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**Addressing Tomorrow’s Slavery Today**

**Survey overview**

Delta 8.7 is conducting a public consultation to seek inputs to feed into the research and drafting of an upcoming report of the [UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Ms Urmila Bhoola.](https://ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Slavery/SRSlavery/Pages/UrmilaBhoola.aspx)

The report will consider how contemporary forms of slavery are changing, and being shaped by socioeconomic, environmental and technological dynamics. Based on an understanding of these dynamics, the report will consider whether contemporary anti-slavery efforts are well organized to address tomorrow’s slavery, and what opportunities and challenges there may be for strengthening governments’ and other stakeholders’ response.

We invite all interested parties to submit their views by completing the survey at this link (<https://delta87.org/2019/03/tomorrows-slavery/>) or by sending a document of no more than 10 pages to [antislavery@unu.edu](mailto:antislavery@unu.edu). Submissions \*\*will\*\* be made public, through posting on this page in PDF format after the submission period closes on Friday, 29 March 2019 at 00.00 EST, unless you specifically request non-publication. All submissions will be used by the research team in preparation of the report and may be referenced or quoted in the final report (with identifying information removed, if necessary).

**Questions**

Q1: Please provide a name or affiliation to be associated with the submission.

**Maat's Submission on "Addressing Tomorrow's Slavery Today"**

Q2: Please provide an email address at which we can reach the author.

[Maat@maatpeace.org](mailto:Maat@maatpeace.org)

Q3: Do you consent to the submission being published on this site?

**Yes, I do.**

Q4: **What can we expect from tomorrow’s slavery?**

**The report will consider current trends and dynamics in contemporary forms of slavery with taking the case of Qatar and other Arab Countries as examples.**

Modern slavery is defined as the use of violence, deception or threat to inflict human beings, and included forced labor, sexual exploitation and forced domestic labor. There are many efforts to combat modern slavery. However, in 2018, The global Slavery Index shows that some 4,000 persons (or 1.50 per 1,000 residents of Qatar) live in modern slavery, pointing out that 37.72 per 100 persons are subject to slavery. Qatar, with a population of 2.4 million, is at the top of the list of countries with the least government's response to reducing slavery. The index also indicates that men, women and children are vulnerable to modern slavery by buying and selling them in public markets. Women suffer from forced marriage, whereas the employment is provided under the cover of marriage.

* **Factors that contributed to increase the rates of modern slavery and contemporary forms of slavery:**

Climate change has greatly influenced in forming new patterns of contemporary slavery. The increasing number and severity of weather-related disasters that destroyed houses, especially in island and oceanic States, forces people to leave their homes and seek shelter. Therefore, Climate change has led to the displacement of individuals in many of the most obvious and tragic ways. Climate change gradually destroys livelihoods and forces communities to abandon their traditional lands seeking to more suitable environments. The Asia-Pacific region is the most world places prone to natural disasters, in terms of the total number of disasters and people affected. This region is inhabited by disproportionately poor and marginalized people.

In recent decades, some countries, especially those suffered from armed conflicts, have witnessed an increase in human trafficking cases and forced labor across areas that are a place of transit and destination for men, women and children. Those people are being exploited by employers through low wages, physical abuse and detention on board, as well as extortion by security personnel. That's all reflecting the multiplicity of modern cases of slavery.

* **For example, the Arab region is witnessing an increase in contemporary forms of slavery as a result of the increasing levels of violence and conflict:**
* In Libya, violence has led to the spread of slave markets in the streets of Tripoli. In April 2017, the International Organization for Migration referred to the existence of slave markets in Libya, where they turn to goods for purchase and sale. In addition, a report issued by Doctors Without Borders in September 2017 confirmed the existence of a wide network of kidnapping, torture and extortion in Libya. On November 14, 2017, a report was broadcast by CNN showed that two young people were offered for sale in the auction for $ 400 each to work on a farm. They are also held for two or three months in prison.
* The places controlled by ISIS, some reports declared that ISIS armed militants, especially in their former main areas of influence in Syria and Iraq, were selling women and girls to enslavement or sexual exploitation.
* **Online Slavery:** Some economic and social developments have led to increasing rates of contemporary slavery. The levels of economic prosperity in some Gulf countries led to the recruitment of foreign workers, especially domestic workers who come from some Asian countries. An official Gulf study affirmed the existence of more than two million domestic workers in the Gulf countries who doing their work without legal permissions. Thus, they face multiple problems mainly as ill-treatment and sexual abuse, as well as non-payment of salaries or delay in payment. In addition to not giving the workers sufficient time to rest. A new form of the slave market has spread on social networking sites. Dozens of groups on Facebook with thousands of members linking women seeking jobs as employers to the employers in the Gulf states. This online sector represents a black market for domestic workers that are bought and sold online.
* **Forced labor:** in the sense of forcing someone to do work without remuneration or for a small wage, which does not guarantee them a dignified life. Or through the exploitation of women in prostitution and children in hard labor. The most prominent example is the situation of workers in Qatar, as they faced usual persecution and difficult working conditions. Thousands of migrant workers of Asian descent who work in construction sites find themselves in conditions like slavery times. That's especially under the unfair conditions in which workers work and cause the deaths of hundreds, including a temperature rise above 50 degrees, in addition to the sponsorship system.
* **REFERENCES:**

