





The Mekong Club Partners with Supply Chains to Help Eradicate Modern Slavery & Forced Labour

Welcome to the Mekong Club. This is our guide to introduce how we can work together with companies on the topic of modern slavery in supply chains, from ensuring compliance with modern slavery legislation to helping companies become industry leaders in this sector.

We build much-needed awareness, commitment and collaboration among the business community using our sector-specific anti-slavery working groups (Finance, Footwear & Apparel, Hospitality, and Retail), and research and outreach with supply chain stakeholders and setters of industry standards.

We invite you to read this guide and reach out to us at info@themekongclub.org for a consultation with one of our expert team members to learn more.

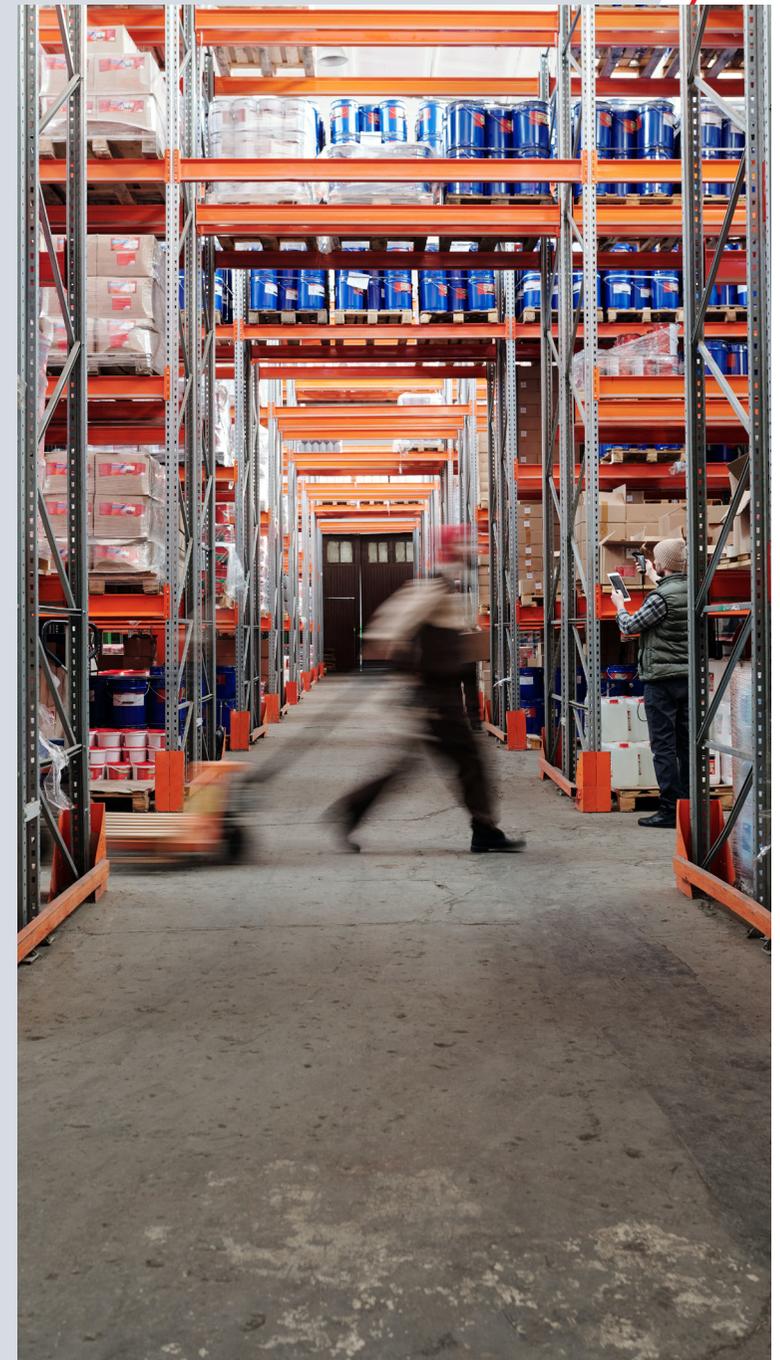
How does **modern slavery** affect supply chains?

It is estimated that there are more than 50 million people globally in modern slavery.

A significant proportion of these victims work in global supply chains, from food processing facilities, to garment factories, agriculture, fishing, mining, and harvesting raw materials. Every industry supply chain can potentially be impacted by modern slavery, and every country in the world grapples with this issue.

