

## UN says 50 million are in 'modern slavery'

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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.

Sources: [aljazeera.com](https://www.aljazeera.com) / [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com) / [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com)

### Writing

Those who enslave people should spend a long, long, long time in prison. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

slavery / the past / United Nations / forced labour / marriage / figure / cost of living / aim / refuse / violence / abuse / nations / mistake / problem / quarter / high income

### True / False

- 1) We all think slavery is a thing of the past. T / F
- 2) Many people are forced into marriages or work. T / F
- 3) One in 150 of the world's population is enslaved. T / F
- 4) Coronavirus and climate change have forced people into debt. T / F
- 5) The U.N. says all modern slavery will end by 2030. T / F
- 6) The number of enslaved people has increased by 10 million since 2016. T / F
- 7) Forced marriages only happen in poor countries. T / F
- 8) The article says women are more at risk than children. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. <b>trapped</b>   | a. finish    |
| 2. <b>agency</b>    | b. number    |
| 3. <b>figure</b>    | c. disaster  |
| 4. <b>crisis</b>    | d. instances |
| 5. <b>terrible</b>  | e. increased |
| 6. <b>end</b>       | f. branch    |
| 7. <b>shot up</b>   | g. only      |
| 8. <b>deception</b> | h. horrible  |
| 9. <b>solely</b>    | i. stuck     |
| 10. <b>cases</b>    | j. trickery  |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Can the UN end slavery by 2030?
- c) What should happen to those who enslave people?
- d) How can slavery exist in rich countries?
- e) What advice do you have for someone in enforced labour?
- f) What advice do you have for a woman in a forced marriage?
- g) What three adjectives best describe this story?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the United Nations?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Many of us think slavery is a thing | a. 150 people          |
| 2. around one in                       | b. of threats          |
| 3. the cost of living                  | c. terrible conditions |
| 4. forced them into                    | d. of forced marriages |
| 5. work in                             | e. power               |
| 6. shot up                             | f. crisis              |
| 7. cannot leave because                | g. by 10 million       |
| 8. abuse of                            | h. debt                |
| 9. The ILO said this problem existed   | i. of the past         |
| 10. a quarter                          | j. in rich countries   |

## Discussion – Student B

- What is your image of slavery?
- What do you know about slavery today?
- What forms of slavery exist in your country?
- Why is there slavery today?
- When will slavery disappear?
- How can we stop forced marriage?
- How can we stop forced labour?
- Do you know any famous companies that used slave labour?

## Spelling

- rceodf labour
- an ecnyga of the UN
- This ifgrue has increased by 20 per cent
- the cost of living isscri
- The only way they can vrvsuie
- work in erlbtrei conditions
- since tnaceigr this aim in 2016
- people cannot erseuf
- cannot leave because of rteshat
- a graetur of forced marriages
- high-oenmci countries
- the most kris

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. f	3. b	4. c	5. h
6. a	7. e	8. j	9. g	10. d

## Role Play

### Role A – Modern Slavery

You think modern slavery is the biggest crisis today. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crises aren't as serious. Also, tell the others which is the least of these (and why): forced marriage, the cost of living crisis or war.

### Role B – Forced Marriage

You think forced marriage is the biggest crisis today. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crises aren't as serious. Also, tell the others which is the least of these (and why): modern slavery, the cost of living crisis or war.

### Role C – Cost of Living Crisis

You think the cost of living crisis is the biggest crisis today. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crises aren't as serious. Also, tell the others which is the least of these (and why): forced marriage, modern slavery or war.

### Role D – War

You think war is the biggest crisis today. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crises aren't as serious. Also, tell the others which is the least of these (and why): forced marriage, the cost of living crisis or modern slavery.

## Speaking – Crises

Rank these with your partner. Put the most worrying crises at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| • Modern slavery   | • Cost of Living |
| • Forced marriages | • Climate change |
| • War              | • Cybercrime     |
| • Coronavirus      | • Terrorism      |

### Answers – True False

1 F	2 T	3 T	4 T	5 F	6 T	7 F	8 F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.