

9th Annual Global Freedom From Slavery Forum

*“Revitalizing the Anti-Modern Slavery Movement- Enabling Local Responses and
Coordinating Global Solutions”*

**Global Forum Report
Marrakech, Morocco
March 27-30, 2022**

www.freedomfromslaveryforum.org

Prepared By :





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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.

However, as the world reeled from the impact of the Covid-19 global pandemic, and the anti-modern slavery movement faced the daunting reality of a new world with ever-increasing challenges, the need for more integrative, innovative and collaborative approaches to addressing modern slavery became overwhelmingly apparent. While countries have taken measures to contain the COVID-19 global pandemic, modern slavery – including sexual slavery, child labor, forced labor and human trafficking – has grown worse. Civil society organizations are at the forefront of this 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. Thus, the global COVID-19 pandemic further served to highlight the critical importance of the Freedom from Slavery Forum to the anti-modern slavery movement. .

For the first time since the beginning of the pandemic in spring 2020, the global Forum could be held in person and thus, presented an opportunity for participants from all over the world to come together after two years. This served as a chance for collaborations and partnerships to be established, as well as a huge opportunity for participants to network within their field.

Furthermore, the Forum helped to connect civil society organizations not only to each other but to global coalitions such as Alliance 8.7, a global partnership committed to achieve SDG 8.7 by 2030. Previously, delegates from the regional Forums drafted action steps to strengthen their engagement with governments, international businesses, unions and worker organizations, as well as with each other. This global approach served as the basis for the decision to hold the 2022 Forum in Marrakesh, Morocco. The Forum was convened in Marrakech to honor the commitment made by the Government of Morocco through its work at the Alliance 8.7. Morocco is a Pathfinder Country under the Alliance 8.7. As the Alliance states, "Pathfinder countries commit to:



- Develop, adopt and put into practice improved legislation, national action plans or policies on child labour, forced labour, modern slavery and/or human trafficking
- Translate public commitments into concrete actions after having signed the Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and/or made a pledge to implement the Buenos Aires Declaration of the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour (Buenos Aires, 14-16 November 2017) or similar initiatives
- Ratify, or actively work towards the ratification or implementation of, applicable international human rights standards, including international labor standards.”

Early iterations of the Freedom from Slavery Forum were held in North America but for the past several years, it has been a priority to expand accessibility for participants around the world. As such, the most recent in-person Forums had been held in Asia and Africa. Given the prevalence of modern slavery in the Middle East and North African region, it was a natural next step to hold the 2022 Global Forum there.

2022 Global Forum Format and Participation

Anti-modern slavery movement leaders were invited to come to Marrakech, Morocco, from March 27-30, 2022 to take part in the global Forum and to discuss issues most pertinent to every region, as well as to contribute to “Revitalizing the Anti-Modern Slavery Movement: Enabling Local Responses and Coordinating Global Solutions”. The Forum was an opportunity to increase participation, interaction, networking, learning and sharing between different stakeholders from different regions. Furthermore, it served to amplify the voices of grassroots and survivor-led organizations, and those of survivors themselves. Having representatives from each continent present at the Forum allowed participants to gain knowledge about the regional priorities, as well as to come together to find global solutions.

Each day’s programming centered around a different theme, starting with a more regional focus on streamlining the most important engagements within the movement and providing a space to come up with ideas for effective solutions and collaborations. Day one focused on “Streamlining key threats, and the regional and global priorities”, Day two centered around “Streamlining key engagements” and Day three addressed “Ideas for an effective coordination, resource mobilization and structure of the Forum”.

Each day was opened by a welcoming speech followed by a keynote speaker. After, several panels featuring multiple speakers were held, each one being closed with a Q&A session. Some of the panels foresaw workshops in which participants could discuss the findings further and after which, a group representative reported back to the participants in the plenary room. The panels were recorded and can be accessed [here](#). The recordings do not include the Q&A sessions as these were held under Chatham house rules, meaning that participants were given the opportunity to speak freely without being recorded or without speaking on behalf of their organization.

Furthermore, please be aware that some of the survivors chose to share their stories of which some are available on the website as well and may trigger some viewers.

At the end of the convening, participants left Morocco with newly gained knowledge on the connection between COVID-19, climate change and modern slavery, a better understanding of regional and global priorities, as well as of the works of key engagements such as survivor leadership, governments, Alliance 8.7, policy, and research. Furthermore, participants could share their ideas to make collaboration within the anti-slavery sector and beyond.

Opening Ceremony

The Global Freedom From Slavery Forum 2022 commenced with an opening ceremony the evening before the first official day of the conference. This gathering provided the first opportunity of many throughout the Forum, for participants to network with each other.

