



9th Annual Freedom From Slavery Forum
**“Resilience and Resistance to Human
Trafficking: Key Priorities for Latin America”**

2021 Latin America Regional Forum Report
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2021 Latin America Regional Forum Team

Forum Lead: Bukeni Waruzi

Forum Manager: Brittany Hamzy

Forum Team: Gemma Bardaji, Lianet Rosado, Friederike Lindenau

Forum Secretariat

Free the Slaves

1320 19th St. NW, Suite 600

Washington, DC 20036 USA

Email: brittany.hamzy@freetheslaves.net

Website: www.freedomfromslaveryforum.org



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Introduction

Background

The Freedom from Slavery Forum was established to gather anti-slavery leaders from around the world to create a collegial space to coalesce, create partnerships, discuss promising practices and develop a shared agenda for action. Participants have built relationships and prioritized actions in advocacy and collaboration with other sectors.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has allowed the 9th Freedom from Slavery Forum to take a new form and better serve the anti-slavery movement. Countries have taken measures to contain the COVID-19 global pandemic, but modern slavery – including sexual slavery, child labor, forced labor and human trafficking – has grown worse. Civil society organizations are at the front of the fight, but are experiencing increased demand for services while facing a decrease in funding, driving an urgent need for innovation in advocacy and other programmatic design and delivery.

While the pandemic is global, its effects are felt locally. Instead of one, large global convening, this year's 5 virtual, regional Forums will be opportunities to increase access, ensuring that grassroots ideas and voices are instrumental in and foundational to the movement. The new regional approach allows the Forum to be a better reflection of the modern anti-slavery movement and put the focus on equity, democratization, and inclusion, ethos that have long been the foundation of the movement itself.

2021 Forum Format and Participation

Anti-slavery movement leaders virtually convened via Zoom for 3 days during the third regional Freedom from Slavery Forum to discuss issues most pertinent to Latin America and set priorities for the next year. This year's theme was "Resilience and Resistance to Human Trafficking: Key Priorities for Latin America."

The virtual Forum was an opportunity to increase participation, interaction, networking, learning and sharing with an emphasis on drafting regional priorities, ensuring that Latin American grassroots ideas and voices are instrumental in and foundational to the movement as a whole. The Forum ensured that Latin American organizations have greater access to the global movement and more opportunities to share their experiences and discuss solutions. The Forum highlighted experts and organizations from the continent as panelists and presenters while showcasing research and programs implemented in the region.

Each day's programming centered around a unique theme, starting with local issues and increasingly zooming out to global ones. Day one focused on "Human rights, vulnerability and human trafficking in Latin America." Day two centered around "The role of corruption, migration and technology in human trafficking". Day three closed by looking outward to the global movement around the theme of "Beyond Latin America: Connecting the region with the global movement."

Each day was structured into three panels by one to two speakers each followed by a Q&A session. A small group workshop session closed each day; participants were organized into three groups (corresponding with three themes: corruption, migration, and technology) during Days one and two and divided in two groups during Day one. After attending all three days of the Latin American Regional Forum, participants were re-inspired to tackle human trafficking from multiple angles and in new innovative ways. Participants left the Forum with increased knowledge about the importance of a survivor-led movement, the effect of corruption on human trafficking, the intersection of COVID-19, migration and human trafficking, as well as the risks and opportunities of technology in the field. Furthermore, the participants were introduced to the Alliance 8.7 as one of several possible solutions that were discussed.



Day One: Human rights, vulnerability and human trafficking

Overview

Day 1's sessions contemplated "Human rights, vulnerability and human trafficking" in Latin America. The day served as an introduction for the rest of the forum to identify root causes of human trafficking and modern slavery in order to find solutions together.

Topics for discussion throughout the day included a focus on human trafficking from a human rights perspective, the role of women as victims of sexual exploitation, the role of survivors in the fight against modern slavery, as well as the phenomenon of human trafficking from an indigenous worldview.

Participants started the day learning from experts about human rights, the vulnerability of certain groups and human trafficking from various viewpoints. They presented legal, as well as cultural standpoints on human trafficking, as well as the current problematics for vulnerable groups and highlighted areas in which there are still opportunities for improvement and solution-oriented approaches to curbing modern slavery.

The day's programming contemplated questions such as:

- Where do duties and obligations lie concerning human trafficking?
- Which groups are most vulnerable to human trafficking and why?
- What is and should be the role of survivors in the fight against human trafficking?
- What are the effects of human trafficking on indigenous communities?
- What can be done against human trafficking in indigenous communities?

To address these questions and more, the Forum invited research experts from UN agencies, civil society organizations, and international organizations. Day One speakers included:

- **Forum Advisory Committee Host:** Bukeni Waruzi | Free the Slaves
- **Moderator:** Jose Monteiro | International Justice Mission
- **Speakers:**
 - Fernando García-Robles | Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; Rapporteurship on the Rights of Migrants, Organization of American States
 - Ronny Marty | Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE.
 - Nancy Cinthya Gonzáles Pérez | Onampitiste Noshaninkaye
 - Irma Miranda Tello | House of Indigenous Women "Ve'e Naxihi"

Introduction and Welcome

Bukeni Waruzi, Executive Director of Free the Slaves, opened the Forum and welcomed the participants, presented the day's agenda and explained the purpose of the Forum.

Gemma Bardaji, Europe and Latin America Manager, thanked Bukeni and provided a summary of human trafficking in Latin America, as well as the increase in trafficking and the vulnerability of migrants, especially girls and women. She explained that trafficking has become more difficult to identify and placed importance on creating spaces for discussion. Gemma thanked the presenters and introduced Jose Monteiro, Director of IJM, and moderator of the Forum.

Jose Monteiro presented the focus of the day's session: human rights, vulnerability, and human trafficking. These were to be discussed in the context of the importance of the Palermo Protocol (2000), as well as the respective international conventions. Monteiro highlighted the need to differentiate between human trafficking and smuggling and avoid using discussions around consent against victims, and in accordance with the Palermo provisions, which consider consent irrelevant when certain means are used to exploit persons.

