

THROUGH
• THEIR EYES
Visions
OF FORCED LABOUR



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First published 2021



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ISBN: 9789220358207 (Print); 9789220358214 (Web PDF)

Also available in French: Regards sur le travail forcé (ISBN 9789220358221 (Print) ; 9789220358238 (Web PDF)), Geneva (2021) and in Spanish: Miradas sobre el trabajo forzoso (ISBN 9789220358986 (Print) ; 9789220358993 (Web PDF)), Geneva, (2021).

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NOTE

The only tripartite U.N. agency, since 1919, the ILO brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.

Human Resources Without Borders (RHSF) is an NGO preventing the risks of child labour, forced labour and more generally indecent work in supply chains. It experiments with pilot prevention solutions with stakeholders, and shares its expertise with all those working for decent work throughout the supply chains.

Funding is provided by the United States Department of Labor under cooperative agreement number IL-27592-15-75-K-1 for the project "From Protocol to Practice : A Bridge to Global Action on Forced Labour" (Bridge Project) (GLO/15/26/USA). One hundred per cent of the total costs of the Bridge Project is financed with federal funds, for a total of 17,395,138 dollars.

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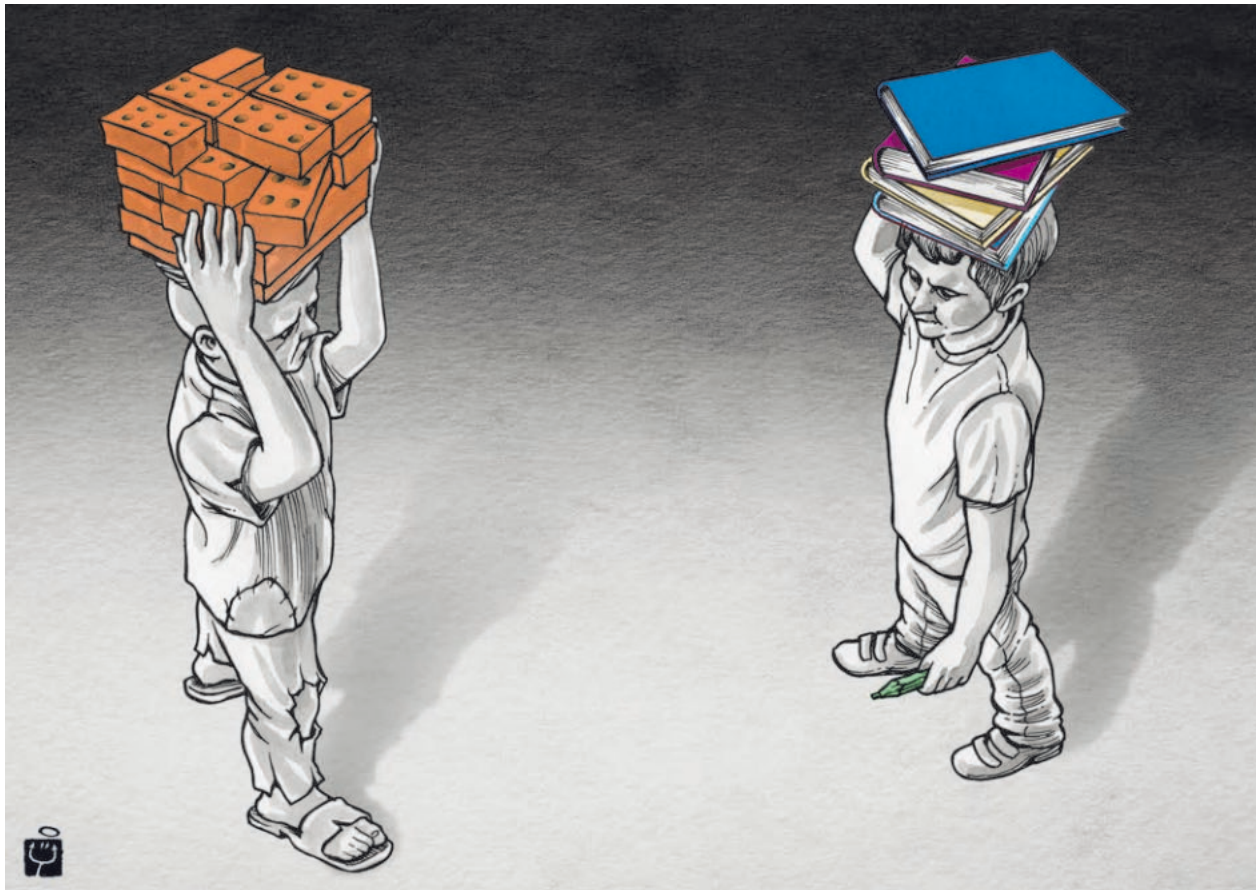
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THROUGH
• THEIR EYES
Visions
OF FORCED LABOUR

Based on the cartoon competition
organized by **ILO** and **RHSF**

with the support of **Cartooning for Peace**
as part of the **50 for Freedom** campaign



Shahrokh Heidari
Iran
Special distinction "Education"

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Estelle Eeckeman (Human Resources Without Borders - RHSF), Aurélie Hauchère Vuong and Lucie Pelfort (International Labour Organization - ILO) for coordinating the cartoon competition and the making of this book, as well as Jean-Pierre Audouin for wholeheartedly putting these “Visions” into words.

We would like to express our gratitude to all the cartoonists who put pen to paper to share their visions of adult and child forced labour. The most powerful cartoons have been used as a guiding thread for this book. You can read about the artists on pages 62.

We would like to thank our partner, Cartooning for Peace, who, through their work, use newspaper cartoons to promote human rights and liberties.

We would also like to thank the members of the jury : Marina Colby (US Department of Labor), Martine Combemale (RHSF), Anousheh Karvar (Alliance 8.7), Diana Maggiore (International Trade Union Confederation - ITUC), Jean Milligan (International Organisation of Employers – IOE), Molly Namirembe (activist), Philippe Vanhuynegem (ILO) and the members of the Steering Committee of the Global Business Network on Forced Labour (GBNFL).

We express our sincere gratitude to the artists who have supported this initiative with passion and talent: Motion designer Noé Noviant, film director Charles Gay and musicians Emilio Varelo Da Veiga and Annie Andriamanana. Thank you all for helping get the competition off to a creative start!

