

ADVANCING A CHILD RIGHTS INFORMED APPROACH TO ANTISLAVERY POLICY AND PRACTICE

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International
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INNOVATIONS FOR
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The University of
Nottingham

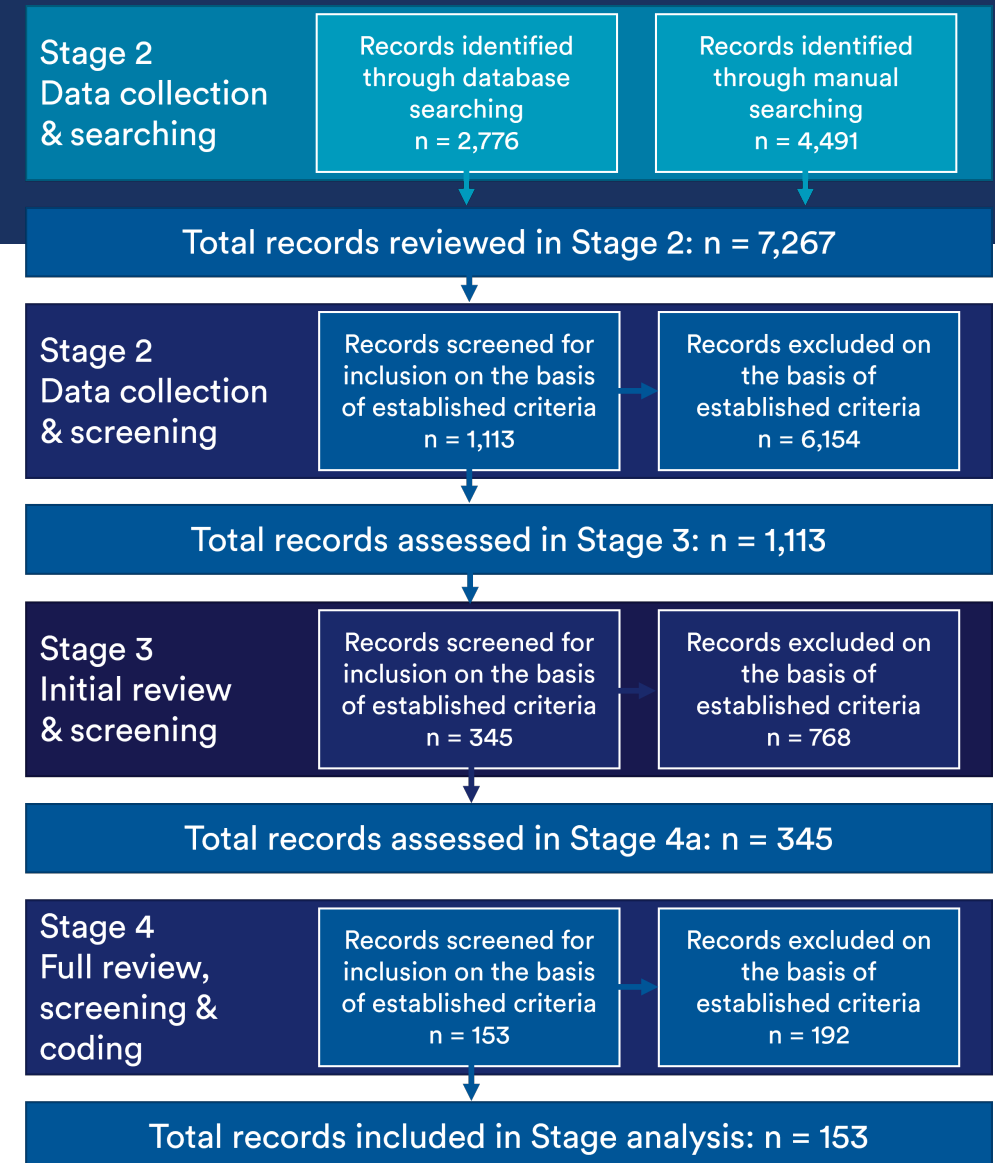
INTRODUCTION

Research Questions

- 1) What does children's rights literature say about modern slavery and child labour?
- 2) How can children's rights literature inform child labour and modern slavery policy and practice?
- 3) How can modern slavery literature inform the development and theorising of children's rights?

METHODOLOGY

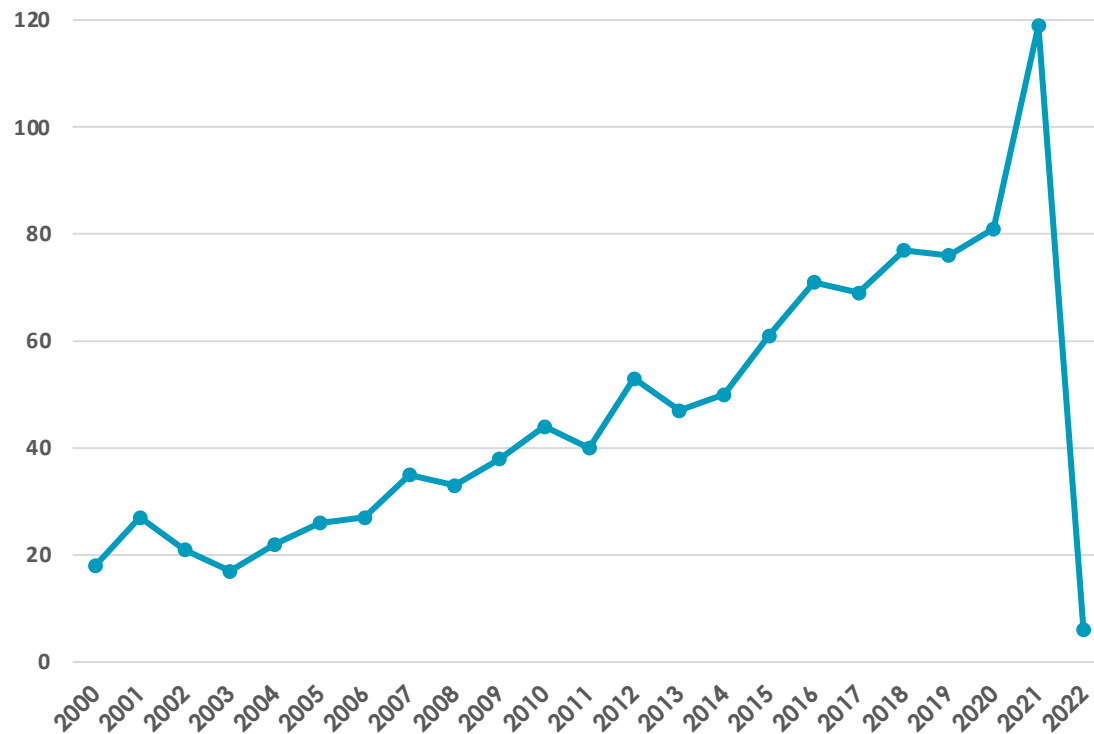
- Systematic Evidence Review
- Academic Literature; 2010-2022
- Database Search:
 - University of Nottingham's Library database (which provides access to hundreds of external databases)
 - Two Boolean Search Strings
- Manual Search of key children's rights, modern slavery, and human rights journals
- 7,267 records identified through initial searches, narrowed to 345 at Stage 4, with 153 records progressed for Stage 4 analysis (2015-2022 records).



