



9th Annual Freedom From Slavery Forum

**“Resilience and Resistance to Modern Slavery:
Key Priorities for Europe, North America, and the
Caribbean”**

2021 Europe, North America, and the Caribbean
Regional Forum Report
November 15-17, 2021

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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 two days at the fourth regional Freedom from Slavery Forum - Europe, North America and Caribbean to discuss issues most pertinent to the continent and set priorities for the next year around

the theme of “Resilience and Resistance to Modern Slavery: Key Priorities for Europe, North America and the Caribbean.”

The virtual Forum was an opportunity to increase participation, interaction, networking, learning and sharing with an emphasis on regional priorities, ensuring that European, North American and Caribbean grassroots ideas and voices are instrumental in and foundational to the movement as a whole. It ensured that European, North American and Caribbean organizations will 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 programming occurring in the region.

Each day’s programming centered around a different theme, starting with local issues and increasingly zooming out to global ones. Day one focused on “Exploring exploitation in the regions”, Day two centered around Finding solutions in legal frameworks and by involving survivors”, and Day three addressed “Building networks and cooperations.”

Each day was structured into several panels by multiple speakers each followed by a Q&A session. A small group workshop session closed the third day where participants came together to discuss the prevailing challenges and identify solutions. After attending all three days of the Europe, North America and the Caribbean Regional Forum, participants were re-inspired to tackle modern slavery from multiple angles and in new innovative ways. Participants left the Forum with increased knowledge about exploitation within Europe, North America and the Caribbean regarding sexual exploitation, human trafficking, child trafficking, and labor exploitation. Furthermore, existing legal frameworks and loopholes therein were discussed, and the threat and opportunity brought with the expansion of technology and the internet were highlighted. Experts from intergovernmental organizations and CSO leaders shared their experiences within the anti-slavery movement and participants were able to develop regional priorities to build upon. Additionally, the importance of involving survivors and putting them on the forefront of the movement was stressed throughout the Forum.



Day One: Exploring exploitations in the regions

Overview

Day 1's sessions contemplated "Exploring exploitations in the regions" of Europe, North America and the Caribbean. The day served as an introduction for the rest of the forum to establish the current status of exploitation, legislative frameworks and the role of technology in the three regions.

Topics for discussion throughout the day included a focus on the role of prostitution in Europe, child trafficking in the Caribbean, and the growing problem of online exploitation with more and more children having access to the internet.

Participants started the day learning from experts about the problem of sexual exploitation in the regions, through prostitution, a lack of knowledge about the crimes for both legislators and law enforcement, loopholes in legal frameworks that allow the persistence of human trafficking, as well as the threat posed to children by the internet. This includes grooming, where adults befriend children to then exploit them, child sex tourism, and the creation and distribution of child sex abuse material, mostly in the dark web. Furthermore, focus was placed on the emerging issue of self-generated images, in which it becomes difficult to put blame on a third party coercing the children to take and share the images.

Additionally, experts shared possible approaches that can be adopted in order to facilitate positive change.

The day's programming contemplated questions such as:

- What is the role of prostitution within the problem of human trafficking?
- How can the narrative be changed to aid victims and blame perpetrators?

- What is the role of Caribbean culture in facilitating child (sexual) exploitation?
- How does a lack of legal knowledge expedite human trafficking and exploitation?
- What is the role of technology in human trafficking and (child) sexual exploitation?
- How can various actors work against online exploitation?

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:** Gemma Bardají Blasco | Free the Slaves
- **Speakers:**
 - Laura Nuño | Institute of Public Law and the Equality Observatory, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos
 - Olivia Smith | Caribbean anti-trafficking Foundation
 - Samuel Madistin | Open Eyes Foundation
 - John Carr | ECPAT International
 - Patricia Fietz | ICMEC

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. He explained how to use the interpretation as this Forum was delivered in English, French and Spanish with the help of Interpretet.

Gemma Bardají, Europe and Latin America Manager, thanked Bukeni and provided a summary of human trafficking in Europe, North America and the Caribbean, as well as the increase in trafficking and the vulnerability of migrants, especially girls and women due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. She explained that trafficking has become more difficult to identify and placed importance on creating spaces for discussion. Gemma explained the structure of the day and introduced the first panelist of the day, Laura Nuño.

Panel 1: Regional issues concerning sexual exploitation and supply chains

The first panel focused on regional issues concerning sexual exploitation and supply chains. **Laura Nuño**, Director of the Gender Chair of the Institute of Public Law and the Equality Observatory at the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, gave an overview of the situation in Europe and especially Spain.

She placed the focus of her presentation on slavery involving sexual exploitation as this is the most widespread way. The normalization of this type of slavery is resulting in women and girls being the main ones suffering from trafficking. Most cases of human trafficking are with the purpose of sexually exploiting the victim, as data since 2008 showed. Thereby 60% of the existing data on human trafficking shows a sexual purpose. Furthermore, 95% of the victims in Europe are women and girls. Laura added that the recruitment of minors tripled in past years. These issues often stay hidden from the public, and cases are sometimes treated not as slavery but as if victims consented. Considering Article 4 of the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR), it is important to remember that consent is not a factor determining something as an act of slavery.

Amplified to procedural sector, Laura informed the participants that sanctions often lack institutional power when prosecuting prostitution. 95% of women in prostitution were trafficked, so if we pretend that they consented, we violate their rights. Therefore, if victims are considered responsible because of consent they allegedly gave, then all that is happening is victim-blaming, which is not helping against the existing stigma. In the EU, human trafficking plays a big part in the GDP of countries as they are benefiting of the earnings. This is showing costs in terms of criminal and economic costs, which means that in many cases impunity is developed if most countries criminally prosecuted prostitution. Therefore, too many countries still don't. According to the UNODC, only around 1% of victims are liberated during their life. This shows the impunity.

Laura continued by explaining that even though crossing borders presents the highest cost for victims, nonetheless they see it as chance. In today's world, we see an unstoppable increase for sexual trafficking that is mainly controlled by the Mafia or similar illicit organizations. Connected to globalization, the mafias also become more global and can amplify their networks. Another issue that Laura sees, is connected to neoliberalism and the idea that everything is commodifiable, including human beings. Thereby, market economies become market societies and since everything is related to the market, consent becomes unnecessary considering that everything can be sold and bought. This new way of thinking of bodies as commodifiable, connected with a growing feminization of poverty and human trafficking brings problems. The mafias have leveraged a favorable situation for them in rich countries for sexual trafficking and prostitution.

According to Laura, it is problematic that human trafficking is often considered in isolation, rather than including the effect of power relations and non-compliance with Article 13 ECHR to understand that human trafficking is a deeply rooted structural problem. The narrative must be changed towards the recovery of victims. In an effort to most importantly avoid human trafficking, Laura suggested to classify countries into three categories: those that forbid prostitution, those that have some level of legality but still illegal, and countries having decriminalized prostitution both in norms and laws.

Taking into consideration that only 0.01% of prostitutes retired in Germany after the legalization of prostitution, Laura emphasized that the only political solution was the abolitionist model that has helped with the establishment of sanctions against traffickers and managers of so called 'whore houses' and give victims chance to talk. The model has been implemented in some countries and evidence shows that the measures do reduce human trafficking and people being trafficked into those countries.

Olivia Smith, the second panelist, was introduced by Gemma and held her presentation about child trafficking in the Caribbean, which according to various reports is an ongoing, but silent crime.

She commenced her presentation by reminding the participants of the way states are inward-looking due to the ongoing Covid situation. This adds to the problem that the Caribbean lacks focus and attention within the anti-slavery movement. She continued by explaining the current situation of human trafficking in the Caribbean. Thus, there is a refusal to accept the prevalence of the phenomenon that children are most vulnerable to human trafficking, and that they are most likely to be trafficked by someone they know among movement leaders, policy makers and the public. Additionally, girls are mainly being trafficked for sexual abuse. Olivia deemed crucial that the regional law enforcement paid attention to the fact that more and more females have been identified not as victims, but as traffickers themselves in recent years. Another problem in the area is that of child sex tourism. Many of the countries are dependent on tourism, so the abuse is often tolerated for commercial purposes.

Olivia also emphasized that poverty is still the main reason for trafficking children. This comes with a cultural challenge considering the tradition in the Caribbean that children are expected to help around the house. This poses a challenge for outside actors to determine whether there is a sort of exploitation going on in a culture where children are expected to work. The line between it being a part of the culture and a crime becomes extremely blurred. Furthermore, there is also a cultural challenge that incest and sexual abuse are largely accepted. Considering a situation in which male members of the

family would abuse the children and no one would say anything. This right to passage creates many problems.

When considering what can be done by the anti-slavery movement, Olivia emphasized that human trafficking crimes are becoming more global and more organized, and this needs to be raised on the agenda. Furthermore, there is a strong requirement to train border workers since they often don't know what the crime looks like. They should also be trained to use technology efficiently in order to detect crimes, such as through apps or satellite images of trucks. Additionally, there is a need to improve awareness of (potential) victims, as evidence shows that many women only know that they have been trafficked after being asked specific questions. Moreover, it is important to accept the fact that too many border officials and law enforcers are involved with human trafficking.

Olivia also considered several loopholes in regional legal frameworks that have to be reviewed. Since it remains difficult to prove a crime of human trafficking, Olivia suggested to think outside the box in order to get them through other crimes, such as money laundering or domestic abuse. A further recommendation was to improve the foster care system since many orphans become victims of being adopted by traffickers.

On the global stage, Olivia stressed the need to increase transnational cooperation on the matter. Human trafficking is an international problem that cannot be solved by one country alone, as there are always giving and receiving countries involved. She advised to follow the money as this can give hints of where to find human trafficking networks. Furthermore, public-private partnerships can help in tackling the issue. First, the lack of support from the government, both financially and logistically, makes it harder for NGOs to do their job, and second, the ongoing fighting for recognition between NGOs takes away their energy to fight for the victims.

After Olivia's presentation, Gemma continued by introducing the next panelist, **Samuel Madistin**, to give an overview of child exploitation and the implementation of the Palermo protocol of 2009 and the national anti-trafficking law of 2014 in Haiti.