A welcome speech was given by **Bukeni Waruzi**, Executive Director of the Forum Secretariat, Free the Slaves. He emphasized the importance of this Forum as the first opportunity for leaders to come together after having been denied the opportunity to meet in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Bukeni encouraged those present to use this opportunity to network with one another, to create new collaborations and partnerships, and to exchange ideas, experiences and expertise over the next three days of panels and workshops.

Following Bukeni's welcome, **Timothy Patrick McCarthy Ph.D.**, Professor at Harvard University and Board Chair of Free the Slaves, joined online to remind participants that even though modern slavery may look different across time and space, its fundamental characteristics are the same. These include people being forced to work against their will and under regimes of violence, oppression, without being compensated, and with very limited options of freedom available to them. He emphasized that the purpose of the movement is to eradicate those structures that remain within the system and that consistently allow the continuation of modern slavery in its various forms.

Next, **Mara Vanderslice-Kelly** introduced the presentation of the Elkes Impact Awards. These awards were established with the purpose of recognizing the tremendous work that local advocate survivors and civil society organizations have been and are doing in their communities in order to shed light on their often forgotten contributions. They provide an opportunity for the global movement to take inspiration from the recipients as well as encourage them to continue their excellent work. The awards were named after Dan Elkes, founder of the Freedom From Slavery Forum, with the aim to boost grassroots involvement in the anti-slavery movement.



Two awards were presented in two distinct categories: Most Impactful Survivor Advocate and Most Impactful Community-based Organization. The first award was presented by **Marcia Eugenio** who announced the winner **Grace Kalekye Mwangangi** of Kenya. Grace was selected based on her incredible achievements and courageous efforts, as well as being an embodiment of using her experiences to aid others. The second award was presented by **Evelyn Chumbow** and recognized the hard and meaningful work of the Survivor Network Cameroon as represented by **Awah Francisca Mbuli**. The Survivor Network of Cameroon was selected for its passionate efforts in advocating against human trafficking and dedication to rehabilitating survivors of modern slavery.

Day One: Streamlining Key Threats, and the Regional and Global Priorities

Overview

The first day served to streamline key threats and the regional priorities established in the five virtual regional forums that took place throughout 2021. The day and its findings acted as an introduction and foundation for the rest of the conference.

Topics for discussion throughout the first day included the relationship between COVID-19 and modern slavery, as well as climate change and modern slavery, as well as a reminder of the delicacy of the subject through the testimony of a survivor. Furthermore, the participants were divided according to the region they were associated with to hold workshops on the regional priorities, with the goal of finding overarching priorities and recommendations, as well as to establish ways in which the different actors in a region and beyond could increase their cooperation and coordination.

The day's programming contemplated questions such as:

- What is the role of COVID-19 both in driving and fighting modern slavery?
- How are climate change and modern slavery interrelated and how can the movements collaborate?
- What are the regional priorities for Africa, Asia, Latin America, MENA, Europe, North America, and the Caribbean?
- Have the regional priorities been accurately identified in the regional forums? If not, what are recommended changes or additions?

Welcome and Opening

Bukeni Waruzi, Executive Director of Free the Slaves, officially opened the Forum and thanked the host country Morocco and its government representatives for their hospitality and warm welcome.

The Mistress of Ceremony, **Davina Durgana**, introduced **Lina El Azam** who spoke on behalf of the Moroccan division of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as well as the Counter Human Trafficking Programme Manager, **Abdelkarim Boujradi**, the Secretary General of the Interministerial Delegation for Human Rights of Morocco, and **Fatima-Zahra Ma-el-ainin**, the Special Advisor to the Minister of Justice. They shared Morocco's efforts to eradicate modern slavery in recent years, having adopted national action plans, policies, and strategies, as well as having passed laws to counter human trafficking, and the creation of a national commission.



Keynote address

After hearing from the Moroccan government representatives, **Sandra Ferrinni** from Uruguay was introduced as the first keynote speaker of the Forum. She gave a moving testimony of her story as a victim of human trafficking all over the world for many years and reminded everyone of the delicacy of the topic. She also shared her story as a survivor of human trafficking and discussed her efforts to fight this crime and to make sure that no person has to go through what she went through. Sandra emphasized the urgency of making silenced voices heard and to work against the power inequalities that persist today that allow the continuation of all forms of modern slavery.

