



9th Annual Freedom From Slavery Forum  
**“Resilience and Resistance to Modern Slavery:  
Key Priorities for Africa”**

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2021 Africa Regional Forum Report  
July 6-8, 2021

[www.freedomfromslaveryforum.org](http://www.freedomfromslaveryforum.org)

## Special Thanks to the 2021 Forum Funders

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## Introduction

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### 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 3 days at the first regional Freedom from Slavery Forum- Africa 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 Africa.”

The virtual Forum was an opportunity to increase participation, interaction, networking, learning and sharing with an emphasis on regional priorities, ensuring that African grassroots ideas and voices are instrumental in and foundational to the movement as a whole. It ensured that African 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 "How COVID-19 has impacted resilience to modern slavery in African communities." Day two centered around "Strengthening Africa's anti-slavery efforts" with an emphasis on survivor engagement. Day three closed by looking outward to the global movement around the theme of "Beyond Africa: Threats and solutions beyond the continent."

Each day began with a keynote address followed by a panel discussion or a group of presentations with experts. A small group workshop session closed each day, and participants were grouped by region to learn from those working in similar contexts. After attending all three days of the Africa 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 how COVID-19, climate change, migration, and new technologies are directly affecting root causes of slavery in Africa, possible solutions, and new partnerships to put those ideas into action.



## Day One: How COVID-19 has impacted resilience to modern slavery in African communities

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### Overview

Day 1's sessions contemplated "How COVID-19 has impacted resilience to modern slavery in African communities." With COVID-19 exacerbating root causes of human trafficking and modern slavery, especially disrupting education as well as local and global economies, it was pertinent for participants to discuss the newfound conditions they have been working in, learn from experts about opportunities for resiliency and solutions, and share their experiences with others working in their local contexts.

Topics for discussion throughout the day included new economic shifts, poverty, increased opportunities for child exploitation and forced labour, sexual exploitation, and widening education and health inequities.

Participants started the day learning from academic experts about the demonstrated, negative effects COVID-19 is having on the resiliency of African communities. They presented data about COVID-19 on the continent as well as highlighted areas in which there are still opportunities for improvement and solution-oriented approaches to curbing modern slavery in Africa.

The day's programming contemplated questions such as:

- How are African communities being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?
- How is modern slavery changing in the face of COVID-19?
- What are the opportunities available to bolster community resiliency?
- Who is being affected most by the pandemic?
- How has anti-slavery work in the continent changed since the beginning of the pandemic?

To address these questions and more, the Forum invited research experts from academia, civil society organizations and international organizations. Day One speakers included:

- **Forum Advisory Committee Host:** Bukeni Waruzi | Free the Slaves
- **Keynote Address:** Dr. David Okech | University of Georgia African Programming & Research Initiative to End Slavery
- **Moderator:** Maryana Munyendo | Missing Child Kenya
- **Presenters:** Dr. Alison Gardner and Dr. Phil Northall | Rights Lab at the University of Nottingham
- **Panelists:**
  - Evarlyne Mboya | Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Protection Unit (AHTCPU), Kenya
  - Awa Ndour | Cellule Nationale de Lutte contre la Traite des Personnes (National Cell for the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons– CNLTP), Senegal
  - Mutuku Nguli | Counter Human Trafficking Trust-East Africa (CHTEA), Kenya
  - Mamadou Wane | Platform of Human Rights Promotion (PPDH), Senegal

## Keynote

Dr. David Okech, Director of the African Programming and Research Initiative to End Slavery (APRIES) at the University of Georgia, began with a keynote address sharing COVID-19's impact on human trafficking, services, and research in Africa as well as innovative methods for ensuring resilience. His presentation focused around the topic of "COVID-19 and Resilience to Human Trafficking in African Communities."

He began by giving an overview of deaths and cases confirmed by region worldwide, sharing that on the whole, Africa, as a region, has not experienced the high number of COVID cases and deaths present in the rest of the world. However, a third wave of cases is currently ramping up in the region, driven especially by the delta variant. He spoke on why Africa may have seen fewer cases than other regions due to a relatively young population (only 2-5% of population is over 65), lower population density, existing infrastructure from other infectious diseases like Ebola, and the efficacy of the African Center for Disease Control and Prevention coordinating a continent-wide strategy.