We would also like to thank Badra Alawa, Diya Banerjee, Agatha Bienaimé, Fernanda Carvalho, Caroline Chaigne-Hope, Oluremi Doherty, Laura Greene, Sandhu Gurchaten, Yann Hakam, Houtan Homayounpour, Mélanie Jeanroy, Kiran Mehra-Kerpelman, Luiz Machado, Jodelen Mitra, Teresa Torres, Sherelle Wilson, Thomas Wissing (ILO), Aziz Ahammout, Rita Aminova, Guy Clavel, Stéphanie Henrion, Marion Luc (RHSF), Sabine Prouvost et Lourdes Bigorra Cerveló for their invaluable help throughout the process.

FIGHTING

forced labour begins with fighting

INDIFFERENCE



Gargalo Vasco
Portugal

Winner of the competition

Call it forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking or debt bondage, it affects women, men and children the world over, far away in other parts of the world or directly in our neighbourhood.

It is often invisible; sometimes because it is hidden, sometimes because we choose to look away, sometimes because we do not recognize it. At times, it is also because the victims themselves, out of fear of reprisal or of losing the little they have left, prefer to remain hidden. They do not know who to trust, and they do not know their rights.

Invisibility feeds indifference and **indifference** feeds invisibility. To break this vicious cycle, we have to look reality in the eyes.

How can we make the invisible visible? That is what talented cartoonists from all over the world have done with the drawings that have inspired this book.

This is an invitation to look at these cartoons with your eyes and your mind wide open: their meaning isn't always obvious, but they show, in their own way, the multiple facets and the complexity of forced labour.

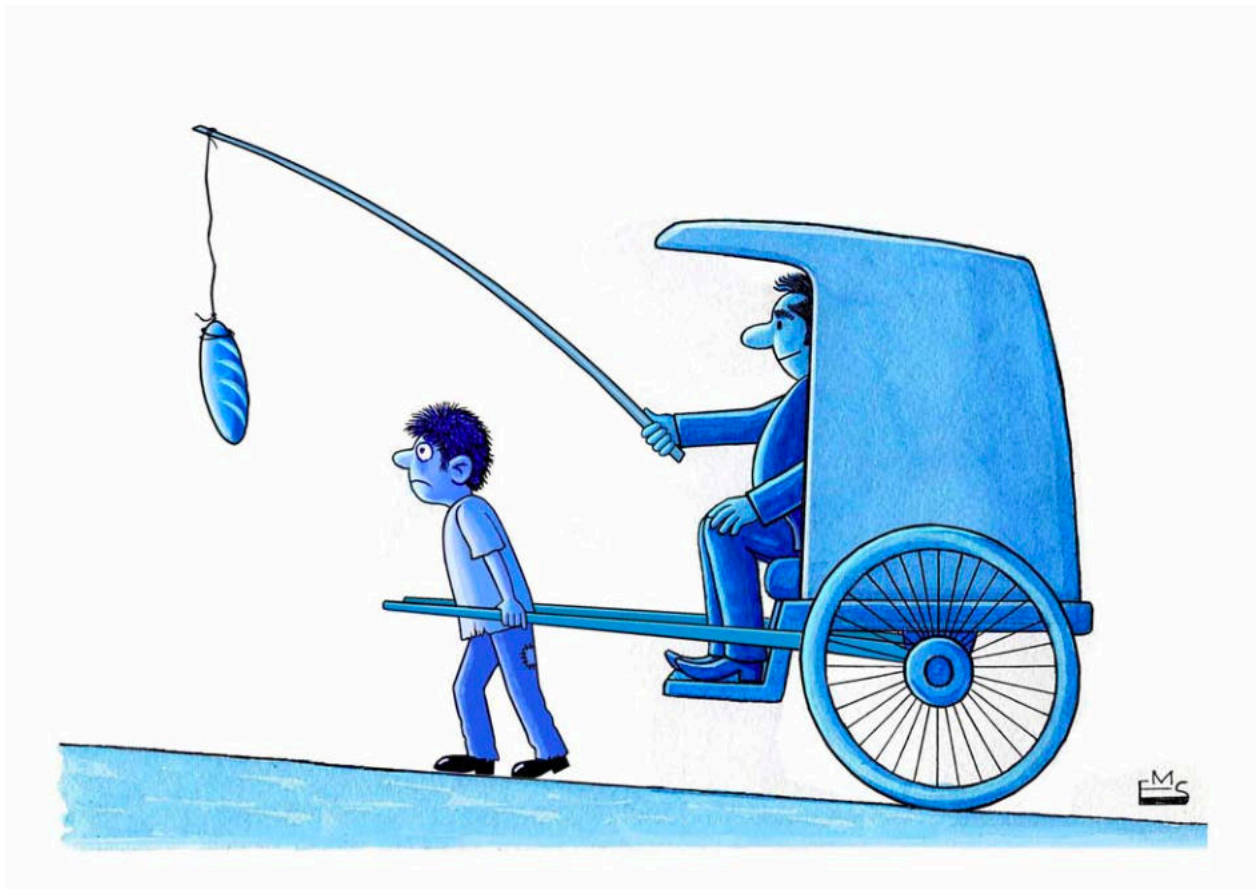
The **technical information** at the end of this book invites you to take a deeper look at this problem.

Let these cartoons shed light on the plight of the 25 millions children and adults in forced labour all over the world.