Panel 1: Human rights, vulnerability and human trafficking

The first panel focused on human trafficking from a human rights perspective, as well as on tools to protect groups in vulnerable situations. Fernando García Robles introduced the importance of including trafficking in the human rights framework, both in normative

and operational points. He stated that processes surrounding human trafficking must be analyzed in order to better understand the vulnerabilities of groups who for a variety of reasons, are subject to human trafficking. It is crucial for all actors to uphold the rights of victims of human trafficking, but duties and obligations must be primarily borne by states to protect victims and prosecute traffickers.

Fernando highlighted the human rights that are most often violated in cases of human trafficking: the right to life, liberty, security, access, justice, courts, not to be subjected to slavery, torture, and gender-based violence, freedom of association, physical and mental health, access to adequate standards of living, not to be sold or traded, child rights, etc. He also pointed out that in such cases, the most vulnerable groups tend to be: women, children, adolescent girls, migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, the elderly, people with disabilities, LGBTQI+ persons, indigenous populations, and Afro-descendants.

For the remainder of the presentation, Robles focused on the experiences of women who are trafficked into sexual exploitation, since they are the ones suffering the most from such practices and other forms of gender-based violence. This is driven by multiple vulnerability factors, such as structural violence, poverty, discrimination, and female subordination.

He concluded the presentation with recommendations for transformative change, placing a focus on the need to discuss laws and politics within the gender framework, as well as changing patriarchal structures.

Panel 2: The role of survivors in the fight against human trafficking

Ronny Marty introduced himself and thanked FTS for providing a space where he could share his experiences and ideas. He also provided an overview of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE) International Advisory Council for Survivors of Trafficking (ISTAC), of which he is a member of, and their role strengthening surviving leaders.

Marty stressed that survivors are often undermined in the movement, however, it is crucial to recognize that many are professionals and have the capacity to organize and lead initiatives. ISTAC inspires countries to strengthen their efforts and better protect survivors, and to empower them in society. Ronny shared his experience and mentioned that everyone can be susceptible to human trafficking. The role of survivors is instrumental, as survivors are equipped with recommendations to prevent others from

falling into exploitative situations. It is important to remember that they are not defined by what happened to them, and have tools at their disposal that can be used to help others. Furthermore, it is vital to integrate survivors in society, and governments must facilitate this process. This can be done through programs, dissemination materials, activities, presentations, trainings, and policies. Survivors' participation must be substantive, not just symbolic.

No single actor can eradicate human trafficking or protect victims. Eradicating the issue and protecting victims requires a multi-stakeholder effort. Ronny also added that police officers have to be well trained in victim identification. In order to do so effectively, however, trust needs to be built between police officers and victims.

Furthermore, advocacy is instrumental in making survivors' voices heard and promoting change. One has to keep in mind that as long as there is demand, there will be trafficking. It is important to educate the public, including governments, businesses, and other actors and hold them accountable to implementing the recommendations introduced, especially with regard to respecting and integrating survivors' contributions.

Panel 3: A look at the phenomenon of trafficking from the indigenous worldview

Nancy Cinthya Gonzáles Pérez introduced her NGO, Onampitiste Noshaninkaye, which advocates for the needs and rights of the Ashaninka people. She conveyed her enthusiasm participating in the Forum, especially given that this was the first time that an Ashaninka woman shared about human trafficking in Peru through such platform. She shared the diversity of Peru, the effects and threats imposed on indigenous communities as a result of illegal mining and logging, oil concessions, drug trafficking, terrorism, and how indigenous people are deceived and exploited in illegal mining, sexual exploitation, or other jobs in urban centers. Pérez expressed that the Ashaninka community is not opposed to business, but they are opposed to business practices that disrespect or abuse their peoples, lands, and resources. Some industries have indirect detrimental effects vis a vis poverty and migration. While in some cases, indigenous persons suffer direct consequences and are murdered as a result of standing against such practices. Trafficking victims are often threatened with death and abuse, which is why they remain silent and do not report traffickers. Pérez emphasized the need for urgent actions in the form of capacity building, the design of adequate public policies, and breaking of cultural models that violate rights.

Irma Miranda Tello, the second speaker in this panel, works with indigenous women and their rights in Mexico. She provided an overview of the discrimination and poverty that

indigenous communities in Mexico experience. Since 2018, Tello's organization has coordinated with the UN office to support and sensitize indigenous communities. A new campaign was launched to strengthen collaboration between various institutions. Her organization works with radio to spread messages about the work and raise awareness. They work with communities to enrich their knowledge of human trafficking and the methods of traffickers, such as deception. Tello's recommendations centered on the importance of training justice system organizations such as the attorney general's office and other actors responsible for protecting victims and ensuring justice.

Questions & Answers

Below are some of the questions and answers that surfaced following the three panels:

Q: What alternative mechanisms exist to report human trafficking cases when complaints are not effective in particular countries?

A: Several mechanisms are in place, including that of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, which serves as a platform for human trafficking cases. The Commission hosts sessions every year where they hear certain cases. However, the period is cyclical. The next period of hearings will take place in December from the 6 to the 17.

Q: What are some examples of successful recommendations offered by survivors?

A: The campaigns that were created for victims of human trafficking have been especially successful. Survivors have also proposed that government agencies be trained on trauma-informed approaches, that their perspectives be valued, that they be compensated for their contributions, and that the national anti-human trafficking budget be increased.

Q: How can other civil society organizations better support the efforts of indigenous organizations and communities?

A: This can be done by strengthening indigenous organizations and communities' capacities to identify and respond to human trafficking crimes. It is also important for such organizations to join forces and efforts with indigenous actors.