He was quick to point out, however, that the pandemic has exacerbated long-standing issues and inequalities. The pandemic has created more poverty, confined more people to their homes, increased sexual exploitation, and weakened existing anti-trafficking

infrastructure by diverting resources to combat COVID-19. Dr. Okech explained that even while Africa responded quickly and effectively to the health consequences of the pandemic, the pandemic exacerbated social concerns. He highlighted that:

- Law enforcement and court systems were vastly impacted and stalled throughout the pandemic making it less likely that traffickers would be arrested and prosecuted
- Donations and aid were diverted to pandemic-related causes creating funding gaps for support organizations and survivor healing
- Social distancing and contagion fears caused closure of some shelters
- Lockdowns made it harder to reach out for services
- COVID protective measures (such as wearing face masks, isolation) had potential to re-traumatize survivors
- For foreign survivors, returning to nation of origin was difficult due to travel restrictions

He ended by sharing a list of action items for the future to ensure that modern slavery continues to be a priority even in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. His list includes:

- Acknowledging survivors' experience during the pandemic
- Re-establishing diverted funds
- Continued establishment of anti-trafficking efforts that are survivor-centered and trauma-informed
- Increased collaboration between organizations
- Incorporating anti-trafficking work into humanitarian aid responses
- Establishing social equity measures as anti-trafficking measures

## Presentation

Dr. Alison Gardner and Dr. Phil Northall of Rights Lab at the University of Nottingham presented the findings of their joint research project with Free the Slaves, a recent [study](#) conducted in Kenya and Senegal on the effects of the pandemic on resilience to modern slavery in both countries.

They began by sharing the methodology of the study, which included three stages:

- A documentary analysis of existing literature on modern slavery and human trafficking in Kenya and Senegal
- Interviews with 25 stakeholders in Kenya, and 22 stakeholders in Senegal to better understand the local context of anti-slavery activity and the impact of COVID-19.
- Focus group of stakeholders to validate or enhance findings of the first two stages and to jointly develop recommendations.

They explained that each stage was guided by the resilience framework and was designed to understand which social factors, government interventions, institutions and initiatives have been most critical to combatting exploitation.

The study found that COVID-19 exacerbated structural and local, and governance factors. For example, they found that there was:

- Increased economic pressure for families and loss of housing
- Increased pressure for children to work
- Decreased access to healthcare including birth registration
- Closure of schools, greater risk of abuse, early marriage.
- Missed education, with potential long-term impacts for earnings.
- Digital exclusion and increased gender inequalities particularly in relation to access to education.
- Membership and powers of trades unions decreasing
- Slower legal processes for court cases and compensation
- Closure of borders increasing the likelihood of hazardous migration & extra challenges repatriating victims from abroad
- Reduced ability to operate normal activities, fewer interactions with government and international agency officials. Government resources redirected to mitigation and support
- Fewer people in communities available to assist in reporting concerns.
- Increased stress and pressure in family settings
- Greater pressure on shelters, impacts upon the physical and mental health of survivors

The main thematic issues that stood out to them after the study include:

- The need to develop a shared understanding of concepts
  - Terms ‘modern slavery’ and ‘human trafficking’ were not resonant – barriers in developing shared objectives, hinders a broader conception of exploitation and efforts to engage communities.
- Close the gap between legislation and implementation
  - Both countries showed evidence of an ‘implementation gap’ between policy and legal frameworks and lived experience
- A need to better collaborate and coordinate activity
  - Improve communication between international and local stakeholders, greater use of local knowledge;
  - Ensuring coordination of policy implementation by the government, state and civil society;
  - Connecting social and economic development and anti-exploitation work.

- A need for better data
  - A means to understand how different elements of exploitation are evolving alongside the pandemic.

Finally, they shared their three key recommendations going forward. These include:

- Reframe the language and focus of anti-trafficking work
  - Agree terminology that reflects a shared understanding of exploitation, is meaningful within local contexts, and includes terms that are recognisable to local communities.
  - Existing focus on children in anti-trafficking work should be widened to include adults, families and the role of communities.
- Adopt a whole-systems perspective on funding and policy implementation
  - Connect anti-trafficking measures with development-focussed interventions (e.g. education or gender inequalities).
  - Fund prevention-focussed activities as well as targeted measures such as victim identification and support.
  - Review and address impacts for anti-exploitation coordination and collaboration.
  - Protect victims from criminalisation, and invest appropriately to ensure that resources are available for shelters and support.
- Build on local knowledge and expertise
  - Funders should draw more extensively on local and grass-roots expertise
  - Actors and stakeholders at all levels – including religious actors and institutions - should be involved in planning and implementation of anti-exploitation policies.