Panel 1: Covid-19 and Modern Slavery

- **Moderator:** Layla Saad | Pathy Foundation
- **Speakers:**
 - Melissa Yao | National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance | USA
 - Helen Sworn | Chab Dai | UK
 - Grace Mukwaya | Platform for Labour Action (PLA) | Uganda
 - Lucy Turay | Domestic Workers Advocacy Network | Sierra Leone
 - David Okech | APRIES | USA

The first panel focused on COVID-19 and modern slavery in an attempt to establish the best practices at the community level to boost resilience. The moderator, **Layla Saad** from the Pathy Foundation, reminded everyone of the disruption the pandemic has caused since 2020 and the crises it has given rise to. Many of the most vulnerable people have suffered the most from the consequences and this panel served to establish how and what to do to solve this. Each of the panelists gave an overview of their work and their strategies and methodologies used to combat modern slavery.

Key Insights:

Melissa Yao shared that the US saw a consistent increase in requests for services since the beginning of the pandemic, but a decrease of funding since many funders have allocated their funds to COVID-related projects. **Helen Sworn** followed up by highlighting the difficulties she had in connecting different organizations on the ground in Cambodia throughout the pandemic. Having conducted a study on how different international organizations dealt with these issues, she shared the recommendation to better integrate and strengthen responses in communities, such as the development of partnerships between different organizations and different levels of governance. **Grace Mukwaya** emphasized a strong need to hold private actors involved in the trafficking of persons accountable for their actions and deemed training of duty-bearers, officials, and other actors involved in battling modern slavery. She also highlighted the need to train officials in the judicial systems to understand the urgency of human trafficking cases in order for there to be an increase in prosecution, as well as to continuously include survivor voices within the movement. **Lucy Turay**, founder and director of DOWAN and a survivor herself, emphasized the role of poverty and the connected vulnerabilities people in Africa face in their search for resources to survive. According to her, this is a huge issue as sufficient work opportunities would allow Africans to stay in their countries and would protect them from the dangers of going abroad to work.

Professor David Okech, rounded off the panel by sharing on the similarities between the responses to human trafficking and those to COVID-19. Furthermore, David placed emphasis on the role of poverty as the main factor driving human trafficking and the need to focus on the underlying causes of human trafficking.

Panel 2: Climate Change and Modern Slavery

- **Moderator:** Sophie Otiende | GFEMS | Kenya
- **Speakers:**
 - Grace Forrest | Walk Free | Australia
 - Fiorella Antonella Cubas Bravo | El Foco | Peru
 - Jasmine O'Connor | Antislavery International | UK

The second panel was on the interrelation between climate change and modern slavery. The panel's moderator **Sophie Otiende** gave a short introduction to the topic to open the second panel of the first day. The speakers emphasized the need for intersectional solutions that benefit those most affected directly. The discussion also criticized the way the climate change and modern slavery movement have failed to see the intersectionality of the two, as well as the unsatisfactory role of women in finding solutions.

Key insights:

Fiorella Cubas began by speaking about the effects of climate change on informal mining and shared the devastating effects it has had. Furthermore, she emphasized the need for programs that benefit the victims directly and create job opportunities outside of the illegal sector. **Jasmine O'Connor** then spoke on the need for an intersectional approach to the issue of climate change, emphasizing the need for organizations against climate change to cooperate in order to stand a chance. She also highlighted the issue of the tremendous migration flows that are expected to result from the climate changing and the consequences this has for vulnerable populations. **Grace Forrest** emphasized the symbiotic relationship between climate change and modern slavery, sharing the work Walk Free has done in terms of research, such as on the consequences of forced labor on CO2 emissions. She also reminded participants of the unequal distributions of those contributing to the warming of the climate, those suffering the gravest consequences and those bearing the responsibilities. Grace also criticized the way the climate change and modern slavery movements have failed to see the intersectionality of the two, as well as the unsatisfactory role of women in finding solutions.

Panel 3: Regional Priorities and Outcomes

- **Moderator:** Daisy Nabasitu | Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions Kampala | Uganda
- **Speakers:**
 - Evelyn Chumbow | Human Trafficking Legal Center/Free the Slaves | USA
 - Rima Kalush | Migrant Rights | Libya
 - Tina Frundt | Courtney's House | USA
 - Carolina Rudnick | Libera | Chile
 - Ritz Lee | BALAOD Mindanaw | Philippines

The third panel, moderated by **Daisy Nabasitu**, served to give an overview of the regional priorities that were established during the regional forums held in 2021 for each region: Africa, Asia, Latin America, MENA and Europe, North America, and the Caribbean. Each of the panelists represented and reported on one of the regions.

Evelyn Chumbow focused on the need for African governments to do better in supporting their citizens and in putting into place stronger policies and mechanisms to eliminate human trafficking from their countries.

Ritz Lee shared an overview of the Asian recommendations as collected during the regional forums, emphasizing the need to focus on priorities that can realistically be implemented. As the two most important themes in moving forward, Ritz named the need for trauma-informed care and survivor-centered programs.

