

BLACKBIRDING, BLACKBIRDERS AND BLACKBIRDED (WORKERS) IN THE FAR EAST PLANTATIONS AND HUMANITARIAN ACTIONS

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Article History

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Abstract

As objective of this article, deportation orders were issued as action put in place and enforced for the end of slavery in another form, form of Blackbirding. Also, there is evidence of a continued commute of the inhabitant of the Pacific South Sea Islanders seeking shelter of deportation from other territories, in and around that was involved in slavery or Blackbirding. Hence under the white "Australian Policy" via Government Agencies such as descendants surviving as in 1970s noted as Australian South Sea Islanders and in 1994 legislated as the commonwealth in 1994.

This became realistic across documentary series, legalized document, articles from libraries and web graphical presentation sources which the following results were attained at, of Blackbirdings, Indenture and Consequences of the abolition of the aforementioned elements on the history of Blackbirding.

KEYWORDS: deportation, orders, Government Agencies, Blackbirding, South Sea Islanders, Indenture, Consequences, history.

INTRODUCTION

The Australian South Sea Islander community played a significant role in the development of Australia's sugar and cotton industries. Between 1863 and 1904, an estimated 55,000 to 62,500 Islanders were brought to Australia to labour on sugar-cane and cotton farms in Queensland and northern New South Wales. These labourers were called 'Kanakas', a Hawaiian word meaning 'man' and their recruitment often involved forced removal from their homes. This practice of kidnapping labour was known as 'blackbirding', 'blackbird' was another word for slave. Blackbired were the slaves caught or put under condition of slaves, while Blackbirders were those seeking and having slaves through the above mention method. They came from more than 80 Pacific Islands, including Vanuatu then called the 'New Hebrides' and the Solomon Islands, and to a lesser extent, from New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, and Tuvalu. Most were young men and boys aged from 9 to 30 years. There were relatively few women and girls. When the first Islanders were brought to Queensland in the early 1860s, there were no laws or labour contracts to protect them from the most extreme kinds of exploitation by their employers. Many were abducted then paid nothing for their labour and were effectively

treated as slaves. Later in the 1860s, a law was passed to regulate labour trafficking into Queensland and establish an indentured or contract a labour system. Under this system, Islanders signed three year contracts and were paid a meagre wage. Even under the indentured labour system Islanders continued to be exploited. This slaving activities became known in the Indian and Pacific regions in the world. Here the question that need an answer is how was Blackbirding activities carried out and it humanitarian Action executed in the Pacific and Indian Regions in the World? To answer this question, the following aspects below has been explain.

A- Blackbirding Operational Works in the German plantation.

At Samoa, much engagement was centered at selling firearms and exacerbating factional conflict. In 1872 agricultural plantation expansion was done on over 100 000 acres due to blackbirding operations works in the German plantation. Men, women, and children of all ages were taken, separated, and sent to work in harsh conditions with many succumbing to illness and poor diet. Here, the known German company "Deutsche Handels und

Plantagen Gesellschaft (DHPG) expanded Samoan plantations. Later all German asset after the First World War went to New Zealand. It should be noted that large British and American plantations which owned blackbirding vessels and exploiting blackbirded labour exist much and widely in the colonial Samoa¹.

In the Hawaiian Islands about 50% male able-bodied indigenous Hawaiians were used as workers on the plantations farms. Approximately, about 200 people came from Tahiti, Caroline Islands, and Line Islands were recruited, to work in Hawaiian plantations owned by Europeans colonists. Ships or blackbirding vessels like storm bird recruited 85 people from rotuma, Nonouki, Maiana, and Tabiteuea. The death rate was 20% and the mortality ratted at over 10% for each year, were protection was less, and the death rate was much higher when compared to the United States of America.

In the United States, since the colonial era, underground railroad blackbirding was reversed and the African-Americans worked under white employers, playing instrumental roles in deciding fellow African-Americans. Successive kidnapping mainly relied on the blackbirding blackbirders, hence causing fear and violent, thus ships were several and in varied sizes for slaves transportation involving their captains who also participated in capturing the slaves, or they are known as blackbirders².

Table: Blackbirding Ships and Their Captains

Blackbirding ships	Vessels or ship captains
- Lavina	- Blackbirding operation (Queensland)
- Lizzie (Burns Philip company)	- William T. Wawn
- Hopeful crew Vessel (Burns Philip)	- Captain Lewis Shaw
- Sea witch	- William Hilton Hovell
- Young Australian	- Commander Hovell
- Brig Carl	- Dr. James Patrick Murray being ship recruiter and Joseph Armstrong and mate Charles Powden
- Peri (low in supplies and was blown westward)	See or spotted near to Hinchinbrook Island Queensland coast by captain John Moresby
HMS Basilisk	Spotted the ship, Peri
Donald Mclean	Captain Mcleod

Flirt	Captain Mckenzie
Wild Duck	Captain Martin (stole people from Espiritu Santo)
Lapwing, Kate Grant Harriet Armytage, Frolic, Atlantic	Kidnapper or blackbirders ships e.g. Bully Hayes
Margaret Chessel, Maria Douglass, and Marion Renny	The crew (not named)
Nukalau	Captain Finlay Mclever
Stanley (chartered by colonial government)	Captain Lynch
Heather Belle	Captain John Daly
Leonidas	/
Lord of isles	CSR sugar Mill at Nausori
Winifred Meg Merrilies, Dauntless, and the Ovalaw	Fijian registered ships
Moaroa Vessel (friends potnesia)	Captain Blackelt
Rona	/
Lucene	Government ships
Helen W. Almy	Captain Luttrell
Tahili (barque) always anchored at drakes Bay north of San Francisco	Captain Ferguson
Montserrat	Contract more Gilbert Islanders as slavery
Aoba, Annette, Venus, Aurora, Ika Vuka, Idaho (New Caledonia) Ambround, and the Ethe Meikle	Captains and recruiters on the blackbirding for the New Caledonia market included James Toutant Proctor "Black Tom", Jean-Louis Ville Dieu, Martial Briault, Charles Peterson Stuart, Walter Champion, Gabriel Madezo, and Captain H. Mckenzie. The company Jaubert and Carter run by Didier Numa Jaubert and Douglas Carter owned many of the blackbirding vessels in the early years of trade (New Caledonia → well into the 20 th century. At lower rate and most violent manner but ended in 1980s towards World War II.

¹South sea islands « in <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article6084p.109.empire5027.newsouthwales.australia>,

December 31, 1867 p.8

² Ibid

Adelante (Peru)	Peruvian and Chilean ship
Rosay Carmen	Captain Marutani
Tasmanian Whaler Grecian New slave trade profitable than whaling	Captain Thomas Jamas Mcgrath
Tumbes (Perunan) ship	Warship
Upolu	The German blackbirding vessel
Ubea, Florida, and Maria	W & A. Mc Arthur Company of the Anglo-Australian recruiting vessel
Mary Anderson, Aeale	Crew of the British blackbirding ship, in charge of recruiting starving Gilbert Islanders.
Stormbird vessel (Hawaiian Island)	Captain H.W Mist of the Royal Navy was employed to arrange a large recruitment of klanders to be recruited for Hawaii. Mist bought the vessel storm bird at Sydney and appointed another ex- navy officer in captain George Jackson to conduct the expedition.
Sea Waif	The government agent aboard the vessel, Henry Freeman, bought a boatload of Gilbert Islanders from another blackbirding vessel
Pomare	Captain cardigan
Hazar	Captain Tierney (labour supplying company Hawaii)
Kaluna, Elsinore, Hwaii, Nickolaus, Mana and Allie Rowe	Other ships involved (recruiting voyage to the pacific Islands for the Hawaiian plantation 1887 under commended captain Phillip.