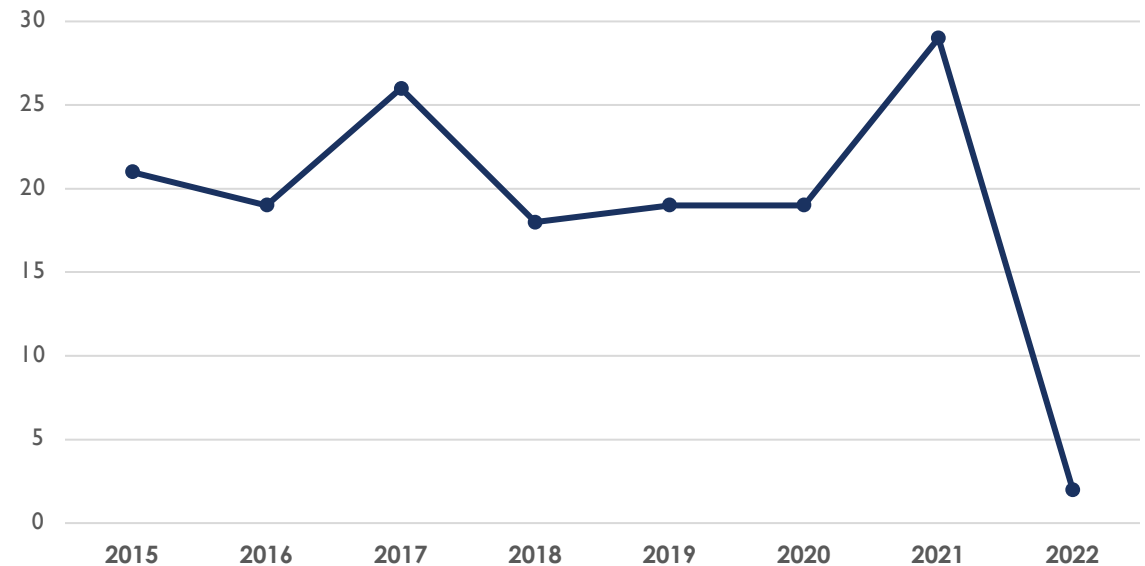
Adapted from Moher, D., Liberati, A., Tetzlaff, J., Altman, D. G., & The PRISMA Group, 'Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: The PRISMA statement' (2009) 6(7) PLoS Med.

OVERVIEW OF EVIDENCE OVER TIME

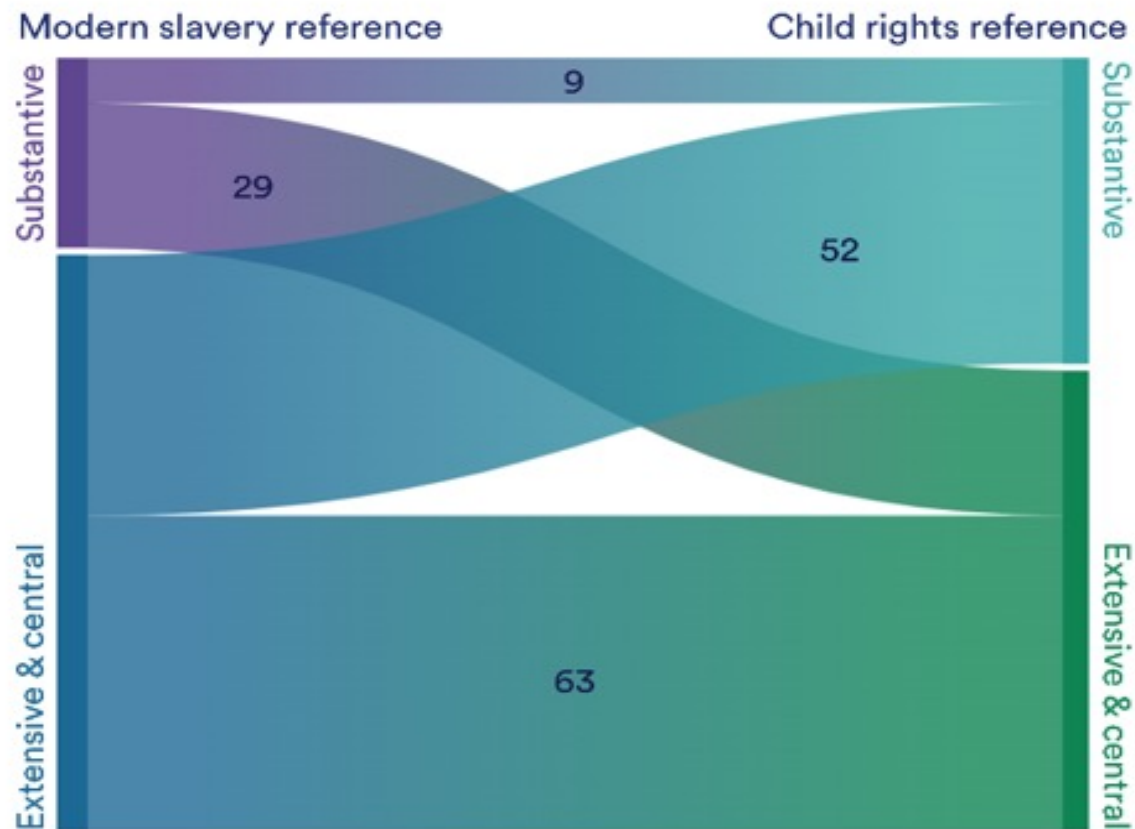
Stage 2 - Review & screening
Full Evidence-Based Collected (1138 records)



Stage 4 - Full review, screening and coding
(153 records)