He highlighted the importance to better understand the law and concept of human trafficking in order to make a change. Evidence of an investigation revealed that only 30% of those people within the legal system (lawyers, judges, etc.) had ever heard of the national legislation, while 42% of magistrates and more than 60% of employers at various tribunals had never heard of it. 68% of lawyers revealed that they had no knowledge of the law, 30% could not mention what crimes are penalized under this law,

and 40% claimed they knew the law but were unable to list what crimes would be punished.

There is a lack of mentions of crimes related to human trafficking and complimentary punishment in both the Haitian legal code of 1853 and 2014. While there is no mention of the crimes in the earlier code, the law of 2014 is characterized by the absence of cases of modern slavery and minor work, lacking a provision explaining these concepts to the court. Therefore, it is crucial to find other concepts that are not explained in the legal code, but nonetheless have the same meaning in modern slavery. A new penal code was established in 2020 by the government of Haiti which established the persecution of minors, and foresaw stricter rules concerning pornographic work, work conditions that abuse people's dignity and forced labor. This law was nonetheless criticized and challenged, making it unsure whether it will stay in force.

A different set of data from September 2020 revealed that more than 2000 orphanages opened in Haiti, most of them lacking legal recognition. Considering the adverse role of orphanages in human trafficking, it is shocking that there have been no prosecutions in 20 years, according to Samuel. It thus becomes clear that the obstacles in legal frameworks, the absence of legal knowledge, failure to establish effective public policy, no access to justice for the victims, and the corruption of legal stakeholders present eminent problems regarding the effective application of the law and the obligation to protect the population, especially children.

Questions & Answers

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

Q: How can CSOs approach the questions surrounding legislation and legal frameworks, how do they need to be taken into consideration? After 21 years of the Palermo protocol, what is your experience with other countries in our regions, what initiatives do you think are important?

Laura: There have been some positive experiences with abolitionist policies. Concerning sexual trafficking, it is especially important to protect women within legal frameworks. This is the only model that can effectively reduce human trafficking because the Mafia are the ones carrying the risk and having to fear getting blamed, not the prostitutes themselves.

Q: It is also very important to fight to mitigate sexual exploitation on legal level, while considering the different contexts of different cultures, legal codes, and public policies. A common element that can be found in all Europe, North America and the Caribbean is the fact that legal gaps in different stages and

models exist. This clearly shows a deficit in the rule of law throughout the regions. If after 21 years of the Palermo protocol, the conversation is still about law enforcement, what do you see as something to deliver progress?

Olivia: We need to keep in mind that the UN Trafficking in Persons (TIP) protocol is not fit for implementation. Additionally, there is lack of know-how for legislators and those within the law-enforcement. For many, modern slavery is seen as new crimes so there is no clear approach to work against it yet. A solution could be to hire assistance from the UN, TIP and UNODC in training, but it is also crucial to train judges so that they can prosecute people. Additionally, even though women and girls are the main victims of human trafficking, men are too, and they are often not considered.

Q: What piece of advice can you give to keep moving forward?

Samuel: When considering cases, we can always find voids and improve the texts for better prosecution. If we have the basic problem that the laws are not known, it will be impossible to identify crimes, meaning that there won't be prosecution. Against this, we need public policy. There is a need to execute the law, as well as to establish a national budget and funds to tackle the problem. Since 2014, Haiti's government hasn't budgeted a dollar for anti-trafficking measures, so no actions have been implemented. It would be helpful to create a prosecution committee, but they have no means and funds to do their work. There is simply a lack of will from public powers.

Q: Given the political situation in the Republic of Haiti, how can the organizations participating in this forum contribute to the recognition of survivors of human trafficking (domesticity) as victims?

Samuel: Participating organizations, especially those active in advocacy, can be useful in speaking about phenomena and conducting research to gain a better understanding of the problem. Furthermore, I would advise them to work with local organizations.

Panel 2: The Role of Technology

John Carr was introduced as the first speaker of the second panel and gave a historical overview into how the internet and technology are related to child exploitation.

He started in the 1980s when PCs entered private homes for the first time. With this came the awareness of what this can do to human trafficking. At that time, the first police area in the field surrounded how pedophiles can use the internet to find ways to discover children and share information and videos with them. In general, John

evaluated the change that came to human trafficking with the emergence of the internet as negative.

In 1996, at the conference on commercial exploitation of children in Stockholm, the point of the internet as a threat to children was first raised. Therefore, three ways in which children could be threatened were identified: So-called grooming, where an adult befriends a child and pretends to be in love with them, sending them gifts, gaining their trust with the end goal of either meeting the child in real life to then rape, traffic or even murder them, or to send or get them to send sexualized images. Most victims of grooming are 12 to 14-year-old girls. A second threat is child sex tourism, both internationally and within a country. Thirdly, the creation and distribution of child sex abuse material. All these threats persist until today and have only gotten worse. Furthermore, the issue of self-generated images, images that appear to have been taken voluntarily by the child has emerged. After 1996, governments also started reacting by establishing ties with the internet industry and child protection services, as well as setting up hotlines to receive reports from anyone about having found illegal sex child abuse material or finding weird behavior on the internet. In 1999, a global association hotline was formed, which includes 42 member states and covers a large proportion of the world.

It is crucial to keep in mind that in our digitalized world, many children have access to the internet through their phones, laptops, etc. UNICEF published a report four years ago in which it was documented that as much as one out of three children are internet users, in some countries this number rises to one out of two. Additionally, mainly third world countries see a growth of internet usage and many of the users are children. John sees this as problematic since these countries have the least developed legal frameworks in the area, as well as few police workers and judges who are aware of the severity of the situation, yet so important.

Coming back to the problematic growth in proportion of self-generated images, the dilemma is that nothing in the images suggest the involvement of a third party as the pictures are created by the children themselves and then shared with “friends” – groomers. It is crucial to keep in mind that even though there may not be proof of a child being groomed, this doesn’t mean there hasn’t been third party involvement forcing the children to take the pictures. Therefore, this is still illegal. Furthermore, John referred to the fact that the shared images are often linked to human trafficking. There are an estimated 21.7 million images roaming on the internet, 90% of them are shared on Facebook’s (now Meta) platforms. This hints at the huge responsibility large companies carry in preventing the sexual exploitation of children.

As the last speaker of the day, the moderator Gemma introduced **Patricia Fietz** from the International Center for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC.org) to introduce some of the approaches her organization has taken to tackle the problem.

Patricia introduced the Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) published in December 2018. It reviews the national legislations in 196 countries to establish which countries have instituted which laws and to find the persisting holes in the legislation. The core criteria to answer these questions are concerned with whether CSAM is a crime in the country, whether a legal definition exists, whether the possession of CSAM is a crime, whether the relationship between CSAM and technology is specified in the legislation, and whether the country mandates Internet Service Providers to report CSAM. To get an idea of the current situation, Patricia shared that 140 countries criminalize simple possession of CSAM, while 56 countries don't.

Secondly, Patricia introduced the Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OSCE) and Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Model Framework for Specialized Police and Prosecutor Units. This framework was established by ICMEC in 2020 to provide guidance to law enforcement and justice officials to investigate crimes facilitated through technology and to protect children from online exploitation. The framework finds its necessity in guiding countries on how to use information about online exploitation in the most effective way to build a case. Patricia also shared that the dark web is treated using specialized tools and police and judges need training on how this digital evidence is obtained and why it is valid to be used in court.

Patricia ended her presentation by sharing some data-driven facts about the current status surrounding online exploitation. Therefore, the most vulnerable group of victims are children between the age of seven and 13, where girls are by far more vulnerable, while boys also suffer. Between 2019 and 2020, the number of self-generated images increased by 77%, showcasing the growing worry around this issue. Shockingly, offenders share manuals on how to convince children to share sexualized images and how to hide communication on their phone so that their parents will be unable to find them. To counter this, ICMEC holds training series to anyone in the field of child protection, as well as to healthcare providers or anyone who would like to broaden their knowledge and activism in this field under <https://training.icmec.org/courses>.

Questions & Answers

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

Q: The Internet should be a tool that facilitates socialization and cognitive development of children and adolescents. Faced with these glaring data that you have just presented, what are the preventive measures that you can propose,

especially to parents and teachers who are protagonists of the well-being of children and adolescents?

Patricia : It is crucial that we talk to children to make sure they understand that they shouldn't be friends with people they haven't met in real life. Additionally, they need to be told to not put pictures of themselves that the parents haven't seen. These conversations must be had several times before allowing children to have their first phone since they often don't have the same criteria for what is wrong and right as adults to yet. I suggest taking the time to go through the child's phone. Furthermore, phone carriers provide parental controls that should be made use of. ICMEC offers some preventive materials for schools and parents on their website.

John: It is also important to not forget that the responsibility to keep children safe cannot fall only on the children, parents, and teachers. Internet companies, who gain their millions by getting children onto their platforms, carry a huge responsibility in preventing the online exploitation of children.



Day Two: Finding solutions in legal frameworks and by involving survivors

Overview

While Day 1 of the Forum focused on exploring exploitations in the regions, on Day 2 panelists discussed “Finding solutions in legal frameworks and by involving survivors.”

Legal frameworks form the basis for any policy work in the field of human trafficking. While legislations on the national and international level exist, there is a large gap between the written provisions and the actual situation on the ground. Legal loopholes allow for the persistence of modern slavery in all three areas. In addition to discussing these and proposing solutions, the forum will consider the importance of bringing survivors to the forefront of the movement and will have experts explain their approaches.

Topics for discussion throughout the day included the lack of knowledge of national and international law on human trafficking and its effects for victims, legal challenges that allow for the persistence of modern slavery, as well as the importance to strengthen the voices of survivors.

The day’s programming contemplated questions such as:

- Which legal frameworks are in place nationally and internationally?
- How well has international law been implemented in the three areas?
What are the challenges surrounding this?
- How can legislation be more effective and impactful?
- How can we strengthen the voices of survivors and bring them to the forefront of the movement?

