

# Civil protection for child labor in Iraq

Dr. Malak Abdul Latif Al-Tamimi

*Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities -Center for Studies and Research*  
[nirvanabloom2@gmail.com](mailto:nirvanabloom2@gmail.com)

## Abstract

Child labour can be considered as a serious economic and social issue associated to the child's rights, since there are, approximately, 352 million kids around the globe who is economically dynamic. About 246 million children are involved in child labour all over the globe. As for the number of children who practice the worst forms of child labour, it is estimated at more than 8.4 million children according to the statistics of the International Labour Organization for the year 2000. Child labour is a dreadful work that disturbs the world in general and human rights and humanitarian organizations in particular.

**Keywords;** child labour , civil protection, economic development, working conditions, employment in night

## Introduction

Child labour is treated as one of the most perilous phenomena prevalent in most countries around the globe, especially the developing ones. Recently, it has begun to spread and expand having negative effects upon society in general and upon children in particular. Some reports indicate that some regions have no such phenomenon as Europe, whereas it is evaporated in other regions of the world such as Japan and China. This phenomenon has begun its way to our Arab society to become a problem added to our intractable problems that need a decisive and quick solution. The problem is aggravating gradually without any control or supervision, and this is evidenced by the official statistics of employment, which show the high percentage of working children, especially in the age group from 6 to 12 years.

## Research importance:

The importance of the study lies in:

- knowing the most important factors and reasons that lead to the spread of this phenomenon.
- Attempt to find appropriate solutions to reduce this phenomenon.
- Emphasis on the role and influence of international organizations.

- Knowing the obligations of the employer from this phenomenon.
- Knowing the mechanisms to protect children from this phenomenon.
- Distinguishing between a working child, a homeless child, and a street child.
- Knowing the causes of this phenomenon and ways to treat it.
- Knowing the forbidden actions of children.
- Indicating the age specified for children in accordance with international and national agreements.

## Research problem:

Child labor is a serious issue for the world community as well as Arab nations. This problem obstructs economic development as well as the social and psychological impacts it has on children by denying them the opportunity to have a happy childhood in a safe environment provided by society, including health, environmental, and cultural aspects, particularly in the fields of children's theater and cinema, as well as newspapers and highly specialised magazines. If all of these are accessible, a healthy generation will be able to rise in the new civilizational structure. There is a clear lack of legal texts and international treaties that regulate child labour and limit this phenomenon.

## Research outline

- The first topic: the legal procedures regulating child labour.
- The first requirement: the international protection of child labour.
- Section one / conventions dealing with protection from the phenomenon
- The second section / works and the age specified for children in accordance with international agreements.
- The second requirement: the national protection of child labour.
- Section one / national texts that dealt with protection from the phenomenon
- Subsection Two: The jobs and age specified for child labour under national laws.
- The second topic: Mechanisms to protect children from the phenomenon of labour.
- The first requirement / national mechanisms to protect children from the phenomenon of labour.
- The first section is the mechanisms undertaken by the authorities and organizations.
- The second subsection: the mechanisms that are obligatory for the employer
- The second requirement / societal protection of children from this phenomenon.
- Section one: Treating the phenomenon by caring for working children
- Section Two: Treating the phenomenon by eliminating and activating the role of UNICEF.
- Conclusion

## Legal procedures regulating child labour

There are several procedures, laws and recommendations regulating the child's work and specifying their gender and ages. All of these measures aim to prevent children from engaging in hard work that negatively affects their health and mental and physical strength, and protects their childhood. On this basis, in this section we will show the legal protection of child labour from two sides, once on the international side, and once on the national side. This will be done by dividing the topic into two demands. We deal with the first requirement: the international protection of child labour, and in the second requirement, the national protection of child labour.

## International protection of child labour

In the long term, the international protection of child labour aims to completely eliminate child labour. There are agreements that set a minimum age and prohibit children from working in hard work and exploiting them in any form of work in a way that deprives children of their childhood and hinders their ability to go to school, and has a harmful mental, physical, social or moral impact. We will address the international protection of child labour by explaining the conventions and laws that dealt with protection from the phenomenon in the first section. By indicating the jobs and the age specified for child labour under international conventions in a second section.