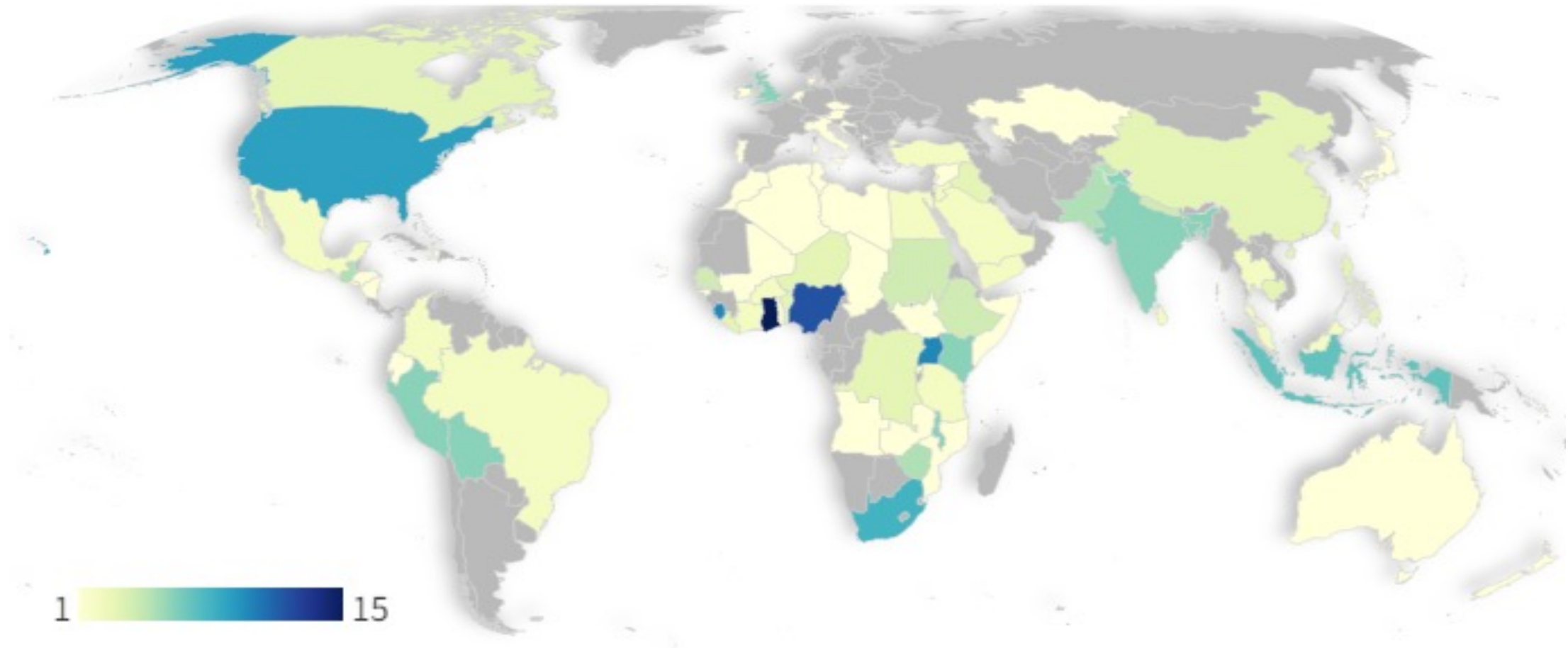
INTERSECTIONS OF MODERN SLAVERY AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



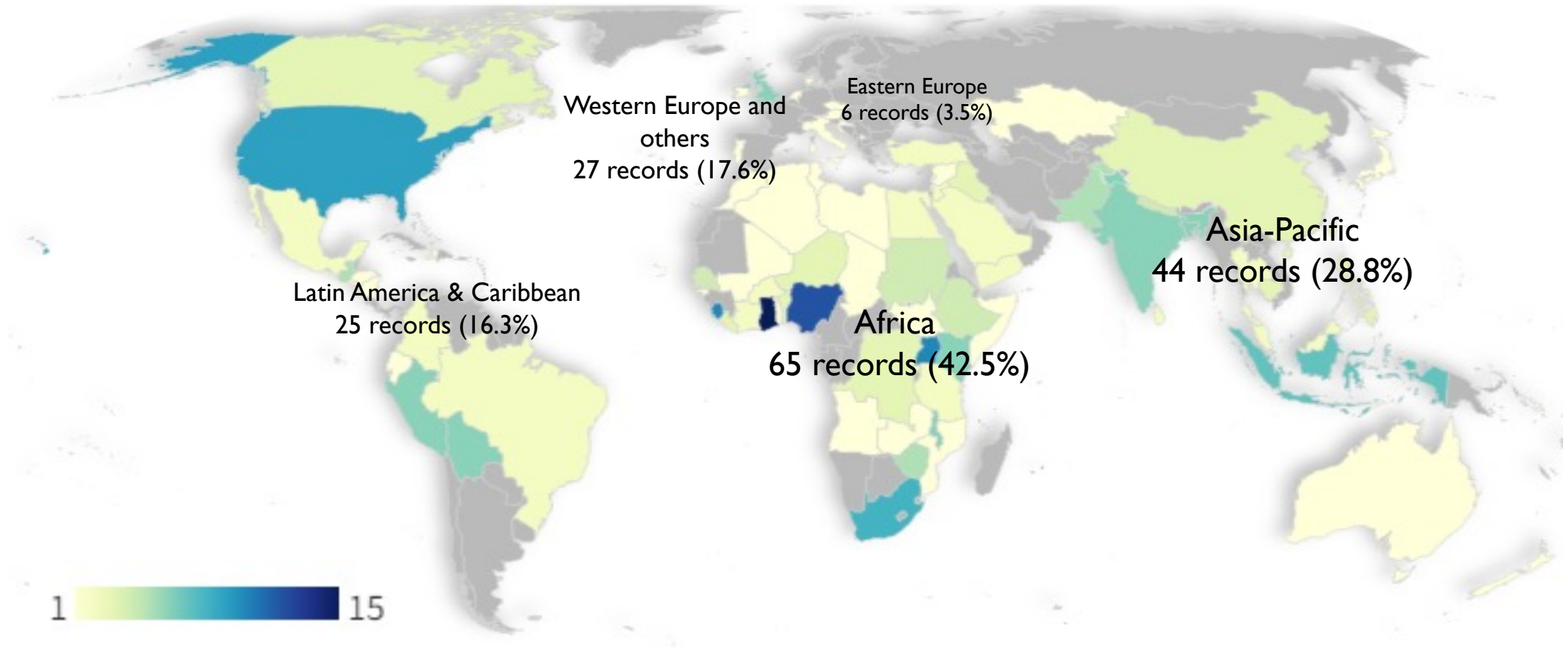
Overall the literature is more engaged in the field of modern slavery (75.2%) than children's rights (60.1%).