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:** Jasmine O'Connor | Anti-Slavery International
- **Speakers:**
 - Carlos Andrés Pérez Gallego | UNODC
 - Matt Blumin | Coalition of Immokalee Workers
 - Dr. Jason Haynes | The University of West Indies
 - Andrew Wallis | Unseen UK
 - Coleen Hedglin | Beyond Borders
 - Anita Teekah | Safe Horizons
 - Tina Frundt | Courtney's House

Introduction and Welcome

Bukeni Waruzi, Executive Director of Free the slave, welcomed participants for the second day of the forum and explained the different functionings of zoom. The second day was going to serve as a place to find solutions through legal frameworks and to fulfill the purpose of the Freedom From Slavery Forum, to get CSOs more involved and engaged in the fight against modern slavery. Bukeni introduced the keynote speaker of the day, Carlos Perez.

Keynote

Carlos Perez from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) shared his experience and expertise about human trafficking within Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the work that has been done so far by the UN agency. Their work thereby mostly concerns legislative assistance to align and unify all concepts linked to human trafficking to facilitate cooperation among different government agencies across the continent. The UNODC was given the mandate from the UN General Assembly to act as the technical secretariat through the Convention on Organized Crime. Their primary responsibility lies in the promotion of the application and use of the convention and the protocol of human trafficking. The UNODC is present in 11 countries in the regions and assists in various human trafficking-related activities. Carlos emphasized the need to include those countries that fall within the criminal legislation of the protocol and the establishment of a broader framework that observes the application of the protocol in order to punish non-compliance. According to the UNODC, since the entering into force of the convention and protocol, several national laws have been modified to meet the standards of international law. This was mostly accomplished

through the formation of working groups that would develop new laws against human trafficking in the respective countries.

Another component to the work of the UNODC is that of knowledge management. Hereby, the agency helps countries to make decisions based on evidence inquired through national and regional reports. Thirdly, the UNODC engages with technical assistance projects, which consist mostly of capacity training on the national level to fight against human trafficking. Next to states, these projects involve non-traditional stakeholders and actors, as well as non-legal and local authority. The training is additionally implemented on the level of the national institutions, as well as in border zones and in remote areas of the country. Hereby, the goal is to work with legal and legislative assistance to change the national laws on the local level. On the national level, the different measures can be applied relatively easily, but this poses challenges to the local authorities due to a lack of budget and institutional training. The UNODC has therefore installed several global, national, and regional programs to help with the training of officials.

Carlos went on to explain that the mandate of the UNODC is based on the Convention against Organized Crime, the Protocol Against Human Trafficking, as well as the Protocol of Illicit Trafficking of Migrants. Additionally, working groups have been formed to understand the definition of “trafficking in persons” laid out in Article 3 of the Protocol Against Human Trafficking and to establish how countries can understand these international instruments. The groups serve as stages for discussion and debates concerning the concepts, practices, and challenges that the protocol involves. After discussing these, the working groups then recommend international instruments, such as manuals and documents to implement the international provisions.

A fundamental thing that underlies the work of the UNODC is the ongoing promotion of international cooperation between states and parties to cooperate to fight human trafficking crimes. Carlos underlined that international cooperation is of interest for countries beyond the protection of human rights to trafficked people, so they should have legal tools to facilitate communication and joint measures. This requires networks among public prosecutors, lawyers, and judges across the region. Carlos continued his presentation by explaining the role of the Palermo protocol. It was published in 2000 with the goal to establish an understanding of human trafficking as a transnational organized crime punishable by those parties having signed the protocol. Additionally, it was supposed to overcome the tie between human and women trafficking and promote cooperation between member states. At the time of the writing of the protocol, the concepts were left unfinalized in order to continue being developed through working groups and discussion. This process is still taking place today.

Carlos recommended three different tools developed by the UNODC to help CSOs, agencies, and institutions that assist legislation or regulation of laws. Firstly, he suggested to consult the UNODC website in order to find the framework for the application of the protocol, to guide measures of the Palermo protocol, and for examples of what countries have done to work against human trafficking. Secondly, the UNODC developed the Legislative Guide for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, a model law against human trafficking. The document established how national and local regulations have to be changed to adopt the international legislative framework. Thirdly, there is the international legal framework to be consulted by states. The UNODC offers additional publications related to dynamics in human trafficking, the effect of COVID-19 on human trafficking, the concept of harboring in the Palermo protocol, and the use of application of non-criminalization of victims of trafficking.

Questions & Answers

Bukeni introduced the moderator of the day, **Jasmine O'Connor** from Antislavery International who wrapped up the keynote speech by leading a question-and-answer session.

Q: How can legislation be more effective and impactful?

Carlos: The biggest challenge in the region is how to ensure that legislation against trafficking is not only an initiative from the criminal justice sector but also implemented in practice. Furthermore, it needs to be understood that the law against trafficking in persons is more than just a part of the human trafficking area, instead we need to follow the mechanism of protocol to include other areas as well, including migration, border control, etc. There is also a strong need to learn how to translate legislation into practical measures. This must include actors at the national and regional level, as well as the involvement of CSOs.

Panel 1: Regional Legal Frameworks

The moderator Jasmine introduced the three panelists Matt, Jason and Andrew to discuss the legal challenge. She reminded participants that slavery is outlawed on paper but that there are huge gaps between what has been signed internationally and what is being done in national legislation. She asked the participants to share their recommendations on how to solve the problem.

Matt Blumin from the Immokalee Worker Coalition gave a presentation on the issues facing agricultural workers in North and Central America, especially the United States regarding the lack of enforcement of the legislation protecting their rights. The Trafficking Victims and Protection Act serves as the American legislation that makes slavery illegal and while many people are working on this issue, problems having to do with a lack of accountability persist. One legal issue is that of exploitation and trafficking through non-immigrant visa programming in the USA. This comes with two kinds of human rights abuses, one in the sending country, and one in the receiving country, the USA. Matt shared that Covid-19 has increased the prevalence of trafficking through said program. The program permits crew bosses to act as those entities that petition for workers abroad. Therefore, it is not the actual farm that the workers work for, but the labor crew. Common problems having been detected within this program are those of bribes abroad, illegal immigration practices, and the toleration of violations within the USA that hinder workers to return to their home countries due to retaliation. Furthermore, Matt pointed out that accountability is often dropped at the labor contractor and that there is a lack of legal mechanisms to hold purchasers of products and the farms where the workers work accountable.

The CIW Fairfoods Program helps combat these issues by targeting the accountability and enforcement gap. Therefore, retailers who purchase crops should only buy from farms that don't have forced labor, and this must be implemented with a zero-tolerance policy. This signifies that in a situation where forced labor was used to produce a product, the farmers are automatically cut off from selling to retailers in the program. The CIW Fairfoods Program holds 14 massive companies that have huge purchase power. By binding themselves to the policy through legal agreements with worker organizations, it can be achieved to drive accountability down and give workers access to complaint mechanisms. Matt closed his presentation by reminding the participants to be honest when evaluating what the law says vs. how it is enforced and who is held accountable for the abuse that we know happens.

Next, **Andrew Wallis** shared his expertise on legal frameworks concerning supply chains from an American point of view with the participants. He started his presentation by giving an overview of the current legal situation around the world. Thus, it has been 10 years since California has passed an Act on transparent supply chains and the Modern Slavery Act in the United Kingdom includes transnational transparency in section 54. Other countries like Australia, New Zealand and Canada have followed in passing respective legislation. Furthermore, tariff act legislations are being brought in all over the world. This includes actions against child labor in the Netherlands and Germany, or the G7 trade ministers focusing on forced labor in supply chains and coming to terms with what this means.

Andrew gave the recommendation to “learn to surf” to businesses, meaning that businesses will have to learn to adapt the legislation that is being changed and adapted all around the world to tackle the issue of forced labor. He referred to these legislative changes as a “slow-moving tsunami”, describing that while it may be slow, it will have enormous consequences the more changes are being made. To the question whether the legislation is effective, Andrew evaluated the legal frameworks as framing tools, yet blunt instruments. As other experts had already shared in the forum, Andrew emphasized the disconnect between legislation and enforcement that has to be overcome in order to allow effective adjustments. In order to achieve this, he highlighted the importance of leveling the playing field. There is a need to allow good actors to act outside of where bad actors get away with their non-compliance, there needs to be an incentive for businesses to comply. Furthermore, it is crucial that the governments act upon the legislation, both in pushing for enforcement and punishing non-compliance. While there may be an uptake of the requirements of the legislation, the provisions are not actually being used very often. Andrew stressed the need for multilateral legislation: in order for businesses to do the right thing, the legislation needs to apply worldwide. Moreover, businesses need to come on board and respect the provisions against forced labor in a joint effort to tackle modern slavery.

The most important thing that is needed in the fight against modern slavery, according to Andrew, is the need for transparency. Legislation can only do so much, but if it is not enforced, nothing will change. Therefore, a focus needs to be placed on the role of the government to enact the legislation themselves, as well as on the role of investors, insurances, the media, and the public to reach the SDG 8.7. What is needed is a collaborative effort of all stakeholders involved. Andrews also suggested making use of the chances offered by technology to report and understand what is going on.

Jasmine thanked Andrew and concluded that it is crucial to facilitate not just legal change, but also systemic, normative, and a change of attitude to succeed. Next, she introduced Jason Haynes as the last panelist.

Jason Haynes gave an overview of legal loopholes from a Caribbean perspective. Thereby, most Caribbean islands have adopted legislation on human trafficking laws, some have amended acts in order to meet international standards and most acts impose sanctions, including life in prison. Nonetheless, there are several legal loopholes that allow the persistence of human trafficking in the area. Jason shared that within regional legislation, the notion of ‘exploitation’ is often exhausted quickly, meaning that many abuses fall outside the narrow definition and cannot be prosecuted. For example, the notion of migrant smuggling, among other new forms of exploitation is not yet

defined and therefore no cases can be brought forward. The Palermo protocol tries to combat this problem by giving a broader definition, but some countries have applied the protocol in a way that is not consistent with international law. The failure to use the same words in national and international legislation creates a disconnect between investigation and prosecution. Furthermore, prosecutors often lack the evidence to initiate cases. This is mostly due to a persisting reliance on testimonies of victims which are unreliable due to the Stockholm syndrome, language barriers, etc.