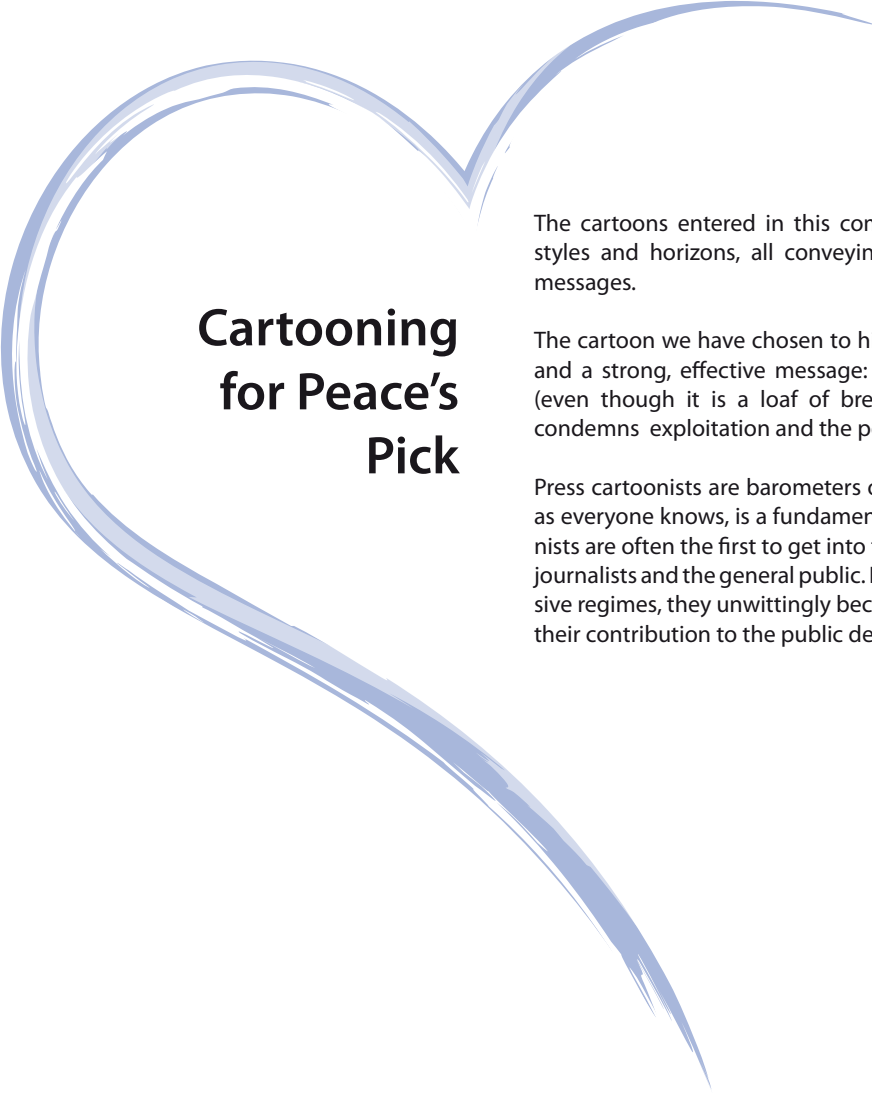
Part of their destiny is in our hands,
and in our eyes.

Martine Combemale
Founder and President
Human Resources Without Borders
(RHSF)

Philippe Vanhuynegem
Chief, Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch
International Labour Organization
(ILO)



Eshonkulov Makhmudjon
Uzbekistan
Cartooning for Peace's Pick



Cartooning for Peace's Pick

The cartoons entered in this competition span a wide range of styles and horizons, all conveying powerful, thought-provoking messages.

The cartoon we have chosen to highlight here has a clean design, and a strong, effective message: by using the image of a carrot (even though it is a loaf of bread here) and a stick, it clearly condemns exploitation and the perversity of forced labour.

Press cartoonists are barometers of freedom of expression, which, as everyone knows, is a fundamental human right. Indeed, cartoonists are often the first to get into trouble for their opinions, before journalists and the general public. In countries with the most repressive regimes, they unwittingly become whistle-blowers. This is why their contribution to the public debate is more valuable than ever.

Cartooning for Peace



Hira Kazmi
Pakistan
Honourable mention

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Chris Rutaysire
Rwanda
Honourable mention



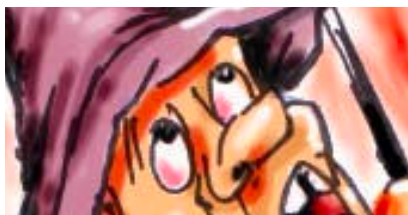
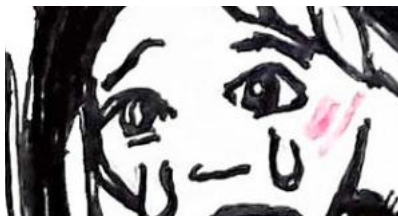
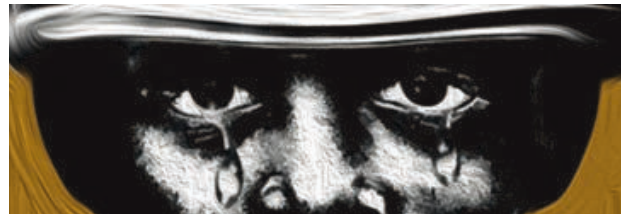
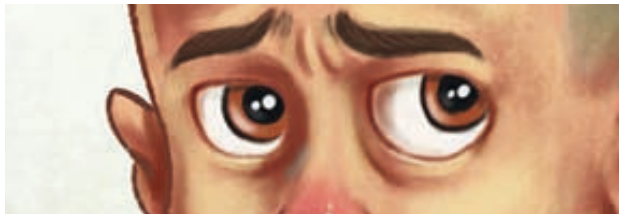
Making the invisible visible

Opening our eyes

Forced labour, modern slavery...

Behind these words there are
children, women, men,
human beings.

Facing indifference
starts by refusing
to look away...



Images extracted from the cartoons by: Khalil Raed Khalil, Syrian Arab Republic; Sepideh Aghaei, Iran; Cécile Bertrand, Belgium; Javad Takjoo, Iran; Abou Hassan Fadi, Norway; Pilar Parra, Spain; Laurène Gauvert, France; Abdelgawad Shosha, Egypt; Alexandra Grant Elizabeth, Saint Lucia; Richard Nagy, France; Edi Dharma, Indonesia; Sadia Rahman, Bangladesh; Gargalo Vasco, Portugal.

Elsewhere?