Workshop

Participants were split into 3 groups to explore ideas and recommendations regarding each of the themes addressed during the course of the session. Each group was led by specialists who guided the discussions. Discussion leads then presented their experiences and their findings with the larger group, ensuring that all participants had a

chance to learn about other important facets of the issue from the other groups. Takeaways from the session for each group are as follows:

Group 1. Human rights, vulnerability and human trafficking

Main challenges

Approaches must always be enshrined in the framework of human rights. They must take into account all situations of abuse, violence and vulnerability. Repairs must be comprehensive, not just financial. Education is extremely important, including information on the methods of traffickers.

Recommendations

It is necessary to collaborate through networks. A directory must be put in place with key information so that actors can better work together. Forum participants can also identify their synergies and work together in the future, especially on the prevention front from a judicial and legal perspective.

Group 2. The role of survivors

Main challenges

Cases of human trafficking are often not being reported, and state support for victims is lacking. In some cases, victims cannot trust authorities due to prior violence experienced at the hands of law enforcement or other state actors. Moreover, resources for victims (including shelter) are limited.

Recommendation

It is important to organize networks, campaigns, and seek the support of other Latin American countries in order to protect victims.

Group 3. A look at the phenomenon of trafficking from the indigenous point of view

Main challenges

The main challenge revolves around incorporating a cultural lens towards the eradication of human trafficking. There is a lack of information surrounding human trafficking in indigenous languages, as well as a lack of knowledge on human and indigenous rights.

Recommendations

All actors need to respect the indigenous worldview.

Proposal of actions

The first day concluded with a proposal of actions which included the formation of alliances in order to develop best practices and demand support from diverse stakeholders, especially businesses.



Day Two: The role of corruption, migration and technology in human trafficking

Overview

While Day 1 of the Forum focused on human rights, vulnerability and human trafficking, programming on Day 2 focused on “The role of corruption, migration and technology in human trafficking,” Corruption is a key factor connected to human trafficking, as criminals often engage in and get away with illicit activities by way of existing structures. Furthermore, COVID-19 has exacerbated the vulnerability of groups and individuals already at risk of human trafficking. Additionally, technology plays an increasing role in both the fight against human trafficking and human trafficking itself.

Topics for discussion throughout the day included corruption and the effects it has on human trafficking, the role of COVID-19 in human trafficking, with special attention paid to gender-related issues, as well as technology as both a threat and an opportunity.

The day’s programming contemplated questions such as:

- How does corruption relate to human trafficking? How can we work against it?
- How has COVID-19 effected migration and the vulnerability factors to human trafficking?
- What are the risks and opportunities of technology regarding human trafficking?
- What are the main challenges in Latin America and how can they be solved?

To address these questions and more, the Forum invited survivors as well as CSOs and policy experts. Day Two speakers included:

- **Forum Advisory Committee Host:** Bukeni Waruzi | Free the Slaves
- **Moderator:** Fernando García Robles | Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; Rapporteurship on the Rights of Migrants, Organization of American States
- **Speakers:**
 - Carlos Andrés Pérez Gallego | UNODC
 - Águeda Marin | IOM
 - María Pilar Ramírez Argueta | ICMEC
 - Edwin Gómez Puentes | Government of Colombia

Introduction and Welcome

Gemma Bardaji, Regional Manager, welcomed participants and explained the role of the Forum as a space where actors can discuss best practices, build alliances, and better combat trafficking. The Day 2 discussions center on the nature of corruption and its connections to human trafficking, the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on migration and vulnerability, and the use of technology for the eradication of human trafficking.

Panel 1: The role of corruption in the fight against human trafficking

Carlos Andrés Pérez Gallego commenced the presentations on Day 2 by introducing the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and its work eradicating corruption and human trafficking. The UNODC plays a technical role ensuring that state parties to the UNODC Convention against Transnational Organized Crime meet their goals and indicators. The UNOC has three specific mandates: normative development to promote national instruments, knowledge management to build evidence of human trafficking, and technical assistance for prevention, protection, and prosecution. Gallego explained that although corruption was not defined under the international instruments, corrupt activities are those that consist of the “abuse of power” or “abuse of functions.”

He further explained that there are few mechanisms in place to identify corruption, making it difficult to understand its nature and identify the actors involved. The chain of corruption is strengthened in cases where the public, administrative, and/or private official has the least risk or control. Increasingly, businesses are being affected by corruption. However, there is a lack of data on official reports and systematic data collection of such cases. As a recommendation to address these realities, Gallego recommended mainstreaming approaches through dialogue with authorities and implementing codes of conduct. He concluded his presentation with a video about the Ibero-American network of prosecutors against human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants.

Panel 2: The interrelation between migration and COVID-19 in human trafficking

Águeda Marín presented the relation between migration, COVID-19, and human trafficking and the precarious corridors that have become commonplace in Latin America. Many migrants have found themselves in increasingly precarious conditions abroad during the pandemic, causing a return flow to Latin America. In the migratory context, precarious human mobility is a potential for vulnerability to human trafficking. Vulnerability is also affected by households' socioeconomic status and structure, with children and adolescents from poor dysfunctional homes being the most vulnerable. Other risk factors include: loss of jobs, socioeconomic impacts, gender (with a disproportionate impact on women and girls), and increased competition (which can create conditions for exploitative employment), disability, and sexual orientation. A main effect of COVID has been an increase in gender-based violence. Additionally, COVID has impacted family reunification, reduced the identification of young victims of sexual exploitation, and increased recruitment through social networks. Currently, there is a low rate of complaints and reported cases, decreased justice administration services, and limitations on return, shelters, and virtual assistance, making it increasingly difficult to extend assistance and protection to trafficked persons.

Panel 3: Do digital technologies facilitate trafficking or help to combat it?

María Pilar Ramírez Argueta focused her presentation on crimes against children through the use of technology. Among the key points shared include that the concept of child pornography should not be used, because pornography requires consent and children can never consent. Rather, when referring to such cases of sexual exploitation, it is important to use the term Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM). Argueta explained that sex offenders are turning to technology to carry out their criminal acts, recruit, collect, and exploit children. By law, all digital companies have to report cases of exploitation to the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC). ICMEC then provides country governments with information on abuses and the children.

