A Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

ONE YEAR ON

24.09.2018
FOREWORD

Around the world, some 40 million men, women and children are trapped in the horrors of modern slavery, forced labour and human trafficking. Tackling this trade in human misery has long been a priority of mine, but it’s something no one leader or nation can hope to eradicate on their own. Affecting every country in the world, it is a truly global challenge that requires a united global response.

At last year’s UN General Assembly, I launched the Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, which was endorsed by 37 nations. Since then this number has more than doubled, as Presidents and Prime Ministers stand up to make their voices heard on this vital issue.

The Call to Action has already inspired change around the world – and this brochure sets out just some of the significant steps made by governments and business over the past year. So we have already made much progress, but we can and must do more. Tens of millions of people are suffering and we have a responsibility to help them. Now let us work together and do just that.

Prime Minister Theresa May, 2018
Launched by Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom and other world leaders at the UN General Assembly in 2017, the Call to Action began with 37 endorsements, and 12 months on has now has 80 endorsements, making it a truly global sign of commitment.

Despite the positive progress, more needs to be done. We cannot treat these issues of forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking in isolation. These are complex crimes, and we need to reach out across borders, across mandates, and demonstrate that we have the will to work together to end this brutal exploitation – however we choose to define it. The Call to Action provides the framework for countries to join up to share best practice and work together, and highlights the need for private and wider public sector engagement to deliver real change.

Further information on which countries have endorsed the Call to Action can be found on the Delta 8.7 – The Alliance 8.7 Knowledge Platform at www.delta87.org/call-to-action
THE FACTS

40.3 million people are in modern slavery

25 million victims of forced labour; 16 million in the private economy

1 in 4 victims of modern slavery are children

4.8 million people are forced into sexual exploitation

99% of people trafficked for sexual exploitation are women and girls

$150 billion – illegal profits generated by forced labour in the private economy each year
The Australian Government has introduced legislation to Parliament to enact a Commonwealth Modern Slavery Act. The Act will establish a national Modern Slavery Reporting Requirement to support Australian businesses to respond to modern slavery and increase information available to consumers and investors. Australia, together with Indonesia, is driving action with the private sector via the newly established Bali Process Government and Business Forum. Australia is also working to increase global innovation and collaboration as Chair of Alliance 8.7.

Bahrain’s Labour Market Regulatory Authority has launched their first assistance fund for victims of human trafficking. The fund covers the costs of essential services for victims and provides both a grant that victims of trafficking may use for reintegration in their country of origin or to support their re-employment in Bahrain, and a monthly salary to substitute any lost income.

The Nigerian Government chartered return flights of Nigerian migrants, many of which are victims of trafficking, from Libya, with NAPTIP officers screening arrivals. The Nigerian led Joint Border Task Force has had recent operational successes including the successful prosecution of Josephine Iyamu under UK the Modern Slavery Act and the protection of 39 victims found in Spain.

The Canadian government is currently going through a domestic and international stakeholder consultation process to develop a new iteration of their National Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons which ended in March 2016. Canada has announced funding of $14.5m to develop measures in addition to those in the NAP, including a victim hotline, the creation of a National Referral Mechanism, and additional measures for evidence collection. The Canadian department for public procurement is also reviewing and updating its current Code of Conduct on federal procurement to include ethical and socially responsible behaviours.

Over the last year, the United States has deepened its engagement with survivors of human trafficking through the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking to improve federal anti-trafficking efforts. The Council released its second report last December, and the U.S. government has collaborated with the Council to implement its recommendations on enhancing training, public awareness, and victim assistance. This March, President Trump appointed nine survivor leaders to serve on the Council. Such steps give survivors a meaningful seat at the table to help guide policy, ensure government adopts a victim-centered approach, and serve as a model we hope other governments will replicate.

The Government of Bangladesh has made a significant effort to prevent human trafficking by formulating, in 2017, three separate rules including a Human Trafficking Authority Rule and a Human Trafficking Fund Rule for implementing the Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Act 2012. After successful implementation of two consecutive 3-year long National Plans of Action (NPA) for combating human trafficking, the next 5-year long NPA for 2018-2022 is now in its final stage.