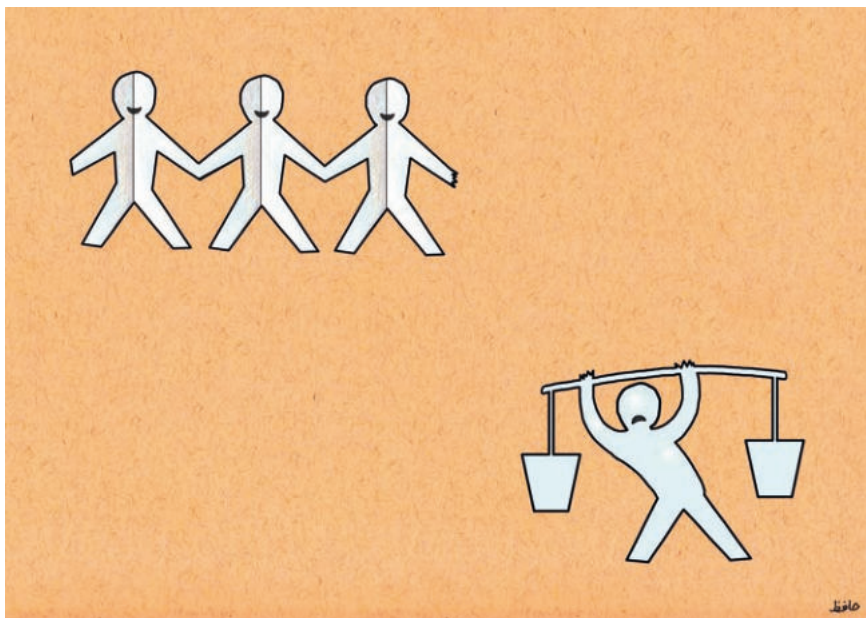


There is this world, and there is that world.
For each world, the other is elsewhere.

They live side by side,
but this world does not see that world,
while that world can only dream of this world.

Richard Nagy
France

Jonathan Lynx Maignan
Haiti



David Hafez
United States

Injustice



Forced labour
isn't just morally wrong,

It is a crime.

It is a violation of the fundamental,
universally-recognized human rights of men,
women and children.

Edi Dharma
Indonesia

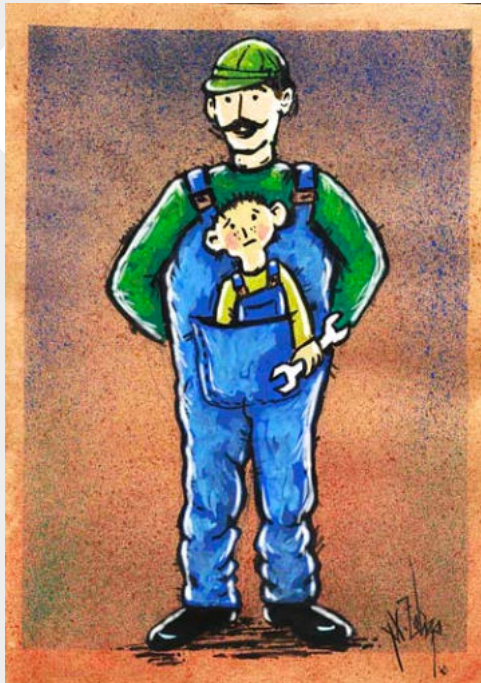


Oguz Gurel
Turkey



Eshonkulov Makhmudjon
Uzbekistan

Inheritance?

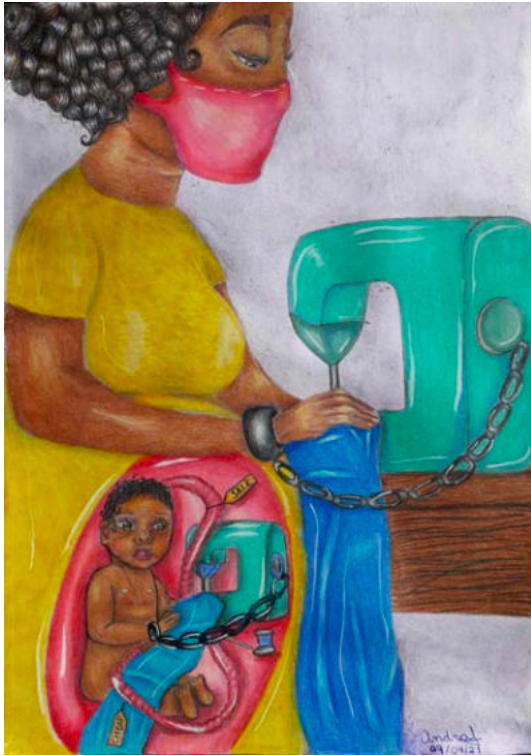


Will children inevitably
suffer the same fate as their parents?
Is there another way?

The greatest challenge?

Breaking the cycle of poverty
and discrimination.

Mehmet Zeber
Turkey



Andrea Daniela Lyon Blanco
United States

Juan Gabriel Benavides
Spain

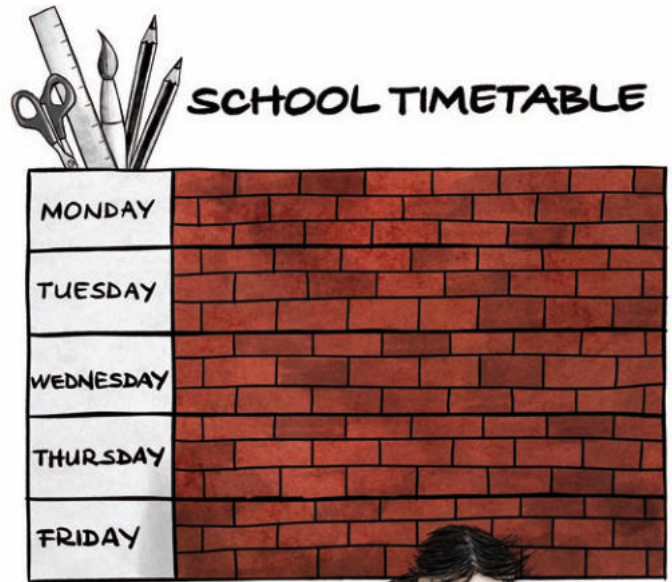


Dead ends

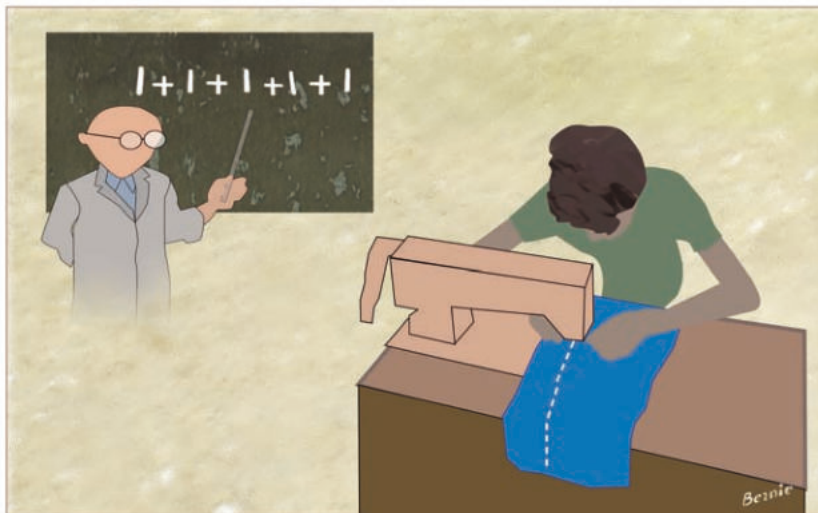
What does the future hold
for these youngsters,
if no one cares about their future?