1. يحي زايد، القضاء على العبودية والعبودية الجديدة، نظرة للدراسات النسوية، 2 ديسمبر 2012: <https://bit.ly/2CBIzQl>
2. لرق الجديد: مظاهر العبودية الحديثة في الشرق الأوسط، مركز المستقبل للأبحاث والدراسات المتقدمة، 27 نوفمبر 2017، الرابط، <https://bit.ly/2OoXe64>
3. العمالة المنزلية بالدول الخليجية...استثمار للبلاد أم استعباد للعباد، قناة العالم، 22 يوليو 2018، الرابط، <https://bit.ly/2TSqSH7>
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5. 4000 شخص يتعرضون للعبودية الحديثة في قطر، كيوبوست، 22 يوليو 2018، الرابط، <https://bit.ly/2uVKcDU>

Q5: **Today’s anti-slavery.**

**This section will take stock of the current anti-slavery movement and provide an overview of what we know about what works in tackling modern slavery at the national, regional and global level. The section will then analyze what this tells us about which aspects of tomorrow’s potential slavery might be tackled and/or prevented by today’s anti-slavery strategies, and which aspects may require new strategies.**

There are many initiatives and development plans that end and reduce the risks of contemporary slavery in the world. One of the most prominent of these plans is SDGs Strategy 2030, particularly, its objectives (7 and 8) and its initiatives related to these goals to end contemporary slavery and other forms of exploitation of human beings. The goals of these strategies can be summed up in the need to ensure decent work and economic growth for all; ensuring the private sector respect for human rights; adopts a comprehensive approach to the protection of human rights as well as the political will to achieve that and develops a comprehensive national response to the elimination of contemporary forms of slavery. These strategies can be achieved through Social, economic, legislative and judicial trends that work together at the national and international levels to eliminate all forms of human exploitation including modern slavery.

On the other hand, there is a need to create new strategies focus on finding ways in which workers can enjoy their rights. For instance, improving working conditions and employment procedures for migrant workers. As well as ensuring timely payment of wages, enhance labor inspection and occupational safety and health standards. New strategies should be also developed to protect workers from forced labor and giving workers a voice on work-related matters. In addition to their ability to access information about their rights in the country of destination and access to legal advice and training, a group work platform and trade union support for complaints.

Moreover, it can be said that the current strategies, especially those relating to migrant workers subject to forced labor and other forms of modern slavery, are not enforced and have not been implemented in many countries. The most prominent example of the ineffective strategies that dealing with modern forms of slavery is "Qatari one" due to "the national violations of the rights of migrant workers". Workers in Qatar are often classified under forced labor and slavery. Some international reports indicate exploitation, slavery, ill-treatment and harsh working conditions, especially for workers in infrastructure projects and sports facilities prepared for the World Cup in 2022 in Qatar. Despite the measures taken by the Qatari government, the human rights organizations believe that these measures have not met the minimum requirement.

The Qatari government has signed 36 agreements protecting labor rights with countries that provide most of its workforce in the last third of October 2017, most of them Asian, particularly, Nepalese. However, they are just cover to its violations as the workers face exploitation and abuses in form of modern slavery. According to the International Labor Organization, the Nepalese government has announced the death of 188 of its nationals working in Doha in 2014 and 168 in 2013. They were died due to long working hours, high temperatures, lack of safety procedures in the workplace and their poor living conditions.

Those agreements related to the determining a minimum level of wages and the establishment of an employment support fund to help workers with undue benefits. They were also to allow workers to change employers and contracts and impose fines on employers who confiscated workers' passports. The Qatari government has also announced that the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs will investigate with the contracting companies involved in these violations. Then, it has consistently denied allegations of abuse of migrant labor rights.

In 2014, the Qatar's supreme committee for Delivery and Legacy issued the labor sponsorship standards that apply to companies involved in the construction of FIFA World Cup sites. In order to support workers' welfare and to provide a place for workers' complaints. The supreme Committee has established workers' care forums, as well as training courses for workers and a hotline for their grievances. In a cooperation with the Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI), joint labor inspections are carried out on a regular basis in the supreme commission's projects. It announced that contractors involved in FIFA projects agreed to compensate workers for their employment fees.

