



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade  
Human Rights Sub Committee

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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Chair: Hon Laurie Ferguson MP  
Deputy: Hon Philip Ruddock MP

## Human Rights Sub-Committee recommends supply chain review

More needs to be done to eliminate forced labour, slavery and trafficking in persons from global supply chains, according to a new report by the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

The *Trading Lives: Modern Day Human Trafficking* report recommends that the Australian Government investigate anti-trafficking and anti-slavery mechanisms appropriate for Australia with a view to creating a greater awareness of forced labour in global supply chains.

“There are an estimated 20 million victims of forced labour globally. The annual profit made from these victims is estimated at \$US32 million. That is a profit of \$US 13,000 for each woman, man and child trafficked into forced labour”, Human Rights Sub-Committee Chair Laurie Ferguson said.

“More needs to be done to raise community awareness about this issue. Introducing a labelling and certification strategy for products and services that have been produced ethically as well as increasing the prominence of fair trade in Australia will enable consumers to make better, more informed choices regarding products they buy.”

The report also recommends that:

- the Australian Government continue to use international mechanisms including, but not limited to, the United Nations Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review to combat people trafficking;
- the Australian Government further investigate the establishment of a federal compensation scheme for victims of slavery and trafficking in persons;
- suspected victims of trafficking be provided an initial automatic reflection period of 45 days with two further extensions of 45 days if required;
- the Department of Immigration and Citizenship develop a fact sheet to provide visa applicants appropriate information on their rights as part of the visa application process; and
- the Australian Government negotiate re-funding of contracts for non-government organisations one year ahead of the contract’s conclusion.

More broadly, to make it as difficult as possible to access child abuse material online, the Committee recommends that the Australian Government utilise the UK Internet Watch Foundation’s URL list to block access to child abuse sites in Australia.

The report is available online at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/jfadt>

**For media comment:** please contact the Sub-Committee Chair, the Hon Laurie Ferguson MP on (02) 9829 7477 (Electorate Office) or (02) 6277 4920 (Parliament House)

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