

# FREEDOMUNITED

LET'S END MODERN SLAVERY TOGETHER

## The CSDDD: When campaign wins disappoint

On Friday, the E.U. took a small step towards corporate justice with the **European Council's endorsement of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD)**, which aims to put responsibility on companies to **combat modern slavery and forced labor in supply chains** inter alia.

This **directive is crucial to ensuring people and planet are put above profit**. It integrates measures **including living income requirements and ethical purchasing practices, called for by our community**.

Moreover, the directive's **explicit prohibitions against the worst forms of child labor and the employment of children below the age of compulsory schooling** are critical steps toward reversing trends in increasing child labor exploitation.

However, the **journey toward a world free of modern slavery is far from over**. The watered-down agreement, following corporate influence and political maneuvering, significantly **narrows the directive's scope by only applying to companies at least double the size originally proposed**.

Now, the CSDDD would **only apply to a small fraction of one percent of European companies, approximately 5,500**. Previously, **70% of companies who would have been captured by the deal that was reached in December 2023, are now exempt from the directive**. This compromise is a stark **reminder of the challenges we face in our pursuit of justice and accountability**.

**Freedom United urges the European Parliament to fortify the CSDDD**, making robust protections against exploitation non-negotiable. The E.U. **must prove its dedication to eliminating modern slavery and forced labor from its supply chains**, upholding human rights across all sectors of the global economy.

**The fight against modern slavery and human rights is ongoing, and together, we will prevail.**