

THE ELKES
FOUNDATION

FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY

FORUM

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Executive Summary
Prepared by Free the Slaves

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The Freedom from Slavery Forum was designed to provide a place for leaders of the global anti-human trafficking and anti-slavery movement to come together, share and discuss best practices and lessons learned, identify gaps in the field, brainstorm new ideas, and build relationships with one another. Additionally, the Forum is meant to educate the public about this issue.

Accordingly, the 2015 Forum was a two-and-half-day event comprised of two days of private meetings among the anti-slavery experts and a half-day presentation by Martha Mendoza, a Pulitzer Prize-winning AP reporter who has written extensively about slavery and who discussed the intersections of trafficking and ethical journalism.

The Forum, an annual event in its third year, was designed with input from participants of the 2014 Forum along with the guidance of an Advisory Committee representing participating organizations. Three primary themes were prioritized for the 2015 Forum in order to make the agenda manageable; each theme had an associated working group of Forum participants who met throughout the spring, summer, and fall to design their topic's session and prepare presentations on their group's findings.

Thirty eight leaders representing 36 different organizations attended the Forum to discuss the state of the anti-trafficking field as well as three major, thematic priorities:

- "The Freedom Ecosystem:" Deloitte and Free the Slaves jointly produced a report ("The Freedom Ecosystem," not yet published at the time of the Forum) that interviewed experts in the global anti-trafficking field and assessed the state of the movement. The report identified three major challenges facing the field: poor data sharing, very limited resources, and a challenging policy environment. The report's contents and findings were shared with participants, who then reacted and discussed some other priorities for the field.
- Evidence and Measurement: This group provided an overview of the state of data collection and sharing in the anti-slavery movement. Representatives from the working group shared the results of a survey they had administered to participants; gave a report on a tool that's being developed to methodically rate program evaluations; and reviewed where the movement is in developing common indicators and creating a shared data system. Participants then prioritized different data points and created a roadmap for building a data sharing system.
- Professional Standards and Norms for Survivor Services: In the year before the Forum, members of this group collected frameworks that offer guidance on what services and type of care are most important to provide to slavery survivors. These frameworks came from all over the world and were written by all different types of authors (international organizations like IOM, government agencies, non-profits, academics, etc.). The group's members collected 55 frameworks and evaluated 33 of them on the presence or absence of various topics by using a "Standard Assessment Tool" they developed. The group then used those findings to develop a checklist of topics that service providers, donors, and others should consider. The group shared its findings at the Forum, and then invited participants to provide feedback on the checklist, as well as create a roadmap of how such a checklist could be widely disseminated and adopted.
- Policy and Advocacy: Finally, the Policy group was split into two: a United States-focused contingent and an internationally-focused one. The US side focused on sharing and soliciting feedback on the Presidential Platform, a pledge the Platform's supporters are hoping to have all 2016 US Presidential Candidates commit to. The Platform has many elements, not the least of which is funding the anti-slavery movement at two cents on every dollar traffickers earn

annually, resulting in \$3 billion of annual funding. The international side shared a progress update on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), since the UN officially adopted them in September 2015 and they include multiple targets and indicators explicitly related to trafficking and slavery. Participants discussed how to increase NGO involvement in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, as well as how to best leverage the inclusion of slavery in the SDGs to spur government action and improve funding for the field.

Martha Mendoza, an AP reporter, delivered the public presentation to a packed audience of Forum participants, Stanford students and professors, interested journalists, and other members of the public. She shared in vivid detail the challenges she and her team faced as they tracked slave-caught fish through Thailand and to the United States market. She also shared the ethical challenges associated with reporting on this issue, such as considering the safety of the slaves before and after the story was published. One of her articles on this subject can be found [here](#).

Participants' evaluations of the Forum gave it a 4.5 out of 5 overall, including content, logistics, and venue. There was a clear acknowledgement that no other convening of this size or geographic representation exists in the movement. There was a marked interest in continuing to hold the Forum in 2016 and beyond, with consideration given to how to make more inclusive and representative while still maintaining its productivity.

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