

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2018 Freedom from Slavery Forum took place in Bangkok, Thailand from December 3-5, 2018. This iteration of the Forum, the sixth annual, built off the work and goals of years past by bringing leaders from the anti-slavery field together to coalesce, create partnerships, discuss promising practices, and develop a shared agenda for action. Each year, Forum participants build relationships and prioritize actions in areas such as advocacy, measurement, and survivor care, among other themes.

Accordingly, the 2018 Forum was a three day event organized by an Advisory Committee of leaders from the anti-slavery field. Building off feedback from participants of the 2017 Forum, the Committee identified three primary themes to be prioritized for the 2018 iteration:

Day One: Learning from One Another

Day Two: Advocacy and NGO Collaboration

Day Three: Achieving Scale as a Movement

On the first day, participants learned about Alliance 8.7's new learning platform, Delta 8.7. Emily Cholette from the United Nations University shared an overview of the new platform and gave participants information on how to effectively navigate and utilize the site.

Later, two sets of simultaneous breakout sessions took place. The first breakout session, *Measuring Slavery*, gave participants the option to attend either *Community Liberation Model: Measuring Community Resistance to Slavery* led by John Whan Yoon of Free the Slaves or *Participatory Learning, Monitoring, and Evaluation on Scale in Contexts of Modern Slavery* led by Bishnu Sharma of ActionAid Nepal and Pauline Oosterhoff of Institute for Development Studies. In the afternoon, during the *Targeting Audiences and Meeting Needs* breakout sessions, participants chose to either attend *Creating Safe Spaces for Survivors of Slavery* with Tina Frundt of Courtney's House and Sophie Otiende of HAART or *Targeting and Reaching Specific Audiences for Human Trafficking Education* with Katherine Jolluck of Stanford University and Dominique Chauvet-Staco of the Pathy Family Foundation.

The first day also utilized "Marketplace Methodology" for a session titled *Innovations and Good Practices*. During this session, the following stations were set up and participants had the opportunity to visit three of them:

1. *Better Data, Better Technology, Better Response* by Andrew Wallis of Unseen UK
2. *Strategic Litigation for Trafficking Victims* by Sarah Bessel of the Human Trafficking Legal Center
3. *Being a Trauma-Informed Organization* by Carol Mortensen of Hagar International
4. *Using Social Media to Engage with Youth in Your Program* by Tina Frundt of Courtney's House

5. *Now You Know: A Call to Action to Fight Slavery* by Marina Sala of the Foundation for International Democracy
6. *Voice of the Free's Holistic Approach* by Cecilia Flores Oebanda of Voice of the Free

Day two of the Forum began with an "Open Space Technology" session during which participants were able to set their own agenda. Various topics were discussed throughout the two hour period. The second session of the day was a "Talk Show" titled *Case Study: NGO Collaboration at Its Best*. During this session, Dan Vexler of the Freedom Fund moderated a conversation with Parinita Kumari, Vandana Kanth, and Sunil Sainju about their organizations' participation with the Human Liberty Network. In the afternoon, Mara Vanderslice Kelly of United Way Worldwide, Willy Buloso of ECPAT International, and Purva Gupta of the Global March Against Child Labour each delivered a "TEDx style talk" about their organizations' perspectives on movement building and the importance of collaboration. Finally, day two concluded with a presentation from the US Department of Labor entitled *From a Funder: Thoughts, Advice, Questions, and More*.

The third and final day of the 2018 Forum began with a session titled Multilateral Organization Perspectives. Facilitator Jost Wagner led a "fish bowl" style conversation with Tara Dermott of the International Organization for Migration and Thomas Wissing of the International Labour Organization. After this session, representatives from Deloitte presented the results of research they conducted in conjunction with Free the Slaves over the past few months. Their study, *Operationalizing the Movement Behind SDG 8.7*, was presented as a draft, and participants were encouraged to offer feedback during the latter half of the session.

The final focus of day three was building the civil society organization movement as a whole. Maurice Middleberg of Free the Slaves, Marina Sala of the Foundation for International Democracy, and Willy Buloso of ECPAT International facilitated a conversation titled *Accelerating the NGO Platform to Address SDG 8.7* and formally introduced the *Civil Society Statement of Principles and Goals*, also known as *The Bangkok Statement*. This statement outlines the civil society perspective on how to effectively achieve Sustainable Development Goal 8.7 and was endorsed by over 70 nonprofit organizations ahead of the 2018 Forum. After Middleberg, Sala, and Buloso introduced *The Bangkok Statement*, participants broke into small groups and discussed how they might use it effectively in their home countries.

Approximately eighty different organizations were represented at the 2018 Forum, and invitations were extended based on recommendations from the Advisory Committee, sponsors, and past participants. Participants' evaluations of the Forum gave it a 4.5 out of 5 overall, including content and logistics. There was a marked interest in continuing to hold the Forum in 2018 and beyond, with emphasis placed on continuing to build the movement and connect participants between annual convenings.

The 2018 Freedom from Slavery Forum was made possible by the generosity of the Elkes Foundation, the International Labour Organization, United Way Worldwide, and the Freedom Fund, with additional support from Deloitte.