Argueta stated that CSAM cases have been growing as a result of the pandemic, especially those consisting of the exploitation of boys. Nonetheless, women and girls continue to be the primary victims, and many are abused by men who deceive them through promises of love. Interestingly, 44% of reported images are self-produced: this is done mainly through third parties who request the images or persons who self-produce and spread the images. CSAM cases on the web can be reported to the IWF [Portal to Report Child Sexual Abuse Material](#).

Edwin Gómez Puentes, the second speaker for this panel, presented the LibertAPP, a mobile application, used to report cases of human trafficking and connect victims with essential services. It is especially useful for migrants traveling abroad to report cases. The application has several functions, including a panic button and the option to file complaints of cases or traffickers. Furthermore, the app is connected a center that is operational 24/7 and can be used in both English and Spanish. Since its inception, LibertAPP has seen 17 reported cases and 3 panic button cases.

Questions & Answers

Below are some of the questions and answers that surfaced following the three panels:

Q: Should there be more prevention campaigns and activities, especially in the times of COVID and the increased vulnerability of potential victims?

A: There is still a need to implement awareness raising/information campaigns; what has been done is not enough.

Q: Does the LibertAPP guarantee the confidentiality of the complainant?

A: Yes, there is confidentiality and the data is anonymous. There are data protection laws in place that govern confidentiality.

Q: Have there been complaints outside of Colombia? Are steps being taken so that the application is used by other governments?

A: The application can be downloaded from any country, but the reports are sent to Colombia for the time being.

Q: What strategy is being used to disseminate information on the LibertApp to reach victims and potential victims?

A: Information regarding the app is being disseminated through awareness campaigns, however, this requires programming.

Workshop

After hearing from the panelists, participants organized themselves according to their interest in three workshops: 1) the role of corruption in human trafficking, 2) the intersection between migration and COVID-19 in human trafficking, and 3) digital technologies, do they facilitate trafficking or do they combat it. Participants were asked to analyze the most important challenges and recommendations to tackle those.

Group 1. The role of corruption in human trafficking

Main challenges

With regard to corruption, impunity, lack of communication, and the limited data surrounding crimes of corruption are some of the key challenges that the region is facing.

Recommendations

Participants shared a need to provide authorities and community workers with training and capacity building on human trafficking, sensitize the public on human trafficking and how to combat it, map organizations and best practices at a country level, and promote better synergies between civil society and government authorities.

Group 2. The relation between migration, COVID-19, and human trafficking

Main challenges

The legal definition of human trafficking has limitations; on some occasions, the implementation of the law is skewed towards rescue as opposed to prevention. The justice system is also not safeguarding victims; there are challenges with regard to reporting and accessing essential services. In some countries, the nexus between human trafficking and migration is not assessed, and factors such as poverty and displacement are not being considered in relation to human trafficking. Furthermore, governments are not placing human trafficking issues at the forefront of the public agenda during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recommendations

Communities need to be provided with tools aimed at the prevention of human trafficking, activists need to engage political/social leaders in advocacy to build momentum and drive change, and governments need to draft and implement public policies that stir funds towards the protection of trafficked persons.

Group 3. The role of technology in human trafficking

Main challenges

A main challenge is that victims lack access to technologies that can be used to promote their protection through access to justice, services, etc.

Recommendations

Focus on preventative measures such as awareness raising of human trafficking issues at a mass scale (especially among children and adolescents), ensuring that the information provided is in multiple languages (including local/indigenous languages).



Day Three: Beyond Latin America: Connecting the region with the global movement

Overview

Day 3 built upon the programming of the first two days and focused on identifying global threats and connecting the anti-slavery work being done in Latin America with the global movement. The theme of the day was “Beyond Latin America: Threats and solutions beyond the continent.”

The day’s programming contemplated questions such as:

- What are the largest global threats to resilience against modern slavery in Latin America?
- What mechanisms exist to connect the Latin American anti-slavery movement to other regional movements and the global movement?
- How is globalization helping and/or hindering the eradication of modern slavery in Latin America?
- How can local Latin American governments and organizations better react to global challenges?

Day 3 featured a series of interrelated presentations from various CSOs and government representatives centered around the interconnectivity of the modern slavery movement across national and regional levels. Lastly, participants broke into their final workshop sessions to cultivate a list of regional priorities that would be discussed at the Forum’s global convening by organization leaders occurring in Marrakesh, Morocco from December 5-8, 2021.

- **Forum Advisory Committee Host:** Bukeni Waruzi | Free the Slaves
- **Moderator:** Rocío Urón Durán | UNODC
- **Speakers:**

- Geannina Dinarte | Minister of the Presidency of Costa Rica
- Thomas Wissing | Alliance 8.7
- Ben Harris | Delta 8.7, United Nations University Centre for Policy Research
- Alejandra Mangano | REDTRAM
- Emilia Cebrián | GAATW

The final set of presentations was moderated by Rocío Urón Durán from UNODC. The Day 3 presentations centered around possible solutions, including through regional and global networks such as Alliance 8.7. Participants were also provided with spaces to network and brainstorm the way forward in the region.

Panel 1: Pioneer country of the Alliance 8.7. The case of Costa Rica

Geannina Dinarte, the Minister of the Presidency of Costa Rica, shared Costa Rica's commitments to combat child labor and trafficking and how these have resulted in a low incidence rate for the same. Costa Rica has implemented a number of initiatives over the past years. A national coalition was created to combat trafficking in 2005 as part of an executive order and implemented in law in 2013. The coalition is responsible for leading the fight against human trafficking and establishing networks. The coalition is composed of 22 organizations that work to protect and care for victims, guaranteeing access to information, investigation, justice, etc. The law created programs aimed at family reunification as well as a tax fund to finance anti-trafficking efforts. Costa Rica also created a strategy to guide multi-stakeholder coordination and established two specialized police units that have also been sensitized on issues of human trafficking.