## Conventions and laws dealing with protection

We will discuss this section explaining the laws and agreements that dealt with protecting children from this phenomenon

### 1- The agreements

There are several organizations that stipulated conventions, including the International Labour Organization and the Arab Labour Organization where they stipulated various conventions as the following:

- A- International Labour Convention No. 138
- B- International Labour Convention No. 182
- C- Arab Convention No. 18 of 1996 on the work of juveniles
- D- The International Labour Organization and UNICEF concluded the Treaty of Versailles after the end of the First World War in order to provide sound working conditions for adults, to restrict age for working and to improve working conditions for children around the world.
- E- In 1919, the members of the International Labour Organization were members of the League of Nations, which consisted of 41 states. It is an organization that works to eliminate child labour and exploitation. In 1962 the United States joined, and after World War II, the International Labour Organization was adopted and then transferred to the United Nations, which began to change

child labour standards not only with the UN countries, but extended all over the world. In 1992, the International Labour Organization established the International Program for the Elimination of Child Labour. (Al-Dulaimy, 2019)

## 2- The laws

In 1839, Prussia became the first country to enact rules prohibiting child labor in industries and limiting the amount of hours a child may work. These laws were enacted to improve working conditions for adults. As a result, these laws expanded throughout Europe. In 1839, the United Kingdom approved the Factory Act, which prohibited child labor, and in 1841, France passed the first child labor legislation. After the United Kingdom, France and Germany followed suit, and now child labor laws exist in nearly every European country. Individual countries had passed legislation starting in 1844 with Massachusetts. The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 was the first federal law established in the United States. This law establishes a minimum wage of 40 cents per hour, limits child labor to 40 hours per week, and prohibits minors under the age of 16 from working in manufacturing and mining facilities. (Kazim, 2019).

In 1941, an order issued by the US Supreme Court stated that the law was constitutional. Lots of labour laws were passed after or shortly before World War I. As for the Iraqi national legislation, we will discuss what is related to this subject in the second section of this research, which is the national protection of child labour.

### **The work and age specified for child labour under international conventions**

International organizations and laws have set specific standards that set the limits within which children are allowed to work, as agreements and legislation include specific work that children should not work in. It also specified a legal working age that a business owner cannot exceed without a legal violation, through the following:

International Labour Organization:

The organization enacted many conventions coping with different labour dilemmas, such as

the eight conventions representing the key standards of human rights at work. The most recent were the two conventions No. 138 of 1973 regarding the minimum age for employment, and Convention No. 182 of 1999 concerning the worst forms of child labour, which are among the eight conventions referred to above. These two conventions are the most important and most recent ones approved by international labour conferences in the field of child labour. The provisions in which they are contained are considered basic standards of human rights at work that the countries that accede to it are bound by, and they are held accountable for breaching their obligations under them. Other countries are also morally committed to its provisions despite not ratifying them, by virtue of their membership in this organization and their commitment to its constitution and the Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights in Action that was issued by it (Abass, 2012)

International Labour Convention No. 138

In the long term, it aims to completely eliminate child labour, It established a minimum age for work, which is the age at which obligatory schooling must be completed, which it determined should not be less than 15. It also made it illegal to hire minors under the age of eighteen in jobs that might jeopardize their health, safety, or morality because of their nature or the circumstances in which they are performed. It required ratifying states to undertake to follow a national policy aimed at effectively eliminating child labour. One of the causes of child labour is the parent's low educational level.

International Labour Convention No. 182

It was complementary to Convention No. 138 in order to urge the The worst kinds of child labor should be eliminated first, in order to prepare for the complete and absolute abolition of all forms of child labor. The necessity of free basic education, as well as the rehabilitation and social integration of working children, was highlighted in this agreement, while taking care of the needs of their families.