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF RESEARCH BY NUMBER OF RECORDS

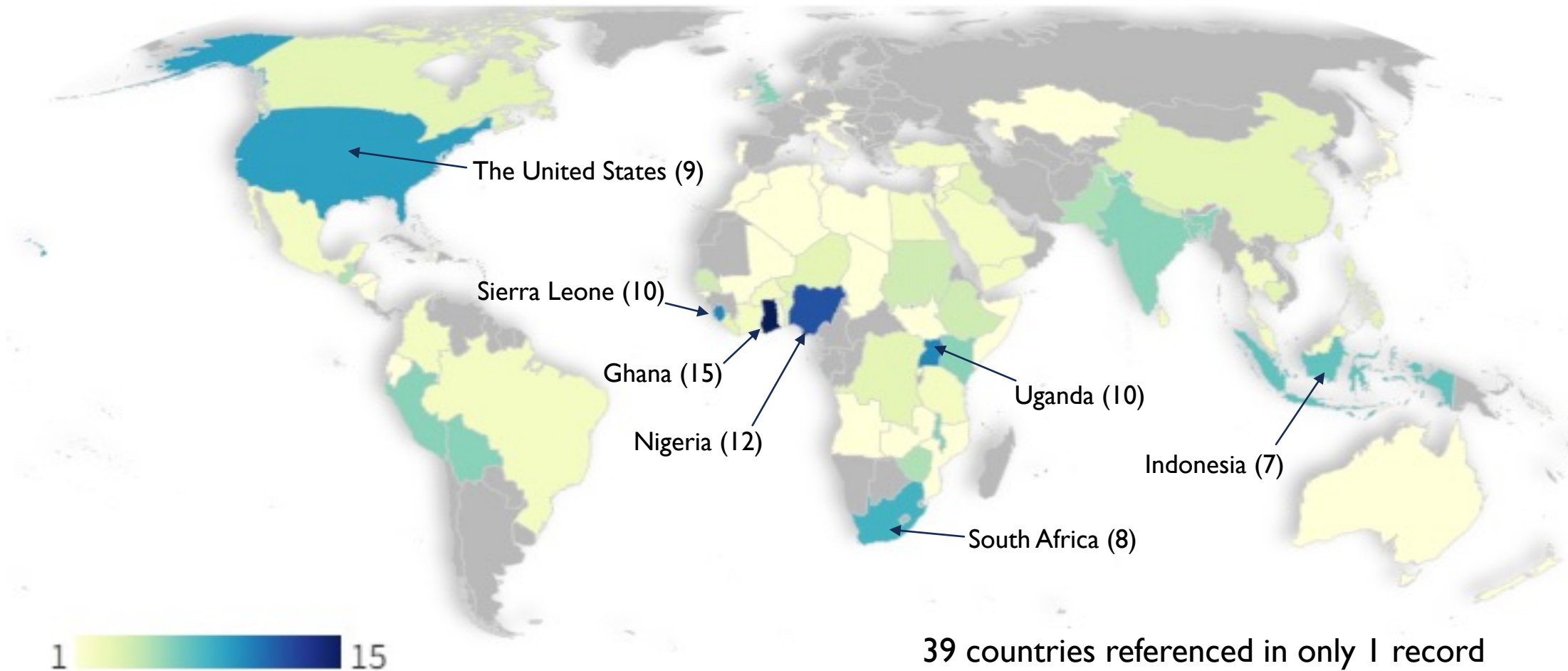
109 (71.2%) focused on specific geographies
86 countries