Currently, the country is working on developing a national plan. Efforts have also been made to conduct workshops that gather diverse actors and encourage better coordination. The country has also developed an indicator model with the ILO and ECLAC to identify regions where there is a greater probability of child labor. Additionally, a cash transfer program was developed so that children can remain in the education system. Diagnoses were also conducted with unions, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor, commitments were obtained from 22 companies to defend children's rights. Overall, Costa Rica has taken a comprehensive approach to the eradication of human trafficking, however, a main challenge continues to be the exchange of best practices to replicate good practices and identify opportunities for joint efforts.

Panel 2: The role of the Alliance 8.7

Thomas Wissing highlighted the important role of the forums over the years advancing target 7 of sustainable development goal 8, which reflects a commitment to eliminate child labor by 2025 and trafficking and forced labor by 2030.

He introduced the Alliance 8.7, which is a voluntary alliance between government, civil society, and companies to share data, knowledge, good practices, and experiences regarding the eradication of child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking. To date, the Alliance consists of approximately 300 actors representing governments, civil society organizations, UN agencies, companies, regional and transnational organizations, and universities. However, there is a continued need to lift the voices of victims and survivors and civil society as part of the Alliance. Furthermore, the alliance has two working groups that are dedicated to monitoring and evaluation for the creation of a framework of indicators to evaluate the progress of the countries and the alliance as a whole.

Ben Harris continued the panel by introducing Delta 8.7. Delta 8.7 identifies best practices to advance SDG 8.7 and serves as a knowledge platform for Alliance 8.7 that focuses specifically on research. They work with academics, civil society organizations, and other actors. Delta 8.7 has thematic Policy Guides that list effective measures to end modern slavery and provide political actors with a format to assess and integrate in their own policy development. Three working groups were created corresponding with three themes: markets, justice, and crisis. The drafts were sent to a panel of experts for review. Ben presented the Crisis Guide, which consists of eight key hypotheses and general conclusions. He shared that the Guides are available in both English and Spanish. Please feel free to consult the guides [here](#).

Panel 3: Networking

Alejandra Mangano introduced the work of the Ibero-American network of attorneys specialized in human trafficking and smuggling (REDTRAM) and their evaluation of three fundamental axes of human trafficking: corruption, migration, and cooperation. She emphasized the need to implement justice system strategies that are integrated with technology, such as investigations by way of the internet, given that currently, many services are delivered by telephone. On the identification front, the change in human trafficking modalities and the rise in recruitment through social networks has delayed the identification of victims and increased the need for repatriations. The REDTRAM has been instrumental in maintaining contact between prosecutors and other actors and advancing the work more rapidly.

Emilia Cebrián introduced the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW). GAATW is a global network that promotes and defends the human rights of victims of trafficking and vulnerable groups. It is made up of diverse kinds of organizations. As an alliance, it influences international discourse and facilitates collaboration between different actors. The network in Latin America consists of 10 organizations in 8 countries. Cebrián highlighted GAATW's main work actively engaging members in advocacy and in joint work with government officials, victims, and migrants. A major recommendation that surfaced from the presentation is the need to focus on the human rights and gender frameworks.

Questions & Answers

Q: Have you considered how to disseminate Delta 8.7 materials in order to ensure their implementation?

A: Yes! The materials are currently being disseminated through various media: forums such as this one, social media, direct correspondence, and those who were part of the working groups. As mentioned in the presentation, the Delta 8.7 Policy Guide method is a collaborative way where you can evaluate research, identify interventions, and collect effective measures. In the future, we hope to produce a Social Protection Policy Guide, covering a wide range of mechanisms including cash transfers, access to health care, food assistance, education and other services, as a preventive measure or a means to build resilience in vulnerable communities. Furthermore, we hope in the future to adapt the Policy Guide process to a national context and to work with individual States so that they can understand "what works" in their own context. Feel free to contact Angharad Smith - angharad.smith@unu.edu - if you would like to participate in such a process or if you would like to provide feedback on any of the existing guides.

Q: What security measures are taken before the repatriation of victims to their country of origin? Taking into account that some are captured in their country or city of origin.

A: Repatriations are carried out in conjunction with the prosecutors.



Latin American Priorities

Overview

Throughout the Forum, workshop sessions were focused on discussing several facets of the anti-slavery movement, from the vulnerabilities that exacerbate slavery to the possible solutions that should be priorities for movement leaders going forward. Despite coming from different backgrounds and country-contexts, participants were quite unified in discerning and defining the issues they saw as most threatening to freedom in their region. To aid in directing the discussions, participants were asked to categorize their priorities for three main audiences: the Alliance 8.7 and the global movement to end modern slavery, Latin American government leaders, and private sector and civil society actors in the region. These recommendations and priorities are detailed below. It is noteworthy that the integration of indigenous perspectives and survivors of human trafficking was highlighted in all three categories, constituting the primary priority identified by participants.

Priority Actions Relating to the Alliance 8.7 and the Global Movement

Participants prioritized recommendations for the global movement as well as Alliance 8.7 as the embodiment of this movement at the governmental and international levels. Prior to the Forum, many of the participants had limited or no knowledge of Alliance 8.7. Given the important role of the Alliance 8.7 in promoting a consolidated and cohesive anti-modern slavery response, they recommended increased awareness raising efforts in Latin America on the work of the Alliance. Participants also pointed out that the Alliance would benefit from an integrated system where other actors work jointly with the Alliance and share common goals, objectives, and activities. This would be beneficial to enhance coordination among a wide range of stakeholders. It is key that any materials produced, including those by Alliance 8.7 actors, reach diverse stakeholders, especially those that are not closely linked to these processes.

Furthermore, another recommendation was to ensure that the research processes undertaken are rooted in a gender perspective.