However, these measures cover only about 2% of all migrant workers in the country. Thus, there is a duplication of work in Qatar between the small number of sites currently under the international spotlight and all other sites. On the other hand, there are lack of information, lack of time or lack of confidence in existing mechanisms to solve their problems. Employers also escape from their obligation to remedies because of lack of application by the State. Domestic workers, most of whom are women, face a more difficult situation in terms of abuse and exploitation because Qatar's new labor law excludes domestic workers. In addition to labor violations, many domestic workers are subjected to physical and sexual abuse. They also can't resort to remedies as long as they live in controlled places in their employers' private houses with no lack of freedom of movement or times of rest and restriction of telephone and Internet use.

* **REFERENCES:** 1) Accountability for forced labor in globalized economy: lessons and challenges in litigation, with examples from Qatar, ECCHR, p.7- 9, link, <https://www.ecchr.eu/fileadmin/Publikationen/ECCHR_QATAR.pdf>

2) الرق الجديد: مظاهر العبودية الحديثة في الشرق الأوسط، مركز المستقبل للأبحاث والدراسات المتقدمة، 27 نوفمبر 2017، الرابط، <https://bit.ly/2OoXe64>

3) مذكرة مقدمة من الامين العام حول اشكال الرق المعاصر بما في ذلك اسباتبها  وعواقبها، الدورة الثانية والسبعون للجمعية العامة للامم المتحدة ، الرابط،  <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/216/30/PDF/N1721630.pdf?OpenElement>

Q6: **Tomorrow’s anti-slavery.**

**This section will explore how the anti-slavery movement can adapt to effectively tackle current and future drivers of modern slavery, including new technologies, methods and partnerships.**

Slavery seems to create a long-term obstacle to development, reducing the wages and productivity of entire societies, reducing tax revenues and removing valuable human capital from the economy. Slaves are unintended factors for the intergenerational economic recession. Acceptance of slavery means abandoning human, commercial and national development and tolerating increased physical and mental harm, causing public health burdens. It often also causing considerable environmental damage. This means that the fight against slavery is a smart development strategy. Therefore, in September 2015, world leaders committed themselves to adopting the 2030 Sustainable Development strategy. That's including; taking immediate and effective measures to eliminate forced labor, end modern slavery and trafficking in human beings. As well as ensuring the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including the recruitment and use of children as soldiers. All of that are in accordance with sustainable development objectives VII and VIII.

There is a need for a global framework for collective action to mobilize resources, coordinate strategy, know what needs to be done and maintain reforms around the world in the face of resistance due to private interests, as well as:

* The need to establish a comprehensive approach to the issue of modern slavery with contributions from government, industry sector and non-governmental organizations. In addition to developming large-scale programs to address the specific challenges associated with the causes of slavery that faced by farmers, migrant workers and hunters.
* Develop tools, materials and training that support the development of best practice approaches to business and human rights. Also, supporting the best practices through collaboration, researches and working with concerning authorities to defend the abolition of illegal and immoral practices whenever they exist.
* Develop e-learning modules to raise awareness of contemporary forms of slavery among public service employees. The work should be coordinated between the relevant governmental institutions in countries of origin and of destination and the specialized organizations responsible for migration, border control and other areas of work facing victims of modern slavery or trafficking in human beings. Such e-learning modules should include the details of the legislative context, how and to whom slavery cases and various kinds of slavery are reported, as well as providing support for victims and survivors.

Indeed, governments should adopt policies and inject funding resources for social protection, livelihood development, basic urban infrastructure development and disaster risk management; to reduce forced migrations due to poor environmental conditions and to promote the return of vulnerable communities. If environmental changes are managed properly and efforts are made to protect the rights of migrants, migration can provide sustainable benefits for the region of origin and destination as well as migrants themselves.

For instance, those methods could be applied in the case of Qatar as follows: 1) pressuring on the Qatari authorities to abolish the sponsorship system, especially that the International Labor Federation has confirmed that there are more than 4 thousand workers at risk and threatened to die in Qatar until 2020 with the completion of construction works; 2) activating the law regulating the conditions of domestic workers in Qatar and to make further reforms related to working hours, safe working environment and employment fees, also taking into account their needs based on the specific characteristics of this work in order to protect migrant domestic workers. Generally, all countries must be pressured to provide national mechanisms to address and criminalize contemporary forms of slavery.

* **REFERENCES:** 1) How can we tackle modern slavery, Fairtrade Foundation, 24 june,2018, link. <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/Media-Centre/Blog/2018/July/How-can-we-tackle-modern-slavery>

2) James, Cockayne. "Why we need a global partnership to end modern slavery." United Nations University, (December 2015). <https://d1r4g0yjvcc7lx.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/Unshackling-Development-FINAL-FOR-EMAIL.pdf>