Carolina Rudnick shared the priorities concerning Latin America, which center around the obligations of civil society organizations, Alliance 8.7, government, academia, and businesses. Civil society organizations must stress the importance of a governmental agenda that prioritizes human trafficking, and human trafficking must be seen as a human rights issue, rather than a criminal justice issue. Government must allocate resources to address human trafficking, establish policies to finance these activities, and enhance inter-institutional mechanisms. Victim identification mechanisms, in particular, need to be strengthened and are especially relevant when considering migrant populations.



Rima Kalush spoke on the strong need for legal and political reforms in the MENA region. Her focus here laid on the kafala system of the Gulf countries, as well as labor and trafficking legislation and the obstacles in reaching these reforms. She also highlighted the need to amplify victim and survivor voices and to involve them in every step of the way, as well as to support them in destination countries.

Tina Frundt highlighted the need to include American citizens in the conversation on modern slavery in the US and paying attention to race. Most of the youth she works with have an African-American or Latinx background yet there is a continuous focus on Caucasian victims, which leads to African American and Latinx victims and their traumas being rendered invisible.

Panel 4: Reporting on Workshop 1 - Analyzing the Priorities

- **Moderator:** Diep Vuong | Pacific Links Foundation | USA
- **Speakers:**
 - Annette Mbogoh | Kituo cha Sheria-Legal Advice Centre | Kenya
 - Ritz Lee | BALAOD Mindanaw | Philippines
 - Fiorella Antonella Cubas Bravo | El Foco | Peru
 - Linda Al-Kalash | Tamkeen | Jordan
 - Adrian Alexander | CURB | Trinidad and Tobago

After having been divided into five groups based on the overarching regional priorities that were established in the regional forums, the participants came back together in the plenary room and **Diep Vuong** led the representatives of each group through a summarizing discussion of the workshop. This workshop served to find similarities in regional priorities in order to find ways in which the regions could cooperate.

Annette Mbogoh presented the feedback from the Africa group. She focused on the need for regional cooperation, both among governments and non-governmental organizations. Additionally, she highlighted the gap between existing legal frameworks and a lack of implementation that needs to be overcome.

Fiorella Cubas shared that one of the priorities for the region is to strengthen civil society organizations' capacity to contribute to the establishment of robust public policies that address the structural causes of human trafficking. In Latin America, millions are affected by poverty and precarious labor. The environmental and legal context play an important role and contribute to individual circumstances. Public policies have the potential to generate changes. However, public policies and civil society organizations are not in sync with current realities.

The priorities for the MENA region were presented by **Linda Al-Kalash**. She focused on legal frameworks within the region and shared that while there had been advancements in the development of legal frameworks, there was still a big challenge in implementation. She placed emphasis on the kafala system that is still the remaining legal framework in the Gulf states and poses a challenge to workers' and migrants' rights. Moreover, Linda highlighted the need for governments of countries of origin and of destination to work closely together.

To represent Asia, **Ritz Lee** shared four major themes that were highlighted in the workshop: policy development and advocacy, capacity building, supporting survivors, and creating regional mechanisms for both governments and the civil society. Furthermore, he asked the global movement to find ways to connect between sending and receiving countries to increase collaboration.

Adrian Alexander shared that there persists a need to close legislative loopholes in all Europe, North America, and the Caribbean, as well as a need for survivor empowerment and leadership. A focus on the root causes of modern slavery have to be addressed in order to introduce a more proactive approach. Additionally, there remains a need to involve private actors in the fight against modern slavery and to hold them accountable.

Day Two: Streamlining Key Engagements

Overview

Like Day 1, Day 2 of the Forum began with a keynote address and included five panel discussions, and two workshops.

The panels were centered around survivor leadership and engagement, government, Alliance 8.7 and policy engagement, and research engagement to showcase the different contributions of sub-fields within the sector to the anti-slavery movement. Panelists shared their best practices and were able to discuss different ways in which actors can push towards the eradication of modern slavery. The two workshops, one on survivor leadership and engagement and Alliance 8.7 and government engagement, and one on research engagement, served as a space for open discussion among the participants and an opportunity to exchange ideas.

Topics for discussion throughout the day included different ways in which survivor voices can be amplified, how Alliance 8.7 is contributing to the eradication of modern slavery, what CSOs can do to be more effective, what governments have done and are doing and how research can be made more accessible.

The day's programming contemplated questions such as:

- What is missing in the anti-slavery sector/movement to make it more effective?
- How is the Alliance 8.7 contributing to the eradication of modern slavery and how can civil society support them?
- What is the role of research within the movement?
- How can research become more accessible and open up to more engagement from non-academic actors, especially survivors?
- What is the Global Slavery Index and how can it be used?