REGIONS OF FOCUS BY NUMBER OF RECORDS

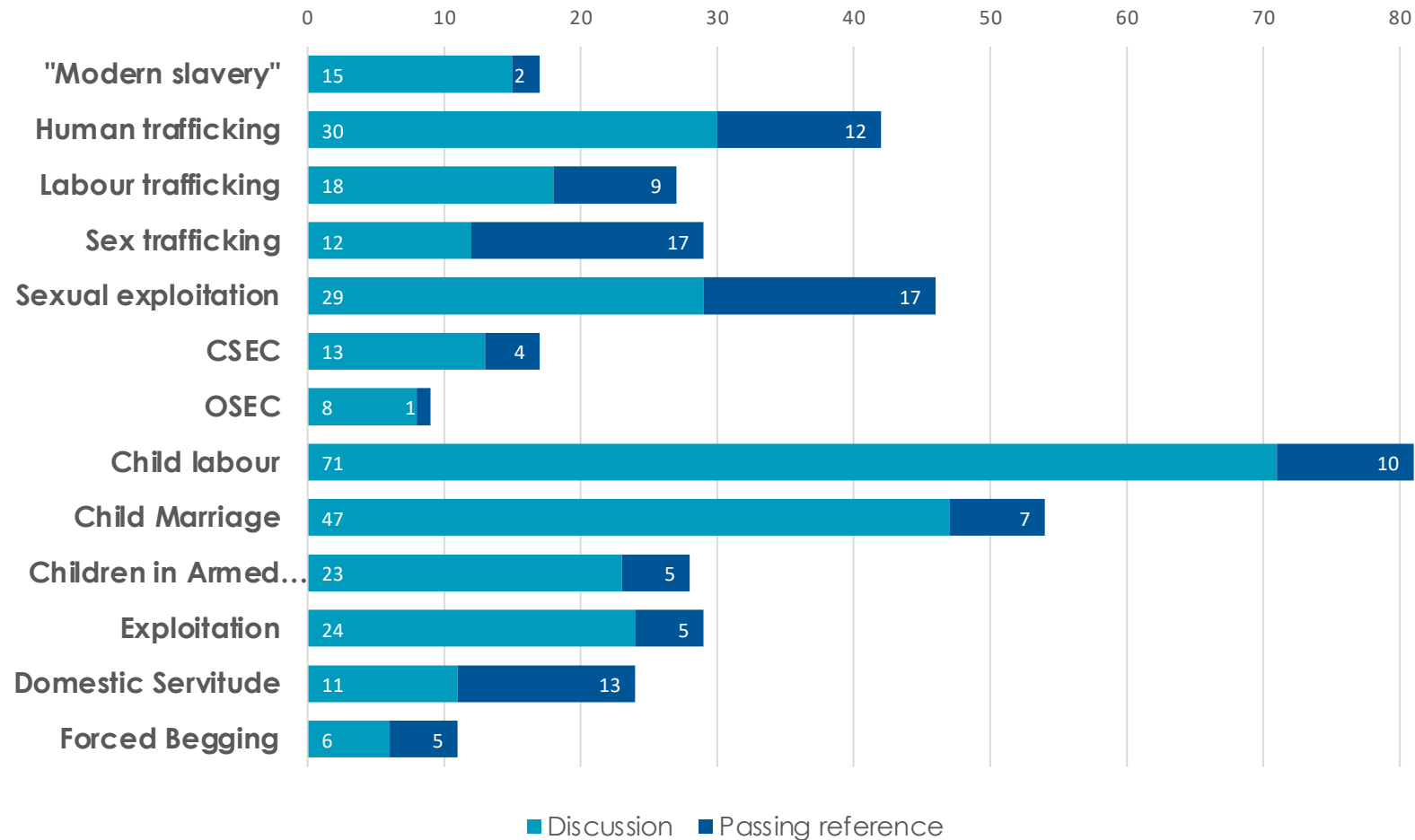


COUNTRIES STRONGLY REPRESENTED BY NUMBER OF RECORDS

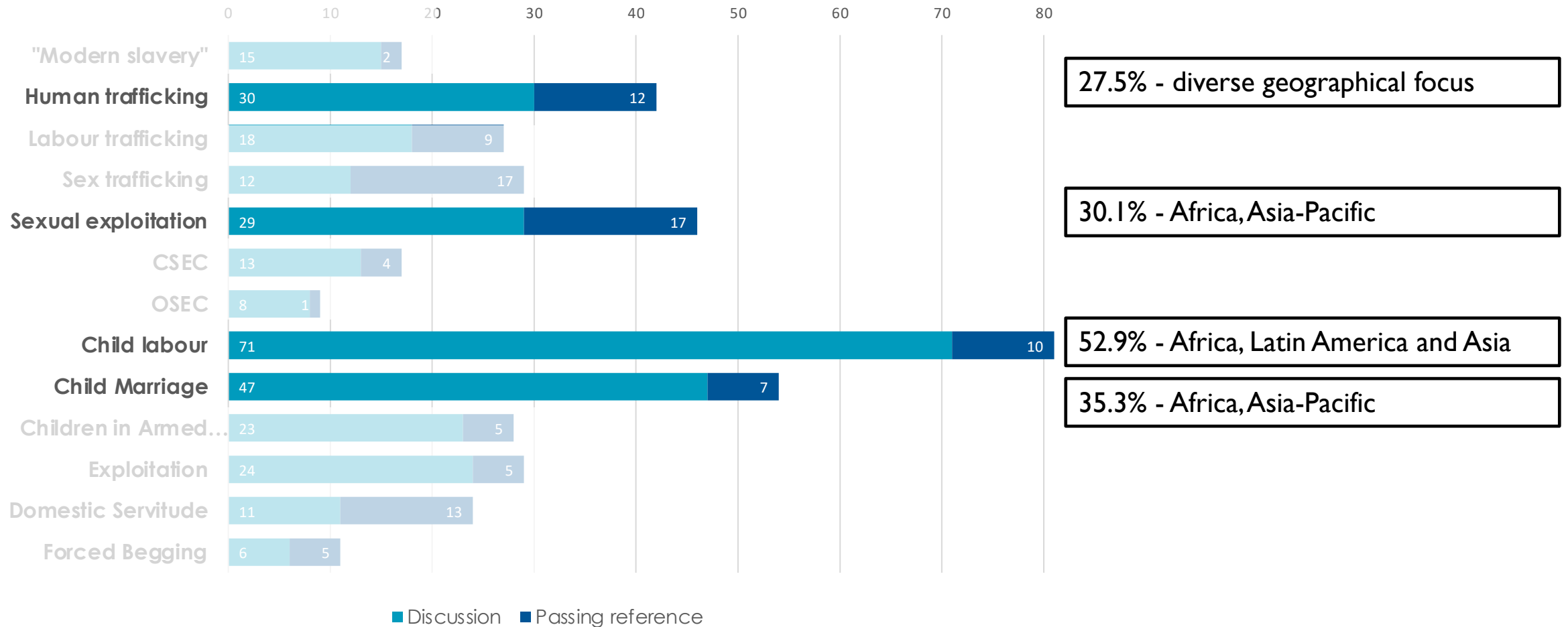


39 countries referenced in only 1 record