Supply chains are diverse and often span multiple countries and industries, each with its own challenges and risks. Recruitment processes, particularly for low-skill, low-paying jobs, are fraught with pitfalls, from excessive recruitment fees levied on workers to fraudulent employment contracts and withholding of wages. Much of this activity goes undetected and underreported and continues to impact millions of workers each year.

Companies are increasingly being held accountable by global legislation and must demonstrate proactive approaches to modern slavery and supply chain transparency in order to conduct business in many of the world's trade hubs. However, the complexity of global supply chains, ever-changing geopolitical landscapes, and pressure from consumers and investors can make developing an effective anti-slavery strategy a daunting prospect.



What is the **Mekong Club**?

We are a **non-profit membership-based organisation** that works with companies towards eliminating forced labour and modern slavery in their networks and supply chains.

Our partners include some of the largest companies in the world as well as committed regional and local corporations.

We bring years of experience working with companies and their many dedicated employees, providing practical tools, strategic thinking, and forums to join together supply chain professionals to eradicate slavery. Much of our work is comprised of technology-based tools with enormous potential for impact.

Each of these tools solves a major problem – from auditors who do not speak the local dialect of factory workers, to under-utilised and disaggregated data, to a lack of training for suppliers and workers.





Testimonials

Each company that we work with has different needs, and we work closely with each one of our members to identify how to best support their individual requirements through our Mekong Club membership.

“I met Matt Friedman [Mekong Club CEO] for the first time back in the year 2013. Working/managing in a global health and beauty retailer, we recognize the practical tools that The Mekong Club has equipped us with. These tools have provided us with a solid foundation to allow us to strengthen our anti-modern slavery strategies by adopting them within our standard training for new and existing employees. We also greatly appreciate all the efforts and support the Mekong Club team has provided us as part of their business association. We value the opportunity to take part in the quarterly stakeholder meetings that allows us to confidently engage with other brands on the subject of modern slavery.”

(Multinational Retailer)

“We use the Risk Assessment Matrix to identify modern slavery hot spots by country, region and sector; remediation tool kit, and legislative guide. We have also rolled out the Mekong Club e-learning on addressing modern slavery to our suppliers in Northern China. Its content inspired us to upload a modified version of the e-learning onto our own learning platform, which has now been rolled out to over 10,000 staff in 25 locations.”

(Multinational Apparel Manufacturer)

“The Apprise platform, developed by the Mekong Club and the United Nations University Institute in Macau (UNU) is an innovative voice app that enables more workers to be engaged during an audit in a safe, effective and anonymous way. Apprise uses a mobile app to ask workers questions in their local language via a headset, which have been specially developed to uncover any red flags for forced labor in line with the ILO indicators. **Apprise has helped us overcome the barriers faced by a typical factory audit, such as where an auditor has limited time to interview workers or there may be confidentiality concerns from workers or language barriers”.**

(Multinational Apparel Manufacturer)

“Mekong Club supported us in the development of our Group Responsible Recruitment Policy, which guides our implementation of the International Labour Organization’s Fair Recruitment Principles and Guidelines and supports the American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA) Commitment to Responsible Recruitment. **Mekong Club provided technical inputs for the policy and will support us in terms of wider capacity-building for human resources and front-line staff to better understand the issue.”**

(Apparel Manufacturing Group)

“Mekong Club’s use of digital tools and solutions to combat modern slavery certainly reflects how innovative and on the forefront the organization is in their approaches, which is so relevant nowadays. Their experience is unquestionable, so I wanted to highlight how **it is the people of the Mekong Club that truly separates them from other organizations we have worked with in the field.”**

(Multinational Shoe Retailer)

“Being a member of the Mekong Club, we have access to an expert team with whom we can discuss issues relating to modern slavery in the supply chain, including putting safeguards in place to identify and mitigate risks, compliance with regulatory requirements relating to modern slavery including employee training. We also benefit from interactions with like-minded member/professionals through webinars and events organized by the club.”

(Multinational Toy Manufacturer)

“**Our collaboration with the Mekong Club has been nothing but a success.** This is due to two factors: They have continually met us where we are as a company. When we knew little, they held our hand. As we have grown, they challenge our thinking and pressed us for progress.”

(Multinational Apparel Manufacturer)

How does the **Mekong Club** work with **companies** and **supply chains**?

