

What is the Pact for the Eradication of Slave Labour?

Launched in 2005, the National Pact for the Eradication of Slave Labour is a multi-stakeholder initiative involving Ethos Institute, the Social Observatory Institute, the International Labour Organization and NGO Repórter Brasil, which combines efforts to engage national and international companies that have become signatories of the Pact, to maintain their supply chains free from slave labour.

The Pact foresees not only to establish commercial restrictions on enterprises that profit from the exploitation of slave labourers, but also to promote decent work, social integration of workers and awareness raising of workers vulnerable to enticement into slave labour. Companies are also expected to monitor and implement actions and publicize the results of joined efforts to eradicate modern slavery.

Since the Pact was launched, signatory companies have complied with the following commitments: cutting commercial ties with businesses that have made use of slave labour, incorporating contractual clauses associated with practices that characterize slavery, implementing mechanisms to track products and providing in-house training for employees and trading partners on slave labour to eradicate the problem.

How to join the Pact?

Since 1995, more than 40,000 victims have been rescued in Brazil by the Federal Government. On average, the National Pact for the Eradication of Slave Labour has raised the overall well-being of workers. Among its principles are the eradication of this hideous crime and the promotion of decent work.

Although the business sector benefits from this initiative because it gains instruments to help maintain the various industry sectors free from slave labour, the main beneficiaries are the Brazilian workers, since the National Pact has made bad employers think twice before exploiting workers.

Society is on watch

The supply chain studies and the National Pact are valuable instruments in the fight against contemporary slavery, especially due to commercial implications. These instruments enable society to become more conscious and aware of the problem, and easily identify companies that profit from the exploitation of slave labour.

Professional Training

The Committee offers in-house training for employees of signatory companies and any of their suppliers free of charge. A virtual platform (www.pactonacional.com.br) was created containing information about corporate social responsibility policies towards the fight against slave labour, information about the Pact, who the signatories are, how to join the Pact, news and documents on slave labour. Furthermore, it provides easy access to a list of companies that have been identified as using slave labour, better known as the "dirty list".

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NATIONAL PACT FOR THE ERADICATION OF SLAVE LABOUR IN BRAZIL

Considering:

a) that there is a list of all employers and/or their middleman who exploit people through slave labour in Brazil (Act MTE 540/2004) by means of physical and moral constraint restricting both free option and free action on part of the workers;

b) that despite the changes already made and the efforts taken by the companies involved in the various productive chains and by agencies from both the government and civil society there still remains spots of forced labour in Brazil, and in the rural area this forced labour usually assumes the features of slavery because of debts. So the priority of the government and the society should be to eradicate this immediately;

c) that all kinds of forced labour represent a serious violation of human rights, also condemned by the Universal Human Rights Declaration, by the 29th and 105th Convention from International Labour Organization-ILO, by the Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work from the ILO, and by the American Convention of Human Rights;

d) that expanding the promotion of a positive agenda is important, so that the commitment of all enterprises and the various agencies involved with social responsibility and sustainable development can be better valued;

All signatories, upon endorsement, agree to increase efforts to dignify and improve labour relations in all the productive chains and in every committed sector, of the "Employers Register Act 540/2004", that have kept workers in conditions analogous to slavery. So, within their own capacity, any company joining the initiative is expected to:

1. Define specific goals to regulate labour relations of producers and suppliers within the productive chains not only by providing adequate access to decent work and social protection, but also by developing preventative safety and health measures;
2. Define commercial restrictions to companies and/or identified people in the productive chain that make use of degrading working conditions associated with practices that are considered analogous to slavery;
3. Support social and productive reintegration of workers that are still working under degrading or unworthy conditions, so that they can have opportunities to overcome social exclusion;
4. Raise workers' awareness to the vulnerabilities of slave labour enticement and support slavery prevention campaigns to society;
5. Support public and private partnership actions to facilitate vocational and professional training of rescued workers;
6. Support actions against evasion of taxes and piracy;
7. Support and discuss proposals that will subsidize and demand implementation, by the National Government, of actions foreseen in the National Plan to Eradicate Slave Labour;
8. Monitor the implementation of the actions described above and the achievements of the proposed goals as well as disseminating the results of this joint effort;
9. Systematize and disseminate the experience in order to replicate these actions in Brazil and others countries to advance in the fight against all kinds of degrading work and slave labour;
10. Assess the results of the policies and actions in this agreement a year after its formalization.

In the case of federations and entities, considering they do not have any power to control these measures, their commitment consists of advising their associates to observe the recommended practices in the present agreement.

This initiative is voluntary, any social actor committed to dignity, formalization, modernization and eradication of degrading labour and slavery can join.

Brasilia, May 19th, 2005

**SLAVE LABOUR:
ITS TIME TO END
THIS SHAME ONCE
AND FOR ALL.**

National Pact Steering Committee



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**NATIONAL
PACT**
For the Eradication
of Slave Labour

CAPA