Project AIMS
(AI against Modern Slavery)

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Mila

"Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms"

- United Nations' SDG 8, target 8.7
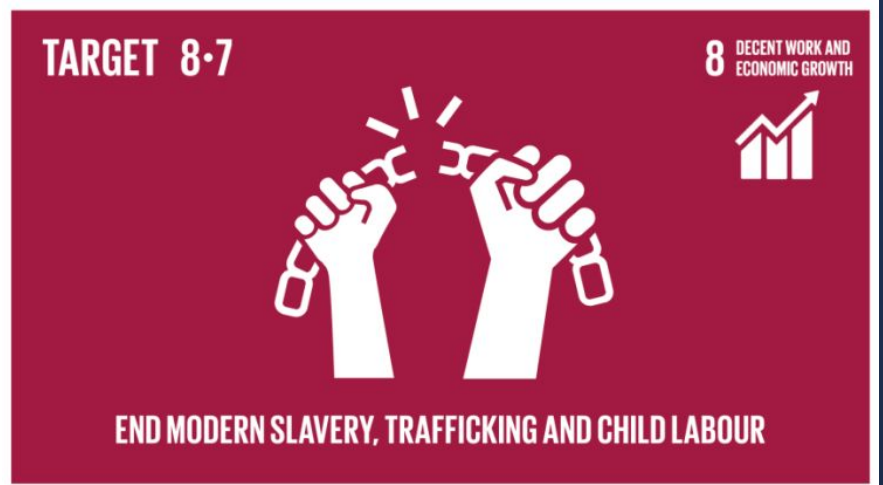
The scale of this problem

50 million people were in situations of modern slavery on any given day in 2021

      27.6 million in forced labour and

      22 million in forced marriages

A total of 17.3 million adults and children are in forced labour imposed by private actors in sectors other than commercial sexual exploitation
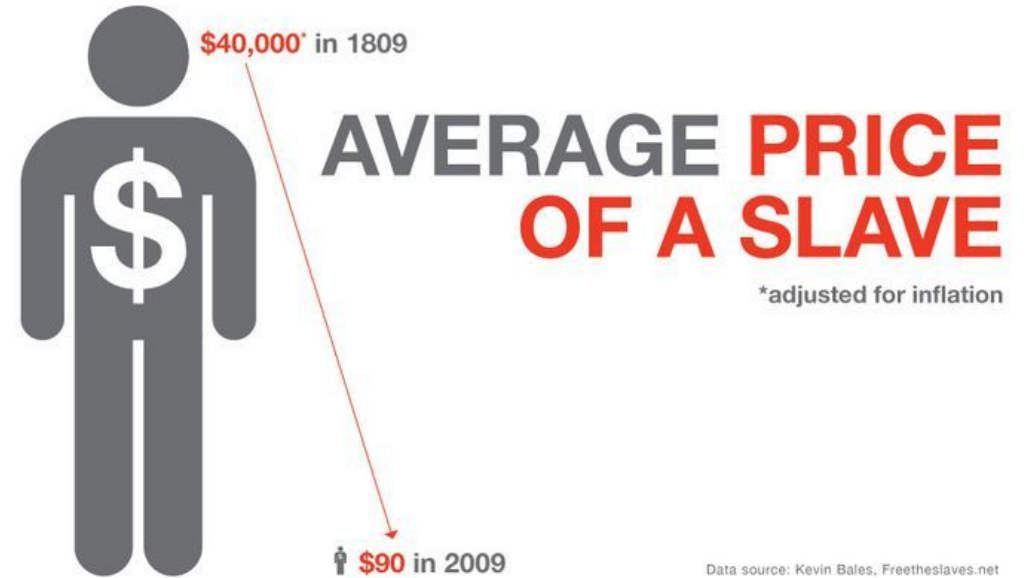
It is now cheaper than ever to trade in human beings

"People do not enslave people to be mean to them; they do it to make a profit." – Kevin Bales

$40,000* in 1809

AVERAGE **PRICE**
OF A SLAVE

*adjusted for inflation

$90 in 2009

Data source: Kevin Bales, Freetheslaves.net

Modern slavery legislation

The UK introduced the first national legal framework for combatting modern slavery, the **Modern Slavery Act of 2015**

California, Australia, the EU, France, the Netherlands, Germany have similar legislation, with **many more countries expected to follow** in the coming years

Modern Slavery Act 2015

Modern Slavery Act 2018

Modern slavery statements

An estimated **17,000 modern slavery statements are published each year by UK** businesses, with thousands more expected from other countries

Currently, it takes over **1 hour to manually assess and validate one statement**

Project AIMS (AI against Modern Slavery)

In partnership with Minderoo Foundation's **Walk Free** initiative, **The Future Society** launched in April 2020, Project AIMS to build initial explorations of AI solutions design to analyse all the available statements
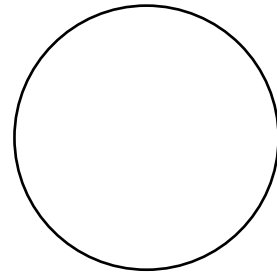
THE FUTURE SOCIETY

WALK FREE

Objectives of Project AIMS
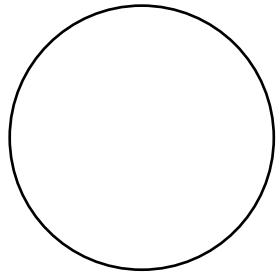
Build an open-source AI tool to decrease the time required to benchmark Modern Slavery Act-compliant statements

Provide policymakers and legislators with a greater understanding of these new methods of analysis, **fostering their use in other contexts**, such as other non-financial reporting initiatives
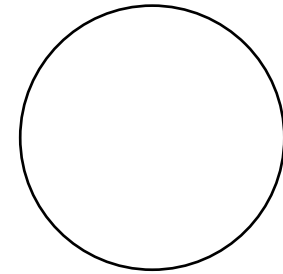
Encourage top AI talent, software developers, data scientists, and social scientists **to apply their domain expertise** to AI for social good projects and combat modern slavery

Now Project AIMS's first phase is open source on GitHub!

➤ **https://github.com/the-future-society/Project-AIMS-AI-against-Modern-Slavery**

➤ Project AIMS was awarded the UNESCO IRCAI AI AWARD 2021

Next steps for Project AIMS

Project AIMS continues to grow:

- QUT, Centre for Data Science and Mila, AI for Humanity
- Consultation with the Australian Attorney-General's Department
- Advice from our long-term collaborators: Walk Free, WikiRate, The Future Society

Thank you, and please stay in touch!

Adriana Eufrosina Bora

AI and Modern Slavery Researcher | 20 Rising Stars in AI Ethics 2022 | UNESCO IRCAI AI Award Winne...

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Supporting slides

The business and governmental responsibility and opportunity

Both governments and companies have the **responsibility** to apply laws, implement due diligence and create transparency on the measures they are taking **to eliminate and prevent modern slavery from supply chains**

Addressing the issue of modern slavery in supply chains is not only an obligation but also an **opportunity**

Learnings and Recommendations

For Policymakers

- Publish an up-to-date, comprehensive list of all companies and their subsidiaries subject to reporting

- Keep a single registry where companies must submit their statements

For Companies

- Endeavor to assist governments with keeping an up-to-date, comprehensive list of all companies and their subsidiaries subject to reporting

- Place modern slavery statements on their homepage, with a URL that includes the reporting year

- **Publish in a machine-readable format, with infographics and images comprehensively explained in text**