Overall, it is important that at the global level, perceptions of human trafficking shift to consider the role of a wide plethora of factors, including corruption. There must also be a focus on cross-cutting and territorial approaches to tackling the phenomena, especially internal trafficking, since the focus seems to be primarily on international forms of trafficking. Indigenous communities and survivors, especially in Latin America, must also be brought into discussions surrounding human trafficking. The approaches undertaken must be trauma and victim informed and rooted in the experiences of vulnerable groups in order to protect trafficked persons. Justice system actors in particular must be involved in anti-human trafficking efforts for a rapid and effective coordination. At their core, all efforts must address the issue at the structural level in order to transform the exploitative system that enables such exploitation in the first place.

Priority Actions Relating to Latin American Governments

The second set of recommendations that participants curated applies specifically to Latin American governments. These actors are especially crucial to ending modern slavery given the wide breadth of actions they are able to take, especially at the higher level. On a conceptual level, participants agreed that there is a need for governments to tackle human trafficking from a human rights perspective, rather than a criminal or human security perspective. There is a need for governments to safeguard the rights of victims of human trafficking generally, and especially among indigenous communities and those who are deported and not screened for human trafficking indicators. Among these vulnerable groups, there is a need to establish robust mechanisms to identify victims and ensure their protection.

Especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, where governmental focus has been diverted, it is central for the government to position human trafficking on the public agenda. Participants indicated a need for governments to follow the best practices of Latin American countries leading in an effective anti-modern slavery response, such as Costa Rica. This can be done by allocating specific resources to combat human trafficking and introducing tax policies to gather resources. Governments should also facilitate an environment that is interinstitutional, where diverse stakeholders such as service providers and the judiciary can safeguard victims' rights through a well-coordinated response. This can be done through the establishment of effective mechanisms for coordination that have judicial and political elements. One participant highlighted the need for a standard penal code to combat all forms of exploitation.

Priority Actions Relating to Private Sector and Civil Society Actors

Participants also had many recommendations for civil society actors and the private sector in the fight against modern slavery, principle among them being increased collaboration between organizations and authorities for protection and assistance to victims of human trafficking. There is also a need for these actors to consider indigenous communities.

Civil society would benefit from the establishment of an advocacy plan with guidelines and strategies for civil society organizations to engage the government regarding national policies surrounding human trafficking. This would promote better synergy between civil society and government and ensure that advocacy efforts have maximum impact. Leaders and activists should also push government to prioritize human trafficking issues and bring them to the forefront of the public agenda.

Participants also recommended increased corporate social responsibility that holds actors accountable and addresses victims' needs. They also called for a larger role for international bodies with regard to coordination and mediation between government and civil society stakeholders. For academia, participants suggested increased engagement on the ground ("in the field"), increased collaboration with civil society actors, and a better integration of academia and civil society.



Next Steps

Participants left the Forum with increased knowledge about how corruption ties into human trafficking, the effects COVID-19 had on human trafficking in Latin America, the role of technology as a threat and a tool, as well as the importance of a survivor-led movement. Furthermore, they could find possible solutions, and new partnerships to put those ideas into action. After attending all three days of the Latin America Regional Forum, it is our hope that participants are now re-inspired to tackle modern slavery from multiple angles and in new innovative ways.

This Forum was the third in the series of regional Freedom from Slavery Forums, which will take place throughout the rest of the year. The Middle East & North Africa in mid-October followed by North America, the Caribbean, and Europe in November. To continue following along with each regional Forum, please watch our [website](#) and follow us as we live tweet each event at [@FFS_Forum](#).

After all the regional Forums take place, we will hold a global convening, which will take place in Marrakesh, Morocco from December 6-8, 2021. The goal of this convening is to elevate the regional agendas and make connections with the larger global agenda.



Participation and Evaluation

Across the three days of Forum virtual events, 94 individuals from 21 countries registered and 77 individuals participated (including presenters). Of the 77 individuals who participated, 16 different countries were represented. The countries with the most participants included: Argentina, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mexico, and the United States.



Speaker and Presenter Bios

Day One: Human rights, vulnerability and human trafficking

Moderator



José Monteiro, before joining International Justice Mission (IJM), José Monteiro was a Federal Police Officer in Brazil (since 2003). From 2014 to 2016, he was a Deputy Police Assistant of the Federal Police in Argentina. Throughout his career, he has been linked to a large number of investigations, particularly related to drug trafficking, human trafficking and other types of transnational crimes. He was an Interpol analyst between 2016 and 2018, during which he also directed the Program Intercops, which has trained police officers from more than 50 countries in Brazil. He was the national coordinator for the safety and security of the 2013 FIFA Confederations Cup, World Youth Day, and Pope Francis' visit to Brazil. Since April 2020, he assumed the position of Country Director of IJM in the Dominican Republic, after having held the position of Associate Director of Investigations and Strengthening of Law Enforcement. That same year, he was also elected General Coordinator of the Coalition of the Civil Society against Human Trafficking, a position he currently holds.

Panelists



Fernando García-Robles is a specialist in human rights, career diplomat, and coordinator for more than 15 years for the Program for the Prevention, Processing, and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Persons of the Organization of American States (OAS). In 2019, he joined the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) from where he has collaborated in the promotion of technical cooperation and public policies on human rights. He is currently part of the team of the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Migrants, where he contributes to the development and strengthening of the fight against human trafficking for the Americas with a human rights approach. Academically, he holds two master's degrees, one in Development of Public Policy for Latin America from Johns Hopkins University and the other in International Studies for Peace from the University of Notre Dame in the United States of America. He has two diplomas, one in Conflict Resolution from the University of Uppsala in Sweden and the other in Studies for Development and Peace from the European University for Peace in Austria.





