



# **Introduction to ILO & Social Justice**




# Introduction to the International Labour Organization (ILO)

- The ILO is a UN agency focused on global social justice and labor conditions, setting international standards for workers' rights.
- Its mission includes promoting decent work, protecting workers, and improving living standards worldwide.
- The ILO plays a vital role in advocating for fair wages, safe working conditions, and social protection for all workers.





# Historical Background of the ILO

- Established in 1919 post WWI, the ILO aimed to address labor issues globally and promote social justice.
  - Key milestones include the Declaration of Philadelphia in 1944 and core conventions focusing on labor rights.
  - The ILO's efforts in promoting social justice culminated in the Decent Work Agenda, emphasizing dignity in work.
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# How the ILO Works

- The ILO's structure involves governments, employers, and workers collaborating in a tripartite system to shape labor policies and standards globally.
- Through research and technical assistance, the ILO influences global labor standards, addressing issues like child labor, forced labor, and discrimination.
- The ILO adopts conventions and recommendations that serve as guidelines for member states to improve working conditions and promote social justice worldwide.




# Key Achievements of the ILO

- The ILO's Decent Work Agenda promotes rights at work, job creation, and social protection, enhancing working conditions worldwide.
  - ILO's Women at Work Initiative advocates for gender equality by addressing workplace discrimination and promoting empowerment and leadership of women.
  - Notable ILO programs include the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) and the Forced Labour Action Plan.
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# Case Studies of ILO's Impact on Social Justice

- Improved working conditions in Bangladesh garment factories, preventing tragedies like the Rana Plaza collapse through ILO's guidance and enforcement.
  - Curbing gender discrimination in the workplace in South Africa by implementing ILO conventions, ensuring equal opportunities and fair treatment for all employees.
  - Promoted fair wages in Vietnam's textile industry, reducing inequality and poverty levels among workers due to ILO recommendations and collaboration with local authorities.
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# Group Exercise: Promoting Social Justice

- Scenario 1: Discrimination in school. How can students advocate for inclusive policies and support for all?
  - Scenario 2: Unequal access to education. Brainstorm ways to ensure equal opportunities for all students.
  - Scenario 3: Environmental injustice. Discuss strategies to address environmental disparities in the community.
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# Conclusion and Key Points

- Reflect on the vital role of the ILO in safeguarding labor rights and promoting social justice on a global scale.
  - Understand the significance of upholding fair working conditions and supporting initiatives that advance social justice for all.
  - Take action by getting involved in community projects, advocacy campaigns, or supporting organizations dedicated to social justice causes.
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