Welcome and Opening

The second day was opened by Awah Francisca Mbuli who welcomed the participants back for the day's proceedings. Awah highlighted the importance of this Forum and encouraged everyone to keep working to achieve the collective goal of ending modern slavery.

Keynote Address

The keynote address was delivered by **Grace Forrest** of Walk Free and Sophie Otiende of GFEMS who both gave a small overview of the work they do with their organizations. The two women set the tone for the day by discussing the difference between a movement and a sector, why this conversation is so important and the role that survivors play in this. Within this, Sophie voiced her concerns with the structure of the sector/movement as it stands now and offered her support for other organizations in finding better ways to include survivors in every step of the process when combatting modern slavery, as the anti-slavery movement continues to be a movement that doesn't have those who have been most impacted at the forefront. The discussion emphasized the need for more collaboration and greater coordination both within the sector and with other sectors and movements to expand expertise and action, as well as the need to hold each other accountable.

Panel 5: Survivor Leadership and Engagement

- **Moderator:** Ursula Antwi-Boasiako | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office | UK
- **Speakers:**
 - Grace Kalekye | Advocate and Artist | Kenya
 - Awah Francisca Mbuli | Survivor's Network | Cameroon
 - Caleb Ng'ombo | People Serving Girls At Risk | Malawi
 - Tina Frundt | Courtney's House | USA
 - Kelsey Morgan | EverFree | USA



Presentations in this panel centered around the role of power within the movement that has to further be allocated to survivors.

Key Insights:

Kelsey Morgan reminded participants of the forum that the concept of empowerment requires an acknowledgement that some hold more power than others. **Grace Kalekye**, deemed it crucial to involve survivors in project planning, considering the major role their contribution plays, as well as advocacy work. Grace emphasized that while survivors may not be as educated in the institutionalized way, their experiences give them the qualification to become leaders and teachers. **Tina Frundt** highlighted that from a survivor perspective, there is still a substantial amount of exploitation within the anti-slavery movement resulting from not giving survivors the leadership they deserve and are entitled to. She focused on the work that survivors are expected to do within the movement that they are not compensated for, from reading through documents to sharing their experiences and expertise. **Caleb Ng'ombo** also emphasized the need to always put the biggest focus on the dignity of all survivors getting involved in the movement in whatever way.

Panel 6: Government, Alliance 8.7 and Policy Engagement

- **Moderator:** Njeri Kagotho | Ohio State University, College of Social Work | USA
- **Speakers:**
 - Marcia Eugenio | Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking in US ILO | USA
 - Ursula Antwi-Boasiako | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office | UK
 - Thomas Wissing | Alliance 8.7 | Switzerland
 - Sandra Camacho Padilla | SICAR-CAT | Spain
 - Andrews Kananga | Legal Aid Forum | Rwanda

The sixth panel was concerned with the engagements of governments, the Alliance 8.7 and policy in the movement. Out of the five speakers, three joined online, and the panelists shared their expertise on the anti-slavery movement on a more governmental level.

Key Insights:

Thomas Wissing shared how Alliance 8.7 serves as a catalyst and has over 400 different partners that are somehow involved in the anti-slavery movement as well as the Pathfinder countries that are committing themselves to the purpose of the Alliance. **Marcia Eugenio** emphasized the importance of improving the situation in destination countries of human trafficking to decrease those pull factors that lead to vulnerable people ending up as victims of modern slavery. **Ursula Antwi-Boasiako** shared some insights on the work the UK government has done on their journey to eradicate modern slavery and the changes that have been made in the legislative framework, focusing on the Anti-Slavery Act of 2015, as well as further laws that have been put into place since then. **Andrews Kananga** placed focus on the influence the civil society has in changing old laws and developing new laws, and in engaging with the governments and putting pressure on them. Additionally, CSOs have to be informed on national action plans that can be used to hold governments accountable and to be involved in the creation of these. **Sandra Camacho Padilla** shared a need for the three Ps, which stand for Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution, to have an addition of a fourth P for Partnership work. She shared the ways in which her organization works along the lines of the framework and gave insights into different kinds of partnerships.

Panel 7: Report on Workshop 2 - Survivor Leadership, Alliance 8.7 and Government Engagement

- **Moderator:** Nes Parker | Deloitte | USA
- **Speakers:**
 - Nasreen Sheikh | Empowerment Collective | India
 - Carolina Rudnick | Libera | Chile

After two distinct workshops on survivor leadership and the engagement of Alliance 8.7 and governments respectively, participants came back to the plenary room for a panel reporting back from the sessions. **Nes Parker** from Deloitte led the discussion.



