

AMERICAN ANTI-SLAVERY GROUP



MODERN-DAY SLAVERY FACT SHEET

Contrary to popular belief, slavery didn't end with Abraham Lincoln in 1863.

- Experts estimate that **today there are 27 million people enslaved** everywhere except Antarctica.
- Slavery today is defined as **forced labor with little or no pay under the threat of violence.**
- The CIA estimates 14,500 to 17,000 victims are trafficked into the U.S. every year.
- Every year 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked internationally.
- Approximately 80% of victims are women and children.
- **Slavery is a very profitable industry.** Experts estimate trafficking in the US yields \$9 billion each year.
- Around the world, trafficking in women for commercial sex purposes nets \$6 billion per year.
- The four most common types of slavery are: **chattel slavery, debt bondage, forced labor, and sex slavery.**
 - **CHATTEL SLAVERY** is closest to the race-based slavery that prevailed in early American history. Chattel slaves are considered their masters' property—exchanged for things like trucks or money and expected to perform labor and sexual favors; their children are expected to do the same.

Example: Slavery as a weapon of war in Southern Sudan
 - **DEBT BONDAGE**, or bonded labor, is the most widely practiced form of slavery around the world. Extreme poverty often forces parents to offer themselves or their own children as collateral against a loan. Though they are told they will only work until the debt is paid off, inflated interest rates often make this impossible. As a result, the debt is inherited by the victim's children, perpetuating a vicious cycle that can claim several generations.

Example: Immokalee agricultural workers in Florida
 - **SEX SLAVERY** finds women and children forced into prostitution. Many are lured by false offers of a good job and then beaten and forced to work in brothels. Others are sold by their fathers or brothers to pay off a debt. Still others are plainly kidnapped.

Example: Brothels in Thailand
 - **FORCED LABOR** results when individuals are lured by the promise of a good job but instead find themselves subjected to slaving conditions—working without payment while enduring physical abuse, often in harsh and hazardous conditions. Victims include domestic workers, construction workers, and even human mine detectors.

Example: Charcoal workers in the Minas Gerais Region of Brazil