Convention No. 6 concerning the Night Work of Juveniles in Industry of 1919:

It prohibited working for children under 18 at night in industrial establishments, with the

exclusion of family projects. Night is defined as a period of no less than 11 hrs., in which the period among 10 in the evening and 5 in the morning is included.

Convention No. 7 concerning the Minimum Age (Maritime work) for the year 1920:

It is prohibited to employ children under 14 on ships except for the works of training and with the consent and supervision of public authorities (Kazim, 2019).

Convention No. 10 Concerning Minimum Age (Agriculture) of 1921:

It prohibited any agricultural facility that employs children under 14 except the specified hours for school education and without detriment of their attendance at school.

Convention No. 15 Concerning the Minimum Age (Stokers and Auxiliaries) of 1921:

It prohibited on board steamships as captains or assistant captains for children under 18.

Convention No. 16 regarding the medical examination of juveniles (maritime work) of 1921:

It required that no child less than 18 to be employed on board ships except on the basis of a medical certificate attesting physical eligibility for work signed by a physician approved by the competent authority, and that the medical examination should be re-examined at least every year.

Convention No. 33 Concerning Minimum Age (Non-Industrial Work) of 1932:

It has prohibited working of children less than 14 or under the age of obligatory education in non-industrial jobs, with the exception of light work for those who have reached 12 years, for no more than 2 hrs per day, and in jobs that do not endanger their health, or accompany them in school. (Al-Dulaimy, 2019)

Convention No. 58 concerning the Minimum Age (Maritime work) of 1973:

This agreement was issued as a revision to Convention No. (7) and raised the minimum age for children to work on ships to fifteen years instead of fourteen, except for training purposes and with the approval of the competent public authorities.

Convention No. 59 Concerning Minimum Age (Industry - Revised) for the year 1937:

This agreement was issued as a revision of Convention No. 5 and raised the minimum working age for children in industrial projects to fifteen years instead of fourteen years, with the exception of family projects and in technical schools, with the approval and supervision of public authorities.

Convention No. 60 Concerning Minimum Age (Non-Industrial Work - Revised) of 1937:

This agreement was issued as a revision of Convention No. 33 and raised the minimum working age for children in non-industrial enterprises to the age of fifteen or the age of compulsory education, with the exception of non-tiring work for those over thirteen and not exceeding 2 hrs per day and in works that do not endanger their own health or accompany them with studies. (Sabri, 2012)

Convention No. 77 regarding the medical examination of juveniles (industry) for the year 1946:

It has prohibited working for children under eighteen years in industrial establishments unless their fitness for work is proven through a thorough medical examination carried out by a medical authority ratified by the competent authority. This examination must be reiterated at intervals of no more than a year.

Convention No. 78 regarding the medical examination of juveniles (non-industrial professions) for the year 1946:

It is prohibited to employ any child less than 18 in non-industrial works unless a thorough medical examination shows his physical ability for this work shown by a medical authority approved by the competent authority. This examination must be repeated at intervals of no more than a year.

Convention No. 79 on Night Work for Juveniles (Non-Industrial works) of 1946:

It prohibited the employment of children under the age of fourteen or under the age of obligatory education working in non-industrial occupations during the night, which comprises a period of fourteen continuous hours, including the hours between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. It also outlawed the employment of minors under the

age of eighteen throughout the night for a period of no less than twelve hours, including the hours between ten p.m. and six a.m.

Convention No. 90 concerning Night Work (Industry) for Juveniles of 1948:

It is prohibited to employ children who have not reached the age of eighteen in any industrial facility at night, except for the purposes of vocational training for those who have reached the age of sixteen, and with the approval of the competent authority after consulting with employers' organizations.

Convention No. 112 Concerning Minimum Age (Fishers) of 1959:

It is prohibited to employ children who have not reached 15 years on fishing vessels except during school holidays and provided that this does not harm their health, natural development or their attendance at school. Their activities must not be commercial.

Convention No. 123 Concerning Minimum Age (Underground Work) of 1965:

It required states to set a minimum age for working in the mines, provided that it is not in any case less than sixteen years old.