Nasreen Sheik voiced her concerns that by seeing profit as the primary objective in today's world, people and a sustainable purpose were left behind constantly. She also introduced the 7 Keys for Global Human Rights Campaign which hold the keys to unlock unlimited human potential: protected environment, clean water, nutritious food, safe shelter, quality education, health care, and access to technology. **Carolina Rudnick** gave a summary of the discussion held in the workshop on the Alliance 8.7 and Government Engagement. The link between Alliance 8.7 and human rights due diligence was analyzed, mapping opportunities of advocacy between the different legal frameworks. Additionally, the possibility of connecting among NGOs and addressing jointly the performance of States regarding Alliance 8.7 was discussed, concluding that there is space for international advocacy and collaboration to promote further advances in the anti trafficking and anti force labor national agendas.

Panel 8: Research Engagement

- **Moderator:** Mustafa Qadri | Equidem | UK
- **Speakers:**
 - Minh Dang | Survivor Alliance | UK
 - David Okech | APRIES | USA
 - Jacqueline Larsen | Walk Free | Switzerland
 - Juliana Rinaldi Semione | Rights Lab | UK
 - Benu Maya Gurung | AATWIN | Nepal

Mustafa Qadri moderated this discussion in which panelists talked about the role of research in ending modern slavery and influencing resistance, as well as what needs to change within academia to make it more effective.

Key Insights:

When asked about the influence research has on the eradication of modern slavery and on policies and how it can influence community resistance and resilience, **Juliana Rinaldi Semione** emphasized that it is crucial for academics to be in close contact with practitioners, policy makers and those communities affected the most, for their research to be impactful. **Benu Maya Gurung** emphasized that research can only go as far as to come up with recommendations that then have to be implemented by the practitioners, and she showed how they involve the communities and stakeholders in their research projects. **David Okech** reminded the participants that every problem precedes research, meaning that research will always be behind. According to David, the main role of research is to try to explain things in the most systematic way. **Jacqueline Larsen** pointed out that research can serve to understand human trafficking and how it changes over time. Therefore, those who have the power to create change have to be pressured based on evidence of the gravity of an issue. **Minh Dang** shared some recommendations for the movement to improve the wellbeing of survivors. Moreover, she also reminded participants that if research can answer key questions it can be utilized in practice and can drive change tremendously.

Panel 9: Report on Workshop 3 - Research Engagement

- **Moderator:** Annette Kirabira | Rahab Uganda | Uganda
- **Speakers:**
 - Juliana Rinaldi Semione | Rights Lab | UK
 - Katharine Bryant | Walk Free | Australia
 - Shivan Pavin Alungat | Azadi | Kenya



Annette Kirabira moderated this session which focused on the value of research, shared the limitations researchers and those with lived experience come up against in the field, and how to ensure research is more accessible going forward. By ensuring that both participation in studies and access to findings are more accessible amongst populations such as survivors, normal citizens, the media, and others, the gap between researchers and implementers will shrink.

Key Insights:

Katharine Bryant introduced the lived-experience expert group that includes survivors in the research that Walk Free conducts, and elaborated on the Global Slavery Index, sharing how it can be used by different actors- civil society can use the index in policy-making, curriculums, further research, etc. **Shivan Pavin Alungat** reminded participants that the narrative of survivors being unfit to be researchers unfortunately persists, which can be overcome by survivor empowerment in the field to change the power structures that remain. She shares her experiences with research and knowledge production as a survivor to counter these narratives. **Juliana Rinaldi Semione** focused on the need to explain findings to non-academics in a non-academic language. She shared different methodologies that the lab is working with to make research more accessible. Furthermore, it is important to create safe spaces where everyone will feel comfortable asking questions when not understanding something

Day Three: Ideas for Effective Coordination, Resource Mobilization and Structure of the Forum

Overview

Day 3 built upon the programming of the first two days and focused on finding solutions in terms of establishing effective coordination, as well as mobilizing resources in the most competent way possible. Furthermore, the day served as an opportunity for participants to give feedback on the structure of the Forum, as well as to give recommendations for the next Forum. The exchange of knowledge and information took place throughout the day, which was divided into one keynote speech, five panels and one workshop. At the end of the day, ambassadors of the Forum were announced and the location for the Freedom From Slavery Forum 2023 was voted on.

The day's programming contemplated questions such as:

- How can the anti-slavery movement organize coordinative and collaborative efforts better?
- What different partnerships are there and what are their strengths and weaknesses?
- What can the anti-slavery movement learn from other movements?
- How can resources, financial and non-financial, best be mobilized?
- How can the Freedom From Slavery Forum be improved?