Source: Authors Collection and Assembly of datas

From the above table that clearly shows the Blackbirding, Blackbirders, for the Blackbirded we could deduce the following historical analyses, it reveals and gave an unimpressive or worst aspects of the blackbirding activities in Australia and the Pacific Ocean. They, the south islanders were starving and became destitute on the streets of Sydney. About 55.000 to 62.500 in 45 years arrived Australian while 15.000 kanakas died while working in Queensland and at gunpoint was acceptable for negotiation hence mortality rate was 30% which in the transatlantic slave trade

indicated similar or close statistical view.³ In 1863 as time went on some recruiters amounting to 73 south sea islanders which about 24 died out of 90 on board the ship siren. Recruitment was engaged in kidnapping with violence. It actually overrode the obvious humanitarian actions. Some captains like, captain coath, John coath of the Jason, and spunkie ship lost a total amount of 45 kanakas due to incurred beating. Missionaries were also attacked killing an Anglican missionary John Coleridge Patteson in 1871. Some ships sank causing the dead of about 47 kanakas. Another large or huge mortality rate in 1892 and 1893 made up 50% of all deaths hence 20% of the total population in the Bundaberg. From 1901 to 1908, the pacific island labourers act led to the compulsory repatriation of around 4000 to 7500 blackbirders or slaves. While statistics shows that about 1600 remained in Australia because of the fact that in 20 years back some were already married, own lands, and have stay for 20 years and above. Around 350 of south sea islanders were banished from Queensland, were transferred to plantations in Fiji and on their journey at least statistics shows or proved that 27 of these died while being transported. The 1992 census in Australia indicated that around 10.000 descendants are in Queensland and in 2016 census or count, 6830 people declared in Queensland that, they were South Sea Island labourers while in 2012 before this a seasonal workers scheme was introduced that brought in 416, and 403 visas for pacific islander labour workers in the agricultural industry on fruits picking. By 2018 around 17.320 islander mostly from Vanuatu, Fiji, and Tonga to work in farm in Queensland. It was marked with widespread exploitation, intimidation, and underpayment of workers with at least 55% of employers being non-compliant in regard to payments and conditions⁴.

B- Recruitment of labour scheme by blackbirders

Melanesian people were killed and buried and the early 21st-century recruitment of labour under the unconnected 457 visa scheme blackbirders treated their human slaves as animals. The existed no mourning and were buried in their farms while the slaves were buried in the farm to make the farm soil rich. History coming for it is very difficult or hard to explain the treatment given to the stolen people or inhabitants of the pacific islands. At Fiji, before annexation that take place from 1865 to 1874 slaves vessels or blackbirding ships, 03 islanders were shot dead aboard the vessel slaves, and the rest sold in Levuka for 1.200. While about 60 islanders were shot. Some were sold at a rate of £3 to £6 per head for males and £10 to £20 for females and at the end, the survivors were recommended by the government to go back to their villages. But shutting still continues as about to Islanders crew shot. What should not be forgotten was the fact that young girls were openly bartered for and sold into sexual slavery. A worker who returns alive or survived were able to return to their home islands regarded

³ The trade over the Atlantic water mass gave an estimation of about 33% slaves who died in the first three years of being imported to America

⁴ Poor access to clean water, adequate food and medical assistance has resulted in several deaths.

as lucky⁵. Still at Fiji, in every 1000 islanders about 540 death labourers. The mortality rate for blackbirded labour group at Atimaono was around 80%⁶.

At Mexico and Guatemala, New Caledonia, Peru Easter Island Ata, Tuvalu, Samoa Hawaiian Island, United States of America, and others experience, witnessed, or register some statistic activities of figures on Blackbirding. As far as statistical event surfaced Nessel Helen W. Almy was chartered and sent out to the Pacific where captain Luttrell recruited 300 Gilbert islanders. They were offloaded in Mexico and sent to work at a coffee plantation close to Tapachula owned by an American named John Magee. On three years contract established, in 1894 known of the recruited return home but it was found only 58 were still alive. Other ships or vessels carried 370 islanders involving 100 children. On reaching San Francisco at Oyakes Bay, this slavery or blackbirding witnessed a change of captain yet the vessel capsized as discovered in 1892 which a few that has managed to survived drowned to death. At Guatemala 470 wanderers were brought with each worth £100 which they work in the plantation for 70 miles which about 200 of them were infected and killed by disease.⁷

In New Caledonia, about 15,000 people were transported between 1865 to 1930s as some came initial in 1870, 720 wanderers to Caledonia to work in mines blackbirding wantonly increased which children of 06 years. It should be noted that more than half were recruited, the majority were children. Approximately 33% of the workers died while working in plantations, mining, pastoral, domestic servant, and sailing industries. They were all in horrible conditions; subjected to inadequate food, poor shelter, and harsh punishments while in New Caledonia, they were imprisoned if not work as blackbirders or slaves and sold to the colonial government to further exploit them as unpaid labourers. They were sold on and again to other colonists if their original employer was bankrupt or death. This blackbirding attitude or manifestation only came to an end in the 1930s with the approach of World War II in 1939 and later periods.⁸

Aspects of slavery

A stream of evidence presented to United Nations human rights bodies, notably the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, as well as studies and the findings of special rapporteurs, give an accurate picture of current slavery-like practices. The descriptions which follow are drawn from these official sources.

They also reveal that there are no clear distinctions between different forms of slavery. The same families and groups of

people are often the victims of several kinds of modern slavery-for example, bonded labour, forced labour, child labour or child prostitution-with extreme poverty as a common linking factor.

Child labour

Child labour is in great demand because it is cheap, and because children are naturally more docile, easier to discipline than adults, and too frightened to complain. Their small physique and nimble fingers are seen as assets by unscrupulous employers for certain kinds of work. It often happens that children are given jobs when their parents are sitting at home, unemployed.

There are children between seven and ten years of age who work twelve to fourteen hours a day and are paid less than one-third of the adult wage.

Child domestic servants not only work long hours for a pittance but are particularly vulnerable to sexual as well as other physical abuse.

At the extreme fringe, children are kidnapped, held in remote camps, and chained at night to prevent their escape. They are put to work on road-building and stone-quarrying.

Child labour, often hard and hazardous, damages health for life, deprives children of education and the normal enjoyment of their early years.

Non-governmental organizations have proposed an international timetable for the wiping out of the worst forms of child exploitation. They suggest that:

All forced labour camps be eliminated within 12 months;
Children be excluded from the most hazardous forms of work, as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the ILO, by 1995;

All forms of labour for children under 10 outlawed by ILO Convention No. 138 be eliminated, and that those regarding children in the 10-14 age group be halved by the year 2000.

Children in armed conflict

Forcible recruitment of children into military service has been reported in many parts of the world. The consequences are devastating. Many have died or been disabled in armed operations, while others have been interrogated, tortured, beaten, or kept as prisoners of war.

The traffic in persons, sexual exploitation

The recruitment, clandestine transport, and exploitation of women as prostitutes, and the organized prostitution of children of both sexes in a number of countries is well documented. A link has been established in some places between prostitution and pornography-particularly involving children-and the promotion and growth of tourism.

Sale of children

Unscrupulous go-betweens have found that large profits can be made by arranging the transfer of children from poverty-stricken homes to people with means-without guarantees and

⁵South sea islands « in <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article6084p.109.empire5027.newsouthwales.australia>, December 31, 1867 p.8

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Approximately 1200 Gilbert islanders were recruited in three shipboards for the Mexican and Guatemalan coffee plantation, survivors 250 only, with a mortality rate of 30% in two voyages in 1896 to 1908.

⁸ Ibid

supervision to ensure that the child's interests will be protected. In such cases, financial gain-for the parents as well as the intermediaries-takes on the character of trading in children.

