

Atlantic International University

Human Right 4: Freedom from Slavery

What does this mean to you?

How do we know when someone is being enslaved?

What forms can slavery take?

What steps need to be taken so that slavery is stopped?

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According to the United Nations, slavery is the status of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised.

Slavery is also defined as the condition in which one human being was owned by another. A slave was considered by law as property and was deprived of most of the rights ordinarily held by free persons. It was in 1981 that slavery has been banned universally when Mauritania became the last country to legally abolish the practice.

Although the practice of slavery is outlawed, this practice continues throughout the world. Nowadays, the format in use for slavery is different than physical shackles or shipping a human being in a boat to sell them as merchandise, it is not having them as property that people could offer as a gift. Slavery also has a definition of exercising on a person the attributes of the right of property or of maintaining a person in a state of continual subjection. In this journey we are going to look at the followings: What does slavery mean? How do we know someone is being enslaved? What form slavery can take and finally try to look at what steps to be taken so that slavery is stopped?

The term of slavery entitles several different phenomena. Certainly, it can be a question of so-called traditional slavery, the transatlantic slave trade that involved mainly people from West Africa that were forced to work on sugar or tobacco plantations. Today, they talk about modern slavery, which is widespread in countries across the world. There are millions of slaves in the world today. Modern slavery occurs in several forms: Sex trafficking, Forced Labor, Domestic Servitude, Debt bondage, Use of Child soldiers, and so on. Slavery is not an historic act but a daily reality. Victims are trapped and controlled through assault, threats, false promises, apparent sense of protection, loneliness, dishonoring, and debt.

According to the International Labor Organization more than 40 million of people are in some form of slavery in the world today. People end up trapped in modern slavery because they are vulnerable and being deceived by traffickers, trapped, and exploited, often as a result of poverty and exclusion. It is these external situations that drive people into taking risky decisions in search of opportunities to provide for their families or are basically pushed into jobs in abusive conditions.

Sex trafficking

It is a type of modern-day slavery. Most of the victims are women and girls but men and boys are also impacted. Some people are physically transported between locations to be victimized some are in their own country their own community. Sex trafficking is common in European countries and is considered as legal work.

Sex trafficking refers to human trafficking and the inherent forms of exploitation. Exploitation by forcing people to perform excessive sex activities for little wages.

The consequences of sex trafficking are like the consequences of sexual violence. Consequences can be immediate and long-term including physical and relationship problems, psychological concerns, and negative chronic health outcomes.

Extreme Poverty and vulnerability are influential factors in human trafficking. Human trafficking is a global epidemic driven by poverty it occurs in every single country on the globe. Likely victims attempt to move from areas with extreme poverty to areas with less extreme poverty. Manipulated traffickers offer false promises of employment and education opportunities, remuneration in addition to a better life condition. Vulnerable people, in high risks, due to their circumstances and familial desperation

are trapped in the desire to obtain a better life for themselves and their families. Traffickers take advantage of their ignorance and desire to escape poverty to exploit them and do not follow through any of their promises. Control and threatening measures tend to increase once migration occurs for the victims. Victims are forced to involve in sex work, prostitution and other hard work and received little or no pay in consequence they are still living in extreme poverty.

Forced Labor

The International Labor Organization (ILO), In the Convention 29 dated 1930 describes forced or compulsory labor as “all work or service which is exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily. Millions of people are victims of modern slavery in the world. In certain countries foreign workers and forced them to work excessive hours with no possibility to escape due to retention of identity papers or threats of denunciation to immigration. They are performing work involuntarily and under menace. Forced labor can be imposed to adults and children, by government, private enterprises or by individual. We encounter force labor in economic activity: domestic work, construction, agriculture, manufacturing.

Domestique Servitude

Domestique Servitude is the most difficult type of slavery to detect because the work is performed privately. The victim is expected to work around a person’s home every day and available to be called 24 hours a day. The nannies and other domestic help, for example, are apparently normal practice to cover for the exploitation and control of

someone. When the arrangement of their employment shifts into a situation where they cannot leave on their own free will, it becomes a case of enslavement.

Debt bondage

People are enslaved to make a profit. The global most common form of slavery is debt bondage. People trapped in poverty borrow money and are forced to work to pay off the debt, losing control over both their employment conditions and the debt. This is particularly the case of young girls arriving in certain European countries after having contracted a debt with the people who organized their arrival by paying for the plane tickets, the papers, the travel expenses. At their arrival at the foreign country, they must repay the money, often working for free. They will never be able to repay the debt constantly increasing due to new sums advanced for accommodation, food, and others. At the heart of servitude there is the notion of recurrence which makes it possible to understand the gear in which the victims find themselves.

People end up trapped in modern slavery because they are vulnerable to being tricked, trapped, and exploited, often as a result of poverty and exclusion. It is these external circumstances that push people into taking risky decisions in search of opportunities to provide for their families or are simply pushed into jobs in exploitative conditions. Exploitation takes different forms: economic domestic, sexual, forced, or compulsory labor.

Exploitation and Trafficking of Children

Despite the progress observed in the living conditions of children throughout the world, thousands of children are still victims of exploitation and/or trafficking. Various reports on the sake of children, child prostitution and child pornography are online. Children are also victims in the primary sectors (agriculture, fishing, mining). According to UNICEF more than one million children are victims of human trafficking. The trafficking of minors is particularly intolerable in that it violates all the rights of children and exposes them to extremely serious dangers for their development. Mental and physical health.

A person is considered enslaved if they are forced to work against their will; are owned or controlled by an exploiter or employer. Researchers estimated that about 40 million of people are enslaved around the world. Those people are trapped in various forms of slavery. What steps need to be taken to end slavery?

Slavery can be stopped. Raising Awareness is one of the most important tools that could be used to end slavery. Communities must be aware of that goal. "If the majority knew the root of this evil then the road to its cure would not be long" Albert Einstein. If we are aware we could support anti-slavery organizations. We could work as volunteer in our local anti-trafficking organizations as we may have victims of trafficking and slavery in our area. Children are the most vulnerable and at risk we may provide sponsorship for their education. In Haiti, poor parents give their children to a host family to help with domestic chores in the hope of a better life, they become slaves and work interminably for no pay. By providing sponsorship, we can ensure that children trapped in slavery have access to instruction and see their elementary needs

satisfied. Individuals who are serious and willing to see the end of slavery, must get information on companies which are using low wage workers overseas in hazardous and polluted factories. We must also check on our favorite brand to know their business conduct toward slavery and forced labor. They should that their money is ethically spent by honoring business that guarantee freedom and equal rights at every level of their production. Are we willing to end slavery? Ensure that we are not tie in slavery by the product we purchase.

Government should work toward poverty reduction so people can achieve secure well-being and reach for personal and family expectations and dreams. They should be concerned on lack of adequate law enforcement and make amendment. Absence of rules of law leads to corruption, poverty, and slavery. Finally, people trapped in slavery must be rescued, slaves' owners and exploiters must be arrested and put in jail.

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