Sepideh Aghaei
Iran



Hilal Özcan
Turkey



Bernard Bouton
France



Kaan Saatci
Turkey
Public's Pick

Looking reality in the eye | Uprooted | Trapped | Exploited | Dehumanised



Looking reality in the eye

Uprooted



Millions of children, women and men around the world are trapped in forced labour.

Who are they?

What is their story?

What is their life like?

Many are migrant workers who have left their homes to find work, in another town or abroad, to feed themselves and provide for their families.

Driven by poverty, lured by false promises, they have to pay labour recruiters to find work and get into debt with people who manipulate and exploit them.

Yes, they left willingly, they signed a contract, but does it mean anything when they have been lied to, deceived?

This is when many situations of forced labour arise.

Mehmet Zeber
Turkey

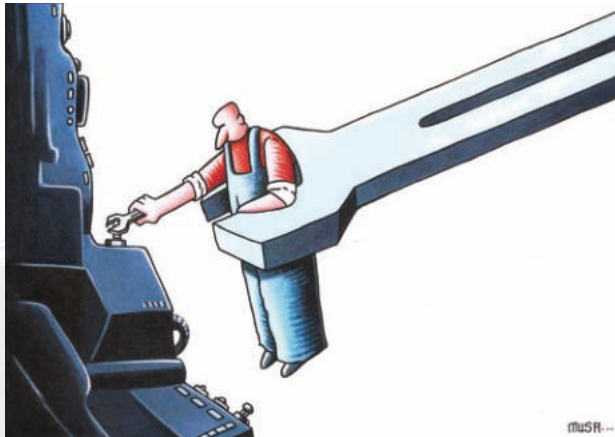


Elizabeth Alexandra Grant
Saint Lucia



Heath Katheweral
Malawi

Trapped



Musa Gumus
Turkey

Many find themselves Trapped with dubious contracts, undue debts to pay, in jobs that have nothing to do with what they were promised.

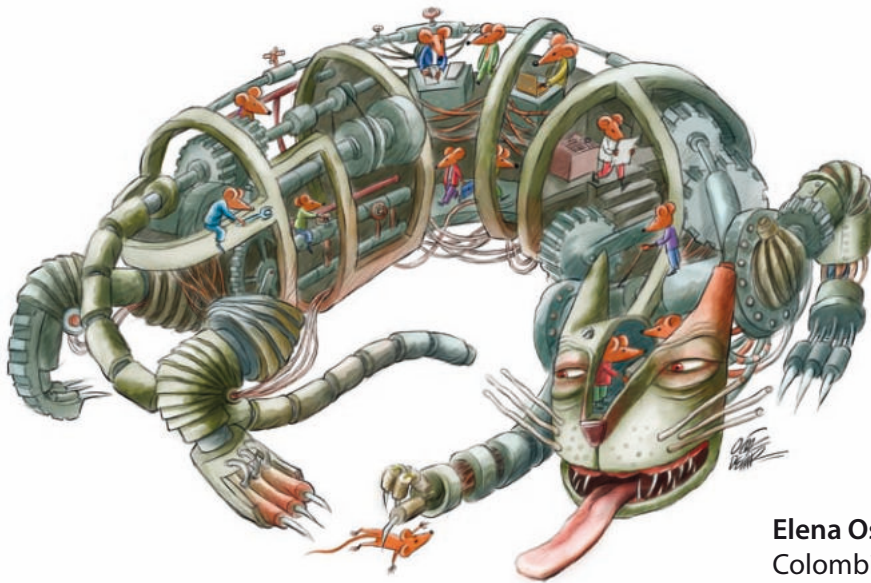
Away from their families, they have to rely on their employer for work and very often for food and shelter.

Unable to move or communicate freely,

isolated,

not knowing who to trust, they have no way of asserting their rights.

Oguz Demir
Turkey



Elena Ospina Mejía
Colombia

These children, these women,
these men no one wants to see or talk about...
Forced to work long hours, with no or minimal pay,
under unacceptable working conditions...

Where are they?

Exploited



What do they do?

What is their occupation, their job?

Visible or invisible, they work:

- in markets
- on waste deposits
- on construction sites
- in shops
- in mines
- in homes
- on fishing boats
- in factories
- on the streets
- in fields
- on battlefields
- ...

Walanj Priyanka
India



Elizabeth Alexandra Grant
Saint Lucia



Elrayah Ombaddi
Sudan

Looking reality in the eye | Uprooted | Trapped | Exploited | Dehumanised

Dehumanised

Nameless and faceless,
they are used as tools,
disposable, stripped of all humanity.



Anas Lakkis
Lebanon



Musa Gumus
Turkey



Oguz Demir
Turkey



Javad Takjoo
Iran
2nd place in the competition

Defeating indifference | Indignation | Eyes wide open | Dreams and realities | Overcoming fate

Defeating indifference

Indignation



How can we remain
indifferent

to the living and working conditions
of millions of children,
women and men trapped in forced labour?

If their tears become ours,
then our vision will change...

Maite Leon
France



Gargalo Vasco
Portugal

Defeating indifference | Indignation | Eyes wide open | Dreams and realities | Overcoming fate

Eyes wide open



How can we remain indifferent
as we go about our daily lives?

Let us face
forced labour,

in what we buy, where we go, around us.

