

The Work in Freedom programme of the ILO  
presents

# Unpacking concepts of freedom and unfreedom in the world of work: A Discussion.

March 25, 2022 at 9:00 am EST via Zoom Online

Most of us would agree that we should respond against forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) refer to eradicating forced labour and ending modern slavery and human trafficking. However, each one of these conceptual constructs implies a different way of seeing the world, a different history of understanding and a very different framework of action.

The ILO's Work in Freedom programme is organizing a series of conversations meant to deconstruct the meaning of various terms related to freedom and unfreedom in the world of work. This is important to reframe policy responses to these issues from more enabling angles of thought.

The first discussion in the series is on the **centrality of debt bondage in relation to unfree labour**. We will review how recent ground-breaking research on debt bondage in Sumer, Babylonia and the Akkadian Empires has uncovered important lesson that can help us understand and address debt bondage in the contemporary world.

Our honoured guest is Michael Hudson: President of The Institute for the Study of Long-Term Economic Trends (ISLET), a Wall Street Financial Analyst, Distinguished Research Professor of Economics at the University of Missouri, Kansas City. He is the author of '**and forgive their debts: lending, foreclosure and redemption from Bronze Age finance to the jubilee year**'; and several other publications.

Please register on the links shared on social media to register for the event.

For more detailed information on the theme of discussion, please see:

<https://michael-hudson.com/2018/08/and-forgive-them-their-debts/>

For more information about the different concepts of free and unfree labour, please see: [The Work in Freedom Handbook, A critical glossary of terms relating to freedom and unfreedom in the world of work.](#)