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ILO Complaints Mechanism for the Elimination of Forced Labour

Steve Marshall

ILO Liaison officer – Yangon



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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



What is Forced Labour ?



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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



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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What can you do to help?

- We DO NOT expect you to investigate or take any other actions on forced labour issues
- HOWEVER, you & your team can listen, observe & take note of any incidents of forced labour, child soldiers or for that matter any other human rights abuse
- All that is asked, in fact, is that you pass this information on to us





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Thank you

For more information, please contact:
Steve Marshall

ILO Liaison Officer

Tel: 951 242 393, 242 811, Fax: 951 242 594

E-mail: yangon@ilo.org

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/yangon/>