Mr. Ronny Marty is a survivor activist of labor trafficking. He is a certified public accountant, hospitality manager, and independent consultant against human trafficking. In December 2015, President Obama appointed Marty to the US Advisory Council on Human Trafficking and he was re-elected by President Donald Trump. He served 4 years on the council. He brought his knowledge and experience to advise and provide policy recommendations to the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (PITF). In 2021, he was appointed as a member of the International Advisory Council on Trafficking in Survivors (ISTAC). He speaks to national, international audiences, and the media to raise awareness of all forms of human trafficking in the United States, particularly highlighting the existence of labor trafficking. Marty has consulted with government agencies, including the US Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime, on how to strengthen their efforts against human trafficking. Mr. Marty has leveraged over 26 years of experience working with diverse ethnic groups and

	<p>cultures to advance the hospitality industry. He is currently the CEO and founder of Marty Professional Cleaning Services.</p>
	<p>Nancy Cinthya Gonzáles Pérez, is an indigenous woman from Ashaninka, and is currently the general coordinator for the NGO Onampitsite Noshaninkaye Tzinani (Woman, Family and Community). She is also a radio and television host of the first cultural magazine in the world in the Ashaninka language, and is also a translator and official interpreter of their native language recognized by the Ministry of Culture, and expert translator recognized by the Judicial Power, with extensive experience working with the Andean and Amazonian indigenous communities of Peru.</p>
	<p>Irma Miranda Tello has a degree in Law from CUT Universidad de Tijuana San Quintín Baja California Campus. Since 2004, she has been an associate of the NAXIHI NA XINXEN NA XIHI Organization, Women in Defense of Women, which is dedicated to promoting, raising awareness, and advising on the rights of indigenous women. It is also dedicated to the care and prevention of gender violence and the defense of human rights of agricultural day laborers. She is currently the general coordinator of the Casa de la Mujer Indígena Ve'e Naxihi project for the prevention of family violence, gender violence, sexual and reproductive health and discrimination against access to justice for indigenous women and youth.</p>

Day Two: The role of corruption, migration and technology in human trafficking

Welcome and Introduction	
	Gemma Bardají Blasco

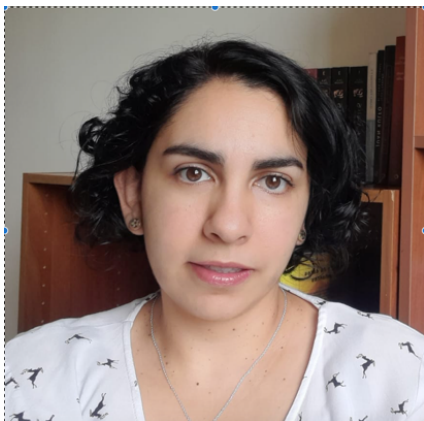
	<p>Fernando García-Robles is a specialist in human rights, career diplomat and Coordinator for more than 15 years of the Program for the Prevention, Processing, and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Persons of the Organization of American States (OAS). In 2019 he joined the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), where he has collaborated in the promotion of technical cooperation and public policies on human rights. He is currently part of the team of the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Migrants from where he contributes to the development and strengthening of the fight against human trafficking for the Americas with a human rights approach. Academically, he holds two master's degrees, one in Development of Public Policy for Latin America from Johns Hopkins University and the other in International Studies for Peace from the University of Notre Dame in the United States of America. He has two diplomas, one in Conflict Resolution from the University of Uppsala in Sweden and the other in Studies for Development and Peace from the European University for Peace in Austria.</p>
<p>Panelists</p>	
	<p>Carlos Andrés Pérez Gallego is a lawyer from the Autonomous University of Bucaramanga UNAB and a Specialist in Criminal Law. He holds a Master in International Human Rights Law from the University for Peace in Costa Rica, a Diploma in International Systems for the Protection of Human Rights from American University and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights IACHR, with studies on gender and transitional justice at the Universidad Del Rosario in Colombia. He has worked as a consultant for non-governmental organizations on issues of forced displacement, the rights of women, and child protection. Before joining the United Nations, he served as Advisor to the Human Rights Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and since 2008 he has been a Coordinator of the Project against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants of the United Nations Office on Drugs and the Crime UNODC in Colombia from where it has provided assistance to the National Government in the implementation of international standards and</p>

	<p>public policy against trafficking in persons. Between 2017 and 2018, he served as National Officer of the Global Action Program against Trafficking in Persons and the smuggling of Migrants GLOACT in the UNODC Office in Colombia and since the end of 2018 he is Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer at headquarters from UNODC in Vienna Austria from where he is in charge of accompanying the implementation of projects against Human Trafficking and Migrant Trafficking for Latin America, including TRACK4TIP, a project focused on the identification and response of criminal justice to cases of human trafficking among the population. migrant.</p>
	<p>Águeda Marin, Senior Regional Specialist for Protection and Assistance to Migrants at the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Regional Office for South America. Ms. Marin has a Master's degree in International Development from Clark University, Massachusetts. For more than 20 years, the IOM has implemented projects related to human trafficking and assistance to migrants in vulnerable situations, focusing on institutional strengthening, direct assistance, and multilateral coordination throughout the continent.</p>
	<p>María Pilar Ramírez Argueta has 15 years of experience in Child Protection, within the government sector, civil society and international organizations. In Guatemala, she has been a lawyer representing victims of human trafficking (child sexual exploitation and irregular adoptions). She was Deputy Director General of the Central Adoption Authority, legal advisor to the Central Authority for International Parental Abduction, Coordinator of projects for the creation of the case management model of the Attorney General's Office for Children and Adolescents of the Attorney General's Office and, Technical and legal advisor to Unicef Guatemala. At the international level, she has been a professor at the School of Judicial Studies in several Latin American countries, an</p>

	international lecturer and consultant on child protection, legal reforms and the construction of public policies on child protection systems, child sexual abuse and exploitation in technological media, foster care, among others for UNICEF, Plan International, ICEFI, ECPACT, and Save the Children.
	Edwin Gómez Puente , Professional, Specialist in "Senior Management of National Defense". He is currently a migration professional belonging to the Special Administrative Unit Migration Colombia, an entity dependent on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, incorporated since January 1, 2012, coordinator of the Human Rights Observation Group, in charge of ensuring the policy on human rights is in accordance with the International Treaties, Conventions and Agreements ratified by Colombia and enshrined in its internal legislation. Previously, he was Coordinator of Analysis and Statistics Groups and a Delegate of the Entity before the Inter-institutional Committee for the fight against human trafficking, from where he participated in the preparation of public policy documents such as Decree 1818, corresponding to the National Strategy for the fight against human trafficking 2020-2024.

