

for workers:³

- No person has the right to enslave or to cause another to enter into indentured servitude, and every person has the right to freedom from such conditions.
- No person has the right to expose another to unsafe or unhealthy working conditions without the fullest possible information.
- Children have the right not to work long hours whenever their families' financial circumstances allow.
- Every person has the right to freedom of association in the workplace and the right to organize and bargain collectively with employers.

A draft OECD report on trade and labour standards selects four general standards as "core" labour rights.⁴

- Freedom of association and collective bargaining, i.e. the right of workers to form organizations of their own choice and to negotiate freely their working conditions with their employers.
- Elimination of exploitative forms of child labour, such as bonded labour and forms of child labour that put the health and safety of children at serious risk.
- Prohibition of forced labour, in the form of slavery and compulsory labour.
- Non-discrimination in employment, that is the right to equal respect and treatment for all workers.

Nevertheless, many articulations of "core" labour rights do not directly address the concept of general principles. Most public discussion revolves around ILO Conventions and assumes that one or another ILO Convention adequately embodies a general principle, i.e., such as elimination of exploitation of child labour, in a legal instrument. This association of "core" labour rights as general principles with specific ILO Conventions has generated a legal framework, which at first glance appears as a ready-made list of more-or-less internationally agreed "core" labour rights.

³Gary S. Fields, "Labor Standards and International Trade"; Paper prepared for Informal OECD Trade Committee Meeting on Trade and Labour Standards, the Hague, September, 1994.

⁴OECD, Trade and Labour Standards, COM/DEELSA/TD(96)8, January 1996, p.13.