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Building a global alliance against forced labour

18 – 22 June 2007
Turin, Italy

Special Action
Programme
to Combat
Forced Labour
(SAP-FL)

ITC 
International Training Centre

The ILO estimates that at least 12.3 million women, men and children across the world are victims of forced labour today. They are trapped in exploitative work which they are unable to leave, suffering at the hands of unscrupulous employers, labour contractors or agents. They may be victims of trafficking into commercial sexual exploitation but, more often, they are working in "mainstream" economic sectors like agriculture, construction or informal manufacturing, frequently labouring under the burden of a debt which they can never repay. Many, especially women and girls, are trapped in forced domestic service in private households, well beyond the reach of the protections afforded by labour law. Irregular migrant workers are highly vulnerable to forced labour exploitation, living and working in constant fear of being turned over to the authorities in their "host" country. Indigenous peoples are also among the most vulnerable, for whom forced labour is another facet of the discrimination they face in all aspects of their lives. A minority - but still a significant number of people - suffer forced labour imposed directly by the State or by its representatives. Everywhere, in rich and poor countries alike, forced labour affects the poorest and the most socially marginalized groups in the population.

Forced labour, wherever it occurs, represents a brake on social and economic development and a violation of human rights. The ILO's clear message is that it must be stopped, and soon, and that it can be stopped. The numbers of people affected are large, but not so large that abolition appears an unattainable goal. The ILO Director-General has pledged that the ILO will play a leading role in building a Global Alliance to tackle problems of forced labour head-on, aiming to eliminate the problem by 2015.

At the international level, the necessary instruments are already in place - the ILO's own Forced Labour Conventions, along with the various long-standing UN instruments that address particular forms of forced labour, including slavery, more recently supplemented by the UN Convention against Transnational Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

Many of the solutions to forced labour at national level are already known, among other: national labour laws against forced labour and trafficking, criminal laws in place to identify and punish traffickers and other exploiters; law enforcement institutions adequately prepared to face forced labour and trafficking situations; better victim protection through strengthened mechanisms for identification, investigation and prosecution; effective systems of assistance, support and rehabilitation of victims; heightened knowledge among vulnerable communities of the dangers of forced labour and trafficking and how to avoid them; social and economic empowerment prevention programmes; and public awareness programmes and initiatives.

Over recent year, National Action Plans (NAPs) against forced labour have been implemented and developed in many countries and have represented a major step in the eradication of forced labour and trafficking, in particular when they have been coordinated with policy and legislative actions.

All these actions taken at national and international level will only be really effective through the creation of a strong alliance of partners at all levels. Each has a role to play in putting the pieces of the jigsaw together, so that forced labour can finally be relegated to history. Action by Governments is

certainly essential, but is not enough. It must be complemented by concerted action on the part of partners in civil society, particularly ILO's social partners - representatives of employers' and workers' organizations, with their special access to the people who are most directly affected by forced labour - but also others with the capacity to act and exert influence at different levels. While the broad lines of effective action to combat forced labour have already been identified, these need to be fine-tuned and adapted to address the specificities of forced labour encountered in different regional and national contexts. Building the capacity of those people charged with implementing the law and helping the actual and potential victims of forced labour is fundamental. Knowledgeable and motivated people, working together, are the most critical element in an effective global alliance against forced labour.



Learning objectives

By the end of this five-day training, participants will be knowledgeable about the characteristics of different forms of forced labour and trafficking in all their aspects, around the world, and about the main means of action and partnerships required to combat them at the national, regional and global levels. Particular attention will be given to the analysis of NAPs and of relevant measures: legislative action, law enforcement and prevention, to better combat against forced labour and trafficking.



Participants' profile

This course is designed to attract professionals who have a role to play in combating today's forced labour, whether in its traditional or new forms, and in developing, transition or industrialized countries. Government officials working in Ministries of labour, justice or interior; members of employers' and workers' organizations working on promotion of core labour standards; and academics and activists engaged in the fight against forced labour.