Debt bondage

Debt bondage can hardly be distinguished from traditional slavery because it prevents the victim from leaving his job or the land he tills until the money is repaid. Although in theory, a debt is repayable over a period of time, a situation of bondage arises when in spite of all his efforts, the borrower cannot wipe it out. Normally, the debt is inherited by the bonded labourer's children. Sharecropping is a familiar way of leading borrowers into debt bondage.⁹

In Peru, some financial backing to import blackbirded due to labour shortages, in which about 253 recruits of which more than half were women and children. Some of them worked as plantation labourers while others as domestic servants. Some others set out make money on Polynesian labour. In Easter Island, mass kidnapping was realized. About 1407 people were taken for the Peruvian labour trade which made up third of the Islands population, several vessels were involve in recruiting for Peru, kidnapped or deceptively obtained people throughout Polynesian. Also, mass-kidnapping was witnessed which about 350 people were living on Ata and about 144 people never return out of those who went or left for the plantation. By October 1863, the imprisoned Ata people died from neglect and disease while about 38 survivors were taken to the art of Paita, where they might have died since nothing is known more about them. At Tuvalu, about 180 went to Funafuh while 200 were taken to Nukulaelae that some fewer left in number 100 of the 300 recorded in 1861. Here much death rate was registered. In 1862 to 1863 about 3.634 Polynesians were recruited and over 2.000 died from diseases, starvation or neglect either aboard the blackbirding ships. Due to outbreak of disease in Peru further death rate was registered to about 1.030 Polynesian labourers. To their homeland epidemics and additional mortality was registered.¹⁰

C-Methods use to fight against blackbirding as Humanitarian Actions

Focuses on the blackbirding catastrophes as analyses in previous parts concerning the Pacific Ocean, islands, and countries became glaring issues of attention. Millions of south east islanders were blackbirded, thousands of them died due to the horrors and horrific nature of the circumstances involved in the trade of humanity. Thousand suffered from different types of diseases. Hence, the world became aware of the huge number of bad treatment registered from blackbirding, whom blackbirders blackbirded. The reaction of some humanitarian reach hearing at various courts. Slowing in Australian courts was summoned which blackbirding cases were heard, judged and blackbirders and labour recruiters

⁹ Fact Sheet No.14, Contemporary Forms of Slavery. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude: slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms. Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

¹⁰ Ibid

prosecuted in some areas like New South Wales and Queensland. Prosecution was brought under the slave trade legislation and at common law against labour recruiters, especially those arising from the incidents involving the Daphne and the Jason ships. It should be noted that the existed other related process and procedures to terminate the enlisted ways, places, and sufferings incurred to blackbirding¹¹.

1-The slave trade laws

Between 1863 and 1904 over 62.000 people from the Melanesian archipelagos provided the colony of Queensland with indentured labour for it emerging industries centered and base on agriculture. Brisbane river plains sugar plantation operated with no labour or limited payment of labourers. Maryborough, Bundaberg, Mackay, Bowen, and Cairns demanded for indentured labour over the next 40 years. Later in 1880, tropical and semi-tropical agriculture island labour was effectively concentrated in the cane-fields. Before then, in 1800 the blackbirding activities has begun which in 1860s actions were taken in policing the labour trade in the pacific hence it rested in the hands of the royal navy permanently position with approximately six ships in Sydney harbour. They were known to be men of war which they saved ships on blackbirding on British vessels that of offence contrary to the slave trade legislation laws.¹²

International conventions

International concern with slavery and its suppression is the theme of many treaties, declarations, and conventions of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The first of three modern conventions directly related to the issue is the Slavery Convention of 1926, drawn up by the League of Nations.

With the approval of the General Assembly, the United Nations formally became the successor to the League in the application of the Slavery Convention in 1953. States which have ratified the Convention-by 1990 86 had done so-undertake to prevent and suppress the slave trade and to bring about the abolition of slavery in all its forms.

In 1949, the General Assembly adopted the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. This legal instrument consolidated other international agreements dating back to 1904.

The procurer rather than the prostitute is the target of the Convention. It requires States Parties to introduce measures designed to prevent prostitution and to rehabilitate prostitutes.

States ratifying or acceding to the Convention-they numbered 60 by the end of 1990-also undertake to check the traffic in persons of either sex for the purpose of prostitution and to do away with laws, regulations, special registration, and other requirements of persons who are engaged-or suspected of engaging-in prostitution.

¹¹ Reid Mortensen, «Slaving in Australian courts. Blackbirding cases, 1869-1871». In journal of south pacific law, p.1

¹² Ibid, p.3

The 1926 Convention's definition of slavery was broadened to include the practices and institutions of debt bondage, servile forms of marriage, and the exploitation of children and adolescents in the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, adopted at a United Nations conference in Geneva in 1956. The Supplementary Convention has been ratified or acceded to by 106 States.

The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery is the United Nations body which receives information from States on the steps they have taken to implement the three slavery-related Conventions.

A number of other relevant Conventions have been adopted and are supervised by ILO.

Other means of protection

Protection against abuses of human rights which fall within the broad definition of slavery is a feature of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Committees established under each Covenant and Convention monitor their implementation by the States Parties.

In addition, there are United Nations channels for receiving specific complaints of violations of human rights, including those which merit the name of slavery.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which entered into force on 2 September 1990, deserves special mention as the most recent and potentially one of the most effective means of combating slavery-like practices, taking into account the number of child victims. Properly implemented by States which have ratified it, the Convention offers protection to children at risk from sexual, economic, and other forms of exploitation, including their sale, trafficking, and involvement in armed conflict.

(The texts of these international legal instruments and descriptions of the work of United Nations human rights bodies which monitor their application, as well as the procedures for communicating complaints of human rights violations to the United Nations are found in other publications in the Fact Sheet series. A list of titles of Fact Sheets already published is given on the inside back cover.)

Action in the United Nations

The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery* has the general responsibility in the United Nations for the study of slavery in all its aspects. Meeting for the first time in 1975 as the Working Group on Slavery, the group was renamed in 1988.

The Working Group consists of five independent experts* chosen on the basis of fair geographical representation from the membership of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of

Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. The group meets for one week each year and reports to the Sub Commission.

In 1990, the members of the Working Group were: Fatma Zohra Ksentini (Algeria) (chairperson/rapporteur), Ion Diaconu (Romania), Asbjorn Eide (Norway), Waleed M. Sadi (Jordan), Suescun Monroe (Colombia).

In addition to monitoring the application of the slavery conventions and making a review of the situation in different parts of the world, the group selects a theme for special attention each year. In 1989, the theme was prevention of the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography, and in 1990, eradication of the exploitation of child labour and debt bondage. The 1991 theme is the prevention of the traffic in persons and exploitation of the prostitution of others.

Programmes of national and international action to deal with the problems raised by the first two themes have been drafted by the Working Group, which expects to receive reactions to its proposals from governments and a wide range of organizations.

In 1992, the Working Group expects to evaluate its study of the three themes and to take up the idea of an international pledging conference to help put an end to the exploitation of child labour.

Special rapporteurs

On the Working Group's recommendation, the Commission on Human Rights appointed Vítit Muntarhorn in 1990 as special rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography, and the problem of the adoption of children for commercial purposes. He is due to report his findings and recommendations to the Commission in 1992.

This is the latest in a series of investigations, set in motion by the Working Group, which have shed light on contemporary forms of slavery, and proposed means of combating it.

In 1982, Benjamin Whitaker's updated report on slavery covered a range of topics, including forced labour, illicit trafficking in migrant workers, slavery-like practices involving women such as forced marriage, the sale of women and killings for reasons of dowry, and the genital mutilation of female children.

The exploitation of child labour was investigated by Abdelwahab Boudhiba. In his 1981 report to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities he demonstrated that work done by children is often traumatic, and perverts the notions of work as a liberating force or as a means of development towards maturity.

Suppression of the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others was the subject of a report by Jean-Fernand Laurent to the Economic and Social Council. The Working Group is expected to take his recommendations into account in developing this theme in 1991.

At the invitation of the Government, a United Nations mission visited Mauritania in 1984 to study the country's needs in eliminating the consequences of slavery.

