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# ILO Complaints Mechanism for the Elimination of Forced Labour

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**ILO Liaison officer – Yangon**



*Decent Work for All*

ASIAN DECENT WORK DECADE 2006-2015

# Supplementary Understanding (SU)



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## **ILO & the Government of Myanmar agreed to an SU**

- Gives right to lodge complaints alleging the use of forced labour to:
  - Myanmar citizens
  - Resident of Myanmar
  - Genuine victims of forced labour
- Seek redress and / or remedies
- In full confidence – no retaliatory action against complainants





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# What is Forced Labour ?

- Any work a person is required to do against his/her will
- Under threat of any form of penalty if he / she does not comply or cooperate
- Works required by civil administration authorities
- Works required by military or
- Works required by employers in private sector
- INCLUDING – under-age (less than 18) recruitment, forced recruitment into armed forces





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# How do you make a complaint?

As see appropriate by you – the followings are choices:

- Through local government representative at village, township, district level or on child soldier issue – make enquiry at the local recruiting centre
- Contact ILO Liaison Officer to make complaint
  - By phone / fax / email
  - Regular post
  - Visiting his office in person
  - Arrange with trusted friend to deliver written complaint by hand to Liaison officer





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# Is it safe to make a complaint?

- **Risk** – Yes – BUT **Risk** exists in most things we do !
- SU guarantees protection from harassment, prosecution or any other form of reprisal

To complainants, victims & other persons associated with the complaint submission

- Liaison Officer has free and confidential access to the victims, complainants, his/ her representatives or any other relevant persons

To verify that no such retaliatory action has been taken against them





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# Is my complaint confidential?

- Identification details must be supported by the ILO Liaison Officer when a complaint is lodged
- HOWEVER – at complainant's request – Liaison officer can keep your identity confidential --- BUT
- It is necessary to provide identity of victims in under-age recruitment complaint
- Statements made & relevant supporting documents (if any) – to be examined objectively by Liaison officer AND
- Any concerns on confidentiality will be cleared with complainants before the case submission for treatment





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# How does the SU work?

- Clear facts submitted to the ILO
- Objective assessment on facts as submitted
- If needed, Liaison Officer can undertake assessment mission independently to the alleged offence location
- If grounds well-founded, submit facts & recommendations to the Working Group (WG)
- WG order enquiry / verification of facts & recommend action to achieve justice for victim & punishment for perpetrator
- Liaison officer in close contact with the Government throughout the process till case can be closed satisfactorily



# If complaint upheld – what outcome to be expected??

- Some form of Justice
  - Compensation
  - Apology
  - Assurance of no recurrence of the situation
  - Perpetrator has been appropriately punished
  - Child discharged from armed forces
  - Desertion charges, if any, quashed







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# Thank you

For more information, please contact:  
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