More geographically diverse research

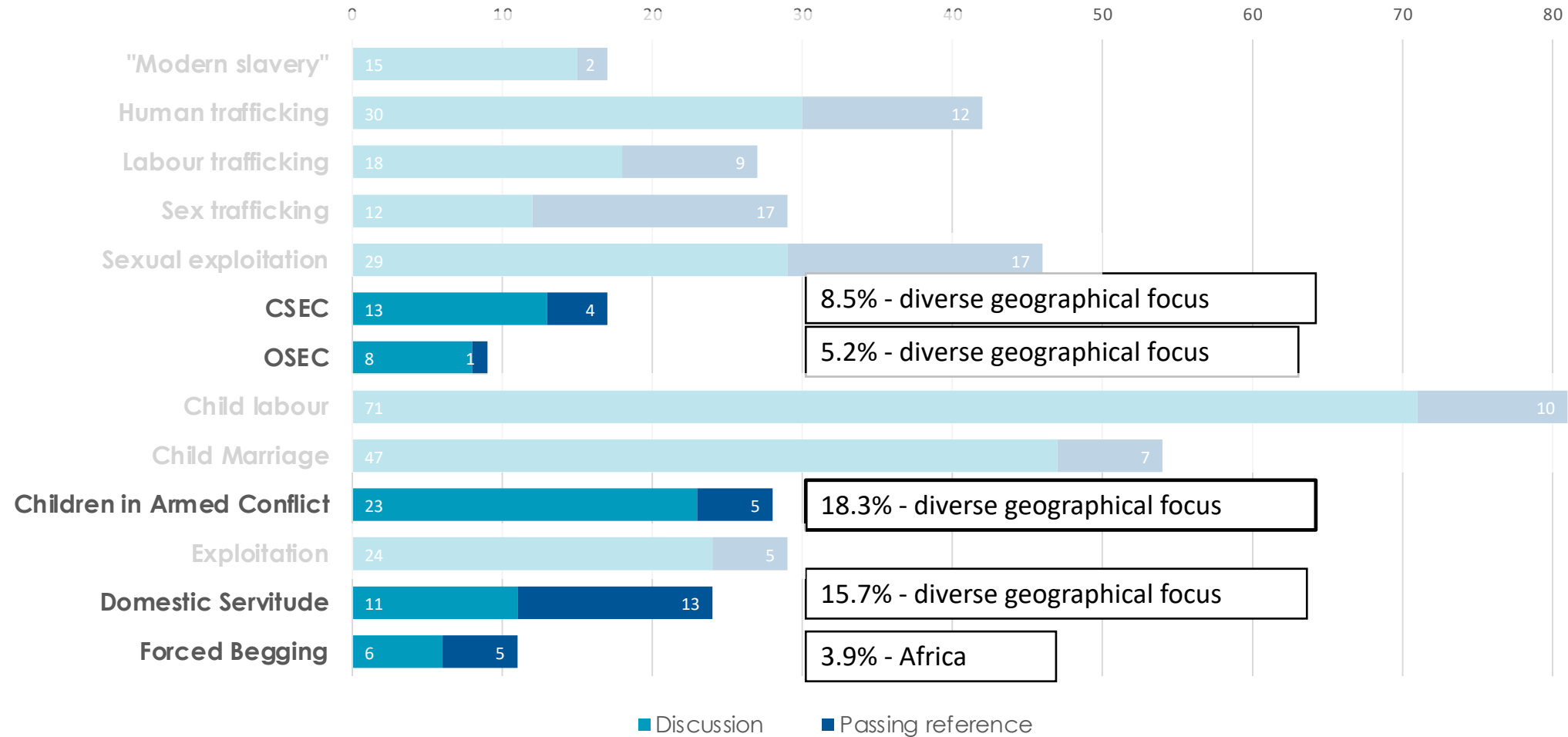
REFERENCE TO MODERN SLAVERY PRACTICES ACROSS RECORDS



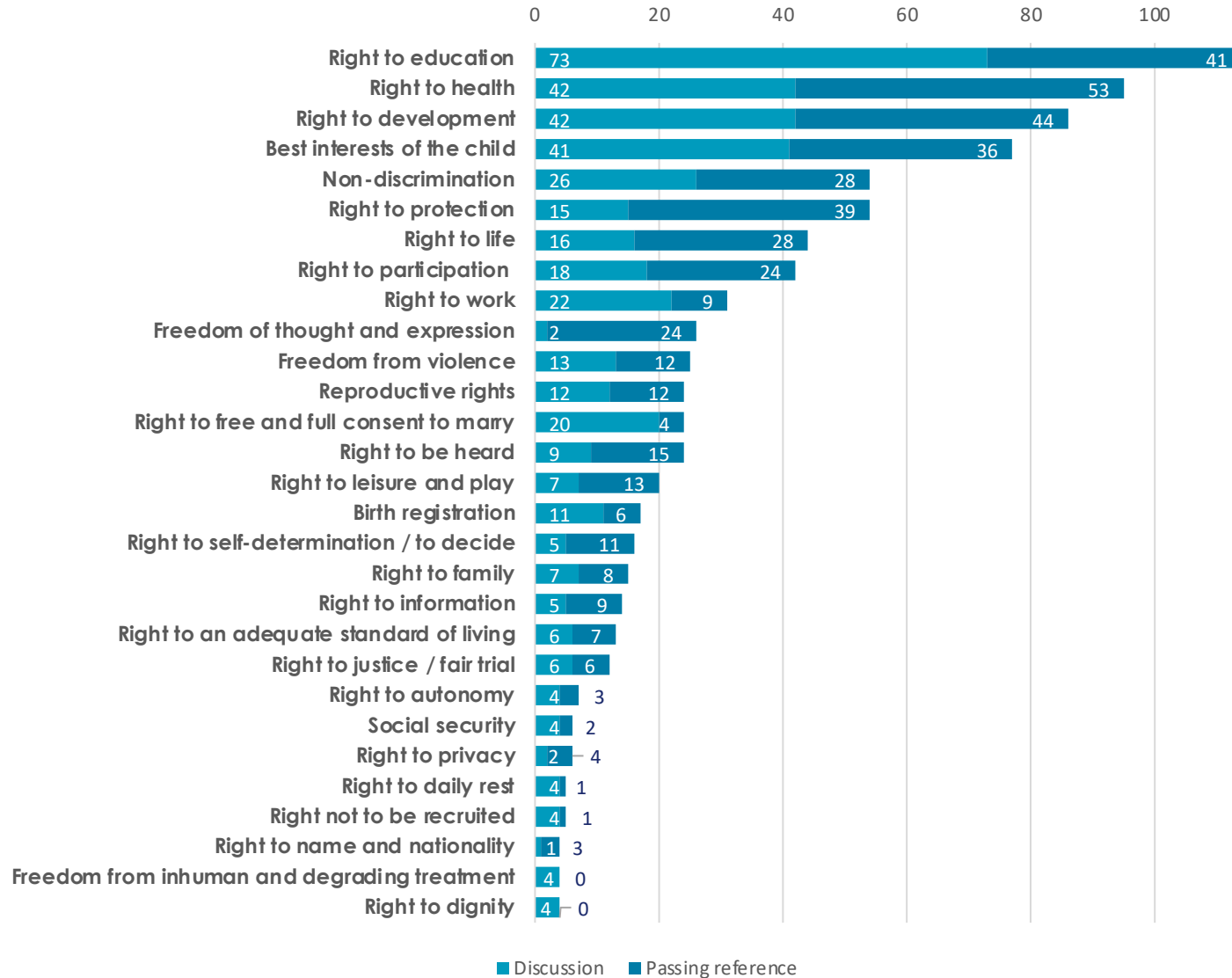
REFERENCE TO MODERN SLAVERY PRACTICES ACROSS RECORDS