Argentina has prioritised tackling labour exploitation in global supply chains, with a specific focus on child labour centred on the pledges made at the IV Global Conference held in Buenos Aires in November 2017.
CHANGE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Multilateral forums
The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2388, which is the second resolution on trafficking in persons in conflict situations after Resolution 2331.

The first ICAT Principals meeting was held in May 2018, where twenty three agencies met at Heads level to discuss UN coordination and agreed the strategic direction for the ICAT going forward.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting led to further endorsements of the Call to Action, with all Commonwealth members committing to take action on this issue in the Summit Communiqué.

Since the beginning of 2018, 30 countries have expressed their interest to become a potential pathfinder country of the Alliance 8.7. Six countries (Albania, Chile, Nepal, Peru, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan) have requested guidance and/or support to organise respective national consultation workshops.

Evidence
The United Nations University, in partnership with Alliance 8.7, have developed a knowledge Platform with funding from the UK Government which will accelerate the scientific study of “what works” and host an online data base with information on country action to support research and best practice: www.delta87.org/call-to-action

Resourcing
In November 2017, the USA and UK co-hosted the first global donors’ coordination meeting which was attended by Canada, Australia, Argentina, Switzerland and the Netherlands. In June 2018, European donors came together in Brussels to share information on programming and policy priorities, and identify opportunities for closer collaboration.

Supply Chains and Procurement
The UK is a co-partner of the UN Global Compact’s Decent Work platform alongside the ILO, UNICEF and SAP Ariba. Through this platform 17 UNGC signatories are engaging in cross-sector collaboration to tackle decent work challenges such as modern slavery.

The USA, UK, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand have agreed four new principles for governments to tackle modern slavery in global supply chains. The five countries recognize the leveraging potential of their combined purchasing power - totalling more than US $600bn annually - to significantly prevent forced labour in supply chains.

Ratification of International Protocols
25 countries have now ratified the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention.
Providing safe, legal and freely-chosen employment in its facilities and supply chains is critically important to Thai Union. The company has significant programs in place for its own employees, and also partners with specialist organizations and NGOs to ensure those working in the wider industry are protected. At Thai Union, traceability is the backbone of sustainability. Full traceability of all Thai Union’s seafood products from catch to consumption will help accurately identify gaps in safe and legal labor and, critically, give workers a voice.

Since 2017 Walmart has been a Supporting Member of the Responsible Business Alliance, and is also a Board member of the Consumer Goods Forum, which brings together more than 400 retailers, manufacturers and service providers in the consumer goods industry to create positive change across the retail industry. In 2017, Walmart took up a seat on the Steering Committee for the Leadership Group for Responsible Recruitment, and is working alongside other members to increase demand for ethically sourced labour in Thailand and Malaysia. Walmart is also the US business representative to the Bali Process Government and Business Forum.

In 2017, Aviva continued working with the UN Global Compact, for which they are part of the UK working group on modern slavery which brings together peers from across different industry sectors to share learnings and information to support work in tackling modern slavery. Aviva is also a founding member of Business Against Slavery working group convened by the Home Office. This working group focuses on sharing best practice and working on tangible initiatives to combat modern slavery.

In 2018, Humanity United teamed up with leading brands, foundations, and impact investors to launch "Working Capital", a venture fund with the goal of building scalable solutions to improve labour practices in the global operations and extended supply chains of multinational corporations: http://workingcapitalfund.com/

Rani’s Voice, a global social enterprise focused on human trafficking prevention, joined forces with Thomson Reuters to help step up the fight against financial crime and modern slavery. Their aim is to mobilise and influence decision-makers at the highest levels to increase awareness of financial crime and modern slavery, promote more effective information sharing, and establish enhanced processes to share best practices.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION...

If you would like further information on how your country can endorse the Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, please contact Call-to-Action-RSVP@dfid.gov.uk