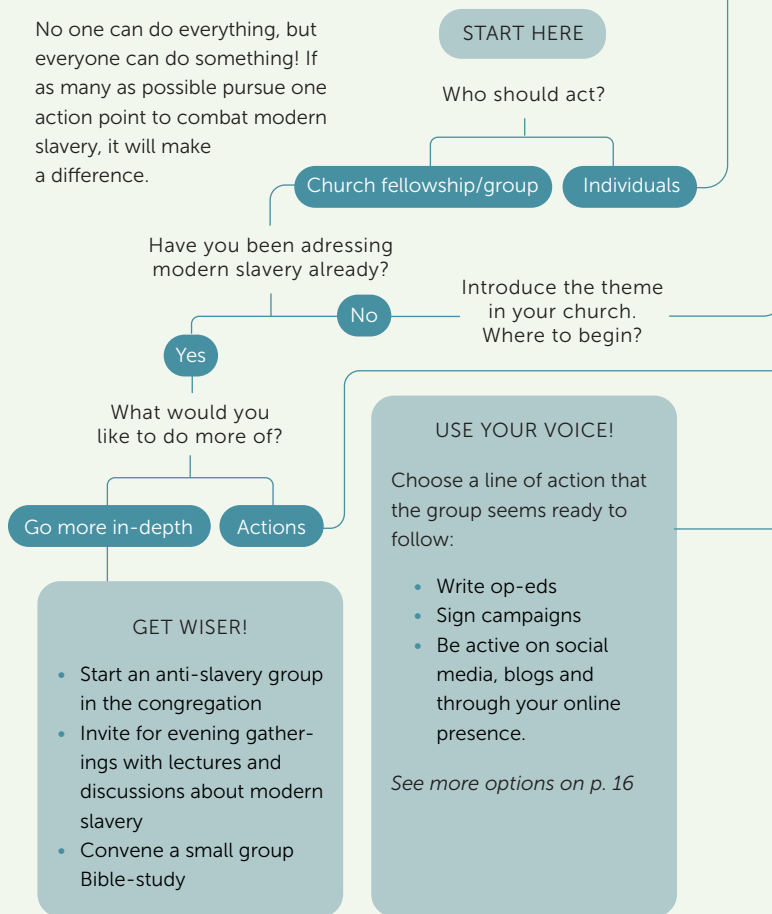


Use your power as a consumer:

- Make conscious choices when you shop, and remember that it makes a difference! Choose items marked with Fairtrade, UTZ, Rainforest Alliance (coffee, chocolate, tea, etc.) or the Nordic Swan Ecolabel.
- 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.
- When you want to hire manpower or have your house or car cleaned. Learn more on handlehvitt.no
- Invest your money ethically: Use etiskbankguide.no (Ethical Bank Guide). Inquire 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 ACTIONS 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.



SEE TIPS ON P. 12–13

Youth group

Church service

Staff

Do you buy products?

No

Yes

Inform about modern slavery and discuss the issue with the youth group or confirmands.

Do the test:
slaveryfootprint.org

Pray for those who are exploited. See p. 18.

Give offerings to anti-slavery projects. See p. 17.

Talk about the theological underpinnings of the combat against injustice.

Start local initiatives during Global Week. See global-uke.no

SHOP ETHICALLY!

Pick one commodity that you purchase frequently. During the span of one year buy only fair-trade labelled alternatives. Examples:

- Coffee
- Bananas
- Tea
- Chocolate
- Nuts
- Flowers

See «ethical» labels p. 13

Notify us at post@norkr.no about what your congregation or group chooses to do, to help build the movement, show the totality of our common efforts, and inspire others.

ADDITIONAL ACTIONS FOR THE CONGREGATION/GROUP

- Raise the theme in group gatherings, Sunday services and church coffee, in schools and colleges.
- Mark Global week, preferably together with other churches, and invite representatives from municipality, police, labour inspection, anti-slavery organisations.
- Encourage your leaders to raise the theme in their context, and as they meet with Norwegian or international partners.
- Give offerings to projects or organisations that work to combat modern slavery. Invite them to share about their work.
- Make sure you, or the ones you buy services from, do not use illegal labour.
- Shop ethically and choose products labelled Fairtrade, Utz, Rainforest Alliance, Nordic Swan Ecoabel.
- Put up posters in church about where victims may receive help.
- Use KNIF's certified procurement deals.
- Provide social fellowship, language and practical support to persons at risk.

RESOURCES AND ORGANISATIONS



- rosa-help.no
- Caritas Norway
- Salvation Army
- Norwegian Church Aid
- ForFreedom.no
- framtiden.no
- Lightup Norway
- ADRA Norway
- Church City Mission
- Rights Lab
- Fairtrade Norway
- UN Association Norway
- ILO (United Nations)
- slavefreetoday.org
- freedomunited.org
- antislavery.org
- Walk Free
- The Guardian
- Ethical Trade Norway
- Survivor Alliance
- utnyttelse.no
- globaluke.no

PRAAYER



*Lord God of freedom,
people among 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!

YOUR NOTES



Norges Kristne Råd

norkr.no

globaluke.no



Norad



Juris- og
beredskapsdepartementet

Funded by Norad and The Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security