



**OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS**



Report of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

Sub-Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/5

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Taking note of the report of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery on its eighteenth session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1993/30),

Deeply concerned at the information it contains relating to the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others, the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the exploitation of child labour, debt bondage, the removal of organs, the slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism, and the phenomenon of child soldiers,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery for its valuable work, in particular for its continued broad approach and flexible methods of work;

I. SALE OF CHILDREN, CHILD PROSTITUTION AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

A. Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

2. Expresses its thanks to the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography for participating in the eighteenth session of the Working Group;

3. Requests the Centre for Human Rights to transmit the report of the Working Group to the Special Rapporteur;

4. Invites the Special Rapporteur to participate in the nineteenth session of the Working Group;

B. Programme of Action for the Prevention of the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

5. Encourages all Governments to consider, in the context of the Programme of Action for the Prevention of the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, the creation of programmes aimed at the social rehabilitation of all persons involved in prostitution, and of children in particular;

6. Takes note of the information on the state of implementation of the Programme of Action submitted by States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations contained in the report of the Working Group submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of Sub-Commission resolution 1992/2 of 14 August 1992 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1993/31 and Add.1);

7. Decides, in accordance with its resolution 1992/2, to transmit that report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session;

C. Removal of organs from children

8. Requests, as a matter of urgency, the Secretary-General to invite again all Governments, United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the specialized agencies, in particular the World Health Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and all relevant non-governmental organizations to pursue in-depth investigations of allegations concerning the removal of organs from children and to indicate the measures taken, if any, to counteract this practice wherever it exists, with a view to reporting thereon to the Working Group at its nineteenth session;

II. EXPLOITATION OF CHILD LABOUR AND DEBT BONDAGE

9. Welcomes the adoption by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1993/79 of 10 March 1993 of the Programme of Action for the Elimination of the Exploitation of Child Labour;
10. Requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/79, to invite all States to inform the Working Group of measures adopted or to be adopted in the near future to implement the Programme of Action;
11. Requests the Working Group to examine at its nineteenth session the state of implementation of the Programme of Action and to transmit a report thereon, through the Sub-Commission, to the Commission;
12. Takes note with satisfaction of Commission on Human Rights decision 1993/112 of 10 March 1993 authorizing the Sub-Commission to consider the possibility of appointing a special rapporteur to update the report of Mr. Abdelwahab Bouhdiba (E/CN.4/Sub.2/479), and to extend that study to the problem of debt bondage;
13. Decides to appoint Mrs. Halima Embarek Warzazi as Special Rapporteur to update the report of Mr. Boudhiba and to extend the study to the problem of debt bondage;
14. Decides to keep the question of debt bondage under consideration and to assess the progress achieved, with a view to the elimination of this intolerable practice;

III. CHILD SOLDIERS

15. Expresses its deep concern that in many parts of the world children are recruited into armed forces and that some Governments and non-governmental entities encourage and sometimes compel children to take part in hostilities;
16. Requests the Working Group to continue to give attention to this question at its nineteenth session;

IV. PREVENTION OF TRAFFIC IN PERSONS AND EXPLOITATION OF THE PROSTITUTION OF OTHERS

17. Recommends that the Commission on Human Rights examine the draft programme of action for the prevention of traffic in persons and exploitation of the prostitution of others at its fiftieth session;
18. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to seek the views of States concerning the draft programme of action for submission to the Commission at its fiftieth session;
19. Requests the Secretary-General to convey to the World Tourism Organization the Working Group's grave concern at the information received during its eighteenth session with regard to the persistence and the development of sex tourism;
20. Encourages all Governments to establish specific projects for the protection of the victims of traffic in persons and of prostitution from the risk of contamination with the human immunodeficiency virus and the spreading of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome;
21. Urges States to introduce and reinforce education programmes alerting children to the risks of sexual exploitation and the consequences for individuals and for society of such exploitation;
22. Requests all Governments to develop programmes in support of the family, especially as part of the International Year of the Family;

23. Recommends that States take urgent measures designed to protect minors from exposure to or involvement in child pornography, particularly in relation to sex tourism, and requests the Secretary-General to invite States to provide information on measures taken or already applicable;

