



Examples of modern slavery

Modern slavery can happen in any industry and any country. Modern slavery victims are often vulnerable to exploitation due to their background, migration status or structural factors like poverty. Both adults and children can be victims of modern slavery. Women and children are often especially vulnerable.

The Modern Slavery Act defines modern slavery as including eight types of serious exploitation. Each of these types of exploitation has a clear legal definition in international or Australian law. The below explains each of these types of exploitation with examples.

Type of exploitation	Definition	Example (only)
Slavery	Describes 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.	A group of migrant men and boys are forcibly detained by a people smuggler and then sold to a fishing company. The men and boys are taken to sea and not allowed to return to shore. They are forced to work 20 hours a day and receive no pay and little food. They are regularly beaten and abused. The fish they catch are used in products sold in major grocery stores overseas.
Servitude	Describes situations where the victim's personal freedom is significantly restricted and they are not free to stop working or leave their place of work	A company provides an expatriate worker and her husband with money to hire a domestic servant. The couple hire a migrant woman. The woman is never paid, physically abused and made to sleep in the garage. The couple also monitor the woman's communication with her family in her home country. When the couple are away they lock all the exits from the home so the woman cannot leave. They also tell the woman that if she escapes the local police will imprison her for working illegally.
Trafficking in persons	Describes the recruitment, harbouring and movement of a person for exploitation through modern slavery.	An orphanage actively recruits children from families and pays parents to place children in their care. They promise children will be well educated and cared for in the orphanage. The children are removed from their parents and housed in substandard conditions. The orphanage makes false claims that the children are orphans to attract donations. The children are exploited in the orphanage, including for sexual exploitation and for the purpose of orphanage tourism. A number of Australian travel companies regularly visit the orphanage with tour groups.



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Forced labour	Describes situations where the victim is either not free to stop working or not free to leave their place of work.	Local women are employed in a garment factory that makes clothes for a large fashion brand. The factory stops paying them full wages after six months and instead pays them less than half the local minimum wage. When they complain, the women are told by their manager that he will harm their families if they do not continue working.
Forced marriage	Describes 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.	A religious celebrant is asked to officiate at a religious marriage ceremony in Australia. The celebrant tries to meet with the couple prior to the wedding but the groom cancels the appointments. At the wedding, the celebrant observes that the bride appears very young, speaks limited English and appears unusually anxious. During the ceremony, the groom's mother insists that she will interpret the celebrant's questions and the bride's responses. The celebrant also notices that the girl is escorted by the groom's family wherever she goes. Further investigation shows that the bride is 15 years old and is being forced to marry by her family.
Debt bondage	Describes 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.	A man accepts a job as a construction worker overseas. His employer tells him he will need to pay a recruitment fee and repay his flight costs. These expenses will be deducted from his wages. When the man arrives, his employer exaggerates the size of his debt and confiscates his passport for security reasons. After six months of working the man has not received any wages. When he questions his employer he is told his debt has grown even larger because of interest. The man tries to leave but is returned to his employer by local authorities.



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Type of exploitation	Definition	Example (only)
The worst forms of child labour	<p>Describes situations where children are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">–exploited through slavery or similar practices, including for sexual exploitation or–engaged in hazardous work which may harm their health, safety or morals or–used to produce or traffic drugs.	<p>A husband and wife are forced to work at a brick kiln to pay off an inflated debt incurred by the husband's father. They have a young son. Once the son is old enough to carry materials, the owners of the brick kiln make him work in the quarry with his parents to help pay off the debt. There are no breathing masks or other safety equipment in the kiln, which uses dangerous chemicals and the son works 10-12 hours a day. The bricks are used by a foreign company to build their new office in the country's capital.</p>
Deceptive recruiting for labour or services	<p>Describes situations where the victim is deceived about whether they will be exploited through a type of modern slavery.</p>	<p>A young woman is travelling overseas and has a temporary work visa. She does not speak the local language. She answers an advertisement for seasonal farm work posted by a labour hire company. She is told she will be paid in cash for picking a certain amount of produce each day and that she will be provided with free accommodation. The labour hire company takes her to a small private home where 15 other workers are staying. She is driven to a farm each day and driven back to the house in the evening. After two weeks she has not been paid. When she complains, the labour hire company tells her she has breached her visa by working too many hours and she will be detained by immigration authorities if she leaves.</p>

Material sourced from [Commonwealth Modern Slavery Act 2018 Guidance for Reporting Entities](#), Types of Modern Slavery, p. 75-76.