## Panel Discussion

A conversation followed with four Senegalese and Kenyan stakeholders who contributed their expertise to the study via interviews, moderated by Maryana Munyendo, founder of Missing Child Kenya.

## Workshop

Participants were grouped by region to explore the specific vulnerabilities they face in their work and how COVID has impacted them. They then shared the outcomes of their discussions with the wider group.

Takeaways from the session for each region are as follows:

West Africa (English)

- Vulnerabilities
  - Increased poverty and unemployment as a result of COVID-19 especially among informal populations
  - Violence and harassment against women and girls on the rise. there are more young girls in the maternity homes than in schools as a result of COVID-19
- Resilience
  - A shared understanding of human trafficking and modern slavery especially between civil society and community members who are our constituents. the differences in definition of modern slavery among countries did not appear to hinder bilateral collaborations
  - The resilience of community systems and structures was not given prominence. this presents them as passive actors but indeed the local informal economy, kinship systems and others has enabled communities to better protect themselves in the phase of COVID-19
  - The role of the media was not mentioned. They are critical in sending out the right messages to communities and a catalyst to building community resilience
- Next step
  - Research is an integral part to defining a problem. This should be done more at a national and subregional level to enable policy coherence to combatting modern slavery.

#### West Africa (French)

- Key Points
  - Covid-19 has made society vulnerable, the reluctance of donors to donate funds due to their restricted movement for supervision.
  - For the ongoing projects already funded, the restriction had caused the reduction of participants in the activities - the low impact of the virtual meetings because of the difficulties of access to the internet - The meeting with the authorities was restricted.
  - A budget revision was made for the purchase of COVID-19 kits.
  - Vulnerabilities of local NGOs: donors withheld funds.
  - Restrictions meant that the link with the targets in the communities was cut.
  - The slowness of the procedures for compensating victims who are repatriated without receiving funds.
  - Increased hardship for the reception centers to take care of the victims because of the decrease in funds.

- COVID-19 worsened the vulnerabilities that already existed, social distancing had too much impact on African communities known for their strong community-led work.

#### Central Africa (French)

- Priority areas identified included:
  - Need to take into account the issue of forced begging of children in the context of the DRC as well as the phenomenon of street children who are most often victims of exploitation, which is exacerbated due to COVID-19.
  - The issue of forced prostitution of young girls by their parents for economic reasons (to seek money to support their families); as well as the issue of procuring or pimping (pimping: the action or practice of controlling prostitutes and arranging clients for them, taking part of their earnings in return) in eastern DRC.
  - Increase the awareness of the general public with a community-based approach as ignorance is at the root of this situation of exacerbation of modern forms of slavery.
  - The exploitation of women in mines (Exploitation and sexual slavery of girls in mines and the use of pregnant women in mine work).
  - Child labor with an emphasis on children living with disabilities (economic exploitation of children);
  - The exploitation of children in brothels commonly called licensed houses.

#### Southern and East Africa

- Key Points
  - Need for sophisticated approach to match traffickers(collaboration of high level)
  - Focus on Africa family and particular vulnerabilities.
  - Building on local knowledge and expertise
  - Awareness creation to communities.
  - Support the capacity of governments e.e security, prosecution



## Day Two: Strengthening Africa's anti-slavery efforts

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### Overview

While Day 1 of the Forum focused on local issues and priorities, programming on Day 2 zoomed out slightly to the regional level. Sessions focused on “Strengthening Africa’s anti-slavery efforts” with an emphasis on survivor engagement. Survivors are integral to the anti-modern slavery movement, and need to have more of a role in the movement outside of services or advising, such as in policy, data, law, leadership, etc.

It is needed within the movement to have candid discussions about tokenism, ensuring that survivors are listened to as individuals and valued for their ideas and contributions to programming and advocacy. Additionally, as COVID has disproportionately negatively affected survivors and victims, it was imperative that the anti-slavery community work more closely with the survivor community. The Forum aided in jumpstarting these discussions by including survivors within each program session of the day.

Topics for discussion throughout the day included survivor-led programming and advocacy, regional and national anti-slavery policies, and partnership building. Participants heard from survivors, those interacting closely with survivors, and policy makers throughout the region. The Forum was deliberate in weaving survivor engagement with policy discussions, reinforcing the interconnectedness of these topics.

