



The Global Freedom from Slavery Forum

December 5-8, 2021 in Marrakesh, Morocco

Theme: *“Revitalizing the Anti-modern Slavery Movement: Enabling local responses and coordinating global solutions”*

Introduction and context

The Freedom from Slavery Forum is the anti-slavery movement’s annual thought leadership convening. This prestigious gathering of leaders from around the world is designed to create a collegial space to coalesce, create partnerships, discuss promising practices, and develop a shared agenda for action. Each year, participants build relationships and prioritize actions in areas such as advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, and collaboration with other sectors. As a grassroots movement, the Forum has become an undeniable force in bringing together stakeholders in the fight against modern slavery.

Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the global anti-modern slavery movement has faced an increasing number of challenges. The pandemic has left hundreds of millions vulnerable to modern slavery, increasing need during a time of resource constraints. Mobility restrictions have thwarted the ability to meet in person and address the issue through a comprehensive approach. Despite these threats, anti-modern slavery leaders are strengthening their efforts through innovative and adaptive responses that include virtual communication and connectivity. The Covid-19 global pandemic has created many challenges for the movement ranging from exacerbating poverty to limiting the ability to connect in person. However, it has brought new ways of connecting and innovation, notably online.

The Freedom from Slavery Forum has innovated this year, running regional forums to develop key priorities for eradicating modern slavery in local communities. The enthusiasm, the energy and the commitment of members were evidence of how determined the movement is. The regional priorities that have been identified thus far range from the micro to the macro and include the need to transform attitudes and behavior at the local, regional, and global levels, address the root causes of vulnerability, and propell systemic change. Some of the issue priorities that were identified during the regional forums include forced marriage, bonded labor, sexual trafficking in mining areas, forced labor, etc. Priority outcomes of each regional Forum can be found on our [website](#).

Survivor engagement at all levels emerged as one of the priorities for the movement to ensure better reintegration, policy development and leadership.

The regional forums were successful in part because of the increased participation from stakeholders. They were more widely accessible than previous in-person annual Forums, as they were free, organized online and in regional languages, and gathered individuals with varying expertise.

The Marrakesh convening (5-8 December 2021)

After identifying regional priorities to eradicate modern slavery in local communities, as well as extending the concerns to the regional and global dimension and involving intranational organizations, the leaders of the movement will meet in person in Marrakesh, Morocco from 5-8 December 2021 to develop the vision and mission of the movement and decide on the strategic pathways to the greatest impact and engagement in the next three years.

The goal of the Marrakesh convening is to reinvigorate the movement through a collaborative space where leaders will develop a relevant, practical, and strategic agenda to effectively counteract modern slavery. Modern slavery is becoming increasingly intranational and thus global solutions must be found to revitalize the anti-modern slavery movement.

Marrakesh Forum Draft Agenda:

During the 3-day convening, leaders of the movement will work to shape its future.

- **Welcome reception:** Evening of Sunday, December 5
- **Day one (8am-5pm):** Assessing the regional priorities: Africa, Asia, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa, Caribbean-North America-Europe
 - *Objective: analyze the regional priorities, make cross-regional connections, and determine which priorities the movement should prioritize going forward*
- **Day two (8am-5pm):** Determining the agenda and the structure of the movement (2022-2025).
 - *Objective: develop a 3-year agenda for eradicating modern slavery in local communities and map out the structure the future forums to help carry out this agenda*
- **Day three (8am-5pm):** Implementing the agenda: Strategy and Plan
 - *Objective: develop a strategic framework, a resource mobilization plan and other key deliverables for the movement*
- **Closing Reception:** Evening of Wednesday December 6. Vote for 3 -5 ambassadors and board of the movement

During the reception evening, the Forum will present two awards: one each to a survivor advocate and one to an organization that works to eradicate modern slavery in local communities.

Expected outputs of the Marrakesh convening

- Strategic roadmap for the movement and the implementation strategy for the next 3 years
- Structure/ framework of the coordination of the movement
- Resource mobilization plan to better coordinate cooperation on a regional and global level

Expected outcomes of the Marrakesh convening

- Board to overview implementation of strategy in the next 3 years
- Announcement of global ambassadors of the movement
- Global agenda to be implemented through continuous cooperation

Participants

Given the nature of the agenda, the expected outcomes and the emphasis on decision-making, participation at the Marrakesh convening will be reserved to the leaders of civil society organizations at the forefront of the movement.

An important delegation of survivors (10) will be attending and will help lead on the development of the agenda.

In addition, other leaders from governments, businesses, United Nations, and other regional agencies will also attend, including:

- Government representatives (mostly from pathfinder countries of the global coordination group Alliance 8.7)
- United Nations agencies
- Some businesses (private sector) that have committed to eradicating modern slavery

In total approx. 70 participants are expected at the Marrakesh convening. This is in line with Covid-19 restrictions prevailing in the area.