Recommendations

Among proposals for future action, the Working Group has recommended that:

A voluntary or trust fund be created which would make it possible for more directly-concerned organizations to take part in the Working Group's activities;

Where child labour might be involved-as in the making of carpets-the product should bear a special mark certifying that children have not been employed. Consumers should be alerted to demand products so marked;

Information campaigns for the boycotting of goods produced on the basis of exploited child labour be launched;

A seminar or workshop on debt bondage be organized by ILO in co-ordination with other United Nations bodies;

United Nations organs, specialized agencies, development banks, and other intergovernmental bodies avoid the involvement of bonded labour in development projects with which they are concerned, and contribute to its elimination;

States co-operate in drawing up a convention on inter-country adoption as proposed at the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

Sources of information

In studying the current problems of slavery, setting priorities in its work, establishing the facts, and making recommendations, the Working Group gathers information from a variety of sources. Governments co-operate and participate in its work, as do various United Nations bodies, intergovernmental organizations, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

Statements by governments have revealed their interest in and support for projects to help the victims of slavery-like practices. Governments also provide information on changes in domestic law designed to prevent or give better protection against these practices. Other government initiatives have concerned requests for advisory services in implementing United Nations conventions, coordination within the United Nations system in combating the traffic in persons and putting the issue of sexual exploitation on the agenda of the Council of Europe.

NGOs make an important contribution to the Working Group's activities. At its sessions, they inform the Working Group of the situation as they see it in many parts of the world and describe their work and experience in eliminating practices condemned in the slavery conventions. Their involvement is in such areas as legal aid and assistance for children affected by states of emergency; rehabilitative services for children caught up in armed conflict; campaigns for the abolition of child prostitution; assistance in framing

legislation on inter-country adoptions; and development assistance programmes for children who run the risk of sexual exploitation.

The Working Group also benefits from the information provided by the specialized agencies.¹³

From the above citation laws such as in conventions canceled the horrific malice registered such as from 1864 to 1865 running to 1910, European planters in Fiji, New Caledonia, Queensland, New Hebrides, Torres and Banks Groups (Vanuatu) officially provided about or approximately 30,408 registered workers. The Solomon's and Santa Cruz group received in 1880 providing about 13,300 workers, New Guinea, and other Islands provided about 16,200 workers, the royalties about 1000, Melanesians in Queensland excluding Torres Strait Islanders peaked at 11,500 in 1883. This contributed highly in the depopulation of the Islands in the Pacific Ocean regions which Queen Victoria described the labour trade as "slaving". She encouraged the anti-slavery society, missionaries, the Royal Navy, organized labour, nascent white Australians, the liberal press, liberal politicians in the colonies and the United Kingdom, colonial officials involving governors of British territories; colonies, empires such as Queensland hence she outcries for the eradication of such trade which France, USA, and other European countries follow suit, with some enforcement action on the Queens reaction. As efforts were made to include equipment clauses in Britain's anti-slaving treaties with the other European powers and the United States between 1822 and 1862.¹⁴ The program was extended to the imperial parliament which limitation is in the international competence powers over foreign shipping by treaty hence the equipment clause enabled a ship to be detained and condemned if it was notice ably equipped for slaving with usual mention noted signs of a slaver included and involvement open grating. The Daphne could be seen as one of the vessels that was a victim to this situation.¹⁵

2-The Daphne (sea vessel)

The Daphne paraded the Pacific seas and ocean, blackbirding. From South Australia the schooner Daphne was registered in Melbourne under Thomas Pritchard who chartered it to Ross Lewin in partnership, which a licence was secured for the colony Polynesian labourers act. This ship recruited labourers into Queensland after her fithing into the sea. At the onset, she carried labourers and over 100 islanders under an American John Daggett,

¹³ Fact Sheet No.14, Contemporary Forms of Slavery. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude: slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms. Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

¹⁴ James Summerset gain liberty in 1772, slave trade Act 1806 (UIC), the abolition act 1807 (UK), slave trade Act 1824 (UIC), slavery abolition act 1833 (UK), slave trade act 1843 without exemption of slave trade act 1839 (UK)

¹⁵ The colonial office took charge of eradicating especially in Melanesian labour trade which was exceptional but the slave trade was not piracy under international law, impeding the royal navy's ability to deal with foreign slavers

from Tanna, Erromango, and Efate. After her first voyage, it was prosecuted for a rape of a 13 years old Tannese girl whom he had kept as a concubine and it recruited £6 for each of 108 islanders but the Daphne was permitted to carry just 58 under that colony's legislation. The man-of-war met the Daphne. The patrol ship under HMS Rosario, captain George Palmer at the time was at the Atlantic Ocean in West Africa, without "bedding and mathing" which did not have the qualities such as food, clothing, and supplies for passengers which concluded that the Daphne was a slaver and Pritchard and Daggett were detained and taken to Sydney which Levuka the British Consul Sir John Thurston care for the Islanders. As the addressed for under current blackbirding to this issue Pritchard and Daggett were tried under section 9 of the slave trade act of 1824 (UK) on piracy norms of transportation of people without legal rights for intentions of using them as slaves. Court proceedings under defense counsel William Bede Dalley and Crown Prosecutor, Richard Windeyer. Since testimony proved that slave trading existed since the cost is cheap for the islanders that at Queensland. Furthermore, into the case, action was undertaken to condemn the Daphne. From the proceedings, the "equipments clause" was available and an evidence of slavers ships, the fact that the Daphne had surpassed the real of normal load of 58 to above 100 persons though the market for Melanesian labour in Fiji was lawful. The case though not clear but gave or instill fear to other vessels not to treat on slaving activities in terms of labour recruits. The application of the common law articulated on the notion of "manstealing" in Melanesia, which became the first significant decision on blackbirding in the colony that acted as a cause of the malice hence the legal developments RV Coath shows that labour trade amounted to slaving which the judge of Queensland procured a more sympathetic hearing¹⁶.

3-The ship Jason (a slaving vessel)

The voyage of the schooner Jason from Marlborough to Tanna and Epi of 1870 and 1871 summer period or season raised suspicions. Claims came or emanated illuminated that Jason ship crew adductor involved two women and a man from Ngunan. John Coath was convicted on charge of kidnapping, the aforementioned including nine islanders on board the ship Jason. They were detained against their wills and they encountered charge of direction or place. At the supreme court the case was tried with two judges in the persons of Lutwyche and Sir James Cockle (chief justice), Barrister Charles Lilley QC, coachs were also involved. They were taken from a free zone recognized by Europeans, not in a British vessel where they were free, but they landed in a place that was not in the British Dominion in 1871. Facts were advance into European world of the twentieth century due to civilizing influence, was backward in the Melanesian on brutality, as such blackbirding did take place or happenings reals, as coath was slave trading and Lutwyche did not even design to respond or answer allegations on this accusation. At common law, it was quashed

¹⁶ Reid Mortensen, slaving in Australian courts: blackbirding, pp4-9

regarding the legality of coath conviction. This however served as a way preventing not to enslaved islanders.¹⁷

Other matters like Lutwyche on the Jason Vessel on kidnapping and piracy the initial was address as offence of direct kidnapping with slightest allusion to the question of enslavement. Liberty, attribution should go to islanders at the south sea. Jason persons in the status of freemen were captured and any restraint applied by the crew was lawful due to the fact that they were mercy, British subjects of this kind of kidnapping which the conviction should be upheld. The conduct of Jason crew equated chief justice judgement made for blackbirding before the kidnapping. Act as Lilley was sentenced for kidnapping and murder in the hopeful case in 1884. In Brisbane vice admiralty court within a year, kidnapping act against blackbirding practiced engaged and involute all the Australian colonies which became generally acceptable thus guaranteed more effectiveness indeed¹⁸.

4-The Kidnapping Act

By 1870 in the pacific some refined clauses against kidnapping was decided after the Daphne hence the slave trade legislation was amended a suggestion of Sir Alfred Stephen executing the knowledge of execution of harshness of penalties for slaving following the imperial government draft bill of 1862 on any slave trading in the pacific or south east Asia. A bishop by name Petteson at Nukapu in the Santa Cruz Group on 20 September 1871 was killed due to his accused of stealing five boys from the island hence blackbirding as blackbirders. The United Kingdom and Australia reacted that tailed on the entering only of British ship in the pacific. The act addresses Abduction in deception or force. Furthermore, the equipment clause was also enforced, and authority to saved British ship in suspect to blackbirding at seas.