Participants started the day hearing directly from three survivors of modern slavery about their experiences as well as the action items they would like to see the movement address. A panel discussion with policy and CSO leaders from the region followed, which was not only led by a survivor, but focused on how survivor voices were being integrated into government action and CSO programming. Lastly, participants broke into workshop sessions to discuss how their organizations go about engaging survivors and learn about best practices for doing so in the future.

The day's programming contemplated questions such as:

- How do organizations and governments engage with survivors currently? What improvements need to be made? What are the benefits of increased engagement?
- What regional policies are being put in place to curb modern slavery? Where are there areas of improvement?
- What are the opportunities available to bolster community resiliency from a policy perspective?

To address these questions and more, the Forum invited survivors as well as CSO and policy experts. Day Two speakers included:

- **Forum Advisory Committee Host:** Bukeni Waruzi | Free the Slaves
- **Keynote Addresses:**
  - Grace Kalekye | Survivor
  - Josiane | Survivor
  - Jeanne | Survivor
- **Moderator:** Evelyn Chumbow | Survivor, Activist, Free the Slaves Board Member
- **Panelists:**
  - Abena Annobea Asar | Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MOGCSP), Ghana
  - Honorable Alexis Bahunga | Provincial Deputy of North Kivu, DRC
  - Agnes Igoye | Survivor, Deputy National Coordinator for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons, Uganda
  - Me. Andrews Kananga | Legal Aid Forum – Rwanda
  - Radoslaw Malinowski | HAART Kenya

## Keynote

Participants heard from 3 survivors who recounted their experiences with modern slavery and shared their insights on what the movement needs to prioritize, setting the tone for the rest of the day's sessions.

### Grace Kalekye

Grace Kalekye presented her story about being trafficked. A transcript of her address follows: "My name is Grace. I am from Kenya. In 2019 I received a message from a whatsapp group. A video vixen and dancers whatsapp group. It was about job vacancies in India. A lady had asked if there is anybody interested in going to go work in India. I inboxed her and told her I was. She said the vacancies were for dancers and

also tourist guides. But when I got to India after one week (they had helped me process my passport, visa and air ticket). When I got to India they told me the address that had been written down for me was not the right place and also I should change my name from my original name to a name that I will only use in India.

So I noticed there were red flags. The first night I was taken to work. I was taken to these places, these club houses called kitchens where I met men who were looking for escort girls. I had to sleep with men for months to pay the debt of 270,000 Rupees I had been told to pay back air ticket and passport processing fees. After 6 months a friend of mine from the BBC helped me to come back home after I explained to her what had been going on.

I wish that the government had more support for victims of trafficking and also I wish they could give more information to people on how to be aware of the jobs they are being called for from outside. At least they should give more public information to people out here so that people know that trafficking is real and people should not just be rushing to go and work outside abroad. That is a bit of my story.”

## **Josiane**

Josiane provided the Forum with a statement to be read aloud at the event chronicling her story. A rough translation from her original French statement follows:

“In 2014, Josiane came into contact, via Facebook, with a half-brother whom she had lost track of for several years. This half-brother lived in Kigali, Rwanda and invited her to meet. Josiane decided to go to Kigali, under the blessing of her older sister, to meet her half-brother who welcomed her. According to Josiane’s testimony, her half-brother worked in a travel facilitation agency for South Africa and offered to facilitate her trip to South Africa if she wished. He told her that he had friends who would help her find a great job in Johannesburg. As Josiane had always dreamed of leaving the DRC, she accepted the offer without delay. Thus, a phone number of a woman was given to her before she returned to her home in Goma. Once she was home, the woman called Josiane for a meeting. They discussed the facilitation of the trip to South Africa and the documents needed for the trip, including photographs. An appointment for the trip was organized. They met in a hotel in Goma where the woman lived, but Josiane was surprised to find that at the hotel there were about thirty girls (whose ages varied between 20 and 25) who were in the same process. Despite this, Josiane continued with the trip, and all the girls left by boat for Bukavu (capital of South Kivu Province in the DRC) before leaving the next day for Bujumbura in Burundi. After the group arrived in Bujumbura, the lady asked all the girls to give her all their travel documents, which

the girls did. They were all placed in a hotel without the slightest possibility of leaving. They would spend a few days in Bujumbura on the grounds that the woman was organizing the next steps for their trip to Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania. The fact that the lady took the travel documents of all the girls made Josaine doubt the authenticity of the woman, especially as she had previous information about the issue of trafficking. She began to alert the other girls to a possible risk of falling into the hands of traffickers, but at the same time she wondered if her half-brother would have knowingly set her up in such a situation.