Another problem that prevents abusers from being penalized is the existence of unconstitutional provisions in national legislation, such as mandatory minimum sentences, which are often excessive in relation to the crime. This often transfers the power away from judges and legislators to find an appropriate punishment and courts cannot use their power to sanction abusers. Furthermore, these provisions can be categorized as being unconstitutional if they punish offenses too high.

Additionally, victims are limited to seeking compensation in many cases. This is due to the fact that being compensated is tied to the conviction of the abuser, meaning that if they are not convicted, victims don't get compensation. Furthermore, a high threshold to establish a non-punishment provision applies. Victims often don't have the type of evidence that is needed to satisfy the high threshold of evidence, resulting in non-conviction in most cases that make it to court.

Questions & Answers

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

Q: How would you recommend a constant keeping up with changing definitions and the need to translate international law into national law?

Jason: We have to be aware of those changes that may not be captured. This begins with awareness. Stakeholders in the jurisdiction need to be made aware of changes of international law, and then to be recommended amendments on the national level. Ghana for example, kept up with international legislative changes, then went to parliament in order to undergo the relevant changes. Whether and how this happens depends on the political priority of human trafficking on national agenda and on the knowledge base of stakeholders. It is required for them to be fully informed at all times so they can change it.

Andrew: What we need is a shrinking window of disconnect between policy makers and the reality on the ground. NGOs can help coordinate and listen to voices of the victims,

as they are the knowledge holders of what is happening on the ground and thus need to serve as those passing on the information to policy makers.

Matt: Overcoming this gap between national and international legal frameworks would also benefit from cooperation between governments, especially in recognizing bans. For example, if Mexican tomatoes are being made with forced labor, and the US bans these farms, but they can still export their tomatoes to Canada, then nothing is going to change. What we need is due diligence. We have to be honest with ourselves about the effectiveness of legislation. In order to understand the difference between what is working on paper versus in reality, we need to listen to victims and survivors.

Panel 2: Promoting a Survivor-Led Movement

Jasmine introduced the second panel on promoting a survivor-led movement by reminding participants of the need to ensure for meaningful engagement with survivors, and to create an environment to get systemic change. For this, she asked the three specialists in survivor inclusion Coleen Hedglin, Anita Teekah, and Tina Frundt about the challenges and the role of the movement to close the gap between rhetoric and reality.

Coleen Hedglin from Beyond Borders Haiti gave insights into the anti-slavery movement in Haiti. The movement there is primarily focused on preventing children from being exploited after frequently occurring earthquakes. Her organization saw the need to use adult voices for children in slavery, which has now led to a nationwide network of 1000 adults who were slaves and who are now working to free slaves from domestic servitude. She emphasized the need to raise awareness for the Haiti anti-trafficking law which has many gaps and included mock trials as a way to raise awareness to government officials. She invited some of her survivor colleagues to speak about their perspective, but due to technical difficulties, they were unable to share their stories and expertise.

Anita Teekah also emphasized the obligation to get survivors involved in the movement as much as possible. She shared with participants that at the time of her presentation they were waiting on the START Act to be signed in New York state which would allow convictions of victims of sex trafficking to be vacated if the crime was found to be related to something the abuser made them do. The act became important because victims spoke up to bring awareness as they united and went straight to the responsible legislator. According to Anita, individuals having made experience with sex trafficking gave their testimonials which pushed the government to sign the Act.

Anita also talked a lot about survivor engagement and what that means. She underlined the need to not bubble wrap individuals with the assumption that their traumas would have made them weak. Rather, those with lived experiences are extremely resilient and don't want to be handled as being fragile. It is crucial to ensure fair and just compensation, with the same wages for non-survivors and survivors within an organization, as well as structural and social equality. For those having been born into a more fortunate situation, she asked participants to reflect upon how they can use privilege to create more access to opportunity to work against equality. It is important to continue viewing oneself as an ally to the victims. Furthermore, she advised participants to speak to peers about warning signs and vulnerabilities to end up in labor, sexual, and human trafficking, as well as to train young people by using those people with experience and recognizing and compensating them for their experience and expertise.

The last panelist of the day was **Tina Frundt**, founder and owner of Courtney's House, and a former victim of child sex trafficking herself. While there are 72 organizations in the DC metro area focusing on some type of trafficking, Courtney's House is the only African American survivor-run organization in the last 12 years. This underlines the underrepresentation as the DMV is predominantly African American. Courtney's House started their project with street outreach, which then had to be stopped because this approach brought too many survivors, and they didn't have enough people to handle the required services. Tina emphasized that in order to show survivors the powers that they have, it is crucial to partner with survivor-run organizations.

Tina shared her own story with the participants. She was born and raised in Chicago in a gang-controlled area and foster care. She didn't know her biological parents and became a victim to human trafficking at nine years old in a foster home until she was adopted at 13 years old. She then continued to explain the work of Courtney's House, a drop-in center for both boys and girls who can drop in whenever they require and will be assisted with their needs. The organization is licensed through foster care with their agents being nine to 24 years old. This is because Washington DC passed a law that considers someone to be a part of the youth until the age of 24 to regard the fact that the homeless population is mostly within this age range. It is not uncommon that the victims were assaulted in adult centers. Tina also shared that around 40% of her agents were trafficked by their parents.

Tina continued her presentation by calling attention to the fact that boys have to be included in the conversation surrounding sex trafficking. It is not uncommon that boys grow up in gang societies where rape is considered normal and are then trafficked and raped themselves. In order to get to these people, Tina considered it crucial to train

these boys and to include the trafficking of boys in the conversation. Most of the human trafficking that concerns boys in the area is in connection with labor trafficking. It is important thereby to not only focus on foreigners being trafficked into the USA, but also to pay attention to US citizens.

Courtney's House works with young individuals and is structured in a way that gives them a say in the work, they get to vote, they can come and have their voice heard, and the drop-in center acts as their home. Courtney's House has employed a cook who cooks twice a day. There are also partnerships with hospitals, for example to combat tapeworms or connected to the Covid-19 vaccine.

Questions & Answers

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

Q: How is the US government doing in terms of supporting domestic survivors domestically?

Tina: Most of what is being done is rather for show and doesn't have any real implications. Children residing in Virginia are still being charged for prostitution, for example, whereas they are actually victims and should be helped and compensated. We are nowhere near where we want to and are supposed to be.

Jasmine O'Connor then closed the day by encouraging participants to think about how to make survivor leadership the norm, rather than the exception. She considered what needs to be done to put the money in their hand so they can lead and be a part of shifting the power dynamics. Furthermore, she emphasized the need for their perspective to include it in policies and legal frameworks. If this is not done, all that will be left is an anti-slavery sector destined to fail.



Day Three: Building networks and cooperations

Overview

Day 3 built upon the programming of the first two days and focused on finding solutions in terms of intergovernmental efforts, as well as the role civil society can play in battling modern slavery. Experts gave an overview of their experiences and shared best practices on how to come together. Thus, the theme of the day was “Building networks and cooperations.”

The day’s programming contemplated questions such as:

- What are existing coordinating groups and organizations and how does their work help in the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking?
- How can organizations successfully lobby governments to achieve change?
- What is the role of civil society?
- How can survivors be empowered to lead the anti-slavery movement?

Day 3 featured a series of interrelated presentations from various CSOs and organizational representatives centered around the approaches they have taken and the success they have seen to move forward in the anti-slaver movement. Lastly, participants engaged in a final workshop session 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:** Smith Maximé | Free the Slaves
- **Speakers:**
 - Thomas Wissing | Alliance 8.7
 - Beatriz Sagrado | Expert in Social Intervention against Gender Violence
 - Angharad Smith | Delta 8.7

- Erin Phelps | Freedom Fund
- Bridget Wooding | OBMICA

The final set of presentations was moderated by Smith Maximé from Free the Slaves. The Day 3 presentations centered around possible solutions, including through intergovernmental efforts and CSO-led approaches. Participants were also provided with spaces to network and brainstorm the way forward in the region.

Keynote Speech

Thomas Wissing started the last day and introduced Alliance 8.7 having been established as a global partnership to come together to work to achieve UN SDG 8.7. He continued by giving an overview of the challenge: 40 million people all over the world are still trapped in modern slavery, forced labor, forced marriage, child labor, etc. Among others, this has to do with the huge economic benefit of modern slavery and of exploiting other people. Companies and agencies gain an estimated \$150 billion agencies each year. Furthermore, the issue is often connected with political objectives. COVID-19 has exacerbated this by many people experiencing losing their job, being stranded, and then ultimately being forced into slavery. Thomas gave an overview of old and new challenges, including inequalities related to access to health, education, social protection, and decent work, as well as attacks on human rights. The emergence of technology serves both as a risk and opportunity, as online exploitation is an emerging issue, but technical devices can also be used to get access to victims. Furthermore, climate change poses new scenarios and new threats.

Alliance 8.7 is a voluntary partnership under the UN agency mechanisms and international law. Its goal is therefore not holding countries accountable, but rather helping them to gain support if they are willing to accelerate action against modern slavery. It thus includes an aspect of commitment, but also acts as a platform of exchange with like-minded actors. This is to help countries figure out which actions help, as well as to analyze what went wrong to then learn from it. The goal is to find innovative solutions all together as a network and a platform. The Alliance works with 300 organizational partners including the United Nations and various International Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, trade unions as a part of the ILO network, business networks, as well as 25 pathfinder countries. Of these 15, some countries have been more active than others so far, but the Alliance is working on pushing progress forward by urging member states to send in reports and monitoring activities.

Thomas continued by explaining the entry points for CSOs and how they could help. Actions hereby include the promotion of participation of survivors' organizations, as well as the sharing of their experiences about best practices, for example on the remediation

of victims. Furthermore, CSOs should urge the implementation of the 2018 Bangkok Declaration and participate in national stakeholder workshops. They should engage in global coordinating groups, such as Alliance 8.7. Within the partnership, working groups have been established to monitor the SDG 8.7 and to bring forward cases of non-compliance. Furthermore, they serve as a forum for communication, engagement, and advocacy. Thomas finished his keynote speech by referring to the sub-organization of the Alliance, Delta 8.7, which is responsible for collecting and sharing data based on which policy advice is given.