Participants working on design, management and implementation of NAPs and participants with direct experience of working with the victims of forced labour and trafficking are particularly welcome.



Structure and content of the seminar

This one-week course will offer a broad overview of forced labour, its different manifestations and the actions needed to eradicate it by the various constituent members of the global alliance. It will:

- give a brief historical introduction to slavery, forced labour and trafficking;

- introduce and explain important definitions and concepts relating to forced labour and trafficking;
- present a global overview of patterns, extent and types of forced labour in the world today, covering both traditional and more modern forms;
- examine briefly data collection and monitoring systems, with the aim of helping participants to learn how to better collect national and international data on forced labour and trafficking;
- focus on NAPs: overview on existing NAPs, main elements, procedures and role of governments and social partners in their adoption and implementation;
- analyze the link between forced labour and different national legislations (labour law, criminal law etc.), the importance of law enforcement and prosecution of offenders;
- provide an overview on preventive measures to combat forced labour and trafficking; legal, social and economic responses will be considered, as well as victims empowerment strategies;
- look at strategies to raise awareness and to build partnerships against forced labour and trafficking at local, national and international levels.



Methodology

Training is presented using a variety of techniques and media. In addition to "classroom" sessions involving ILO and other professionals representing the fields of law, labour administration, statistics, sociology, group activities are foreseen to examine case studies and formulate practical recommendations. The course will seek to draw on the first hand experience of the participants to the maximum extent possible, using this as a basis for country-specific analysis of different types of forced labour situations. Video presentations are used to illustrate examples of forced labour and trafficking. The course will include a study visit to an Italian policy station dealing with human trafficking and forced labour issues. It will use, on a pilot basis, materials from a training manual on forced labour prepared by the ILO/ITC. At the end of the course participants will be requested to provide an evaluation of course methodology and content.

Course language

English

Cost of participation

The cost of participation in this seminar includes tuition cost and optional subsistence cost.

Tuition cost is US\$ 1,570 and covers:

- Tuition
- Books and training materials

- Course preparation, implementation and evaluation

Subsistence cost is US\$ 1,095 and covers

- Full board and lodging at the Centre's Campus
- Laundry
- Local study visits
- Standards daily allowance to cover incidental expenses (12 Euros/day)
- Minor medical care and emergency medical insurance
- Socio-cultural activities

The total cost of participation (USD 2,665) does not include travel costs between your home and the course venue, costs of passports, visas to enter Italy and airport taxes.

Payment should be made in advance by bank transfer to:

- International Training Centre of the ILO
- Account no. 9136496
- Bank: San Paolo IMI Ag. CIF/OIL 701
- IBAN: IT14 B010 2501 1911 3010 9136496 - BIC IBSPITTM
- Address: Viale Maestri del Lavoro 10, 10127 Turin, Italy

NB: on the bank transfer form, kindly state your name and the course code.

Fellowships

Fellowships are available to qualifying candidates.

The employers' organizations and the workers' organizations to be granted a fellowship for this activity will be selected by the Secretaries of the Employers' Group and of the Workers' Group of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office.

Applications

Applications to participate should be addressed to:

Manager, Standards and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Programme

International Training Centre of the ILO, Viale Maestri del Lavoro 10 - 10127 Turin, Italy

(Tel. +39 011 693 6626; Fax +39 011 693 6906; E-mail: normesturin@itcilo.org)

They should be supported by a curriculum vitae and a nomination letter from the sponsoring/funding institution.

As an organization dedicated to fundamental human rights and social justice, the ILO is taking a leading role in international efforts to promote gender equality. In line with this ILO focus, women candidates are especially encouraged to apply.

For further information, please contact:

International Training Centre of the ILO
Standards and Fundamental Principles and Rights
at Work Programme
Viale Maestri del Lavoro 10
10127 Turin (Italy)

Phone: +39 011 693 6626

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