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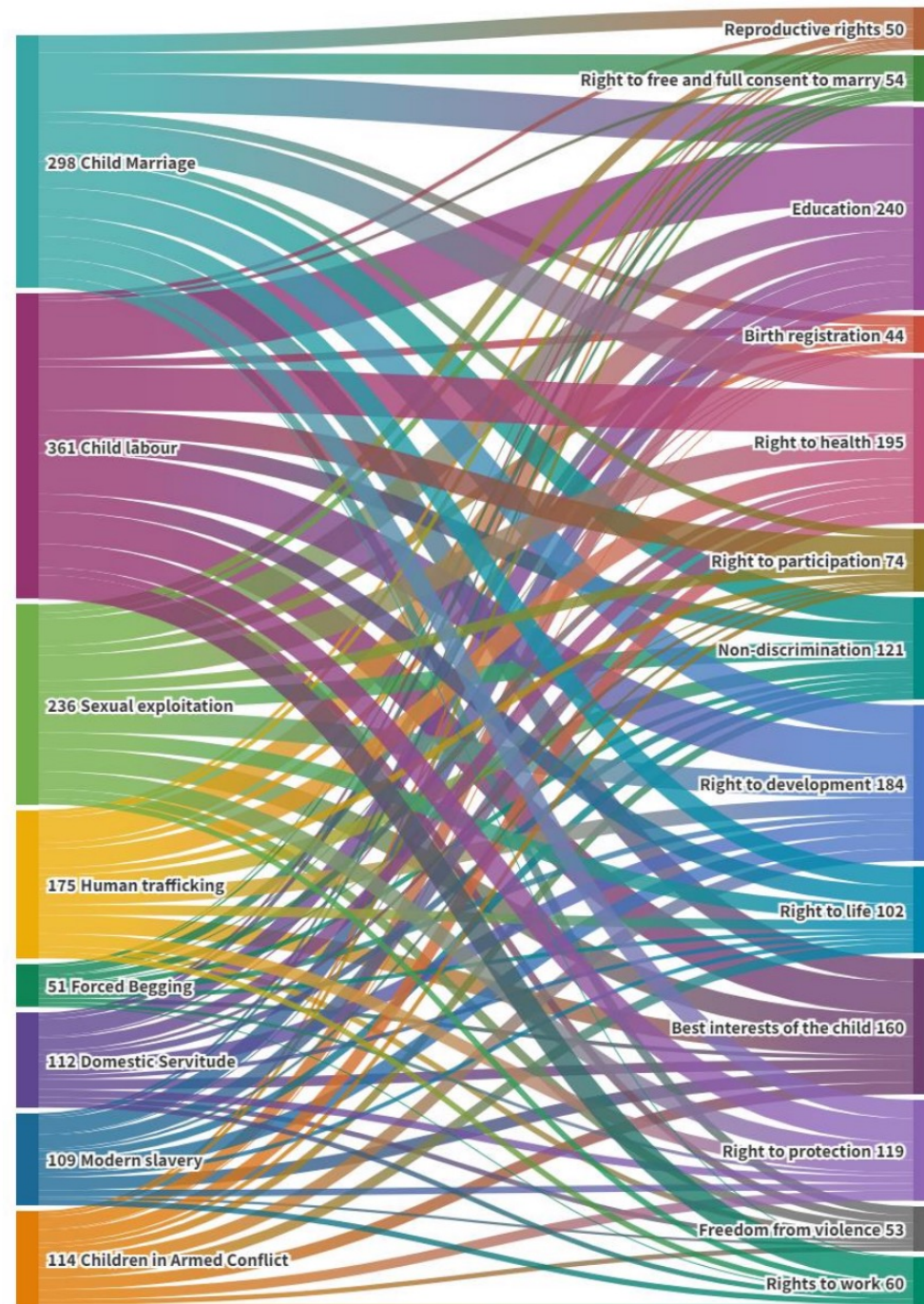
29 CHILDREN'S RIGHTS REFERENCES



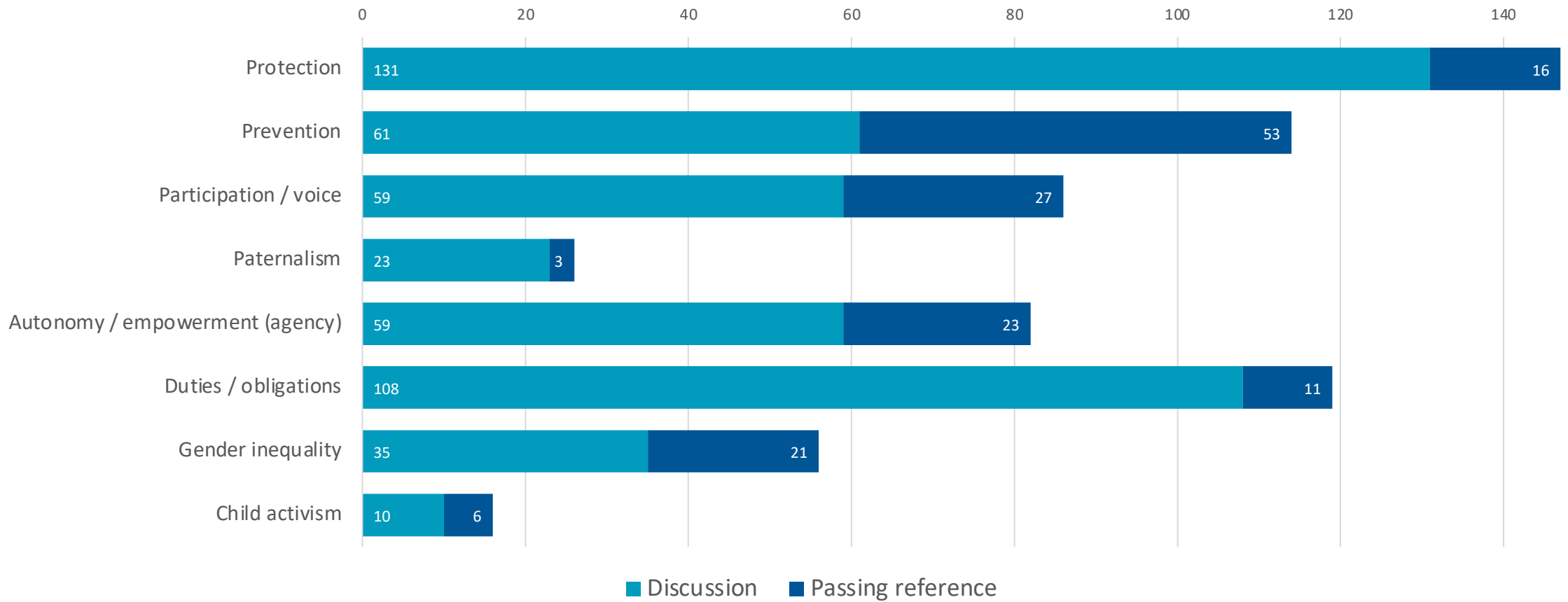
Specific references to children's rights as provided in the CRC framework