Bukeni thanked Thomas for this speech and introduced **Smith Maximé**, Haiti Country Director at Free the Slaves, as the moderator for the day. Smith explained the structure of the day and introduced the first panelist, Terry FitzPatrick, Senior Communications and Media Relation Specialist at Free the Slaves, as well as Co-Chair of ATEST.

Panel 1: Efforts of Intergovernmental Bodies

Terry FitzPatrick introduced ATEST – The Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking – which was formed in the USA in 2008 as a response to problems within the anti-slavery movement and has since helped greatly to solve how the movement interacts with the government. Before its formation, many groups and organizations were giving sometimes conflicting advice to the US Parliament and Congress. ATEST helped to unify these groups and gave a space for them to discuss what needs to be prioritized and what requires more funding. This way, the groups can lobby Congress and the administration in the White House unitedly and thus more effectively. At the point of the forum, ATEST has 15 member groups, and its work reaches more than 120 countries by pulling together experts from all around the world. The alliance organizes and trains doctors, teachers, etc., supports migrants, works with the youth, and is thus engaged in bringing in as many different perspectives as possible.

The intersectionality of human, labor, child, women's and migrant rights for trafficking and slavery makes it important for ATEST to exist, as their focus on different perspectives allows them to be as effective as possible. The USA is the largest donor, so they play an important role internationally as they give money to international groups, meaning they have a large reach. Thus, a big leverage point in the movement is focused on US policies and funding.

ATEST follows a model of prevention, prosecution, protection (and partnerships) and that this is also how the problem is approached within the US government. This is called the holistic solution, meaning that rather than individual advocacy in one ministry, ATEST approaches individual ministries, therefore reaching all federal governments.

Terry continued by explaining the principles and strategy of the alliance. All members are equal partners and two individuals from the organizations Free the Slaves and Safe Horizon form the two co-chairs. In order to bring consensus to advocacy targets, a 2/3 majority is needed, which translates to ten votes for an action before it can be implemented. They only work on bipartisan issues in the USA, meaning that both Democrats and Republicans have to be involved. Furthermore, they watch those that are implementing the programs and are those that are responsible for the funding, and then hold these groups accountable.

Additionally, Terry shared some of the accomplishments by ATEST. This includes an increase in funding from \$25 million to \$250 million in direct trafficking requests.

Terry ended his presentation with ATEST's priorities going forward. Their current policy priorities lay in various areas where engagement is needed the most. The Trafficking Victim Protection Act in the USA has to be renewed, and the group is involved in lobbying. Furthermore, there is a necessity for federal appropriations. In order to further increase funding, it is important to expand the work with different departments and agencies within the government. Hereby a focus needs to be put on utilizing experts and advocates as resources to explain the issue, rather than pressuring the US government. Furthermore, ATEST is focused on deepening their interactions with Congress to build partnerships moving forward, and to try building bridges between policy makers. Additionally, it is crucial to speak up with a collective voice. This is connected to the issue that immigration is important, especially in the South, that labor recruitment is still an unregulated industry, and in relation to corporate accountability. The USA needs to move from standard transparency towards mandatory human rights due diligence and make companies act in case they encounter abuse within their supply chains.

Beatriz Sagrado then continued by emphasizing the need to have coordination between organizations attempting to comply with Alliance 8.7's pathfinder guidelines, the Beijing declarations, and other international frameworks. She also put focus on the importance of political involvement of women via CEDAW. She shared with the participants that Recommendation 38 discusses the topic of trafficking of girls and women in the context of migration. Therefore, the feminist movement considers the UN Convention on the rights of women to be fundamental as an instrument to define discrimination of women in order to be able to adjudicate it. Additionally, the role of civil society is to perform follow ups on non-compliance and report to relevant institutions. Going further into detail with Recommendation 38, Beatriz highlighted selected passages. Thereby, Article 6 requires member states to take appropriate measures to

prohibit trafficking and prostitution in the context of migration (including legislation). States must deactivate the demand that gives origin to sexual exploitation and leads to trafficking. Furthermore, the distinction between illegal migration and trafficking is sometimes unclear (a crime against the person vs against the state), but nonetheless very important. According to Beatriz, sexual exploitation is a problem because there is no way to effectively deactivate the demand, as the problem is rooted in patriarchy. Moreover, human trafficking is based on the structural inequality of gender and on the feminization of poverty. Beatriz continued by sharing that CEDAW is currently analyzing the use of digital technologies for trafficking and how they provide access to potential victims. For example, the use of cryptocurrency makes it difficult to track the traffickers.

Furthermore, Beatriz shared some recommendations with the participants to continue moving forward. Thereby, she placed emphasis on the eradication of poverty through education, training, and the adoption of measures. Furthermore, work against intra family exploitation has to increase tremendously. There is additionally a need for safe migration measures to work against exploitation, especially with unsupported girls traveling alone. Moreover, those responsible need to develop plans within conflict and natural disasters since this is when exploitation can easily take place. In order to limit human trafficking, it is important to give access to mechanisms to border officials and officers in conflict. Beatriz also suggested using Artificial Intelligence to detect patterns that may assist to discover human trafficking. Furthermore, cooperating with tech companies to create new tools to identify criminals is important to detect online sexual abuse. In general, Beatriz highlighted the importance of helping women get access to justice, and the need to work on alliances within all organizations and different countries.

The last panelist on the efforts of intergovernmental bodies, **Angharad Smith**, was introduced by Smith Maximé to close the panel. Angharad is a Programme Officer for the Modern Slavery Programme at United Nations University Centre for Policy Research, as well as involved with Delta 8.7.

Delta 8.7 is a global knowledge platform which delivers its collected data to Alliance 8.7 in order to develop policy advice. They are asking experts to examine what works against modern slavery and have produced three policy guides assessing levels of effectiveness in three areas: crisis (conflict, humanitarian crisis response, migration), justice (criminal and social justice, survivor engagement), and the market, including supply chain policy, etc.

The goal of these policy guides is to show what those policies are that work against modern slavery. They thereby don't aim to dictate policy makers on how to solve

problems since this is based on many factors that differ per country, but rather give ideas on how to implement different approaches. Delta 8.7 uses scientifically rigorous data to show what works and what does not. It is thereby important to remember that there is always space for further development, and the guides will never be finished. In order to evaluate effectiveness, the guides include hypotheses and very low to very high confidence levels. Three hypotheses have been substantiated with very high confidence levels. These are a connection between crisis and access, the importance of being mindful of gender as women are more vulnerable in crisis, and the need for collaboration in humanitarian settings. The guides can be found under <https://delta87.org/resources/policy-guides/policy-guide-working-groups/>.

To finish the first panel, Smith gave an overview of the most important aspects mentioned by the speakers and introduced the second panel.

Panel 2: Empowering a CSO-led Movement

Erin Phelps gave a presentation on the CSO movement, with her NGO Freedom Fund trying to support frontline workers and mobilize donor funds that can bring in more funders to mobilize more money and to collect more data. The organization serves as a collaboration between NGOs and also between funders to spread the given money more effectively.

Freedom Fund is currently active in four areas: Firstly, they partner with grassroots organizations, as well as with over 140 NGOs, frontline organizations, mostly in hotspots (those places where modern slavery predominantly takes place), and give them practical, technical, and financial support. Secondly, they engage in research to gain knowledge and evidence of where slavery exists. Thirdly, the organization supports global initiatives and corporate accountability. Lastly, they are engaged in movement building and support knowledge sharing and advocacy.

Furthermore, Erin shared the progress Freedom Fund has been able to detect, as well as what needs to be focused on in order to continue achieving results. Therefore, it is important to concentrate the existing resources on the small number of slavery hotspots. Furthermore, frontline organizations should be leading the movement, meaning they should have access to the resources as small resource groups are backed to become more sustainable and better internally and in their work. Additionally, it remains crucial to amplify frontline voices on the global stage.

In order to empower CSOs, inclusive, sustainable and effective coordination is needed. This means more financial support, the mobilization of new funding and the pooling of resources so that, for example, projects intersecting with modern slavery can be introduced to the issue and receive new funds. Furthermore, it needs to be invested into

capacity building, due diligence, attracting other donors, providing tools to identify gaps in organization capacity, as well as technical support to strengthen various programming and to learn from one another. Within collaboration and advocacy, organizations such as Free the Slaves are of large importance as they help focus on system thinking and system change. Hereby, it is crucial to think more deeply about how to layer direct service provisions and engagement with businesses, community involvement, etc.

Erin also shared that to invest in building individual leadership, the initiative Freedom Rising is investing and connecting emerging frontline workers, who are early to mid-level in their careers, especially women and survivors. The goal is to center survivors in the program, and to support their leadership and decision-making. To reach this goal, Freedom Fund also has a fellowship with the survivor alliance called Survivor Leadership Fund which gives out grants to survivor-led organizations in Ethiopia, Uganda, and Kenya.

To close her presentation Erin shared the future plans of Freedom Fund. This includes the roll-out of the Survivor Leadership Fund into the millions, as well as heavily promoting donor education as in building up their understanding of the importance of funding organizations primarily in the Global South. Furthermore, it is crucial to encourage sustainability for CSOs and to engage in capacity building to help them build their own sustainability. Freedom Funds has promised to continue the search for creative ways to find funding both for them and other organizations.

Smith introduced the last panelist of the day, **Bridget Wooding** from Caribbean Migration and Development Observatory (OBMICA). She talked about the issue of modern slavery and human trafficking in the Dominican Republic and emphasized that human trafficking exacerbates other problems, e.g., poverty, marginalization, and gender violence.

The Dominican Republic acts as a country of origin, transit and destination for abusers and trafficked people. The organization Bridget works with is a center for research on human trafficking within the Caribbean and has existed since 2010. According to them, there have been many people identified as being part of trafficking from as many as 66 countries, many of them being Haitian women. OBMICA has tried and is trying to contribute to the understanding of the problem of human trafficking and how it affects the Caribbean. This includes the development of a compendium, as well as research on how human trafficking affects Dominicans coming back to the country after having been trafficking, and the consequences of human trafficking for Haitian women after the earthquake of 2010. Furthermore, OBMICA has found out that many women in the area suffer from rape and murder, as well as sexual abuse in the households that employ

them. The organization also conducted a study on human trafficking affecting women identifying cases of survivors talking about sexual trafficking in the Democratic Republic. The study showed that often children are provoked to leave their family which makes them vulnerable to being abused in the streets. Additionally, the Caribbean culture doesn't consider sexual abuse as human trafficking which neglects the crime itself.