Convention No. 124 on the Medical Examination of Juveniles (Underground Working) for the year 1965:

It required a thorough medical examination when any worker under the age of twenty-one was employed in underground mines, and to be re-examined periodically at least annually.

### **Arab Labour Organization:**

So far, this organization has issued 19 conventions and 8 recommendations, most of which contain texts on child labour or family matters. These agreements are concerned with regulating the affairs of child labour, in particular the minimum age for work, and raising it in proportion to the risks posed by work and the hardship in its practice. It was also concerned with providing guarantees for periodic medical care and determining working hours (Al-Jasmaany, 1996).

Arab Convention No. 18 of 1996 on the juveniles' works

This convention is considered the first Arab convention specialized in the area of child labour, as it came as a continuation of sequences of principles emphasized by previous Arab agreements in this field. I defined "child" as (the person who has completed 13 and has not completed eighteen years of age, whether male or female). It prohibited persons, under the age of thirteen years, from working. It stipulated that its provisions include all economic activities with the exception of non-hazardous and non-harmful agricultural activities and in accordance with controls determined through a competent authority, which take into consideration the minimum age of children. The agreement stipulates that child labour does not encounter with compulsory education, and that the age of entry into work shall not be less than the minimum age for completing the stage of obligatory education. The country must conduct researches regarding the reasons of child labour, and work to raise awareness concerning the potential harms of child labour. In industrial work, it stipulated that juveniles should not be employed before 15 years, and in a non-tiring industrial work undertaken by their family before fourteen. In all cases, the work of children must be monitored, they are protected healthily and morally, and they are able and fit for the profession that each of them has practiced. It also prohibited the works of the child that is dangerous or harmful to health or morals before he reaches 18 years, provided that the state defines such work in its legislation or regulations. The agreement established texts regulating child labour in the following areas: medical examination, night work, wages, working hours, overtime, vacations, social services, employer obligations, application control, and penalties (Al-Dulaimy, 2019).

### **National protection for child labour**

Those who follow the situation of children on the scene in Iraq in general, and the region in particular, will notice a wide range of violations that directly or indirectly affect the child's life and future. Does this happen because of a lack of legislation, or is it a flaw in the application? This is what we will determine by diagnosing child labour texts. In order to search for legal protection for children, we will address two demands, the first relates to the national constitutional protection of this phenomenon,

while the second section relates to protection in other legislations.

### **Constitutional protection**

Some Iraqi constitutions have included provisions relating to child care, and were keen to emphasize the protection and guarantee of their rights, given that the child needs care and attention. After reviewing the Iraqi Basic Law (1920 Constitution) and the Provisional Constitution of 1958, we did not find a clear interest in children, nor any reference to child labour. The Interim Constitution of 1963 contained legal provisions referring to the right to work in general without referring to child labour, as it stipulated in Article (15) that the state guarantees the protection of children in accordance with the law. As for Article (17) of it, it indicates that work is a duty and an honor for every capable citizen. The same was repeated in the interim constitution of 1964, where the 1964 constitution indicated in Article 34 of it that the state determines working hours, estimates wages, and regulates the right to rest and vacations.

This reference is considered generic, as it is not intended for child labour.

In the interim constitution of 1970, Article (11) emphasized childcare, and Article (27) stipulated the necessity of making primary education compulsory, but it did not refer to child labour. In the Law of Administrating the State for the Transitional Period of 2004 (Article 13) referred to the prohibition of forced labour, but there was no explicit reference to child labour. As for the effective Iraqi constitution 2005, the preamble emphasized the concern for children and their affairs, and stipulated in the first paragraph / Article 22 that work is a right for all Iraqis, provided that it guarantees them a dignified life. Thus, we find that this constitution has been completed with the right to work more than the previous Iraqi constitutions, as evidenced by the reference to it in three paragraphs, but it did not refer to child labour, as stated in the first paragraph / Article 29, provided that the state guarantees the protection of children. There is a point worth mentioning, which is the draft constitution of the Kurdistan Region - Iraq, but it makes no mention of child labour. It emphasized in the paragraph 3 / Article 27 on the protection of children and the prohibition of economic exploitation of

children. It also referred in the fifth paragraph of the same article to the prohibition of all forms of discrimination, violence and abuse in society, school and family (Tibbi,n.d).

