

Terms of Reference

Field Partner for Action research on Modern Slavery

Background:

One of the greatest achievements that human civilization has accomplished in history is combating and ending the oppressive institution of slavery. It is the result of a long and courageous struggle that slavery ceases to exist as an institution and is criminalized across the globe. While one must appreciate and celebrate the gains of human civilization, it should also be recognized that the concept and practices of slavery still exist and have developed new forms in the modern world.

‘Different countries use different terminology to describe modern forms of slavery, including the term slavery itself, but also other concepts such as human trafficking, forced labour, debt bondage, forced or servile marriage, and the sale and exploitation of children.

While definitions vary, modern slavery refers to situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, and coercion, abuse of power or deception, with treatment akin to a farm animal. For example, their passport might be taken away if they are in a foreign country, they may experience or be threatened with violence or their family might be threatened.’¹

Among other forms of modern slavery, bonded labour and child labour is widely practiced in Pakistan. The Pakistani government, along with the world community, prohibits the practice of debt slavery. However, it is highly inefficient when it comes to enforcing the laws and punishing the people who profit from slavery. Developed countries and humanitarian organizations are highly critical of modern day slavery. Human Rights Watch (HRW) argues that bonded labor is more common in the southern Punjab and Sindh regions of Pakistan.

“Bondage in agrarian regions involves the purchase and sale of peasants among landlords, the maintenance of private jails to discipline and punish peasants, the forcible transference of teachers who train peasants to maintain proper financial accounts and a pattern of rape of peasant women by landlords and the police,” said the organization.

Scope of Work:

AAWAZ Voice and Accountability Programme under its current activities is supporting the cause of ending modern slavery through research, policy advocacy and campaigning. It also intends to sharpen its focus on this theme in the next programming. AAWAZ, for this purpose, is commissioning action research focusing on bonded labour and child labour. This will be a pilot exercise in the selected four districts. The field research partner will identify key issues related

¹*Global Slavery Index Report, 2016, The Walk free Foundation,*

to these forms of modern slavery, delineate possible responses, and chalk out strategies/approaches for advocacy that are best suited for campaigning.

A field research partner organization is required to undertake this task with following objectives:

- Design a set of activities to raise awareness and carry out advocacy on the issues of bonded labour and child labour
- Implement these activities in selected 4 districts of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- Report back to the lead researcher

Deliverables:

- Activity chart with proposed methodology
- Implementation plan of the activities
- Report of the activities implemented

Key Requirements:

- A registered Pakistani organization who has a background of working on the issues of modern slavery particularly bonded labour and child labour