Welcome and Opening

The day was opened by **Tina Frundt** who gave a summary of the workshop on survivor engagement on Day 2 and reminded participants that trauma therapy especially in Africa is very expensive, but due to the importance of the issue, it is crucial that organizations cooperate and enter into partnerships to solve this issue, as well as to avoid re-exploitation of survivors in their new jobs. Furthermore, she emphasized the importance of community and mentors in helping survivors. Tina expanded on the way that survivors can be better engaged within the anti-slavery movement and how their voices can be amplified.

Keynote Address

Ambassador John Richmond gave the last keynote address of the Forum and addressed the topic of generosity within the anti-slavery movement. He started by giving some insights into the crisis of the process of grant-making that is flawed in its very structure. Thereby, he gave five reasons: firstly, grant cycles should not be made on a 24 or 36 months basis, but should rather be longer. Secondly, the grants are focused on collectives rather than individuals, thus lacking the flexibility needed to meet the different needs of NGOs. Thirdly, grants rely on measuring activities, rather than impact, leading to a distribution of grants on a basis that does not give an accurate representation of their work.

Fourthly, John argued that grassroots and survivor-led organizations have small to little chance of getting a grant because the application process and the procedures that have to be complied with require resources that they cannot afford. Lastly, the grant process takes a long time, which decreases its effectiveness. Furthermore, John shared some possible solutions to the problem and encouraged participants to be gentle with themselves in order to stay healthy and sane within the difficult work they all do.

Panel 10: Strategies for Effective Cross-Sector Collaboration

- **Moderator:** John Richmond | Dentons US LLP, U.S. Ambassador (ret.) | USA
- **Speakers:**
 - Nina Smith | GoodWeave International | UK
 - Shivan Pavin Alungat | Azadi | Kenya
 - Ursula Antwi-Boasiako | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office | UK
 - Cheryl Perera | One Child | Canada
 - Awah Francisca Mbuli | Survivors Network | Cameroon



Amb. John Richmond led the discussion of the tenth panel on cross-sector collaboration and coordination by asking the panelists to share their experiences with the topic. They gave an overview of ways to improve collaborations which mainly focussed on the application of an intersectional approach.

Key Insights:

Nina Smith shared the experience of her organization dealing with problems of exploitation in the supply chain in Asia and how, through collaborations with businesses, they have been able to generate positive changes. Nina also shared her ideas of how collaborations would not only be based on projects, but have the possibility to expand beyond that. **Ursula Antwi-Boasiako** gave an insight into the work of governments on collaboration, building resilience within the movement, emphasizing that resilience requires consistency.

Cheryl Perera shared her struggle of being able to collaborate with established organizations as a teenager and realized that this lack of possibility of hearing children's voices within the movement, which led her to establish her own organization to close that gap. **Shivan Pavin Alungat** and **Awah Francisca Mbuli** emphasized the need for an intersectional approach when working with survivors to honor their individualities. They emphasized the need to include intersectionality beyond survivor work and to educate communities about this to make the anti-slavery movement more effective. They also highlighted the importance of satisfying the needs of individuals in order for them to reach their fullest potential.

Panel II: Resources Mobilization



- **Moderator:** Ioana Bauer | eLiberare | Romania
- **Speakers:**
 - Angie Peltzer | Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking, U.S. Dept of Labor | USA
 - Mara V. Kelly | United Way | USA
 - Vanessa Fabiano da Silva | Las Independientes | Spain
 - Sophie Otiende | GFEMS | Kenya
 - Biram Dah Abeid | Initiative for the Resurgence of the Abolitionist Movement (IRA) | Mauritania

The eleventh panel, moderated by **Ioana Bauer**, was concerned with the mobilization of resources to push forward the anti-slavery movement. The panelists considered resources other than money and talked about the role of grassroots organizations and survivors, as well as the need for feedback between funders and organizations.

Key Insights:

Biram Dah Abeid and **Sophie Otiende** shared that the resources outside of money are almost endless and need to be better used. They reminded participants that when talking about 'resources', most of the time it is used synonymously with 'money' and that by changing this language it could serve in recognizing the other resources within the movement. This includes the resources that organizations and activists bring to the table. **Vanessa Fabiano da Silva** expanded that there is a need to establish projects that provide survivors with empowering living and working conditions and for society to contribute to their wellbeing. However, in order to achieve this, there must be a concerted effort between all members of society, a hand of friendship must be extended to survivors, and all kinds of resources, not just financial, must be mobilized. **Angie Peltzer** responded to Vanessa's concerns of collaborating with the government, and shared how organizations can give feedback to the governmental actors on how to better use resources.

