**What is modern-day slavery?**

About 150 years after most countries banned slavery millions of men, women and children are still enslaved. Contemporary slavery takes many forms, from women forced into prostitution, to child slavery in agriculture supply chains or whole families working for nothing to pay off generational debts. Slavery thrives on every continent and in almost every country. Forced labour, people trafficking, debt bondage and child marriage are all forms of modern-day slavery that affect the world's most vulnerable people.

**How is slavery defined?**

Slavery is prohibited under the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states: "No one shall be held in slavery or servitude: slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms."

Definitions of modern-day slavery are mainly taken from the 1956 UN supplementary convention, which says: "debt bondage, serfdom, forced marriage and the delivery of a child for the exploitation of that child are all slavery-like practices and require criminalisation and abolishment". The 1930 Forced Labour Convention defines forced labour as "all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily".

As contemporary systems of slavery have evolved, new definitions, including trafficking and distinguishing child slavery from child labour, have developed.

Some of the forms of slavery are:

**Bonded labour:** people become bonded labourers after falling into debt and being forced to work for free in an attempt to repay it. Many will never pay off their loans, and debt can be passed down through the generations.

**Trafficking:** the transport or trade of people from one area to another and into conditions of slavery.

**Child slavery**: children are in slavery as domestic workers, forced labour – in, for example, the cocoa, cotton and fisheries industries – trafficked for labour and sexual exploitation, and used as child soldiers.

**Early and forced marriage:** women continue to be married without consent, often while still girls, and forced into sexual and domestic servitude.

**اليوم العالمي لإلغاء العبودية**

اليوم العالمي لإلغاء الرق، 2 كانون الأول/ديسمبر، يحدد تاريخ اعتماد الجمعية العامة لاتفاقية الأمم المتحدة بشأن قمع الاتجار بالأشخاص واستغلال بغاء الغير (القرار 317 في 2 كانون الأول/ديسمبر 1949).

و يركز هذا اليوم على استئصال أشكال العبودية المعاصرة مثل: الاتجار بالأشخاص و الاستغلال الجنسي ، وأسوأ أشكال عمل الأطفال، والزواج القسري والتجنيد القسري للأطفال لاستخدامهم في النزاع المسلّح .

و وفقا لمنظمة العمل الدولية هناك اليوم 21 مليون امرأة ورجل وطفل ضحايا الرق في كل أنحاء العالم، وهذا يحقق 150 مليار دولار كأرباح غير مشروعة سنويا.

وقد اعتمدت منظمة العمل الدولية بروتوكول جديد ملزم قانونا إلى تعزيز الجهود العالمية للقضاء على العمل القسري، التي من المقرر أن تدخل حيز التنفيذ في تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر 2016.

وتهدف حملة "50 للحرية" إلى إقناع 50 دولة على الأقل بالتصديق على بروتوكول العمل القسري بحلول عام 2018.