



Take Action Against
Modern Slavery

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Use the power of the pen to
urge our government to pass a
Modern Slavery Act.

www.signforfreedom.nz

(website live 16 March 2021)

Petition launch 25 March 2021



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What you need to know

40 million people globally are in modern slavery. Clothing. Sugar. Electronics. It's time to make slavery in our products history. Sign the petition to urge our government to pass a Modern Slavery Act.

Modern slavery is the severe exploitation of other people for personal or commercial gain. Modern slavery is a human rights violation with exploitation at its heart. Forced labour, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and debt bondage are forms of modern slavery.

40 million people in modern slavery is one in every 200 people. One in four are children, that's 10 million children. Almost three-quarters of those enslaved are women and girls.

The world is small and interconnected. Every time we purchase a product there is a chain reaction felt around the world. Modern slavery is in the clothes we wear, the coffee we drink, and the goods we love.

No country or industry is unaffected. Two-thirds of all people in modern slavery live in Asia Pacific – the area New Zealand trades with extensively. Unlike many other countries, New Zealand has no accountability legislation that addresses transparency in supply chains. This means that New Zealand companies could unknowingly be importing products or services by which people are exploited and enslaved.

There is increasing global demand across the world for businesses and governments to act ethically. Australia, Europe, and The United Kingdom are all in the process of drafting or strengthening their Modern Slavery Acts. We need to catch up or we will be left behind.

Modern Slavery Acts make it easier for a consumer to expect slavery-free products and services from companies. They help prevent slavery through transparency and accountability. They require businesses to understand the modern slavery risks in their purchasing, report on those risks, and take action to address them. They give the business community guidance and a level playing field.

Modern slavery goes against our kiwi values. New Zealand's identity as a nation is built on kindness, fairness, equality, and sustainability.

We ask Aotearoa to take action for the rights of the most vulnerable in our global community. Sign the petition to urge our government to pass a Modern Slavery Act.