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***CSW61***

**MORE THAN 67 MILLION GIRLS ARE CHILD LABOURERS**

*“Child labour is a violation of fundamental human rights and has been shown to hinder children’s development, potentially leading to life long physical or psychological damage….”*

ILO standards on child labour are the primary international legal tool for reducing child labour.

* Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)- Sets the general minimum age for employment or work at 15; 13 light work; 18 hazardous work; in countries where the economy and educational facilities insufficiently developed, the minimum age for general work is 14. 169 nations have ratified.
* Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No.182)-States that a “child” is anyone under 18 and requires ratifying states to eliminate slavery and practices similar to slavery such as sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage, forced or compulsory labour including recruitment of children for armed conflict, child prostitution and pornography, and drug trafficking. 180 nations have ratified.

**All work done by children is not “child labour”. Children help out at home, in family businesses and to earn spending money. The ILO defines “child labour” as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, interferes with their opportunity to go to school or is harmful to their physical and mental development.**

*Rural work:*

* Girls often face the double burden of performing household chores and agricultural tasks.
* Household chores – cleaning, cooking, childcare, collecting water and firewood-are not included in child labour statistics. (ILO)
* Many girls do not attend school as community attitudes assign a lesser value to girls’ education. (UNICEF)

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*Trafficking and exploitation:*

* 20% of the 21 million people trapped in “modern slavery” are girls. (UNODC 2016)
* Trafficking includes sexual exploitation, forced labour, forced marriage, forced begging, domestic servitude, organ removal and often combinations thereof.
* Sexual exploitation (98% women and girls) accounts for 66% of global criminal illicit profits.

*Domestic work:*

* The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) 2012 global estimate has 7.5 million girls, ages 5-15, in domestic work worldwide.
* 4.5 million girls, age 5-11, were in domestic work which by ILO Convention is “child labour”.
* 2.6 million girls are involved in hazardous domestic work.

**Though most child labourers are from poor families, poor countries do not necessarily have the greatest number of child labourers.**

**The absence of solid institutions of child protection including criminal justice systems and community investment in education are enabling factors for the perpetuation of child labour.**

**GOOD NEWS**

The ILO Global Report for 2012 estimates a reduction of 40% in the number of girls in child labour since 2000. The Report identifies the political commitment of governments through Convention ratifications and sound policy choices as well as the leadership of the ILO in supervising standards, offering technical assistance and helping to create global and national frameworks for this amazing progress.