Bridget also referred to the difficulties of data obtention due to the vulnerabilities of women and children. Parents often send their children away to work in hopes for a better life, when in reality they end up being trafficked and abused. Furthermore, the earthquake in Haiti resulted in many local boys and girls being homeless and orphaned, making them more vulnerable to abuse. It remains problematic that, due to a lack of legislation on this, the cases are never taken to court and the victims never achieve justice.

To end her presentation, Bridget emphasized the most important thing going forward, to make new connections on the international level. While it is known that different efforts are being made to deal with inequalities especially in labor migration, a persistent lack of means for regular participation can contribute to the vulnerabilities of women and allows recruiters to take advantage of them.

Workshop

In a workshop, the participants were asked to give recommendations on how to best battle modern slavery and human trafficking in Europe, North America, and the Caribbean. These recommendations are listed below.

- It is crucial to integrate legal frameworks to achieve more cooperation and unity. This concerns specifically legal frameworks around sexual work, as overcoming this problem will prevent a large proportion of human trafficking.
- There is a holistic approach for policy changes needed. This means not just approaching human trafficking as an individual area, but rather to see its connectivity to other fields.
- The Palermo protocol needs to be better known and understood by lawyers, judges, police, and other individuals involved in the legal field. It is important to promote the instrument and CSOs can help with this.

To end the third day of the forum, Bukeni gave a closing speech and referred the participants to the upcoming Forum in Marrakech from December 5-8, 2021.



European, North American and Caribbean Priorities

Overview

On the last day of the Forum, a workshop sessions 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. These priorities and subsequent recommendations are detailed below. To get an overview of all priorities, they were split into regional and overarching priorities, alongside with a division between the private and public sector.

International/Overarching Priorities

The following priorities can be seen as to apply to each of the regions and to the international community as a whole.

Priority Actions Relating to the International Community

The most important recommendation that can be implemented by the international community including all actors involved that was repeated numerous times throughout the Forum is the need for increased cooperation between states themselves, between states and the private sector, and between CSOs and movement leaders all over the world, including the building of public-private partnerships. One of the participants recommended strengthening cooperation between states in regard to the trade of products made with forced labor. While individual states are taking actions, the problem cannot be tackled unless the demand comes to an end worldwide. Furthermore, it was deemed necessary to invest in collaborate efforts to eradicate slavery by including other actors, such as investors, insurances, the media and the public.

Regarding the existing global partnership Alliance 8.7, who promotes efforts to eradicate modern slavery to meet the UNSDG 8.7 was given the recommendation to provide for better coordination between organizations attempting to comply with the Pathfinder guidelines and international provisions.

CSOs play an important role in the international fight against modern slavery and can function to coordinate and listen to the voices of victims. Throughout the Forum, a large emphasis was placed on the need to include survivors in the international conversation as they are the knowledge holders of the problem on the ground. They can inform CSOs of the situation who can then inform policy makers and engage in lobbyism in order to make a change on the public level. Furthermore, taking into account the growing importance and threat of technology, CSOs were recommended to serve as educators. They can work with families to inform the parents how to best protect their children from falling into the traps of abusers on the internet. This includes making sure that the children understand that they shouldn't be friends with people they haven't met in real life, as well as that they should not put any pictures online that the parents haven't seen. It was recommended that parents have these conversations regularly with their children and that they make use of parental controls and take the time to go through their children's phones.

Priority Actions Relating to the Legal Field

In general, there were several strong recommendations to integrate legal frameworks to achieve more cooperation and unity. Especially concerning the Palermo protocol, it was deemed crucial to promote the provisions therein.

Additionally, it was strongly recommended to all parties to the international legal framework to find a broader framework that observes the respective provisions and protocols better in order to punish perpetrators. A suggested solution was the establishment of working groups to develop laws against human trafficking in the respective projects and to work on legislative assistance projects, as well as on knowledge management and technical assistance projects. Furthermore, these working groups should work as a space to discuss, debate and challenge the existing legal documents, as well as recommend international instruments for the national implementation of international provisions.

The Forum established an overarching problem of gaps between the national and international legal framework in all regions. Governments must prioritize to budget more money and invest into institutional training in order to implement these laws better. The

participants established a lack of knowledge concerning the international legal framework, especially the Palermo protocol, which needs to be solved in order to prosecute perpetrators and hold abusers accountable. CSOs can help to close this gap, but they need more support from governments, financially and logistically. Moreover, governments must invest in technology to benefit from the opportunities it brings into the field. Thereby, governments must work with big data companies to gain insight into their data to find a connection between the use of apps and websites and human trafficking.

Priority Actions Relating to Private Companies

Furthermore, it was recommended to all regions to get businesses on board to tackle modern slavery. Large intranational companies are gaining ever-increasing power and with that comes responsibility. Especially internet companies who make their millions by encouraging children to join their online platform must be held accountable to the immense responsibility they have to keep the children safe. It is therefore crucial to include them in the fight against modern slavery. Furthermore, businesses need to learn to deal with the coming change of legislation concerning supply chains and the move away from forced labor in order to support this positive shift in international and national frameworks.

European Priorities

Priority Actions Relating to Private Sector and Civil Society Actors

Focusing especially on the region of Europe, participants paid special attention to the issue of prostitution as a form of sexual exploitation. It was thereby emphasized that it remains important to take consent out of the equation when establishing a case of sexual exploitation and possible human trafficking connected to it. Pretending that these women would consent results in victim-blaming, which only strengthens the stigma around prostitution. Furthermore, it was mentioned that the recovery of victims must be in the foreground. This includes an offer for work outside the sexual servitude sector, as well as benefits for them as soon as they leave the field, such as the possibility to rent houses, etc. CSOs and movement leaders can help in this regard by providing their services and expertise, as well as by raising awareness of the consequences of victim-blaming.

Priority Actions Relating to European Governments

For European governments, it was highly recommended that they establish an abolishment model regarding prostitution as the only functioning model to help victims, mostly women, out of this situation. This model sees a criminalization of traffickers and sex buyers, and a decriminalization of prostitutes, who are rather helped to get out of the field. Considering the globalization of human and sex trafficking, the only way to stop the mafia who controls this field is to establish sanctions against them. In this way, the mafia will need to make more calculations and take more risks to traffick women for sexual abuse. This model has been implemented in some countries with positive results in the fight against sexual exploitation.

North American Priorities

Priority Actions Relating to Private Sector and Civil Society Actors

The most important recommendations given to CSOs and anti-slavery movement leaders were all related to the involvement of survivors at the forefront of the movement. Therefore, emphasis was placed on partnering with and supporting donor-led organizations, as well as to give a bigger voice to survivors so they can explain their experiences and push for change on the legislative level. Attention must thereby be given to recognizing the experience, expertise and skills that survivors bring with them. It is important to not bubble wrap them, but to see them as equals who deserve their voices to be heard. Furthermore, it was suggested to use the experience that survivors of human trafficking and exploitation to train and educate younger people to gain and raise awareness. Especially in the United States, it was underlined that CSOs and leaders must pay attention to American and male victims as well, as these are often forgotten in the conversation.

Additionally, CSOs were recommended to engage in capacity building and training. This includes the use of specialized tools to investigate the dark web, train police and other legislative workers such as judges and prosecutors on how digital evidence is obtained and why the evidence is valid to be used in court. Additionally, the private sector should target the persisting accountability and enforcement gap in legal implementation of national and international laws. The CIW fair foods program serves as an example for this. Related, actors in the private sector should also urge companies to make binding legal agreements with worker organizations in order to protect them from being exploited.

Moreover, connected to the act of lobbying, it was recommended to approach governments with a holistic approach. This means that the focus should be placed on all forms of slavery in all ministries, thereby reaching to approach all federal agencies.

Priority Actions Relating to North American Governments

The participants of the Forum also gave a set of recommendations for the governments in North America. It was emphasized that they would have to get better at law enforcement in order to tackle modern slavery. Specifically in the United States, the government was urged to increase support for domestic survivors as the current situation might look like they are helping, but the reality looks different and leaves victims unsupported and reliant on the private sector. As for CSOs, survivors must be at the forefront in the public sector as well. The government needs to increase efforts to establish better access to complaint mechanisms in order to strengthen their voices. Furthermore, the United States government needs to renew the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

Caribbean Priorities

Priority Actions Relating to Private Sector and Civil Society Actors

Experts of the Caribbean region appealed to the participants and the international community as a whole to place more focus on the issues of trafficking in the region, as it is often overlooked in the current conversation. It was deemed crucial to better understand the situation in the area, not only regarding the crimes committed, but also regarding the culture and its understanding of trafficking and exploitation. Thereby, children are expected to help in the household which blurred the lines between helping with chores and forced labor and leaders of the movement have to be aware of this in order to work against intrafamily exploitation. It is moreover important to realize and accept that many law enforcers are often involved in the trafficking of people.

Furthermore, CSOs should engage in different types of training. This includes the training of border workers in order to detect human trafficking in the area, as there is a persisting lack of knowledge of what these crimes look like. Safe migration measures must be taken to work against exploitation, especially of unsupported girls traveling alone. Additionally, it is important for CSOs to establish plans within conflicts and natural disasters that are not uncommon in the region, as these often exacerbate exploitation. The participants also recommended CSOs to cooperate with tech companies in order to create new tools to identify criminals and detect online sexual abuse. Another important factor that CSOs can be of great support for is the improvement of access to justice, especially for women. The legal sector needs a large revision in order to investigate, prosecute and convict.

These revisions need to include a more broadly defined interpretation of 'exploitation' so more cases can be prosecuted on the basis of that. Furthermore, judges must be trained on how to prosecute people. This includes the necessity to raise awareness of the Palermo protocol and the legal responsibilities encompassed therein. As in the other regions, it is especially important for the Caribbean that national legislation be upheld to international standards. CSOs can claim their role in informing national legislators of international changes and to raise awareness of gaps in the legal framework. Additionally, it was recommended to open cases against traffickers on other issues than trafficking, such as weapon or drug trade, if applicable. Another important step to hold more perpetrators accountable is the need to move away from relying on victim testimonies in order to make a conviction. Moreover, the legal revision needs to include the alteration of provisions such as those containing minimum sentences that are far too high to be accepted as a punishment by a judge. In many cases, the cases are then dismissed.

