

How the Public and Private Sectors can Eliminate Forced Labor

Forced labor is a problem affecting millions of people each year. Today, the U.S. Chamber hosted an event on eliminating it. It featured experts from government and the private sector who discussed ways to empower businesses to combat modern-day slavery.

Here are three key takeaways:

Employers are aware that they face legal, moral, and reputational risks when they or their suppliers engage in forced labor. The U.S. Chamber and A21 have developed a [best practices toolkit](#) to assist employers in rooting out forced labor in supply chains.

The U.S. federal government is educating employers about their legal obligations.

Employers may be penalized for failure to conduct due diligence in Xinjiang province, China.

When there is an investigation by the Department of Homeland Security, there is tension between a commitment to transparency and providing information to impacted parties.

The Office of the United States Trade Representative engages with trade ministries abroad to deal with forced labor using a systematic approach.

Marcia Eugenio of the Department of Labor's Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB), said, "Other agencies rely on the information ILAB provides to help them prevent goods with exported labor from entering the U.S. market."

Technology is part of the solution. Thomson Reuters and Counter Human Trafficking Compliance Solutions developed commercially based solutions that use predictive analytics to map out human trafficking in supply chains.

Through cooperation between the public and private sectors, we can end the insidious practice of forced labor.

Learn more. The Chamber's [Task Force to Eradicate Human Trafficking](#) has additional resources.