### **Protection in other legislations**

Countries usually place some restrictions and conditions on the work of children, due to their natural and social conditions, in order to maintain their health and safety. This phenomenon in Iraq has its own dimensions and causes, especially the children of Iraq lived under the pressure of oppression, tyranny and homelessness for decades which led thousands of them towards labour. Among the agreements ratified by Iraq related to child labour, including: Juveniles under the age of fifteen are not allowed to use or work on ships except for ships in which members of the same family work. They may not be employed in public or private industrial establishments or in any of their branches. He also stressed on the medical examination of juveniles and adolescents in order to ensure the fitness of the juvenile for use in the work in which he is engaged, to medical supervision until he reaches the age of eighteen, and to repeat the medical examination for periods not exceeding one year each. We find in Labour Law No. 72 of 1936 that it is not permissible for children who have not reached the age of twelve to be employed in any industrial project, except for work in industrial schools or in industrial shops that the government approves of, provided that they are considered shops and that their working period does not exceed four hours per day. It is also forbidden for them to stay in any industrial project, and whoever violates that will be punished under the provisions of this law.

In Labour Law No. (1) of 1958 amended, Article (6) stipulates:

- 1- Juveniles may not be employed in night or mixed jobs.
- 2- Teenagers may not be employed in night jobs and may be employed in mixed jobs. As for their employment in night jobs, it is subject to the following matters:
  - A- Training and rehearsal in burning or certain industries in which work requires continuity, by a decision of the Minister.
  - B- Teenagers and those who are employed at night shall be given a rest period of not less than three continuous hours in accordance with

the preceding paragraph between one period of work and another.

C- The provisions of this article do not apply to the employment of adolescents in emergency situations that interfere with the normal work of the project and which could not be foreseen or controlled and are not of a recurring nature.

D- The Minister may authorize the employment of adolescents at night in emergency cases necessitated by the public interest and stipulated in (Paragraph. / Article 21) that it is not permissible to employ juveniles who have not completed twelve years of age. (Second Paragraph) stipulates: "Juveniles between the ages of twelve and fourteen may be employed in jobs commensurate with their age and physical strength, with the aim of training them in an industry or a trade, provided that working hours do not exceed five hours per day. (Bastami, n.d)

### **Mechanisms to protect children from the phenomenon of labour**

There are several mechanisms that organizations and governmental and humanitarian agencies followed in order to reduce the negative effects of this phenomenon. Therefore, in this topic, we will discuss these mechanisms by dividing this topic into two demands. In the first requirement, we discuss the national mechanisms, and in the second requirement, we explain the mechanisms that are obligatory for the employer.

#### **National mechanisms to protect children from the phenomenon of labour**

We will discuss national mechanisms by dividing those mechanisms that are made on the national trend by organizations and government agencies in the first section, and in a statement of the mechanisms that are made by the employer.

#### **Mechanisms made by agencies and organizations**

There is a set of mechanisms that government agencies and organizations with humanitarian specialization that are concerned with children's affairs should have. It is necessary to address the problems that we have already referred to in the previous section and related to the problems of poverty and education. In addition, it is necessary to work to create a public opinion that rejects child labour in an unfair manner and

detracts from its basic rights, by activating the supervisory role of the supervisory and legal authorities, and this will be through:

1- Finding a solution for the issue of family poverty which requires the following:

A- Finding a solution for the issue of adult unemployment

B- Addressing the issue of low income levels (poverty)

C- C- Creating a strong social safety net that ensures a family's ability to generate an alternative income in the event that they are unable to work due to a variety of factors. There is no doubt that tackling advanced problems is the greatest challenge faced by various countries in contemporary societies, especially the developing countries, Iraq in particular, which is living in an remarkable situation. This produced a unique poverty issue in a rich country, which made one third of the population, according to the most optimistic estimations, live under the dearth line. This circumstance also made a problematic unemployment rate estimated at the uppermost estimations in the globe, as a result of the widespread paralysis of the process of production in light of the security loss and the political stability absence. Such issues can be addressed by long-term national policies. This would illustrate the successful radical treatment of the phenomenon of child labour. (Kazim, 2019).

