



Call to Action

Business Leaders Join Forces to Call for the End to Forced Labour and Unethical Recruitment

As partners in the fight against forced labour, and in collaboration with governments, United Nations agencies, and civil society organisations, we are today calling for businesses around the world to play their part in ending this global scourge. The Consumer Goods Forum (CGF), in alignment with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and supported by the Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB), stand united in our commitment to respect human rights and to strive to end all forms of forced labour in line with ongoing efforts such as the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and other international frameworks including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

With an estimated 25 million victims of forced labour today, we acknowledge the need for multi-stakeholder collaboration to end this global issue. No one company, industry or government can solve this problem alone. As such, we are calling on members of the CGF and all businesses around the world to take action today with key institutions and partners, and:

Register with grave concern the scale of this global problem and emphasise the need to accelerate action at both national and international levels to eliminate it;

Recognise that important progress has been made in countering the problem worldwide; but that significant challenges remain across countries and industries;

Acknowledge the intersection of forced labour with international labour mobility, unethical recruitment practices and the unique vulnerability of migrant workers;

Acknowledge that governments have the responsibility to protect human rights, including ensuring that national laws and regulations protect against forced labour;

Understand that business has a responsibility to respect human rights in its value chains and own operations and can play a key role in combatting forced labour;

Stand together in our commitment to combat the exploitation of human beings for the purposes of compulsory labour through the use of force or other forms of coercion, fraud or deception;

Commit to mainstream the CGF's Priority Industry Principles against forced labour:

- Every Worker should have freedom of movement
- No Worker should pay for a job
- No Worker should be indebted or coerced to work

Aspire to work towards the eradication of worker-paid recruitment fees in the next ten years by implementing the Employer Pays Principle championed by the IHRB led Leadership Group for Responsible Recruitment.

Together, we must lead the way in the fight against this unacceptable form of exploitation once and for all.