Mara V. Kelly emphasized that the movement needs a sector-wide campaign to increase the amount of money they are funded by the governments. Without the financial resources, it will be difficult to push further in the anti-slavery movement.

Panel 12: Report on Workshop 4- Cross-Sector Collaboration and Resource Mobilization

- **Moderator:** Abdellah Elbadi | | Morocco
- **Speakers:**
 - Claudia Guidi | Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking, U.S. Dept of Labor | USA
 - Sister Jackline Mwikali Mwongela | Religious Against Human Trafficking | Kenya



After a successful workshop on Strategies for Effective Cross-sector Collaboration and Ideas for Effective and Sustainable Resources Mobilization, **Abdellah Elbadi** moderated the panel to discuss the main findings.

Sister Jackline Mwikali Mwongela shared the main findings of the resource mobilization workshop where various actors discussed the question of priorities and solutions. There was a big need for funding to support grassroots and survivor-led organizations. Also, victims of human trafficking need to be given financial resources, love and safety. Jackline shared some more priorities and gave ideas of how to achieve these. Concerning collaboration, she dove into collaborating with private sector organizations and other actors.

Claudia Guidi gave an overview of the discussion within the workshop on identifying the best approaches for effective cross-sector collaboration. She shared that it is firstly important to identify an objective in the task wanting to be built and to then follow up with the development of a strategy tailored to the strength of each stakeholder involved to meet this objective. The mechanism utilized to achieve this has to be included in the strategy. Furthermore, she emphasized that there needs to be a certain flexibility within the strategy. Additionally, it is key to share information and to prioritize the relationships between different stakeholders, as well as to work together. Rather than seeing each other as competitors, organizations should see each other as partners and should use their respective strengths to make the entire movement stronger.

Panel 13: Learning from Other Movements - Case Studies

This penultimate panel considered other movements, such as those against domestic violence, the LGBTQ+ and disability rights movement, and the anti-child soldier movement. They shared which best practices could be adapted by the anti-slavery movement.

Key Insights:

Tina Frundt gave some insights into the movement of domestic violence and shared her expertise on the topic. She explained that the anti-trafficking movement suffers more from a division into race than the anti-domestic violence movement.

She also focused on the racial divide within the LGBTQ+ movement, as well as the opposing views on the legalization of prostitution that divide the movement. **Jasmine O'Connor** spoke about the LGBTQ+ and the disability rights movement. She shared some general structures of power within movements and how they relate to its success. Jasmine shared how the anti-slavery movement can progress towards a movement from being a sector and how the participants can serve as catalysts for the movement and for change. Furthermore, Jasmine emphasized the need to have a discussion within the movement circling the decolonization of power and the measures taken within the movement. **Bukeni Waruzi** shared the knowledge he gained from the anti-child soldier movement. The movement transitioned from local to regional to global which drew international attention to the issue of child soldiers. Furthermore, he encouraged the participants to consider the power of grassroots initiatives, to clarify the system change narrative the anti-modern slavery can sell, as well as to inspect the funding mechanisms and to find ways to make it more effective.

Panel 13: Learning from Other Movements - Case Studies

This last panel served to share ideas on how the Forum can be improved and was led under Chatham House Rules, therefore its content is not included in this report.

Next Steps

Participants left the Forum with increased knowledge about the priorities of different regions of the world, as well as overarching priorities, engagement of different actors, as well as collaboration efforts and sustainable ways to mobilize resources. The Forum brought together different actors, reaching from government representatives, academics and civil society leaders to survivors. Participants were able to form new connections and partnerships that will move the anti-modern slavery movement forward beyond the Forum. After attending the Forum, it is our hope that participants are now re-inspired to tackle modern slavery from multiple angles and in new innovative ways.

The global convening closed the series of regional Forums that took place online during 2021. It also opens the door for a new series of regional Forums that will take place throughout this year. Furthermore, participants at the conference came together to decide on the location of the Freedom From Slavery Forum 2023 after a committee within the organizer, Free the Slaves, had given a selection of three countries: Argentina, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic. The three countries were chosen on the basis of criteria connected to the countries' relationship to human trafficking and the efforts the governments have made as of now, costs of hotel and flights, visa restrictions, political stability, and accessibility. The participants were then given the opportunity to make a choice whereby a majority voted for the next global convening to take place in the Dominican Republic. It is set to be held from May 7-10, 2023 and further information will be available later in the year.

For videos and more information on the Forum, please visit our [website](#). Pictures from the forum can be found [here](#).

Participation



The Forum saw a total of 77 participants that made their way to Marrakech, Morocco from 29 countries across all continents. The countries with the most participants included: Kenya, Morocco, Nepal, Peru, Spain, UK and USA.