



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Al Baraem Association for Charitable Work, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[26 May 2021]

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\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



## **Child Labour and Education**

International Labor Organization (ILO), a subsidiary of the United Nations, defines child labor as “work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development.” In Child labor extends into many different activities such as agriculture, manufacturing, mining and domestic service (i.e prostitution). Children are forced into child labor because of distinct factors; migration, emergencies, the lack of decent work available and poverty which is known as the most influencing factor.

Education is an important aspect during a child’s upbringing, as it allows children to develop the necessary skills they need to progress in the modern world. However, labor at an early stage prevents children from going to school and obtaining such abilities.

Additionally, psychological effects of child labor are often as critical as the physical effects, which can lead to long-lasting traumas. The children who have suffered horrific acts of violence may grow up to develop mental illnesses such as depression, guilt, anxiety, loss of confidence and hopelessness. Child labor is very common in India and the government is not paying any attention to it. And so is the situation with children’s education. The main states in India where child labor is present are Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. This is where over half of the country’s total child labor population works. Uttar Pradesh has the highest amount of child laborers, with over 20% of India’s child workers being residents in that state alone. Most of these child laborers are employed in the silk industry that is prevalent in the region. Children as young as 5 years old work in factories for more than twelve hours a day, seven days a week. They have to be in a squat position in cramped areas with barely any light, exposed to fumes from the machinery with no ventilation. To produce the silk they need to do several actions which harm them, an example would be dipping their hands into extremely hot water - which causes blisters.

Due to poor living conditions, low levels of income and a lack of job diversity, impoverished families have no alternative but to put their children to work instead of teaching them. Often, these children are sold by their parents to child traffickers to lessen their economic burden and to gain extra money.

My organization urge UNHRC to call Indian Government to take prompt actions towards this global goal.

We look forward to a positive response from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Special Rapporteurs (SR) on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material and Special Rapporteurs (SR) on the situation of human rights defenders.

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Conseil Universel Des Droits De L’Homme - France, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.