Paresh Nath
India



Jean-Baptiste Payen
France



Tjeerd Royaards
Netherlands

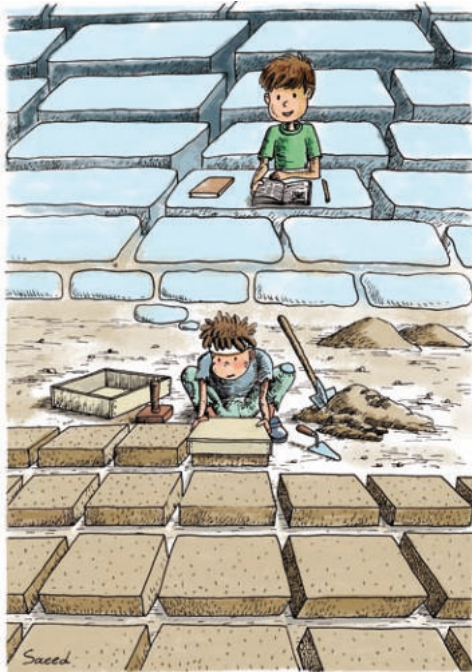
Dreams and realities

Do these children know
that what they dream of should be theirs by right?
What if their dreams could help build a better future?



Alberto Alvarez
Spain

Halit Kurtulmus Aytoslu
Turkey



Saeed Sadeghi
Iran



Rahman Sadia
Bangladesh

Overcoming fate

When these two worlds acknowledge each other,

When we manage to overcome indifference,

When we face reality,

When we have faith in the future,

When we believe in justice,

When we believe that dreams can become a reality,

**We can make
change happen.**



Abdelgawad Shosha
Egypt



Pilar Parra
Spain
Honourable mention



Let's take action!

In the face of forced labour, we may feel powerless alone.

We are all concerned – citizens, consumers, employers, elected officials, members of trade unions and NGOs... All of us.

Eradicating forced labour is a complex and a long-term endeavour. No one can do it alone. We all need to be part of the solution.

Understanding the issue



Eliana Cross
Australia

What I can do:

- Understand what forced labour is – a complex issue that cannot be resolved with simple solutions.
- Learn how to identify its indicators.
- Inform myself about the services and products I buy – for example, can their price actually support decent working conditions?
- Check whether my country has ratified the international conventions on forced labour and related topics and how it implements them.
- Ask local officials what they are doing in my town or region, in particular in terms of procurement policies.
- Ask my managers about the preventive measures in place at my workplace and in our supply chain.

Maarten Wolterink
Netherlands
Special distinction
"Supply Chains"



Offering support



What I can do:

- Participate in a trade union to defend all workers, including those in the most vulnerable situations and the most isolated ones (migrant workers, those in the informal economy...).
- Support an organization dedicated to fighting forced labour (see the Modern Slavery Map). Contribute my time and my skills to an NGO.
- Turn to my country's and/or my industry's employers federation, and business networks dedicated to forced labour such as the ILO Global Business Network on Forced Labour to get specific advice and share inspiring best practices.
- Learn how to recognize victims of forced labour and find ways to help them at my level

Javad Takjoo
Iran



Yadav Pratiksha
India



Stefano Gamboni
Italy

Getting committed

What I can do:

- Ensure decent work including decent wages to anyone who works for me.
- Mainstream the issue of forced labour in my choices as a consumer. In particular, encourage companies that adopt concrete measures and act transparently.
- Bear in mind the complexity of the issue when supporting actions against forced labour – for example, some boycott campaigns against a brand or a country can actually have devastating financial consequences on the most vulnerable and lead to move the issue of forced labour to other places or sectors.
- Do not buy counterfeit goods, produced without control, often in abusive labour conditions.
- Make sure that my company or public organization is committed to a genuine forced labour prevention policy, namely by identifying risks all the way down the supply chain and operations, and by collaborating with the stakeholders involved to protect vulnerable people.
- Engage my organization in experimenting innovative solutions in partnership with multi-stakeholder networks, such as
RHSF's Lab 8.7 :
www.rhsansfrontieres.org/en/act-with-us/
and the Alliance 8.7 :
www.alliance87.org



Ed Hall
United States

Mobilizing others



What I can do:

- Ask my government to ratify relevant international conventions and protocols, in particular the ILO's 2014 Protocol on Forced Labour.
- Reach out to my public representatives on the need to adopt and implement appropriate legislation and guarantee victims' access to justice in line with international labour standards.
- Hold public and private organizations accountable for risk prevention in their supply chains and operations.
- Conduct awareness raising campaigns, in my school, my neighbourhood, my place of work, using the cartoon exhibition shown in this book for example.

Pilar Parra
Spain



Paresh Nath
India
Special distinction "Taking action"



Osman Suroglu
Turkey
Honourable mention



Delving Deeper

Today, millions of children, women and men are victims of forced labour.

Forced labour in all its forms - human trafficking, debt bondage, slavery, etc. - occurs in every country and every region of the world. Poverty and discrimination are among its root causes.

Forced labour is not only a violation of labour rights and laws, it is also a crime and a violation of human rights.

The elimination of forced labour is one of the four rights and principles enshrined in the ILO's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work adopted by all ILO member States in 1998. It is therefore a principle these countries must abide by, promote and apply, along with freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, the abolition of child labour and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Real-life story

"There was no work in my village so I took a job abroad. They promised me good money with free food and a room. When I got there I found there was no job. They told me I had to work as a prostitute to pay back what I owed. I refused, but they locked me in a room. Later that day, two men came, raped me and beat me. They forced me to have sex with about thirty men every day. After a year I managed to escape. I was thrown in jail because the police said I was there illegally. I'm still in shock. I can't believe this happened to me."

The ILO’s Convention n°29 defines forced labour as:

“all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily.”		
Any work or service: with or without a contract, in the formal or informal economy, including activities not recognised as “occupation” under some legislations (prostitution, domestic work, forced begging, etc.).		The penalty does not have to be effective, the threat of penalty is enough.
Adults, children, nationals, foreigners, including irregular or undocumented migrant workers.		The term penalty is understood in the widest sense: legal sanctions, violence, reprisals, etc.
		No free and informed consent.
		Inability to change work or employer freely.

This convention is among the ILO’s most-ratified conventions as of 1 October 2021 it had been ratified by 179 countries.

