



## Ordine internazionale e diritti umani

International Legal Order and Human Rights  
Ordenamiento Jurídico Internacional y Derechos Humanos  
Ordre juridique international et Droits de l'Homme

### LE CADRE JURIDIQUE INTERNATIONAL DE LA PROHIBITION DE L'ESCLAVAGE

Slavery dates back to early days of history and it is the first human rights violation that has preoccupied the international community. There were several bilateral and multilateral instruments containing provisions prohibiting slavery, nevertheless, they were not really effective. It was until the then League of Nations which had played a major role in the abolition of slavery. Indeed, it was after the Second World War that slavery became a principle of customary international law or *jus cogens*. Since the Second World War to date, there has been an increase, not only in the international legal instruments prohibiting slavery, but also in the definition of the concept of “slavery”, which can take many forms in our contemporary context. One of these forms, commonly referred to as “modern slavery”, covers different forms of slavery, including vulnerable groups, namely women and children. In this article, we first define the notion of slavery; we then present the international legal framework for the prohibition of slavery and its content and we finalize by focusing on the application of the standards in jurisprudence.