

# Breaking News English.com

**UN says 50 million are in 'modern slavery' – 15th September, 2022**

## **Level 0**

About 50 million people are enslaved today. They are forced into jobs or marriages. The UN said one in 150 people is enslaved. This number is growing because of coronavirus, climate change, and the cost of living crisis. People are poor. They can only survive by working in terrible conditions or terrible marriages.

The UN wanted to end modern slavery by 2030. However, it is increasing. It happens when people cannot say no because of threats. The UN said: "It would be a mistake to believe that forced labour is [only] the problem of poor countries." Over half of forced workers and a quarter of forced marriages are in richer countries.

## **Level 1**

Slavery still exists. The United Nations says about 50 million people are enslaved today. They are in forced labour or marriages. The U.N. said one in 150 people in the world is enslaved. This number increased by 20 per cent in the past few years. It is growing because of coronavirus, climate change, and the cost of living crisis. These have made many people poor. They can only survive by working in terrible conditions having an unwanted marriage.

The UN hoped to end modern slavery by 2030. However, the number of people in forced labour or forced marriage has increased. Slavery happens when people "cannot refuse or cannot leave because of threats". This problem is not just in poor countries. The UN said: "It would be a mistake to believe that forced labour is solely the problem of poor countries." Over half of forced workers and a quarter of forced marriages are in richer countries.

## **Level 2**

Slavery is not just a thing of the past. A report from the United Nations agency the International Labour Organization (ILO) says about 50 million people are enslaved today. They are trapped in forced labour or marriages. The ILO said one in 150 people in the world is enslaved. This figure increased by 20 per cent in the past few years. It is still growing because of the coronavirus pandemic, climate change, and the cost of living crisis. These things have made many people poor. The only way they can survive is to work in terrible conditions or be forced into unwanted marriages.

In 2016, the UN hoped to end modern slavery by 2030. However, the number of people in forced labour or forced marriage shot up by 10 million. The ILO said slavery happens when people "cannot refuse or cannot leave because of threats, violence...abuse of power or other forms of [force]". This problem is not just in poor countries. An ILO spokesperson said: "It would be a mistake to believe that forced labour is solely the problem of poor countries." He said over half of cases of forced labour and a quarter of forced marriages are in richer countries. Women and children are at the most risk.

## **Level 3**

Many of us think slavery is a thing of the past. It isn't. A new report from the United Nations says there are about 50 million people in modern-day slavery. This includes being trapped in forced labour or in forced marriages. The International Labour Organization (ILO) is an agency of the UN. It created the report. The ILO said around one in 150 people in the world is enslaved in some way. This figure has increased by 20 per cent in the past few years. It is still growing. This is because of the coronavirus pandemic, climate change, and the cost of living crisis. These things have made many people poor or forced them into debt. The only way they can survive is to work in terrible conditions or be forced into unwanted marriages.

The UN hoped to end modern slavery by 2030. However, since creating this aim in 2016, the number of people in forced labour or forced marriage shot up by 10 million. The ILO said modern slavery happens when people "cannot refuse or cannot leave because of threats, violence, deception, abuse of power or other forms of [force]". The ILO said this problem existed in rich countries as well as poor nations. An ILO spokesperson said: "It would be a mistake to believe that forced labour is solely the problem of poor countries." He added that more than half of cases of forced labour and a quarter of forced marriages are in "upper-middle-income or high-income countries". Women and children are at

the most risk.