How can you recognize forced labour in practice? Here are a few indicators typically found in forced labour situations:

For example, when a person:	Indicator
has to do a different job from what they had been promised or for less pay	Deception
is locked up in their place of work, or is only able to leave the site under supervision	Restriction of movement
is not allowed to contact their family	Isolation
is subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence	Violence
is threatened of reprisals against their family or of being reported to the police for being in the country illegally	Intimidation and threats
is forced to sign a contract in a language they do not understand or to pay abusive recruitment fees to get a job	Abuse of vulnerability
is not able to get their passport back from their employer who has confiscated it	Retention of identity documents
does not get paid as agreed for no valid reason	Withholding of wages
is unable to repay their debt because the amounts have been manipulated	Debt bondage
works and lives in conditions that are contrary to human dignity	Abusive working and living conditions
works overtime beyond legal limits without being able to refuse	Excessive overtime
depends on their employer for their job, housing and food	Multiple dependency on the employer

Victims of forced labour can suffer different kinds of duress: abusive recruitment fees, unwarranted wage deductions, passport confiscation, psychological, physical or sexual violence... They are isolated, they may be prevented from contacting their relatives, and live and work in unfit, unhealthy and degrading conditions.

As a result, it can be extremely hard for them to ask for help. Who can you trust when you are being manipulated and threatened?

Many forced labourers are in debt bondage situations – they may have incurred debt and this debt may have been manipulated in such a way that it is difficult or even impossible for them to reimburse it. Sometimes the debt is inherited from their parents.

Real-life story

"To get that job, I had to pay the agency more than a year's salary, which is illegal in my country... Before I left, I signed a contract but when I arrived, I was presented with another contract, with different conditions and unexpected salary deductions. The new contract also authorised the agency to keep my passport. I had no other option, so I signed it. Twenty percent of my salary is deducted for accommodation, food and electricity. And I also have to reimburse the loan I took to pay the hiring fees. I have to work long hours to cover all these expenses and provide for my children back home".



Chris Rutaysire
Rwanda

The most at-risk sectors are domestic work, construction, manufacturing, agriculture and fishing. But we must not forget the victims of sexual exploitation, child soldiers and children who are forced to beg.

Among the most vulnerable victims are migrant workers, people who work in the informal economy and those without social protection.

In 2014, at the ILO International Labour Conference, governments, employers and workers decided to give renewed impetus to the global fight against forced labour. A Protocol and Recommendation complementing the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) was adopted by an overwhelming majority. As of 1 October 2021, 56 countries had ratified this Protocol.

To eradicate forced labour, the Protocol demands that countries take concrete and effective measures to prevent forced labour, protect victims and give them access to justice and remedies, including compensation.

In practice, here are a few examples of concrete actions governments can take to combat forced labour based on the provisions of the ILO's 2014 Protocol and Recommendation:

Prevention

- Organize awareness-raising campaigns for a vulnerable group or the general public
- Train labour inspectors and law enforcement officers to detect forced labour situations
- Ensure that relevant laws cover all workers and do not exclude anyone (e.g. undocumented migrants) or any sectors (e.g. domestic workers)
- Ensure that workers do not have to pay any recruitment fees to get a job
- Identify the risks of forced labour in the supply chains of public and private companies and take corrective action as necessary
- Raise awareness of public authorities on due diligence with regard to their suppliers' practices
- Address the root causes of forced labour (discrimination, poverty, illiteracy, lack of social protection, etc.)

Protection

- Formalise a list of indicators to help detect cases of forced labour
- Provide safe housing to victims after they are freed
- Offer support and training to victims to help them access decent work opportunities
- Protect victims against prosecution for acts they were compelled to commit as a result of being in forced labour (e.g. offenses related to immigration status, prostitution or drugs)

Access to justice

- Criminalise all forms of forced labour
- Allow civil society organizations to press charges on behalf of victims
- Ensure that victims have access to justice, in particular access to appropriate and effective remedies and compensation, irrespective of their presence in the country or of their legal status (documented or undocumented)
- Provide housing, healthcare, and material, social, financial and legal assistance to victims
- Do not make protection measures or access to justice conditional upon victims' collaboration to investigations

Coordination

- Adopt a national action plan on forced labour, human trafficking and debt bondage
- Involve employers' and workers' organizations and other interested groups in the development of this plan
- Adopt a strategy that encompasses specific vulnerabilities, namely those of children and migrant workers, as well as gender issues
- Reinforce international cooperation between migrant workers' countries of origin and of destination

Forced labour knows no borders: eradicating it requires global and coordinated action between all actors and countries through concrete, effective measures and an efficient use of resources.

In September 2015, the world's leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which defines 17 integrated and indivisible Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), each broken down into targets which are key to achieving the goals. SDG Target 8.7 calls for immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of child labour in all its forms, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, which are all essential steps towards achieving decent work for all, full and productive employment and inclusive and sustainable economic growth. This goal is shared with the Alliance 8.7, a global partnership comprising over 240 stakeholders (countries, businesses, civil society organizations, etc.) who are acting together to accelerate action to reach this target – particularly under the impetus of pathfinder countries (please visit www.alliance87.org).

Real-life story

"After high school, I was offered a job abroad. When I arrived, a man took my passport and sent me to work for a family with five children.

I did everything in the house – cleaning, taking care of the kids, cooking, washing laundry. I worked 10 to 14 hours a day with no days off. I wasn't allowed to go anywhere. And I couldn't quit without my passport..."