2- Addressing education problems which requires:

A- A national education policy which guarantees free education shall be adopted.

B- Upgrading the school environment to become an environment (attractive) for students

C- Reconsidering the structure and content of educational curricula

3- Building a social stance against child labour through:

A- Awareness of the dangers of early work.

B- Upgrading the social view of learning.

C- Purification of the collective mind of misconceptions and stable convictions about child labour.

4- Establishing an effective legal system and administrative organization to seek to reduce child labour. (Al-Dulaimy, 2019)

#### **Employer's mechanisms to reduce child labour**

There are several obligations for the employer during work periods that he must implement correctly, the most important of which are:

1- The employer, either an individual or a legal entity, shall bear the responsibility. The responsibility to ensure the safety and security of the working child, and this includes ensuring all of the following:

A- Cleanliness of the workplace and its premises

B- Adequate food and water

C- Not to expose child workers to hazardous materials.

D- Safety of equipment used by children.

E- Securing buildings as required by the relevant laws.

F- Providing workers with the necessary protective equipment

G- The rights of workers, such as the freedom of movement and association of children.

2- The employer shall keep a record of all the identities of the children working with him, their dates of birth, important job descriptions and working times to be submitted to the relevant child protection committees for follow-up.

3. The employer pays just and equitable salaries to working children, such as social insurance benefits.

4. The employer encourages taking communal social accountability decisions to avoid exploiting working children and improving the circumstances in which they work.

5. Necessary steps to ensure that the subcontractor, supplier or manpower provider, locally or internationally, shall be taken by the employer who deals with them, adheres to the standards and preventive measures that guarantee the protection of the child.

### **Community protection for children**

Social safeguard procedures also have a prominent role in rejecting child labour. The pension and benefits of unemployment, maternity, disability, and work injury benefits, helps preventing circumstances in which children have to work to complement insufficient or unsafe family income or owing to the death, injury, illness, or other abrupt income shock of the breadwinner. But only 12% of unemployed workers in the world receive

unemployment benefit, only 28% of working women receive maternity benefit, and only 52% of retired people receive a pension (Al-Dulaimy, 2019).

Health insurance that guarantees access to health care not only improves people's health, but also protects families from the risk of falling into poverty due to health costs. Currently, patients directly bear about 40% of the total health costs. ILO Recommendation No. 202 of 2012 on National Social Protection Floors reflects the global consensus on nationally defined basic guarantees of social protection as a fundamental right for all. It calls on the 185 member states of the International Labour Organization to ensure that all enjoy at least basic health care and basic income security throughout their lives. (Kazim, 2019)

### **Treating the phenomenon by caring for working children**

Child care or childhood is taking care of the child, providing assistance and everything necessary for his healthy and natural growth, whether these necessities are moral or material (Al-Dulaimy, 2019).

The importance of child care appears in three aspects:

1- The importance of child care from a social aspect:

It is through working to bring about the necessary changes for childhood and to bring about the necessary changes in the behavior, behavior and relationships of children in line with this foundation.

2- The importance of child care from the educational aspect:

The areas of child care reach the satisfaction of the child's educational and educational needs.

3- The importance of child care in the psychological, social and emotional aspects (Al-Dulaimy, 2019).

The style and nature of the care that the child receives has a great role and an important basis in enabling the child to develop in an integrated manner, and care must be based on a deep understanding and appreciation of the child's physical and sensory needs. A normal, dependent, passive, introverted, anxious,

impulsive or aggressive personality does not come from a vacuum, but derives its feasibility from the basics of the care that the child receives. The process of caring for a child also includes giving him his rights fully and according to his ability, and these rights are:

- The right to life
- The right to prenatal care.
- The right to postnatal care.
- Educating the child, training him, disciplining him, and familiarizing him with the legal regulations that are required of him.
- The right to dignity.

