



Modern slavery in public procurement supply chains

UNISON's Response

The problem



- 2016 ILO estimates 40.3 million people trapped in **modern slavery**
- 16 million enslaved in **private sector**
- 50 companies hold combined wealth = 100 nations yet 94% (116 million) **workers are hidden** in their supply chains

Leads to obscene inequality

- Between 2006 - 2015 ordinary **workers' income** rose av. 2% yr. **More than half** the world's population lives on between \$2 and \$10 a day
- Between 2006 - 2015 **billionaire wealth** rose nearly 13% yr – almost x6 faster
- [Workers' poverty leads many to become vulnerable migrant workers'](#)

The cause



Neoliberal globalisation

- Absence of accountability
- Absence of transparency
- Denial of workers' rights

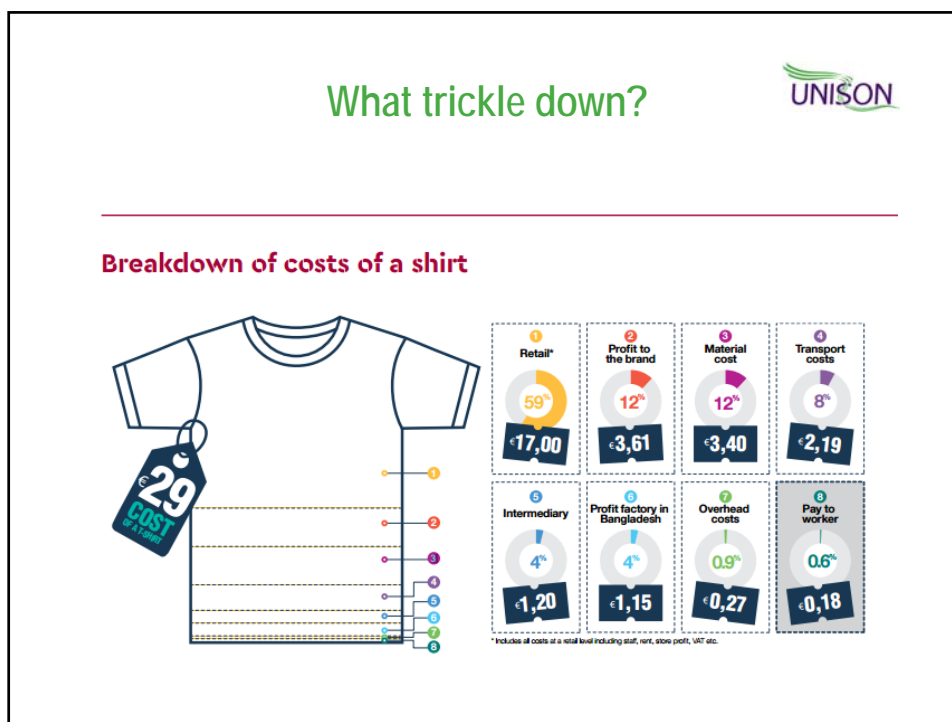


What's it got to do with us?

- Moral imperative – a driver for a better world?
- Work in the public service
- Our taxes pay for the £200 billion UK procurement bill
- Experiencing or at threat of outsourcing
- Use goods and services caught up in supply chains
- Users of public services
- Our members are the procurers, the finance officers etc.
- Influence over Labour Party policy
- Workers in poorer countries are the guinea pigs – we are next...

Child labour in NHS supply chains?





Multilateral Response



Voluntary mechanisms


- ILO Conventions and Recommendations
- OECD Guidelines on MNCs
- United Nations Guiding Principles on MNCs
- Global Compact

Binding mechanisms

- Trade deals with secret arbitration courts
- Could there be a Binding Treaty on MNCs and Human Rights?

The US\$80 billion global voluntary corporate social responsibility (CSR) industry has failed

Legislative reforms towards mandatory human rights due diligence (mHRDD) Sept 2018					
	Law in force	Concrete bill in parliament	Government commitment	Public discussion (parliamentary recommendations, NGO proposals)	Public support by businesses
France	x (loi de vigilance)				
Switzerland		x (citizen initiative RBI and parliamentary counter-proposal)		x	x (80 individual business people supporting the initiative; 'Groupement des Entreprises Multinationales', representing 90 MNE supporting the counter-proposal)
Netherlands		x (Child Labour Due Diligence bill, limited to child labour)s			x (support letter of Nestlé, Heineken, ABN Amro and others)
Austria		x (Sozialverantwortungsgesetz, limited to clothing sector)		x	
EU	x (restricted to illicit timber and minerals)		x (commitment to explore Directors Duties for HRDD in 2019)	x (several resolutions in EP, Green Card initiative by national parliaments)	
Germany			x (regulation announced in case 2020 goal of 50% of large companies doing appropriate HRDD is not achieved)	x	
Italy			x (commitment in NAP to consider legislative reform for mHRDD and extension of existing administrative corporate liability law 231/2001)		
Finland				x (joint business/CSO campaign)	x (some of the largest retailers like Kesko, S-Group or brands like Coca Cola, Fazer directly supporting the campaign)
Luxembourg				x (CSO campaign)	
UK				x (UK Parliament Joint Committee on Human Rights)	



UK detail

2015 UK Modern Slavery Act

- Reporting mechanism under review
- Transparency in supply chains annual **statements** (TISC)
- **Excludes** public services which procure more than **£200 billion** annually
- **No punishment** for non-compliance
- No requirement to carryout **due diligence**
- Conflates modern slavery with **migrant worker** legal status

But public service momentum is growing

- Local authorities 80% reference sustainability, 52% wider strategies, 28% stand alone sustainable procurement policy
- More than 50 universities are members of Electronics Watch

UNISON's response to date



Activities

- UNISON Modern Slavery **statements** 2016 & 2017
- **Campaigned** for MS Act and TISC
- **Electronics:** Affiliated to and support Electronics Watch
- **Clothing:** After Rana Plaza, campaign work and union building project
- **Construction:** World Cup 2022 campaigned and project to support Philippine workers' to organise
- **Child marriage** is child labour
- **Ethical Trading Initiative**

Resources

- Responsible buying in public services
- Ethical procurement in local authorities
- Tackling modern slavery through global supply chains





Electronics Watch

Mission: Help public service organisations work together and collaborate with local monitoring partners to protect the labour rights and safety of workers in their electronics supply chains

- Independent monitoring to identify abuses
- Reports back to affiliated members
- Supports members to negotiate improvements with brands, suppliers and factories
- Two years old: over 100,000 workers benefited
- UNISON is an affiliate
- Only one UK local authority is a member but targeting others

Electronics Watch Affiliates



Member involvement today



- Read the resources
- Ask questions Local Government
 - Model motion to council
 - Write to Chief Executive
- Request ethical policy/plan
- Work in procurement / sit on procurement group?
 - Police and probation
 - NHS Scotland
- Affiliate to Electronics Watch

Towards a strategic response



Over 4 years UNISON takes the lead in public service ethical procurement

- Design ethical procurement model to eventually cover all service gps
- Learn from best existing practice and fill in the gaps
- In-house tri or bi-partite learning by doing education: Pilot local government
- Four high risk sectors: electronics, clothing, food, construction
- Development cooperation projects to organise supply chains
- Risk protect
- Share successes and influence others



Watch this space and stay in touch!

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