



Australian  
Human Rights  
Commission

# WORLD PROGRAMME FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION – FOURTH PHASE

**AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
SUBMISSION TO OFFICE OF THE HIGH  
COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR)**

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## **1 Introduction**

The Australian Human Rights Commission (the Commission) provides this response to the note verable circulated by the Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR) on 16 March 2018.

This submission provides the Australian Human Rights Commission (the Commission) view on the focus and target sectors for the fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

## **2 Context**

Over 40 million people worldwide are victims of some form of modern slavery. This includes 25 million people in forced labour and 15 million people in forced marriage. There were 5.4 victims of modern slavery for every thousand people in the world in 2016. One in four victims of modern slavery are children. Women and girls accounted for 71% of modern slavery victims. One in four victims of modern slavery were children. In the past five years, 89 million people experienced some form of modern slavery for periods of time ranging from a few days to five years<sup>1</sup>.

Modern slavery occurs in every region of the world. An estimated 40.3 million people were victims of modern slavery in 2016<sup>2</sup>. This 9.24 million people in Africa, 1.95 million people in the Americas, 520,000 in Arab States, 24.99 million in Asia and the Pacific and 3.59 million in Europe and Central America<sup>3</sup>. According to the 2016 Global Index 4,300 people live in modern slavery in Australia<sup>4</sup>.

Concerted global action against child labour commenced in the mid-1990s, which has resulted in a substantial reduction in child labour. Concerted global efforts to address contemporary forced labour only started in the mid-2000s – and no such reduction has occurred in forced labour, despite policy and other responses put in place by many countries<sup>5</sup>.

## **3 Focus area**

Given the global scale and prevalence of modern slavery, the Commission recommends the focus area / thematic human rights issue for the fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education is modern slavery.

The Commission's suggested focus of the fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education aligns with commitment made in Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 8.7<sup>6</sup>. It also aligns with SDGs 5.2, 5.3 and 16.2<sup>7</sup>. The Commission's suggested focus of the fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education would complement the work undertaken by the ILO led Alliance 8.7 initiative. Alliance 8.7 recognises that their implementation requires integrated thinking and coordination at different levels<sup>8</sup>. The Commission suggests the World Programme for Human Rights Education synergises, coordinates and supports efforts undertaken by Alliance 8.7 to address modern slavery.

The Commission recommends that the fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education take into consideration the indicators of SDGs 5.2 and 8.7 when developing the fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

Ending modern slavery requires a multi-faceted response addressing economic, social, cultural and legal factors that results in modern slavery. Human rights based education on modern slavery through the fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education will contribute to: greater awareness of modern slavery particularly amongst target sectors; coordinated and action at a global level; the empowerment of women, men and children to claim their rights; and combatting modern slavery.

#### **4 Target sector**

The 2017 Global Estimates of Modern Slavery (the Global Estimates) indicate that the vast majority of forced labour occurs in the private economy, underscoring the importance of focusing on educating the business community alongside employers and workers' organisations, in eradicating forced labour in business operations and supply chains<sup>9</sup>.

The Global Estimates further indicate that much of forced labour today occurs in agriculture, construction, manufacturing, domestic service and the commercial sex industry. People working in these sectors and industries are often migrant workers, working in the informal economy or work under contractual or geographical conditions, which pose serious challenges for law enforcement, including labour inspection, making these individuals the most vulnerable and least protected<sup>10</sup>.

The Commission recommends the fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education focuses on the general public, private businesses, and employers and workers' organisations. The Commission recommends the target sectors include the agriculture, construction, manufacturing, domestic service and the commercial sex industry.

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<sup>1</sup> ILO, IOM and Walkfree Foundation, *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery* (2017), 5. At [http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS\\_575479/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_575479/lang--en/index.htm) (viewed 2 May 2018)

<sup>2</sup> ILO, IOM and Walkfree Foundation, *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery* (2017), 19. At [http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS\\_575479/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_575479/lang--en/index.htm) (viewed 11 May 2018)

<sup>3</sup> ILO, IOM and Walkfree Foundation, *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery* (2017), 9. At [http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS\\_575479/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_575479/lang--en/index.htm) (viewed 11 May 2018)

<sup>4</sup> The Minderoo Foundation, *Global Slavery Index* (2016), 29. At <http://downloads.globalslaveryindex.org/GSI-2016-Full-Report-1526006343.pdf> (viewed 11 May 2018);

<sup>5</sup> International Labour Organisation, Alliance 8.7 Working together to end child labour and modern slavery, 2. At: [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/genericdocument/wcms\\_421047.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/genericdocument/wcms_421047.pdf) (viewed 2 May 2018)

<sup>6</sup> Sustainable Development Goal 8.7: take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

<sup>7</sup> Sustainable Development Goal 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation. Sustainable Development Goal 5.3: eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations; Sustainable Development Goal 16.2: end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children.

<sup>8</sup> International Labour Organisation, Alliance 8.7 Working together to end child labour and modern slavery, 1. At: [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/genericdocument/wcms\\_421047.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/genericdocument/wcms_421047.pdf) (viewed 2 May 2018)

<sup>9</sup> ILO, IOM and Walkfree Foundation, *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery* (2017), 12. At [http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS\\_575479/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_575479/lang--en/index.htm) (viewed 2 May 2018)

<sup>10</sup> ILO, IOM and Walkfree Foundation, *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery* (2017), 51. At [http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS\\_575479/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_575479/lang--en/index.htm) (viewed 2 May 2018)