24. Recommends that in all States national bodies for the prevention of prostitution be established which could assist in the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of prostitution;

V. MACHINERY FOR MONITORING THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON SLAVERY

25. Recommends that the Secretary-General again request the States parties to the international conventions on slavery to submit to the Sub-Commission, at regular intervals, reports on the situation in their countries;

26. Requests the Secretary-General again to invite annually States which have not acceded to or have not ratified the international conventions on slavery to explain why they have not done so and to report on their replies to the Sub-Commission and to the Commission, and to extend a similar invitation to States which have not ratified the International Labour Organisation conventions on forced labour;

27. Recommends that Governments avail themselves of the possibility of requesting assistance under the United Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights and the technical assistance programmes of the specialized agencies, in particular that of the International Labour Office;

28. Urges the specialized agencies to give particular attention to poverty as a factor leading to or perpetuating slavery and slavery-like practices and to include in their technical assistance programmes activities designed to eliminate slavery and slavery-like practices;

VI. UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

29. Appeals to all Governments, governmental and non-governmental organizations, private institutions and individuals to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, and urges them to publicize the establishment and function of the Trust Fund, so as to increase general awareness of its existence;

30. Invites a representative of the Trust Fund to attend the nineteenth session of the Working Group;

VII. MIGRANT WORKERS

31. Notes that in recent years many countries have been running their development programmes, as well as the day-to-day maintenance of essential services, with the help of a foreign migrant labour force and that foreign workers are often subject to rules and regulations which are discriminatory and prejudicial to dignified living, forcing them to live separately from their spouse and their minor children, sometimes for extended periods;

32. Invites countries to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990;

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

33. Welcomes the decision of the Working Group to include consideration of the practice of incest on the agenda of its nineteenth session and to consider ways to combat this form of slavery, and urges that adequate help be offered to victims of such practices;

34. Takes note of the decision of the Working Group to transmit the information received at its eighteenth session on the sexual exploitation of women, as well as other forms of forced labour during wartime, to the Special Rapporteur on the right of restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to the Sub-Commission for their consideration;

35. Requests the Secretary-General to seek the views and suggestions of Member States and of governmental and non-governmental organizations on proposals for future action by the Working Group, with a view to the consideration of their replies by the Working Group at its forthcoming sessions;

36. Appeals to all Governments to send representatives to the meetings of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery;

37. Encourages youth organizations and young persons from various non-governmental organizations to participate in the meetings of the Working Group;

38. Welcomes the decision of the Working Group to give particular attention to the issue of street children at its next sessions;

39. Recommends that arrangements regarding the organization of the sessions of the Working Group, as endorsed by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1993/27 of 5 March 1993 and decision 1993/112 of 10 March 1993, be repeated in subsequent years;

40. Recommends that the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, when examining the periodic reports of States parties, give particular attention to the implementation of, respectively, articles 8 and 24 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, articles 10, 12 and 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, article 6 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and articles 32, 34 and 36 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with a view to combating contemporary forms of slavery;

41. Also recommends that the supervisory bodies of the International Labour Organisation and the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization give particular attention in their work to the implementation of provisions and standards designed to ensure the protection of children and other persons exposed to contemporary forms of slavery, such as the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the exploitation of child labour, bonded labour and the traffic in persons;

42. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the above-mentioned committees, the special rapporteurs concerned and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances the present resolution, as well as the report of the Working Group on its eighteenth session, drawing their attention to the recommendations contained therein of relevance to them;

43. Again requests the Secretary-General to reassign to the Working Group a full-time Professional staff member of the Centre for Human Rights, as was the case in the past, to work on a permanent basis to ensure continuity and close coordination within and outside the Centre for Human Rights on issues relating to contemporary forms of slavery, to prepare documentation well in advance, and facilitate the representation at sessions of the Working Group of the largest possible number of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with competence in the fields examined, and to report on the measures taken for this purpose to the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session and to the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery at its nineteenth session;

44. Again requests the Secretary-General to designate the Centre for Human Rights as the focal point for the coordination of activities in the United Nations for the suppression of contemporary forms of slavery and to report on the measures taken for this purpose to the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session and to the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery at its nineteenth session.

[Adopted without a vote.]