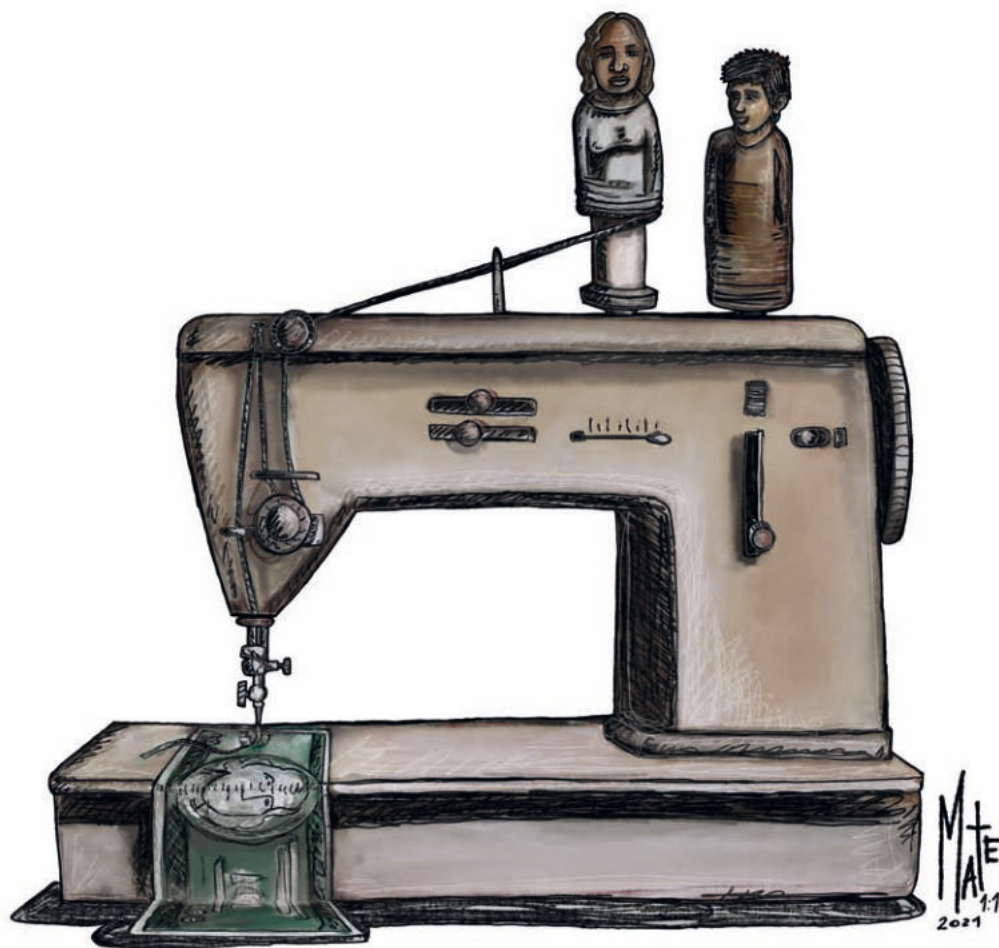
Want to know more?

Please visit:

www.rhsansfrontieres.org/en/resources

and

www.ilo.org/forcedlabour



Matías Tejeda
Argentina
Honourable mention

The Cartoonists



Africa: Abdelgawad Shosha (Egypt), Chris Rutaysire (Rwanda), Elrayah Ombaddi (Sudan), Heath Katheweral (Malawi) - **Americas:** Alexandra Grant Elizabeth (Saint Lucia), Andrea Daniela Lyon Blanco (Venezuela), David Hafez (United States), Ed Hall (États-Unis), Elena Ospina Mejía (Colombia), Jonathan Lynx Maignan (Haiti), Matías Tejeda (Argentina), Srashta Maharjan (United States) - **Asia and the Pacific:** Darsono (Indonesia), Deeksha Sharma (India), Edi Dharma (Indonesia), Eliana Cross (Australia), Hira Kazmi (Pakistan), Javad Takjoo (Iran), Paresh Nath (India), Saeed Sadeghi (Iran), Sepideh Aghaei (Iran), Shahrokh Heidari (Iran), Stephanie Stella (Indonesia), Yadav Pratiksha (India) - **Arab States:** Anas Lakkis (Liban) - **Europe and Central Asia:** Alberto Alvarez (Spain), Aleksei Kivokurtsev (Russian Federation), Bernard Bouton (France), Eshonkulov Makhmudjon (Uzbekistan), Gargalo Vasco (Portugal), Halit Kurtulmus Aytoşlu (Turkey), Hilal Özcan (Turkey), Jean-Baptiste Payen (France), Jose Javier Castro Berrocal (Spain), Juan Gabriel Benavides (Spain), Kaan Saatci (Turkey), Laurène Gauvert (France), Maarten Wolterink (Netherlands), Maite Leon (France), Mehmet Zeber (Turkey), Musa Gumus (Turkey), Oguz Demir (Turkey), Oguz Gurel (Turkey), Osman Suroglu (Turkey), Pilar Parra (Spain), Salih Kütükçü (Turkey), Stefano Gamboni (Italy), Tjeerd Royaards (Netherlands)



1st PLACE : Gargalo Vasco, Portugal - p. 4

"Drawing is my way of expressing my opinion and making people reflect about social and political issues. Forced labour and child labour are part of my agenda, as we live in such an unfair world and these issues are often unseen".



2nd PLACE : Javad Takjoo, Iran - p. 32

This cartoon illustrates the plight of many children trapped in forced labour, who spend their childhood toiling away instead of growing and playing in a safe environment. It is an echo to the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, 2021 – as forced labour of children is one of the worst forms of child labour.



CARTOONING FOR PEACE'S PICK: Eshonkulov Makhmudjon, Uzbekistan - p. 6

"I believe the role of cartoons in solving problems is incomparable, because caricature does not choose the language; any nation can understand what is drawn"



PUBLIC'S PICK: Kaan Saatci, Turkey - p. 22

"Forced labour is a huge problem and I'm glad to take a part in such a good cause. Forced labour should no longer exists. A cartoon conveys a message but the viewer is the one who receives it, so sometimes being a cartoonist is about poking the beehive to alarm the bees against the bear."



THEMATIC DISTINCTIONS

Special distinction "Supply Chains": **Maarten Wolterink, Netherlands - p. 45**

Special distinction "Education": **Shahrokh Heidari, Iran - p. 2**

Special distinction "Taking action": **Nath Paresh, India - p. 51**



HONOURABLE MENTIONS

Hira Kazmi, Pakistan - p. 8

Chris Rutaysire, Rwanda - p. 10

Pilar Parra, Spain - p. 42

Osman Suroglu, Turkey - p. 52

Matías Tejeda, Argentina - p. 61

“You may choose
to look the other way
but you can never say again
that you did not know.”

William Wilberforce (1759-1833)
British Parliamentarian,
leader of the movement to abolish the slave trade

THROUGH
THEIR EYES
Visions
OF FORCED LABOUR



International
Labour
Organization



With the
support
of



An exhibition of these cartoons is available for awareness-raising activities! For more information please contact:
contact@hrwithoutborders.org / forcedlabour@ilo.org