### **Eliminate the causes of the phenomenon and activate the role of UNICEF**

The phenomenon of child labour is an overlapping phenomenon in the social, economic, political, psychological and cultural fields. This phenomenon has been widely known worldwide. The phenomenon of child labour is eliminated by eliminating its three social, economic and political causes on the one hand, and by activating the role of UNICEF and similar organizations on the other.

The first axis: treating the phenomenon by eliminating its causes.

(1) - Social reasons: There is an important role for local customs and traditions and popular perceptions prevailing in a particular society in the phenomenon of child labour. Among the customs and traditions that increase the phenomenon of child labour are the following:

- The spread of some opinions about the importance of work in developing children's skills.
- The spread of traditions that push poor families to incur a large amount of debt to complete social and sometimes religious occasions, which pushes the children of these families to work in order to obtain enough money to bear these social pressures.
- The spread of some opinions about the importance of girls' education.
- The parents and children themselves are not aware of the danger of child labour at an early age on their future.
- Increasing the number of family members.
- Orphan children are forced to work due to their need. (Kazim, 2019)

(2)- Economic reasons: The serious economic crises in which the majority of families in some nations are affected, as a result of wars or other pressures, must be curbed, pushing some parents to send their children at young ages to get a supplementary source of income to assist with family expenditures, it will take fewer than 7 years to work. What these parents are doing, however, is unreasonable and irrational. At this age, the most important duty a child should have is to study in order to construct his or her future. It turns out that there are currently over 70 million youngsters working in agriculture, mining, and tobacco fields in underdeveloped nations across the world.

(3)- Political reasons: The phenomenon of child labour is addressed through:

- - Activating the function of specialist protection committees to provide protection.
- - Raising knowledge of the laws governing employment in each of the professions in which minors are forbidden from working, as well as the executive restrictions of the Child Law, among the protection committees.
- - Assisting inspectors who are in charge of monitoring child labor in regions where it is prevalent.
- - Encouraging protection committees, schools, and boards of trustees to work together.
- - Strengthening the function of training institutes connected with labor ministries (Al-Dulaimy, 2019).

### **Activating the role of UNICEF to reduce child labour**

UNICEF, or UN Children's Fund, was established in 1919 after the First World War. It attempts to improve safety and well-being by addressing the severe conditions in which children go through. It also encourages education and works where child labor and exploitation have to be reduced and eliminated. UNICEF has 190 countries and programmes. (Kazim, 2019)

### **Conclusion:**

Child labour is included within child street phenomenon which is a new concept in our country. It turned from an issue concerning

relative scales to a wide phenomenon which embraces the risks related with.

## Results

Through the research, we found several results, the most important of which are:

- 1- Child means every person under the age of eighteen unless he reaches the age of majority before that in accordance with the law applicable to him
- 2- Child labour is defined as work which places heavy loads on the child's shoulder threatening his safety, health and welfare.
- 3- Among the causes of child labour are the social, educational and economic reasons related to poverty.
- 4- Providing assistance to the child is necessary to avoid many aggravating problems.

## Recommendations:

- 1- Conducting comprehensive surveys and building an integrated information base on child labour in Iraq.
- 2- The state's contribution to providing housing, health insurance and social security for needy families.
- 3- Follow up on school dropouts through school administrations and in coordination with the family.
- 4- Attention to the mental health of the child by the school and the family.
- 5- Putting pressure on parents who are negligent in putting their children in schools and taking them into their hands to register their children there.
- 6- Preparing a follow-up committee that will undertake the task of child care in coordination with the ministries concerned with children.
- 7- Laying down laws that prohibit the work of children under 18 years of age, with careful follow-up on the implementation of these texts.
- 8- Periodic follow-up of children's workplaces to ensure the safety of working children
- 9- Renewing the punishment for employers who force children to do dangerous work that is not appropriate for their age.

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