

Exploitative Work Is A Contemporary Form of Slavery

Joint Oral Statement under Item 3 – Clustered Debate with the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Including Its Causes and Its Consequences, submitted for the 27th Regular Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council by Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities), Association Points-Coeur, Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, Company of the Daughters of Charity of Vincent de Paul, Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of Preachers), Edmund Rice International, International Catholic Child Bureau, International Institute of Mary Our Help of the Salesians Sisters of Don Bosco IIMA, International Kolping Society, International Young Christian Workers, International Movement of Apostolate in the Independent Social Milieus, Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs and International Movement of Catholic Students), VIDES International (International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education, Development) and World Movement of Christian Workers

Caritas Internationalis and other 13 NGOs welcome and support the priorities of the newly appointed Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, and stand ready to further collaborate with her for the fulfilment of the mandate.

Contemporary forms of slavery continue to exist across both developed and developing countries, and efforts to combat such injustices must remain a vital priority.

The co-signers recognize that women, low-skilled migrant workers, indigenous people, children, youth, IDPs and other marginalized groups subjected to discrimination are most at risk and vulnerable to exploitation.¹ When human persons live in vulnerable conditions, they are more susceptible to entrapment in unfit working situations and financial dependency on employers who exploit their services².

The international community, including governments, employers and workers organizations, the private sector and civil society, must maintain and increase efforts to eradicate poverty through the promotion of decent work, good quality jobs and social protection, for all workers in all sectors of the economy, including the informal economy.

Finally, specific attention should be paid to fundamental principles and rights at work as well as to the provision of adequate, fair, and portable social protection, at levels that conform to universal human rights and international labour standards. Equally important are efforts to eradicate all exploitative work and any other forms of modern-day slavery as well as to establish efficient redress mechanisms for survivors.

It is the duty and responsibility of all stakeholders involved in the world of work to cooperate in the achievement of these goals. When all are engaged through a true spirit of justice and fairness, such commitment represents a source of hope.

¹ Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences A/HRC/27/53.

² The International Labour Organisation uses the term “exploitation” in circumstances where the potential victims are particularly vulnerable because of criminal activity involved (trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation); their outsider status (indigenous peoples) or their foreign status (migrant workers); and the circumstances of their employment make them particularly vulnerable. http://www.ilo.org/empent/areas/business-helpdesk/WCMS_DOC_ENT_HLP_FL_FAQ_EN/lang--en/index.htm.