Priority Actions Relating to Caribbean Governments

As for the regional governments, participants emphasized the general need for a more effective public policy and an assessment of the law execution system, including the generation of better access to justice for victims. There is a high necessity for communication, joint measures and networks among public prosecutors, lawyers and judges, that should be facilitated and encouraged by the governments. Not only is there a need for coordination between the public institutions, but also between the different fields of law. The law against trafficking of persons is more than just connected to the human trafficking area. Therefore, mechanisms need to be followed to include other areas, such as migration and border control as well. Additional recommendations were given to increase efforts to translate existing legislation into practical measures and real actions.

A further problem to be tackled by the government is the need to increase the national budget and funding in order to tackle the problem. For example, Haiti's government budgeted zero cents for this field in 2014. Additionally, the governments need to work against poverty as this is the main reason for child trafficking. Connected to child trafficking, it is important to improve the foster system as many cases of exploitation and trafficking can be found within this area. CSOs can help to facilitate all of this, which is why the governments were strongly encouraged to cooperate with the private sector.

Participants gave a recommendation to the Haitian government specifically, which related to the need to mention, criminalize and punish the crime of modern slavery in their legal code. As of now, there are many concepts that have the same meaning as

modern slavery but are not mentioned in the legislation, resulting in legal loopholes that can be exploited by abusers.



Next Steps

Participants left the Forum with increased knowledge about how vulnerable people are exploited in Europe, North America and the Caribbean, having considered sexual and labor exploitation, as well as human and child trafficking. Furthermore, legal frameworks and the gaps therein were discussed, as well as the role of technology as a threat and a tool. Additionally, importance was placed on the importance of a survivor-led movement, and approaches on the intergovernmental and civil society level to cooperate were examined. After attending all three days of the Europe, North America and the Caribbean 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 last in the series of regional Freedom from Slavery Forums, which will take place throughout the rest of the year. 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. 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, 93 individuals from 39 countries registered and 59 individuals participated (including presenters). Of the 77 individuals who participated, 23 different countries were represented. The countries with the most participants included: Haiti, Kenya, Spain, the UK, and the USA.

Speaker and Presenter Bios



Day One: Exploring exploitations in the region

Moderator




Gemma Bardají Blasco is the FTS Europe and Latin America manager. She has degrees in social and cultural anthropology and postgraduate degrees in culture of peace and gender in development. Gemma has 25 years of international experience, touting expertise in women's rights; mainstreaming the gender perspective; political participation of women; and electoral system designs. She managed the Free the Slaves project with the International Association of Women Judges and MUDHA, funded by the U.S. State Department, working to ensure prevention of trafficking in persons, and protection of survivors in majority Haitian descendant-populated *batey* communities in the Dominican Republic.

Prior to working with Free the Slaves, she worked at the National Migration Institute in the Dominican Republic, where she was responsible for projects pertaining to gender and human trafficking issues. Specifically, she contributed to the development of the National Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and the Illicit Tracking of Migrants with the government of the Dominican Republic. Ms. Bardají also previously worked for more than seven years as an independent consultant within the United Nations system, working both at regional and international levels. She served as a contributor to the Network for Experts on Gender for the United Nations


	<p>Development Program in Latin America for four years.</p> <p>Her work has largely focused on social research, methodological design, and planning. In addition to her work in the Dominican Republic, Gemma has also worked in other countries throughout Latin America, including in Bolivia and Guatemala.</p>
Panelists	
	<p>Laura Nuño is a tenured professor at the Rey Juan Carlos University, a center where she launched the Degree in Gender Equality, the Equality Observatory and the training of Specialist in Gender and Sexual Violence. She is currently President of the Feminist Network of Constitutional Law and Secretary of the International Academic Network on Studies of Pornography and Prostitution. She is principal investigator of the GIAR FEMGEN (High Performance Research Group on Gender and Feminism) and of the Teaching Innovation Group for the inclusion of the gender perspective in undergraduate studies. She has directed and participated in about twenty research projects and has among her publications more than fifty books and articles on feminism. One of the most recent “Maternidades S.A. The business of surrogate bellies ”published in the Catarata publishing house and“ The right to education: patriarchal strategies against female genealogy ”published in Comares.</p>
	<p>Olivia Smith is a consultant on human trafficking with The British Institute of International and Comparative Law Institute (BIICL) and the Executive Director for the Caribbean Anti Human Trafficking Foundation. She has worked with several regional and international institutions including the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) as Project Lead on Trafficking in Persons (Barbados). At CARICOM Secretariat she served as, Deputy Programme Manager, Free Movement and Labour, She was a Political Specialist at the US Embassy, Barbados, the Human Resources Development Expert for the European Union Delegation to Barbados, a Lecturer at the University of the West Indies in migration studies and served for ten years as an Immigration officer , Government</p>

	<p>of Barbados . She holds a PhD in Political Science and a Master of Business Administration among other qualifications. She is a Past Fellow of the University of Oxford in forced migration and is a 2021 O'Brien Fellow in Residence at the Faculty of Law, McGill University, Canada.</p>
	<p>Samuel Madistin born to a Protestant family in Estère, Artibonite, Samuel Madistin holds a degree in Civil Engineering from the Institut Supérieur Technique d'Haiti (ISTH), a bachelor's degree in Law from the Faculty of Law and Economic Sciences in Gonaïves, a bachelor's degree in Political Science with a major in International Relations from the Institut National d'Administration, de Gestion et des Hautes Etudes Internationales (INAGHEI), and a master's degree in Development Science from the Department of Development Sciences of the Faculty of Ethnology.</p> <p>He has also studied International Conflict Prevention and Management at the International Institute of Public Administration (IIAP) in Paris, International Development Law at the IDLO in Rome, Italy and has attended training seminars for trainers in Human Rights at the Academy of Versailles and Strasbourg (France).</p> <p>Former deputy of the people in the 45th Parliament, former senator of the Republic in the 46th and 47th Parliament, author of a book on the Role of the Legislative Power in the Modern Functioning of the State, Samuel Madistin currently runs a law firm in Port-au-Prince. A human rights activist for more than twenty years, he is currently president of the Board of Directors of the Fondasyon Je Klere (FJKL) and teaches citizenship and human rights education courses and the law of obligations at the university.</p>
	<p>John Carr writes and consults about internet safety and security. He is one of the world's leading authorities on children's and young people's use of the internet and associated new technologies. Based in London John works extensively across the UK and in many parts of the world. John has also worked on issues of digital inclusion, particularly around older people's use of technology.</p>

	<p>John is or has been a Senior Expert Adviser to the United Nations (International Telecommunication Union), an Expert Adviser to the European Union and the European Network and Information Security Agency and has been an adviser to the Council of Europe in relation to the online aspects of the Lanzarote Convention. He acts as an adviser to the UK Government on matters connected with domain name registrations in relation to the remit of the Public Safety Working Group of the Governmental Advisory Committee of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).</p> <p>John is Senior Technical Adviser (Online), to Bangkok-based global NGO ECPAT International, Expert Adviser to the European NGO Alliance for Child Safety Online (eNACSO), which is administered by Save the Children, Italy, and Secretary of the UK's Children's Charities' Coalition on Internet Safety (CHIS).</p>
	<p>Patricia Fietz joined the International Center for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC.org) in October 2020 and is now the Director of Government Relations and Strategic Growth. ICMEC is a global NGO, based in Alexandria, Virginia, USA.</p> <p>Patricia is an international professional and a retired career diplomat, having worked in the U.S. Foreign Service for nearly a quarter of a century. She began her career in 1994 at the United States Information Service in Cairo, Egypt. She subsequently served in the U.S. State Department in Colombia, France, Hong Kong, Syria, Washington and Toronto, Canada. She served as Consul General in Guayaquil, Ecuador 2014-2017 and as Minister Counselor at the Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait 2017-2018. Upon retirement, she took a break from policy work to open an "online" photo cookie bakery in Batavia, New York. Prior to joining the U.S. Foreign Service, Patricia taught English in Spain and Greece, Italian in the United States and worked in the tourism industry in Spain, Tunisia and Switzerland.</p>

	<p>Patricia holds a Masters in International Relations from Boston University; a Masters in Public Policy and a Certificate in Urban Planning from Princeton University; and a Certificate in Hispanic Studies from the University of Salamanca, Spain. She is originally from Western New York State, where she earned a B.A. in Spanish and Italian Studies from the University at Buffalo. She speaks Spanish, Italian, French and Arabic.</p>
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Day Two: Finding solutions in legal frameworks and by involving survivors

Moderator	
	<p>Jasmine O'Connor is the CEO of Anti-slavery International. She has extensive leadership experience in international human rights work, leading campaigns that combine practical grassroots programmes with policy change initiatives at multiple levels. Before joining Anti-Slavery, she worked with ADD International (Action on Disability and Development), where she lead its disability rights programmes across five countries in Asia and Africa as International Programmes Director. She has held advisory positions with the UK Department of International Development and the UK Foreign Office. In 2016 she was awarded an OBE for services to international human rights and development.</p>
Keynote Speaker	



Carlos Pérez is the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section at UNODC. He is a lawyer from the Universidad Autónoma de Bucaramanga UNAB, and is a Specialist in Criminal Law. He has his Master's in International Human Rights Law from the Universidad para la Paz UPEACE in Costa Rica, a diploma in International Systems for the Protection of Human Rights from American University and the Inter-American Commission Human Rights IACHR, with additional studies in gender and transitional justice at the Universidad Del Rosario in Colombia.

In his professional career, he has worked as a consultant for non-governmental organizations on issues of forced displacement, women's rights, and child protection. He was a Professor of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in international law, criminal law and human rights. Before joining the United Nations, he served as Advisor to the Human Rights Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and since 2008 he is the Coordinator of the Project against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime UNODC in Colombia. He has provided assistance to the National Government in the implementation of international standards and 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 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.