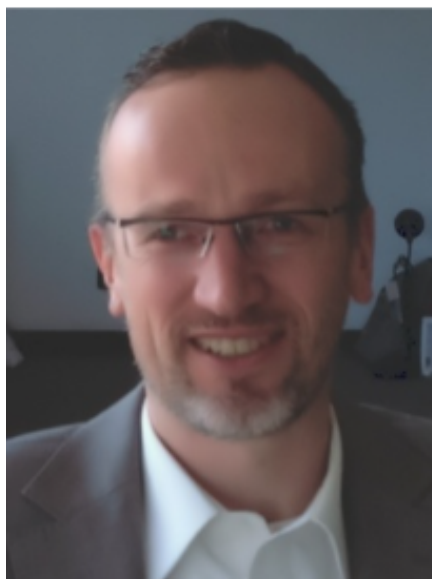
Day Three: Beyond Latin America: Connecting the region with the global movement.

Welcome and Introduction	
	Gemma Bardají Blasco
Moderator	





Rocío Urón Durán is coordinator of the project to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants at UNODC Colombia. She is an Economist, Specialist in Public Management, Master in Development and PhD candidate in Administration and Public Policy from the National University of Córdoba in Argentina. For 10 years, she has been in the UNODC team, supporting the strengthening of institutional capacity to fight human trafficking in Colombia. Likewise, she has accompanied the development of territorial public policies and the construction of tools that allow the implementation of regulations related to care for victims of human trafficking in the country. In 2018, she was in Bolivia supporting the UNODC office as an expert in human trafficking. As a researcher, she has participated in the preparation of different documents related to the dynamics of the phenomenon in Colombia.



Panelists



Ms. Geannina Dinarte She is the Minister of the Presidency of Costa Rica.

Since March 2017, **Thomas Wissing** serves the ILO as the Head of Advocacy and Partnerships at the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch at ILO Headquarters in Geneva. His portfolio comprises the coordination of advocacy work, campaigns, communication and partnerships to promote and protect the rights of victims of child labour, forced labour, human trafficking and discrimination and to promote the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining. Thomas is coordinating the ILO efforts to promote the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour (2021) and the Secretariat for the Alliance 8.7, Global Partnership to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking and Child Labour. He holds a M.A. degree in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Bonn, with a published thesis on “Human Rights Criteria in International Development Cooperation”. In his previous assignments, he has worked for the ILO in Mexico as Programme Officer,

	<p>Deputy Director and Director as well as programme advisor for UNDP and as a research fellow for the German Development Institute, amongst others.</p>
	<p>Ben Harris is Communications, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer for the Delta 8.7 project - The Knowledge Platform Alliance 8.7 at the United Nations University Policy Research Center. Before joining the Policy Research Center, Mr. Harris worked as editor-in-chief for a virtual-based language course provider and contributed to different projects as a freelance translator and proofreader in Spanish and English. He spent several years in South America, working in Ecuador and Argentina. Mr. Harris is licensed in Spanish and Portuguese by the University of Georgia.</p>
	<p>Ms. Alejandra Mangano is a prosecutor of the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation, co-owner of the Office of the Prosecutor for Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons and an interim Prosecutor in charge of the National Prosecutor for Criminal and Federal Correctional Law 12. She is a lawyer who graduated from the University of Buenos Aires with a Diploma of Honor. She specialized in criminal law from the Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, where she also completed the courses of the Master in Criminal Law. She was a teacher at the University of Buenos Aires and at the Inter-American Open University. She taught various courses at the Public Prosecutor's Office and at the School of Justice Service. She is a teacher at the Association of Women Judges of Argentina (AMJA) and a member of said association as well as the Association of Prosecutors and Officials of the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Nation (AFFUN). She is also a contact point for the Ibero-American Network of Prosecutors Specialized in Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants of the Ibero-American Association of Prosecutors and the subgroup on trafficking in persons of the Specialized Meeting of Public Ministries of Mercosur. She is an alternate member of the Federal Council for the Fight against Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons by the Public Prosecutor's Office since its creation in 2016. She was invited as an expert on the subject by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime</p>

	(UNODC) and by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for training in different countries of the region.
	Emilia Cebrián has served as Program Manager for Latin America at the GAATW International Secretariat since March 2020. Her responsibilities include building and strengthening the GAATW network in the region, as well as identifying opportunities for collaborative research and joint advocacy. Previously, she has served as Coordinator of Socio-Community Interventions for University of Buenos Aires and has collaborated in a Baccalaureate of Popular Education on issues of gender violence and women's rights. She has a degree in Sociocultural Anthropology at the University of Buenos Aires and was part of two UBACYT research projects on public policies and gender.
Closing	
	remarks Bukeni Waruzi is CEO of Free the Slaves. Previously, he formed the non-profit grassroots group AJEDI-KA / Project Children Soldiers of the DRC to tackle widespread slavery and the use of children as soldiers by militias and armed forces. In Kenya, Waruzi worked for the Porticus Foundation, overseeing projects on human rights, civic engagement, education, and climate change. For nearly a decade he was program director for WITNESS in New York, a group that trains victims around the world to collect evidence that will bring perpetrators to justice. Waruzi has spoken before high-level audiences such as the United Nations Security Council, the International Criminal Court, and the Children's Caucus of the United States Congress. He currently represents anti-slavery groups as a civil society member of the Alliance 8.7 Global Coordination Group, the global initiative to achieve sustainable development goal 8.7 and end child and forced labor worldwide.