Therefore, the admiralty courts were given powers to abrogate, halt, and condemned slave ships in unlawful carrying and transporting or abduction. Labour practices were treated and introduced, which three actions under the kidnapping act was strictly followed. The certainly of the effectiveness of the act was assisted by off-rooting structural blackbirders as the imperial government considered the kidnapping act to address and eradicate slave trade. This went along with the implementation and execution of section 16 and 24 of Polynesian labourers act 1868 which indirectly limited the numbers of Melanesians able to enter the colony, by restricting the number of islanders any ship was able to carry. This also gave way for the pacific island labourers act amendment act of 1885 hence pacific island labourers extension act 1892.¹⁹

Polynesian labour act 1868, pacific island labourers act 1880 and pacific island labourers act amendment act 1884 which three years became the standard engagement under section 6 of the Polynesian labourers act 1868. In section 11, pacific island labourers act amendment act 1885, pacific island labourers extension act 1906 also gave the Fiji government introducing in her Gazette 4, 14

¹⁷ Ibid, pp, 9-11

¹⁸ Ibid, p.11

¹⁹ Ibid

October 1874 with confirmation ordinance 1875 thus Polynesian immigration ordinance 1876 (Fiji) (n°24), immigration ordinance 1877 (Fiji) (n°11). With the above mention, the British embarked on abolishing the slave trade and blackbirding that linger in the Pacific region.²⁰

5-Australia government divides to conquer

The Australia hidden history of slavery and slave trade dreams still lingered in their mines. They thought of the scar or marks of blackbirdings in Asian Pacific countries and island left in memory. Some Australian South Sea Islander chaired by the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) provides funding as a founding partner of the conversation (AU). The conversation is funded by the National Research Foundation, eight universities including the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Rhodes University, Stellenbosch University, and the universities of Cape Town, Johannesburg, Kwa-Zulu Natal, Pretoria, and South Africa, it is hosted by the University of the Witwatersrand and Western Cape; the African Population and Health Research Center and the Nigerian Academy of Science. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is a strategic partner that assisted in ending slavery in South Sea Islanders working in a Townsville cane field in 1907.²¹ This group had as gold the intension, a collaboration between the conversation, the Sydney Democracy Network, and the Sydney Peace Foundation to mark the awarding of the 2017 Sydney Peace Prize to the Black Lives Matter on global network as they reflect on the roots of and responses to a movement that has reignited a global conversation about racism. Many people gave their testimony on the past issue on blackbirding; coerced or forced into a ship. W. Emelda Davis recounted;

“My grandfather was Moses Topay Enanes. He was only 12 years old when he was coerced onto a ship, put in the hold, and fed stodge, a flour-like substance until he arrived in Queensland. His wife, who recorded and retold his story, tells of him being taken from the beach off the island of Tanna, Vanuatu. Moses passed on the Northern Rivers in New South Wales in 1961. He never saw his family from Tanna again.”²²

The Australian South Sea Islander (ASSI) in collaboration from Black Lives Matter, an inspired world movement with consciousness that gave voice to the resilience and self-determination of colour people in their continuous fight for freedom and social justice. The descendant of some 62,500 people blackbirded from 80 islands of Vanuatu and Solomon's to (NSW) North South Wales. This glamorous incident depicted history in different phases. Many ASSI said it was an indenture, slavery, kidnapping, blackbirding, and Kanaka which several communities said indenture could not

²⁰ Encyclopedia Britannica

²¹ Waskam Emelda Davis, Australia's hidden history of slavery: the government divides to conquer, Australia South Sea Islanders, University of Technology Sydney, October 31, 2017. P1 (Waskam E. D is the president of voluntary not for profit organization Australian South Sea Islanders (post Jackson. She is a masters of arts (research) candidate UTS-FASS: ARC scholarship recipient and the 2017 rotary “inspirational women of the year recipient”

²² Ibid, p.2 (these are water live activities precipitated or provoked by inland situations)

best have described the human calamities. Blackbirding drew its inspiration from the African slave trade with her violentness. An estimation of about 870 voyages emanated to and out of the island. This activity resembles the perching of weaver birds on palm branches, in an out of their net “back and forth”. It was atrocious, undeniable, exploitative, and akin to slavery. The blackbirded were transferred as asset with sold properties when planters went bankrupt. The full truth needs to be told so as it be redressed the group of sponsors head by W. Emelda Davis gave or made known the origin of certain towns that came or took the names of entrepreneurs such as Robert Towns (Townsville) and blackbirded Mackay with (Mackay), all examples of that actually existed. This forum was as objective to bring out the truth for better policy making as a request of the ASSI citizens.

Equally, they accepted the realism verdict that some 15,000 sugar slaves died and in 1901 the white Australian commonwealth government deported the entire islander community, were demigrated as aliens as part of Australia's ethnic cleansing. Proves of High Court judgments in 1906 that authorize expulsion, was a rule of law to create a white Australian population. Evidence could or was visualized in another dimension on families traumatized, kidnapping of parents, fathers, husbands, and children with cases of cultural warfare and extensive displacement as the island societies knew were no more and were now foreign to the returning labourers and their families, hence a continuous fighting for the right to live.²³

6-Fighting for the right to live and Queensland divides to conquer

Shireen Malamoo a Kanak Lady (woman) with identity as an aboriginal, is Hawaiian for “bushman. As a granddaughter of a sugar slave Shireen from the island of Tongoa in Vanuatu, also a daughter or descendant of the Birrigubba, as traditional owners from creek plantation found at the river Burdekin in Ayr, north Queensland. A poet, activist, and writer, Ken Canning from the Kunja Clan of the nation Bidjara located in the southwest Queensland vicinity advocated adamantly to fight for the right to live, as it will be meaningless as issues if not done. They had to take good control of their lives even in adverse circumstances or condition, through solidarity with joining indigenous fighter for full right to live fruitfully as basic human right. It was identify as affirms unlawfully of marginalized cultural identify to usurp its initial standard to confront injustices as an infliction on different black cultures with exceptional and stoic leaders such as Faith Bandle, Bonita Mabo, Bob Bellair, Shireen Malamoo, and Evelyn Scott. They needed attribute appreciation of the oldest living civilization, restore connections of origin, and ensure future generations of the people in Australia, treated with dignity as citizens. The statistical representation of the ASSI as presented in 2016 recorded a 133% increase in participation from 2011 hence a demographic guestimate of descendants summing some 70,000 nationally. ASSI has taken forms on economic stability in community engagement at the grassroots on capacity building for development programs. More supportive initiatives, from donors,

²³ Ibid

could assist to end the sufferings found in indigenous Australian peoples which convention held also assisted in the abolition of Blackbirding.²⁴

“Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
Slavery: the modern reality

Slavery was the first human rights issue to arouse wide international concern. Yet, in the face of universal condemnation, slavery-like practices remain a grave and persistent problem in the closing years of the twentieth century.

The word "slavery" today covers a variety of human rights violations. In addition to traditional slavery and the slave trade, these abuses include the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, the exploitation of child labour, the sexual mutilation of female children, the use of children in armed conflicts, debt bondage, the traffic in persons and in the sale of human organs, the exploitation of prostitution, and certain practices under apartheid and colonial régimes.

Slavery-like practices may be clandestine. This makes it difficult to have a clear picture of the scale of contemporary slavery, let alone to uncover, punish or eliminate it. The problem is compounded by the fact that the victims of slavery-like abuses are generally from the poorest and most vulnerable social groups. Fear and the need to survive do not encourage them to speak out.

There is enough evidence, however, to show that slavery-like practices are vast and widespread. Just one figure tells a grim story: 100 million children are exploited for their labour, according to a recent estimate by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

As a contribution to the campaign to raise public awareness of human rights issues, this Fact Sheet describes the modern forms of slavery, as well as the work done at the international level to halt and prevent it. There are also suggestions for private groups and individuals who can help by their action to build a universal human rights order in which slavery-like practices will no longer be tolerated...²⁵

Apartheid and colonialism

Apartheid is not simply a racial discrimination problem to be solved through education and political reform. In essence, apartheid has dispossessed the black population of South Africa by imposing a quasi-colonial system. Through coercive measures, the labour of the indigenous peoples has been harnessed for the profit of white investors.

