

# UNDERSTANDING MODERN SLAVERY



## WHAT IS MODERN SLAVERY?

“Modern slavery refers to situations where one person has taken away another person’s freedom – their freedom to control their body, their freedom to choose to refuse certain work or to stop working – so that they can be exploited. Freedom is taken away by threats, violence, coercion, abuse of power and deception. The net result is that a person cannot refuse or leave the situation.”

Modern slavery is an umbrella terms and includes:

- human trafficking
- slavery and slavery-like offences
- servitude
- forced labour
- debt bondage
- worst forms of child labour
- deceptive recruiting for labour or services
- forced marriage

*Please see page 2 for definitions of modern slavery*

Modern slavery affects every country, region, business and for many businesses – their supply chains.

Walk Free’s Global Slavery Index 2018 estimates 40.3 million people live in modern slavery globally.

24.9 million victims work in forced labour and one in four victims are children.

For further information visit,  
[www.minderoo.com.au/walk-free](http://www.minderoo.com.au/walk-free)



Photo credit: John Salvino

# DEFINITIONS OF MODERN SLAVERY

## Human Trafficking:

The recruitment, harbouring and movement of a person for exploitation through modern slavery.

## Slavery:

Situations where the offender exercises powers of ownership over the victim, including the power to make a person an object of purchase and use their labour in an unrestricted way.

## Servitude:

Situations where the victim's personal freedom is significantly restricted and they are not free to stop working or leave their place of work.

## Forced Labour:

Situations where the victim is either not free to stop working or not free to leave their place of work

## Debt Bondage:

Situations where the victim's services are pledged as security for a debt and the debt is manifestly excessive or the victim's services are not applied to liquidate the debt, or the length and nature of the services are not limited and defined.

## Worst forms of child labour:

Situations where children are:

- exploited through slavery or similar practices, including for sexual exploitation
- engaged in hazardous work which may harm their health, safety or morals
- used to produce or traffic drugs

## Deceptive recruiting for labour services:

Situations where the victim is deceived about whether they will be exploited through a type of modern slavery.

## Forced Marriage:

Situations where coercion, threats or deception are used to make a victim marry or where the victim does not understand or is incapable of understanding the nature and effect of the marriage ceremony.

## LEARN MORE: WHERE DOES MODERN SLAVERY FIT?

Modern slavery happens at the most extreme end of a spectrum that ranges from decent work to serious criminal exploitation.