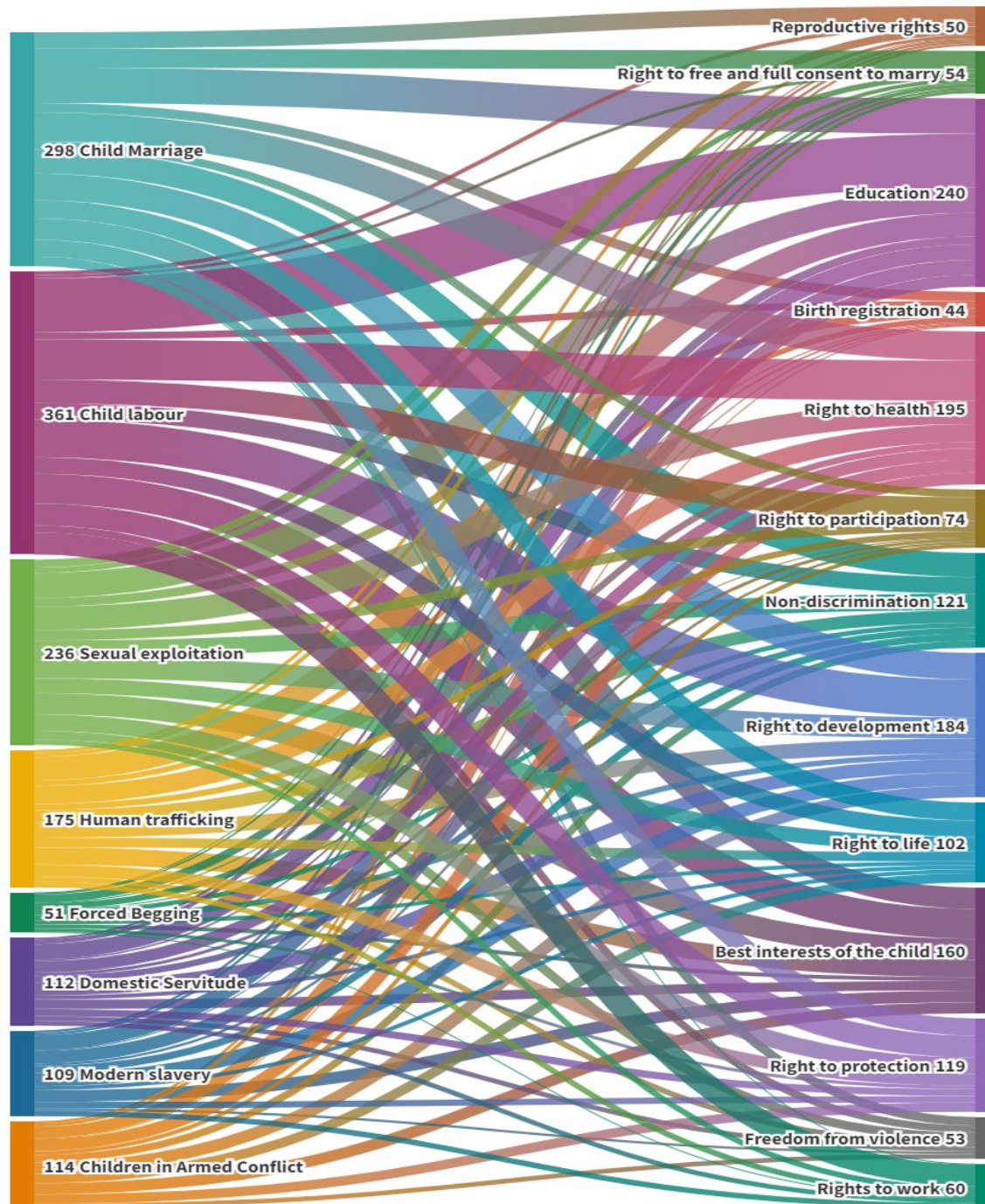
- The right to respect the views of the child (33 records)
- The right to be protected from economic exploitation (33 records)
- The best interest of the child (31 records)
- Rights of refugee children and rights of children from minorities or indigenous groups

INTERSECTIONS BETWEEN CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND EXPLOITATION TYPES



EMERGING THEMES





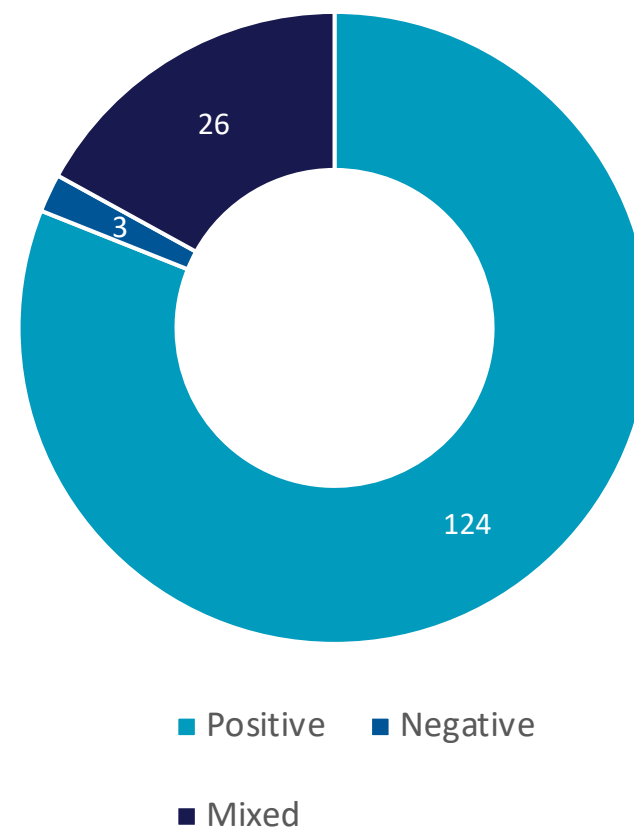
CHILD LABOUR

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Legislative Reform, Enforcement and Harmonisation (38 records)
- Reconciliation with Context, Tradition, Religion and Culture (29 records,)
- Children's Participation, Voice and Empowerment (16 records)
- Prevention and Protection (17 records)
- Collaborative Governance (32 records)
- Clarity and Reconceptualization (12)
- Unintended consequences, monitoring and policy evaluation (4)
- Structural causes (Specific recommendations in 16 records, although generally noted)
- Education (16)
- Birth and Marriage Registration (6)
- Allocation of Resources (9)
- Program Implementation (26)

CONCLUSIONS

- Children's Rights were seen mostly as a positive tool for addressing modern slavery (124 records)
- Out of over 7,000 initially gathered records, less than 350 made it through to Stage 4, largely due to the lack of engagement with *both* modern slavery and children's rights themes in the records (suggesting a greater need for these fields to communicate with each other).
- Perceptions of childhood affecting policy and practice:
 - Historic tensions between paternalistic approaches to children (viewing children as vulnerable and in need of protection) and children's autonomy and agency are still playing out today, particularly in the area of child labour.
 - Confusion with how to respond to children involved in conflict.
- Approaches to addressing modern slavery should involve recognition and implementation of children's rights, but this needs to be done in a way that accounts for cultural differences and legal pluralism.





THANK YOU

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