

The Hon. D Perrottet
Premier of New South Wales
Sydney 2000

cc/ The Hon. D. Harwin, MLC
Special Minister of State

5 November 2021

RE: NGOs support of the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (NSW).

Dear Premier,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Premier of New South Wales. As leaders of Non-Governmental Organisations, we wish you all the best in your new role and look forward to working with you.

Your predecessor, Gladys Berejiklian, was a co-sponsor of the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (NSW) ('the Act') as it passed through the New South Wales Parliament. We appreciate the strong moral stance the government took against the scourge of modern slavery, which we know is present within our state borders and throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

As leaders of NGOs, we are extremely concerned that the Act is still awaiting proclamation, nearly 1200 days since passing the NSW Parliament. We wish to impress upon you the importance of maintaining your commitment to the people of New South Wales by urgently proclaiming and commencing the Act.

We understand that minor amendments are required to ensure the Act functions as intended. However, we are concerned that future amendments might include the removal of hard-fought key provisions that ensure the Act is effective in combatting modern slavery. We urge you to **retain the following provisions** in any amendments to the Act:

1. Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner
2. \$50 million consolidated revenue threshold
3. Penalties for non-compliance
4. Support for victims.

The Asia-Pacific region is home to approximately two-thirds of the world's slaves, many of them children and women. NSW has the seventh largest economy within this region. And, as NSW Government departments and businesses continue to procure goods, have links in their supply chains, and conduct their operations within the Asia-Pacific region, it is vital that we have well-functioning anti-slavery legislation in NSW.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the urgency of addressing the problem of modern slavery in our region. More than 10 million children around the globe are being exploited and suffering. We can no longer be bystanders to this gross injustice.

As leaders of NGOs in NSW, we implore you to endorse the Act once again, and to immediately introduce appropriate amendments to the Parliament that will finally see the NSW Modern Slavery Act proclaimed and commenced.

Signed,

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION AUSTRALIA

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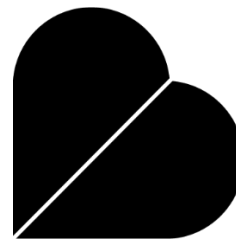
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