By suppressing the human rights of entire populations, apartheid and other forms of colonialism have the effect of collective or group slavery. A pernicious quality is that the subject peoples have no choice: they are born into a state of slavery and have very little, if any, means of appeal against it.

Slavery: a state of mind

As a legally-permitted labour system, traditional slavery has been abolished everywhere, but it has not been completely stamped out. There are still reports of slave markets. Even when abolished, slavery leaves traces. It can persist as a state of mind-among its victims and their descendants and among the inheritors of those who practised it-long after it has formally disappeared.”²⁶

The notion of divides to conquer in Queensland was a respond on March 22, 2020, that the Australian government took the plight of ASSI, as the house of representative standing committee (HRSC) accepted recommendations glared on pacific target group, identified in the ASSI under the multicultural and Equity policy to reinstates the people lives. This could be equally be effective when the people are in groupings. It main objective, co-ordinate assistance by all three tiers of government, the most significant commonwealth investigation into ASSI, to persuade, Gough Whitlam to establish an inter-departmental committee in the 1970s. more so, the Queensland government has already begun consultation with ASSI state as an adamant method of dividing to conquer funded locally, regional organization of ASSI working out of the national body they inaugurated. The Queensland government is offering poor job “scraps” and election looming hence sure-up marginalization said Clive Moore, an ASSI community member and writer. But without obstacles the government is under pressure, very disgraceful in the 19th century as the state seized the wages of ASSI citizens, 15.000 dead, under the sugar slave trade of those that went through force deportations in the 1900s. they have also informed the misappropriation of tens of millions of dollars vis-à-vis the way Aborigines wages were misused said Mr. Clive Moore researches. Efforts are made to help ASSI generation against the seeking wishes of the common wealth for.²⁷

D-Others

In 1860s – Opening up the tropical north, it was commonly believed at this time that white people could not labour safely in the tropics. White labour was also scarce in the period after convict transportation ended and was expensive: its use would limit the competitiveness of Australian tropical industries in comparison

²⁴ The Australian south sea islander 2016 census report from the Australian bureau of statistic (ABS)

²⁵ Fact Sheet No.14, Contemporary Forms of Slavery. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude: slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms. Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

²⁶ Fact Sheet No.14, Contemporary Forms of Slavery. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude: slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms. Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
²⁷ Moore: C. Moore, *Kanaka – A History of Melanesian Mackay*, University of Papua New Guinea Press, Port Moresby, 1985. Tracey Flanagan, Meredith Wilkie, Susanna Iuliano, Australian South Sea Islanders: A century of race discrimination under Australian law: The role of South Sea Islanders in Australia’s economic development

with those based in Indonesia or South Africa where labour was much cheaper. The idea of using 'coloured' labour to expand the north grew from these considerations. A Mackay plantation owner commented: "It has been conclusively proved ... that white men cannot and will not do the work done by niggers in the field, and ... that if white labour were available, it would only be at wages which the planters could never afford to pay. The sugar industry is entirely dependent upon coloured labour." In 1863 – 'Coloured' labour, the first group of 67 South Sea Islanders were brought to Queensland to work on a cotton plantation. However, as cotton proved unviable, the sugar industry began developing around this time and most South Sea Islanders brought to Australia worked as manual labourers in the sugar cane fields.

Others worked as domestics or shepherds on grazing properties, while some were transported into the west of the state to work on cattle stations.²⁸ In this early period, they were usually brought to Australia by force or trickery. "Kidnapping was common in the Solomons in the 1870s, mirroring the initial phase of the labour trade in the New Hebrides [now Vanuatu] in the 1860s ... The Islanders often thought the men on the big ships wanted to barter ... but when they tried to trade ... their canoes were smashed and they were forced on board ... Others were kidnapped from their canoes while they were fishing." For the first five years or so, many recruits had no legal protection in Queensland law and employers were largely free to exploit them at will. Only those few on formal labour contracts were protected by the Queensland *Master and Servants Act 1861*. In 1868 – *Polynesian Labourers Act* (Queensland), witnessed the first legislation introduced to regulate labour trafficking of Pacific Islanders into Queensland. It aimed to stamp out the practice of kidnapping South Sea Islanders. One estimate is that about 5% of Islanders were actually abducted, with at least another 20-25% procured by other illegal methods.²⁹ The 1868 Act. established a system of indentured labour for South Sea Islanders. They were supposed to sign up to three-year contracts on a minimum wage of £6 per year, payable at the end of the contract plus rations. However, some Australian South Sea Islanders today report that the system was not policed and that their forebears were not protected by contracts and did not receive any wages. "I maintain that it was a form of slavery. It is true that some people in the later years signed a contract to work for three years. But my father didn't, neither did his brother and neither did their sister. They were paid nothing whatsoever." Islanders could often re-enlist at the end of their first contract. Those who did could earn up to £12 a year - still less than the minimum for other workers. A few indentured labourers were introduced from Ceylon in 1882 and received a minimum of £20 a year plus accommodation, food, clothing, medical care, and return passage under different legislation. Furthermore, in the 1880 – *Pacific Island Labourers Act* (Queensland), The was the first comprehensive legislation

regulating all aspects of the trafficking and employment of labour from the Pacific Islands, with inspectors appointed to enforce it.³⁰

A licence was needed to import labourers, but would only be granted for labourers working in tropical or semi-tropical agriculture. They could not be recruited for pastoral work and could only be employed within 30 miles of the coast. An 1884 amendment explicitly banned them from domestic work, jobs in sugar mills and maritime industries, and confined them to menial jobs in agriculture such as clearing, planting and weeding. These provisions protected the more skilled jobs for white workers, such as engine-drivers, blacksmiths, mechanics and fencers. The Act imposed minimum living standards on board ship and ships' masters had to post one bond against kidnapping and another to guarantee the return passage of labourers. The ships were supposed to return each recruit to his or her home island. However, it is believed that many were simply dumped closer to Queensland in the islands of the Torres Strait. Under this law, wages had to be paid at the end of each six months in the presence of an inspector. Other provisions banned the sale or supply of alcohol, firearms and ammunition to Pacific Islanders and imposed a limit of three years on their contracts although re-enlistment was still allowed. The legislation divided Islanders into three categories:³¹

1. Those on first contracts whose labour was restricted to menial agricultural labour.
2. Time-expired labourers who re-enlisted but were still not permitted to undertake skilled work.
3. Exempted - those who had lived in Queensland since before 1 September 1879. There were only about 500 people in this category and they could take work wherever they found it, but could never acquire citizenship. Living and working conditions for the labourers were extremely harsh - perhaps one in every five died during their three-year contract. "Poor food, inadequate housing, and medical neglect meant that the Islanders, supposedly adapted to the exigencies of a tropical climate, had a death rate four times higher than that of Europeans in the north." Mortality rates averaged 51.1 per 1,000 between 1868 and 1904, peaking at 147.7 in 1884. The rate for Anglo-Australians in tropical Queensland at the same time was 15-17 per 1,000. Moreso, 1883-85 – New Guinea labourers brought in illegally with the supply of Pacific Island labour dwindling and white workers still extremely scarce, some 5,000 New Guineans were trafficked illegally and with considerable violence during this period.³² Many of these workers died soon after their arrival in Queensland, being

³⁰ Tracey Flanagan, Meredith Wilkie, Susanna Iuliano, Australian South Sea Islanders: A century of race discrimination under Australian law: The role of South Sea Islanders in Australia's economic development

³¹ Tracey Flanagan, Meredith Wilkie, Susanna Iuliano, Australian South Sea Islanders: A century of race discrimination under Australian law: The role of South Sea Islanders in Australia's economic development

³² Ibid

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ Moore: C. Moore, *Kanaka – A History of Melanesian Mackay*, University of Papua New Guinea Press, Port Moresby, 1985.