Panelists



Matt Stark Blumin is General Counsel for the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. Matt has over a decade of experience as an attorney advocating for the rights of working people to achieve dignity, respect, and just compensation. As General Counsel of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), Matt advises CIW in all legal matters, including its award-winning Fair Food Program, which protects farm workers' human rights through legally-binding Fair Food Agreements with major food retailers such as McDonald's and Wal-Mart. Previously, Matt was Associate General Counsel of the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME), where his work focused on defending union members' rights in constitutional litigation and government financial restructurings (including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and City of Detroit), as well as supporting new organizing initiatives. Matt began his practice of law as a legal services lawyer representing Pennsylvania farmworkers and food processing workers, with an emphasis on representing survivors of workplace sexual harassment and assault. He received his law degree from Stanford Law School, and is fluent in Spanish.



Dr. Jason Haynes is Deputy Dean (Graduate Studies & Research), University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados. He previously served as Senior Legal Officer at the British High Commission, Bridgetown, Barbados, where he acted in the capacity of an international lawyer for the UK Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) International Division. He is an Academic Fellow at the Honourable Society of Middle Temple, UK; an O'Brien Fellow in Residence at McGill University, Canada; and a Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy. He is an attorney-at-law admitted to practise in St Vincent and the Grenadines and Barbados, and is the author of the monograph, *Caribbean Anti-Trafficking Law and Practice* (Hart Publishing, Oxford, 2019), which has been well received by lawyers and judges globally, including Mrs. Justice Maura McGowan DBE QC, High Court Judge of England and Wales, who has described the book in her review as "a challenging

	<p>intellectual workout”.</p> <p>Jason has recently been appointed as a Trafficking in Persons (TIP) International Legal Consultant for the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) in Barbados, and is the National Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery at the International Academy of Comparative.</p>
	<p>Andrew Wallis is the CEO of Unseen UK.</p> <p>What ultimately compelled him to act was a report on how people from Eastern Europe were being trafficked through Bristol airport to the USA. Kate Garbers, who went on to be an Unseen Director, and he wrote to all the city councillors, MPs and the Police Chief Constable challenging them on the issue. The challenge came back to them: this city needs safe housing for trafficked women. And so Unseen began.</p> <p>But they never wanted Unseen to be just about safe housing. They wanted to end slavery once and for all, and that remains their driving focus.</p> <p>He chaired the working group for the Centre for Social Justice’s landmark report “It Happens Here: Equipping the United Kingdom to Fight Modern Slavery”. This is now acknowledged as the catalyst behind the UK’s Modern Slavery Act of 2015. It was a great honour for him to be awarded an OBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours that year. On the other hand, he’s also been described as “the loveliest disrupter you could ever hope to meet”.</p> <p>This job has taken him from building flat-pack furniture for safehouses, to working with businesses to address slavery in supply chains, to delivering training, raising awareness and advising governments around the world.</p>



Coleen Hedglin is the Grants Director at Beyond Borders. She joined Beyond Borders in 1999 after serving two years with the Peace Corps in Haiti. For many years, she worked for Beyond Borders in Haiti to accompany colleagues in program start-up and management. Based in the U.S. since 2012, Ms. Hedglin oversees Beyond Borders' grant fundraising.




Anita Teekah, Esq. is the Senior Director of the Anti-Trafficking Program at Safe Horizon. She oversees an interdisciplinary team of attorneys, social workers, trainers, and administrative staff that provide comprehensive services to all victims of human trafficking. ATP clients are sex and/or labor trafficked, comprise all genders, and hail from over 80 countries. Anita also spearheads ATP's policy and advocacy efforts and represents the program in national, state, and local level coalitions, including the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) and Freedom Network USA. On behalf of ATP, Anita has lobbied in support of reauthorizing the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act. She co-leads the Brooklyn Human Trafficking Task Force with the Kings County District Attorneys Office and the US Attorneys Office for the EDNY. Prior to coming to Safe Horizon, Anita worked with child labor and sex trafficking victims and child laborers in the Philippines and was a litigator.



Ms. Tina Frundt has been actively raising awareness of the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) since 2000. A high profile national advocate on the issue of domestic sex trafficking and a survivor of CSEC, Ms. Frundt is deeply committed to helping other children and youth, who are living through experiences similar to her own. She has been featured on numerous national shows and publications, including the OWN Network's *Our America with Lisa Ling: 3AM Girls*, which featured an undercover look into sex trafficking in Washington, DC, the CNN Freedom Project, and in 2016 the Whitney Young Unsung Heroes award by the Urban Institute. In 2010, she became the first

	<p>U.S. citizen to receive the Free the Slaves Freedom Awards-Frederick Douglas Award, which recognizes survivors of sex trafficking who use their life in freedom to help others. In 2016 she was appointed by President Obama to the First White House Survivor Advisory Board.</p> <p>Ms. Frundt trains law enforcement and other non-profit groups, and is also a member of the Washington, D.C., State of Maryland and Prince Georges County Anti-Trafficking Task Force, she was also appointed by the Governor of Maryland to the Safe Harbor Working group.</p> <p>She has testified before the U.S. Congress about her own experiences and the need for greater protection and services for trafficked persons. She is the founder and executive director of Courtney's House, which provides direct services for domestic sex trafficked males and females ages 11 – 24yrs in the Washington D.C. metro area. Since its inception, Courtney's House and Ms. Frundt have helped over 2,000 survivors get out of their trafficking situations.</p>
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Day Three: Building networks and cooperations

Moderator	
	<p>Smith Maximé has served as Haiti country director for Free the Slaves since 2011. A Haitian national, Smith completed his primary, secondary and university studies in Haiti. Early in his career, he worked in journalism and communications. He later devoted his time to organizational capacity building, the promotion of the rights of vulnerable groups, gender equality and project management.</p> <p>During the past decade, Smith has worked alongside Haitian non-governmental and community-based organizations to strengthen organizational and institutional systems, conducting organizational assessments and developing and implementing programs to strengthen institutional capacity. In his work against discrimination, he has</p>

	<p>worked with organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS, disabled people and individuals involved in the sex industry.</p> <p>A strong focus of this work has been assisting these groups to build networks for the promotion of their own rights. In 2006, Smith joined the office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Haiti, where he spent five years as the gender and rights program manager. In this role, the promotion of women's rights, especially the prevention of gender-based violence, was an important part of his work.</p> <p>Smith completed his university studies in law, and earned a master's degree in project development at Quisqueya University.</p>
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Keynote Speaker



Since March 2017, **Thomas Wissing** has served 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, Deputy Director and Director as well as programme advisor for UNDP and as a research fellow for the German Development Institute, amongst others.

Panelists



Terry FitzPatrick has more than 35 years of radio, television, print and Internet journalism and communications experience, serving as an organizational spokesperson, media relations officer, campaign strategist, social media and website content creator, video photographer-producer and on-camera presenter, media skills and interviewing trainer, newsroom and communications unit manager, and event organizer and producer.

He has extensive experience documenting human trafficking and best practices to confront it, serving as the communications and advocacy writer, film producer, and media relations officer for Free the Slaves. He has produced films on modern slavery in 12 countries and has conducted media skills training projects in 17 countries. He serves as the co-chair of the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking policy coalition, supervised coordination of the 2019 and 2020 Freedom from Slavery Forums, and has supported Free the Slaves participation in the Global Coordinating Group of Alliance 8.7.

Before joining Free the Slaves, he reported for public radio and television, as well as writing for the Dallas Morning News and producing documentaries for the Discovery Channel and History Channel. He majored in broadcast journalism at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.







Beatriz Sagrado

- Expert in Social Intervention against Gender Violence.
- Consultant on Gender, Health and Violence
- Gender and Empowerment Studies
- Humanitarian Medicine
- Human Rights and Humanitarian Emergencies

For more than 29 years she has been developing extensive experience in the NGO sector. She frequently occupies positions of responsibility.

Professional activities, investigations, diagnoses, lectures, communications, courses and participatory workshops taught and / or coordinated, in lines related to Prostitution, Trafficking; Violence and

	<p>Health; Political participation of women; Sexual and Reproductive Health, among others both nationally and internationally.</p> <p>Training activities for NGOs, Universities, State Security Forces and Bodies (FCSE), Social agents, Administration and private sector, in the areas of: Human Rights, International instruments in the fight against Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation purposes , Health and Gender Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Rights.</p>
	<p>Angharad Smith is a Programme Officer for the Modern Slavery Programme at United Nations University Centre for Policy Research. Prior to joining the Centre, Ms Smith held a research and policy internship at ECPAT International Secretariat in Bangkok, where she conducted secondary research into the sexual exploitation of children. Before her internship, she supervised a team of researchers at the University of Nottingham Rights Lab responsible for delivering data collection on government response to modern slavery for the Walk Free Foundation's 2019: 'Measurement, Action and Freedom' report.</p>
	<p>Erin Phelps is Senior Adviser to the CEO of the Freedom Fund, a non-profit that identifies and invests in the most effective frontline efforts to eradicate modern slavery in the countries and sectors where it is most prevalent. Her current role focuses on advising senior leadership and leading on strategy, advocacy and policy.</p> <p>Previously, Erin spent five years mobilizing philanthropic capital for the Freedom Fund. She has also worked with a range of non-profit organizations including GoodWeave International, Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service and Adhikaar. As a Fulbright Student Researcher in Nepal, she conducted qualitative research on the effects of labor migration on young people. She worked with the Nepal Institute of Development Studies and IOM Nepal and presented her work at Tribhuvan University and the Nepal National Conference on Migration.</p>

	Erin received her BA in Sociology from Pomona College and is a World Economic Forum Global Shaper. She lives in Brooklyn, NY.
	Bridget Wooding is a researcher, advocate, writer, trainer, and expert witness on statelessness and related issues. She has coordinated the Caribbean Migration and Development Observatory (OBMICA), based in Santo Domingo (www.obmica.org), since its inception in 2009. She is the author of numerous publications, including books and articles on nationality matters and the migration dynamics affecting the Dominican Republic, the island of Hispaniola, the insular Caribbean, and respective Diasporas.
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.