

Human Trafficking for Forced Labour



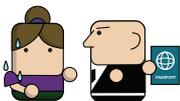
Forced labour is a common way of exploiting human trafficking victims. It is when violence or intimidation is used to make someone work against his or her will.



It is estimated that human trafficking for forced labour generates US\$51.8 billion each year in illegal profits in Asia.¹



Debt bondage, the practice of forcing someone to pay off a loan by working for an agreed-upon or unclear period of time for little or no salary, is a common method of intimidation in situations of forced labour.²



Victims of forced labour in Asia Pacific often live in substandard housing, are not paid their full salaries and have their identification and travel documents taken away in order to prevent them from leaving the job.³



Victims of trafficking for forced labour are often housed in dormitories controlled by the employer or trafficker. These dormitories frequently lack proper sanitation and are far away from urban centers, leaving workers

isolated. Trafficking victims are sometimes locked in until they have completed their contract.⁴



Vulnerable individuals such as migrants, ethnic minorities or socially marginalized groups face higher risks of being trafficked for forced labour. Due to economic pressure or social barriers to finding work these individuals agree to offers from recruiters who turn out to be traffickers.⁵



Many industries rely on fraudulent recruitment agencies or brokers who misinform or deceive workers about the nature and conditions of the job. Human

trafficking victims are commonly subjected to contract switching, where the contract they sign initially is replaced with a different one when they arrive at the place of work.⁶



The harvesting or production of seasonal products is a process that is often also linked to trafficking of victims for forced labour. In agriculture harvesting, the seasons can be

short and additional workers are needed temporarily. Also electronics, clothing and accessories see an increase in demand at certain times of the year and more workers are needed short term. In such situations, employers sometimes resort to labour trafficking to fill the additional demand. Trafficked seasonal workers are often not paid a fair wage (or any wage at all) and are forced to work long hours.⁷

Jobs that rely on low-skilled labour and 3D jobs (dirty, dangerous and difficult) can sometimes involve workers being trafficked for forced labour because these jobs are often low-paid and undesired by local workers.⁸ For example:



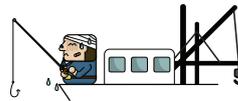
Manufacturing: Trafficking victims face risks to their physical health, such as being forced to work in factories without appropriate protections, and being exposed to toxic chemicals, which can cause permanent damage to eyes, lungs or skin, and potentially cause cancer.⁹



Agriculture: Trafficked agricultural workers often suffer from heat stroke due to exposure to intense sunlight and thick layers of clothing. They are not provided with enough shade, breaks or drinking water, making them more prone to heat stroke and heart related conditions.¹⁰



Construction: Construction work is a dangerous job with the risk of injury or death resulting from falling from heights, being hit by objects, using dangerous equipment and exposure to dust, vapor and asbestos or other chemicals. Trafficking victims in construction work often lack protective gear that can help prevent injuries and have little leverage to express grievances over unsafe work environments.¹¹



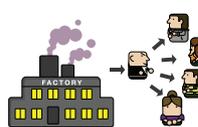
Fishing: Working conditions on fishing boats are often extremely difficult.

Trafficked fishermen sometimes face 18-20 hour workdays, live in cramped quarters, face drinking water and food shortages, and are forced to work even when they are tired or ill. They also typically experience severe exploitation, including beatings, lack of pay and psychological trauma from witnessing violence and murder.¹²



Domestic work: Some domestic workers experience low or no pay, excessive working hours, no weekly day off, living in poor and unsafe conditions, inflated agency fees, and forced confinement. Severe forms of exploitation

include starvation, sexual abuse or rape, denial of health care services, being surveilled by cameras, having to ask to use the bathroom and psychological abuse.¹³



In some cases, employers outsource the task of recruitment to other companies (subcontractors) as part of their supply chain. This approach is highly vulnerable to human trafficking and becomes increasingly difficult to monitor as the number of links in the supply chain increases.¹⁴

IOM X is the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) innovative campaign to encourage safe migration and public action to stop exploitation and human trafficking. The campaign is produced in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

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¹ International Labour Organization (ILO), 2014, Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour p. 13.

² United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), 2015, Trafficking for Forced Labour.

³ Verité, 2012, Human Trafficking & Global Supply Chains: A Background Paper p. 18.

⁴ Verité, 2015, Strengthening Protections Against Trafficking in Persons in Federal and Corporate Supply Chains p. 127.

⁵ Ibid, p. 8.

⁶ Ibid, p. 9-11.

⁷ Ibid, p. 8-9.

⁸ Ibid, p. 8.

⁹ Ibid, p. 51; 127.

¹⁰ Ibid, p. 29.

¹¹ Ibid, p. 42.

¹² EJI, 2013, Sold to the Sea - Human Trafficking in Thailand's Fishing Industry.

¹³ The Guardian, 2015, "The Global Plight of Domestic Workers: Few Rights, Little Freedom, Frequent Abuse" (17 March 2015).

¹⁴ Verité, 2015, Strengthening Protections Against Trafficking in Persons in Federal and Corporate Supply Chains p. 8-11.



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