entirely unsuited to the rigours of the work involved. Additionally, 1885 – Queensland bans future importation of South Sea Island labourers. It is important to note that, the importation of labour was opposed by Australian unions on the ground that it deprived white labour of work and by conservative political forces on the ground that it was creating a non-white underclass. The White Australia movement was underway and there was a widespread feeling in the south of the country that there should be no ‘coloureds’ or ‘Asiatics’ in Australia. Plantation owners, on the other hand, wanted continued access to cheap labour. The Liberal Government of the day imposed a ban on indenturing South Sea Islanders from 1 January 1891. However, just as the ban was due to come into force, it was postponed for 10 years because of the economic recession in the sugar industry. Another Act, in 1896 on *Coloured Races Restriction and Regulation Act* (NSW) was instituted, NSW was the first colony to ban non-white immigration. Having restricted the entry of Chinese immigrants to the colony in 1881, NSW extended the restriction in 1896 to “all persons belonging to any coloured race inhabiting” Africa, Asia, or any island in the Indian or Pacific Oceans. This Act was the blueprint for the nation-wide White Australia policy, implemented principally through the *Immigration Restriction Act* by the new federal Parliament in 1901. On this date 1901 – *Pacific Island Labourers Act* in Australia went effective. This Act was modelled on Queensland’s 1880-84 legislation. The Act ordered the recruitment of the Pacific Islanders to cease after 1903 and gave the federal authorities the power to deport any Islander found in Australia after December 1906. The only Pacific Islanders allowed to stay were those who had arrived in Queensland prior to September 1, 1879, those working in crews on ships and those granted certificates of exemption under the Immigration Restriction Act. The Act granted compensation to the sugar industry and ordered the introduction of white labour on a just wage.” At this time, about 10,000 Pacific Islanders were living in Queensland and northern New South Wales. Also, 1904 – Commonwealth deportations begin, with a total of 7,068 Islanders were deported, between 1904 and 1908 and another 194 between 1909 and 1914. The impact was dramatic in 1902, which 85.5% of Queensland sugar was produced by ‘coloured’ labour, whereas by 1908, 87.9% was produced by white labour. Within 1906 – Royal Commission into repatriation of Islanders came into existence. In response to humanitarian concerns about the forced deportations and to investigate whether there would be sufficient replacement labour for local industries, the Commonwealth established a Royal Commission. “As a result of the Commission's investigation, the Pacific Island Labourers Act was amended. It exempted from deportation all who were in Queensland before 1 September 1879, those who had lived continuously in Queensland for 20 years or more, those whose return because

of marriage involved risks to themselves or their families, the old or the infirm and owners of freehold land.”³³

In 1906, 1,200 South Sea Islanders were granted residency in Australia (in total 1,380 were able to stay) and an estimated 1,000 others stayed illegally. A remnant community facing severe discrimination in 1909, from 1909 until 1942 South Sea Islanders living in Australia experienced considerable hardship. Legislation prohibited their employment in the sugar industry, unions resisted their employment elsewhere and they could not obtain financial assistance from banks. Without extended family in Australia to assist and support them, the ageing original South Sea Islanders faced a great deal of hardship in the lead-up to the Second World War.³⁴

Islanders were usually treated with discrimination similar to that faced by Aboriginal people. In Central Queensland, Islander women were relegated to the ‘black ward’ at Rockhampton Base Hospital, like Racism which was separated from the main maternity section and overlooked the morgue. Islander and Aboriginal women gave birth in their beds, while the labour ward was the preserve of white women. Isolated and out of earshot, at the end of the veranda, they found the experience frightening. One historian has counted at least 40 pieces of discriminatory Queensland legislation between 1900 and 1940, which applied to South Sea Islanders who stayed on in Australia. Most of these laws restricted their employment and income-earning opportunities. The *Liquor Act 1912* prohibited the supply of alcohol to Islanders. Unions refused their membership applications and industrial awards restricted employment to union members. Islanders who associated with Aboriginal people were usually treated as Aboriginal under Queensland law. One member of the community tells of his ten years of incarceration at the Aboriginal leprosarium on Fantome Island near Ingham from the age of seven. Other non-Indigenous people with leprosy were hospitalised on Peel Island near Brisbane. The year 1942 was then the Age of pension granted. In 1908 the age pension was the first national social security benefit established in Australia. South Sea Islanders and Aboriginal people finally became entitled to the pension in 1942. Prior to this ‘alien Melanesians’ could receive an ‘indigence allowance’ of five shillings a week, one-quarter the value of the pension. Fighting for Indigenous justice 1950s and 1960s in Australian South Sea Islanders, including Faith Bandler in NSW, were active in the movement for Indigenous people’s equality and in the successful campaign which resulted in a constitutional amendment recognising their full citizenship in 1967. By 1964, the ban on coloured labour in the sugar industry ended

The prohibition of ‘coloured’ labour in the sugar industry was finally abolished as late as 1964.³⁵ In the 1970s – Organising the community, the Australian South Sea Islanders United Council was

³³ C. Menzies, The Call for Recognition, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, 1992. *The Call for Recognition:*

³⁴ Queensland Government information online: <http://www.premiers.qld.gov.au/multicultural/assi/>

³⁵ Queensland Government information online: <http://www.premiers.qld.gov.au/multicultural/assi/>

formed in the early 1970s in the Tweed region, with networks extending to North Queensland. The Council's aim was to improve housing, health and education services for the Australian South Sea Islander community. The Royal Commission into Human Relationships in 1977, as research shows by the Royal Commission found that South Sea Islanders were not eligible for benefits specifically for Aboriginal people unless they identified as being Aboriginal and therefore gave up their South Sea Islander origins. Many Australians at the time did not differentiate between South Sea Islanders and Aboriginal people hence discriminating against both group's equality. The lack of differentiation has caused tensions over the years between the communities. The Royal Commission recommended that "action should be taken to extend to them eligibility for benefits now available to Aboriginals." The recommendation was not accepted and in 1991 – Support from the ACTU gave support to the Congress of the Australian Council of Trade Unions which committed itself to assist South Sea Islanders to be recognised as a group in their own right and in 1992 - Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission research was set up. This research made significant detailed findings about the ongoing disadvantage faced by Australian South Sea Islanders due to discriminatory practices by governments and the general community over the previous century. In many respects, Australian South Sea Islanders were still significantly disadvantaged. For example, although more than two-thirds of Australians at the time were home-owners, this was the case for less than one-third of Islanders.³⁶

In addition, the incidence of diabetes for Islanders was three times the national average. And while for all Australians aged 15 and over, three in every ten had a tertiary qualification, the figure was only two in ten for Australian South Sea Islanders. At the same time, Australian South Sea Islanders were generally less disadvantaged than Aboriginal people. For example, labour force participation was higher thus 74.8% for Islander men compared with 66% for Aboriginal men and high school retention was more than double (73% of 16 and 17-year-old Islanders were in high school compared with only 30% for Aborigines). The *Call for Recognition* report set out a range of recommendations, starting with official recognition by governments to begin improving the access and equity of this community. Queensland community summit. In response to the *Call for Recognition* report, the Queensland Bureau of Ethnic Affairs was held in 1993 convened a summit of more than 30 Australian South Sea Islander community representatives across Queensland to discuss community needs and develop a proposal for action. Funding was provided by the Bureau to develop a newsletter to meet the communication needs of the community and a second summit was planned for 1994. The Recognition by the Commonwealth Government 1994 was acknowledged. In response to the Call for Recognition report, the Commonwealth Government officially recognised the Australian South Sea Islander community as "a distinct ethnic group in Australia with its own history and culture". The government acknowledged the injustices of the indentured labour system, the severe disadvantage suffered by the South Sea Islanders and their

descendants, and their contribution to the culture, history, and economy of Australia. The response included a number of initiatives especially designed for the Australian South Sea Islander community, including several projects to strengthen community members' awareness of and pride in their culture.³⁷ The major Commonwealth Government initiatives have been as follows:

**** Australian South Sea Islander community development project**

A community development project was established by the former Office of Multicultural Affairs and administered by the Queensland Bureau of Ethnic Affairs to help Australian South Sea Islanders access government services. This project received \$240,000 in federal funding over three years.