The Mekong Club established its business association in 2015. Over the years, we have built loyal and trusted relationships with companies across sectors such as banking, hospitality, garment, food and beverage, toys, and footwear. Our Supply Chains working groups bring together company representatives to receive vital up-to-date information and expert training on modern slavery, to meet regularly to learn and share best practices, and to offer access to numerous supply chain tools and resources.

We support supply chain providers on the issue of modern slavery across all functions and departments. These are some examples of how we continue to support financial service providers:

Support with training of employees within the company, and their suppliers;

Support in developing remediation plans that work to protect victims, encourage collaboration with suppliers and local partners, and achieve sustainable results;

Baseline assessments to help the company identify where their modern slavery strategy lies in comparison with others in their industry, with practical recommendations on how to improve weaker areas and report more effectively on stronger areas;

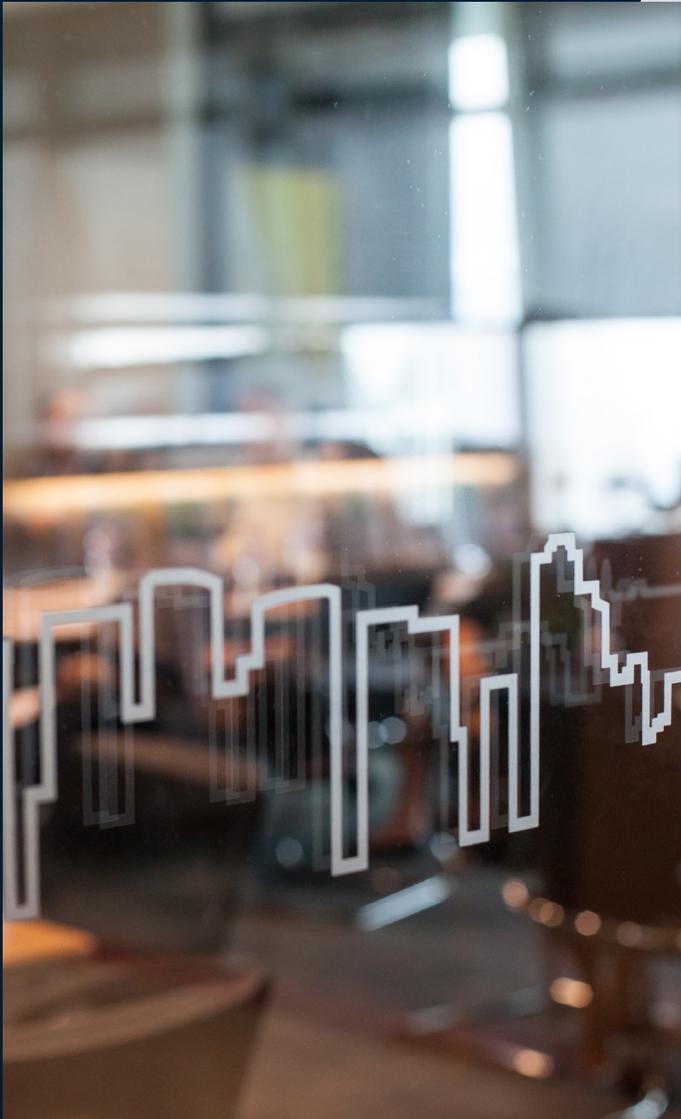
Support with developing and rolling out crucial policies, procedures, and codes of conduct;

Providing and advising on technology to help with supply chain transparency and worker voice;

Reviewing and inputting on Modern Slavery Statements that are annually published by most banks for compliance with the UK Modern Slavery Act and the Australia Modern Slavery Act; and

Offering confidential guidance in crisis management.

Mekong Club membership details



For an annual membership subscription of **12,000 USD**, every employee at your company will have access to:

- Our complete set of business tools to strengthen your modern slavery responses;
- An annual confidential baseline assessment of your anti-slavery strategy;
- An inventory of modern slavery red flags and indicators;
- Review of your modern slavery statements;
- Remediation guidance;
- Training materials;
- Guidance on legislation and compliance;
- Webinars, e-learning, and online training;
- Access to all of our workshops and events;
- Opportunities to test innovative technology on the ground;
- Our monthly news digest;
- Technical advice from international experts;
- Networking opportunities;
- Best practice sharing and mutual learning opportunities;
- Access to industry-specific working groups; and
- Access to research and publications.

You can see our full list of members [here](#). We would be delighted to welcome your organisation to the Mekong Club.

Contact us at info@themekongclub.org for a free consultation session with one of our expert team members. We can answer any questions that you may have and identify how we can best work together with you.



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 www.themekongclub.org

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