***Cultural awareness.** The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade sponsors six Australian South Sea Islanders each year to visit Pacific Islands and study their culture. This scheme has now ceased.

***Australian South Sea Islander history in schools.** The Commonwealth Government, in conjunction with the Queensland Education Department, funded the development of curriculum on the history and culture of Australian South Sea Islanders to be taught in Queensland schools. In 1995 – NSW Premier's memo to Ministers. Premier Bob Carr wrote to his Ministers in November 1995 advising of the 1994 Commonwealth Government recognition and asked them to ensure their departments were aware of the community in NSW and adequately reflected their needs in government programs and services. In 1996 – Commonwealth Government consultations with Australian South Sea Islander communities in Queensland and northern New South Wales. These consultations were necessary because of a lack of progress on the community development project. The consultations found:³⁸

*As a result of recognition by the Commonwealth in 1994, many Australian South Sea Islanders were unable to access the Indigenous services they had used prior to recognition. It was understood that exclusion from these services would further disadvantage Australian South Sea Islander people unless mainstream services could accommodate their special needs.

*Recognition raised unrealistic expectations among the Australian South Sea Islander community, such as the creation of an equivalent body to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) specifically for the Australian South Sea Islander community, which would

³⁷-Benjamin Boyd at <http://www.bendigolive.com/links/notedaussies9.htm> . The 'failed NSW experiment'

³⁸ - Benjamin Boyd at <http://www.bendigolive.com/links/notedaussies9.htm> . The 'failed NSW experiment' Premier Carr's memo is online at http://www.premiers.nsw.gov.au/pubs_dload_part4/prem_circs_memos/prem_memos/1995/m95-42.html

³⁶ Royal Commission into Human Relationships, 1977, pp.46-47

include the associated funding and community power. The community development project also fuelled these expectations and increased already existing factionalism within the community.

*There was a real need to improve access and equity measures for the community, which could be done through a revamped community development project, with a refocus on frontline community development objectives.”³⁹

Therefore, in 1996 after Recognition: Access and Equity for Australian South Sea Islanders. This report, commissioned by the Commonwealth Government, focussed on issues of access, equity, and the identity of Australian South Sea Islanders by Commonwealth Government agencies post-recognition in 1994. The report made a number of recommendations for action by the Commonwealth Government to improve access and equity to services for Australian South Sea Islanders, as well as promoting the adoption of the following definition for consistent use across all agencies. Australian South Sea Islanders are the descendants of Pacific Islander labourers brought from the Western Pacific in the Nineteenth Century who were not repatriated, who identify as Australian South Sea Islanders, and who are accepted as such by the communities in which they live, or have lived. Report in 1998 on the health of Australian South Sea Islanders in the Tweed Valley proved that a study on the health of Australian South Sea Islanders living in the Tweed Valley region of northern NSW was a joint initiative of the Tweed Valley Health Services and the Tweed-Northern Rivers NSW Branch of the National Federation of Australian South Sea Islanders. The Tweed has the fourth largest community of Australian South Sea Islanders in Australia and the largest outside Queensland. The study was a needs assessment to assist future health service planning. The report finalised in 1998 recommended culturally appropriate health programs to assist with a number of health risks facing the Tweed community including high levels of smoking and weight problems. Recognition in 2000 by the Queensland Government essence that in July 2000, the Queensland Government formally recognised Australian South Sea Islanders as a distinct ethnic and cultural group and acknowledged their contribution to Queensland’s development. The government also recognised the discrimination, injustice, disadvantage, and prejudice experienced by Australian South Sea Islanders throughout history and the significant disadvantage the community still faces today. **Queensland Government’s action plan in 2001** reiterate as such, in July 2001 the Queensland Government endorsed an action plan designed to ensure Australian South Sea Islanders, have the opportunity to “participate in and contribute to the economic, social, political and cultural life of Queensland”.⁴⁰ The action plan aims to and address glaring issues such as:

- Coordinate the actions the government will take to improve the community’s access to services.
- Increase the awareness of Australian South Sea Islander issues within the government and enhance the capacity of agencies to address these issues in a culturally appropriate way.
- Improve the knowledge, understanding, and acceptance within the broader Queensland community of the history, culture, and current circumstances of the Australian South Sea Islander people.
- Assist community development in the Australian South Sea Islander community.

From the above fact presented vital issues were address such as discrimination and prejudice against Australian South Sea Islanders. The action plan is a whole-of-government initiative and Queensland Government agencies must report on their progress every year. The major Queensland initiatives introduced and enforced are:

- **Australian South Sea Islander Community Foundation.** The Foundation provides scholarships for Australian South Sea Islanders at Queensland tertiary institutions. The value of each scholarship is \$5,000 per year estimated to extend over a three-year period. In 2002 two scholarships were awarded at Central Queensland University and two at James Cook University which also provided one extra scholarship.
- **Public sector traineeships.** As part of the Public Sector Employment Initiative established to create additional apprentices and trainees in the Queensland public sector, 39 traineeships were offered to Australian South Sea Islanders in 2001-2002. The traineeships primarily aim to improve engagement between government and this community.
- **Employment initiatives.** The Department of Education and Training provided \$60,000 to the Mackay and District South Sea Islander Association Incorporated for a 12-month intensive employment and training project in 2001-2002. A similar project was undertaken by the Australian South Sea Islander United Council – Independent Rockhampton and District Incorporated which commenced in September 2001.⁴¹

CONCLUSION

To Conclude, Blackbirding Operational Works in the German plantation, Recruitment of labour scheme by blackbirders, and Methods use to fight against blackbirding as Humanitarian Actions were the main axis of this work. The history of South Sea Islanders

³⁹ Ibid. *Commonwealth Government Consultations with Australian South Sea Islander Communities in Queensland and Northern New South Wales*, Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, 1996, p.10.

⁴⁰ *Commonwealth Government Consultations with Australian South Sea Islander Communities in Queensland and Northern New*

South Wales, Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, 1996, p.10.

⁴¹ Premier Carr’s memo is online at http://www.premiers.nsw.gov.au/pubs_dload_part4/prem_circs_memos/prem_memos/1995/m95-42.html

in Australia reveals a system of labour conditions and treatment in Queensland which discriminated on the basis of race. An estimated one-third were kidnapped or lured to Australia by trickery. Few of those signing labour contracts spoke English or understood how the system worked and what their obligations would be. Their wages were less than one-third of those paid to other labourers, including those imported from Ceylon in 1882 when the supply in the Pacific Islands dwindled. Their rights as workers were inferior to those of other labourers in other respects as well. White workers could go on strike, bargain for better wages and conditions, form trade unions or leave their place of employment. The bonded servant was legally precluded from attempting to improve his or her situation in these ways. The indentured labourer could not leave service or refuse to perform allotted duties, and strict penalties were provided for disobedience, insubordination or absconding.” Their general treatment was as close to slavery as the laws of the time would allow. White society used them as labourers when needed and discarded them when no longer needed: they were coerced and expendable labour. In line with the White Australia policy hence humanitarian actions, most remaining South Sea Islanders were deported in the early 1900s, the only victims of mass deportation in Australian history. Those able to stay continued to suffer discrimination by law. They could not become citizens or purchase liquor, and those who associated with Aboriginal people were subjected to the same discriminatory and punitive laws as those applied to Indigenous Queenslanders. Recognition as a distinct community. The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission’s 1992 census of Australian South Sea Islanders revealed the community probably numbered between 10,000 and 12,000 people, with the majority (80%) still living in Queensland. About one-half indicated they also had Aboriginal ancestry. However, in the 2001 national census there were only 3,442 responses from people indicating their South Sea Islander ancestry. The Commission’s 1992 report, *The Call for Recognition: A Report on the Situation of Australian South Sea Islanders*, called on the Commonwealth Government to recognise the community as a unique minority group which is severely disadvantaged by racial discrimination. In 1994, the Commonwealth Government formally recognised Australian South Sea Islanders as a distinct community and in 2000 the Queensland Government followed suit.⁴² How far can we say that Blackbirding, Blackbirded, and Blackbirders has really come to an end in the Indian and Pacific Regions of the world?

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