Josiane succeeded one day in entering the woman's room and finding individual index cards of each girl, including their photos. Also attached to each of the index cards were photos of strange white men. According to Josiane, each card also indicated the men's preferences and their criteria for the girls that they had ordered. In her case, she would have to be the mistress of a man over 60 years old, and he was the one who had paid for all the expenses of her trip. While in the room, she also managed to get her travel documents back and those of a friend of hers she had made. The two of them had the opportunity to escape to return to Goma after calling their parents, who were able to help them with transportation costs. She had taken care to inform the other women, but they refused to return. According to her, they indeed left for South Africa, but she has not heard from them since."

### **Jeanne**

Like Josaine, Jeanne also provided the Forum with a statement to be read aloud at the event chronicling her story. A rough translation from her original French statement follows:

"Jeannette is 27 years old. In 2013, she was a victim of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, the perpetrator of which was a man whom she had met on Facebook, who lived in Kinshasa in the capital of the DRC. In their communications, the man had promised the girl marriage and she could move from Kinshasa to Goma. The girl's family objected, but the girl had already been swept away by the charm of the trafficker, who had even bought her a car. She eventually left with the man to Kinshasa where she lived in a large house in the city center, but where she was forced to have daily sex with him. A few days later, he moved from Kinshasa to another province of the DRC, leaving Jeannette alone in the house. Jeannette's family tried to get her and take her to Mont-Ngafula, still in Kinshasa, about twenty kilometers from where she lived. But, she was told she had no right to leave the house, and all her movements were monitored by members of his family. Her phone and all the money she had had been taken away from her, so she could not communicate with her family in Goma. When the man made trips back to the house, he only indulged in sexual acts with the girl and then

left, not even speaking with her. Jeannette eventually learned that the man was married and the father of many children. To get out, Jeannette had to escape and took refuge with a friend of her father's. Soon after, her mother sent her money to pay for her ticket and she was able to return to Goma.”

## Panel Discussion

Following the keynotes, Evelyn Chumbow, a survivor of child labor trafficking turned anti-trafficking activist, moderated a panel discussion where CSO and policy leaders working in the anti-trafficking space were able to share their experiences interacting with survivors, especially how to ensure survivor voices and needs are incorporated into their work. Panelists included: Abena Annobea Asare, Director at the Human Trafficking Secretariat under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MOGCSP) in Ghana; Honorable Alexis Bahunga, the provincial deputy of North Kivu, DRC; Agnes Igoye, survivor and Uganda's deputy national coordinator for the prevention of trafficking in persons; Me. Andrews Kananga, Executive Director of the Legal Aid Forum – Rwanda; and Radosław Malinowski, founder of HAART Kenya.

## Workshop

After hearing from survivors and best practices for engaging with them, participants split into smaller workshops to discuss how they have incorporated survivor engagement and survivor-led programming and advocacy into their work and to learn from their peers. This session allowed participants to become more aware of the value survivors can bring to their work, and how to engage them meaningfully, respectfully, and without tokenism.



## Day Three: Beyond Africa- Threats and solutions beyond the continent

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### Overview

Day 3 built upon the programming of the first two days in order to focus on global threats and connecting the anti-slavery work being done in Africa with the global movement around the theme of “Beyond Africa: Threats and solutions beyond the continent.” Programming focused on global-scale issues including migration, conflict, technology, as well as on connecting the African priorities to the global movement, the pathfinder framework in Africa and the Alliance 8.7.

The day’s programming contemplated questions such as:

- What are the largest global threats to resiliency against modern slavery in Africa?
- What mechanisms exist to connect the African anti-slavery movement to other regional movements and the global movement?
- How is globalization helping and/or hindering eradicating modern slavery in Africa?
- How can local African governments and organizations better react to global challenges?

Participants started the day hearing directly from the Chair of the Alliance 8.7, the global partnership committed to achieving target 8.7 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Instead of a roundtable panel discussion, Day 3 featured a series of interrelated presentations from various CSO and policy representatives all centered around the interconnectivity of the modern slavery movement across national and continental borders. Lastly, participants broke into their final workshop sessions 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 6-8, 2021.

- **Forum Advisory Committee Host:** Bukeni Waruzi | Free the Slaves
- **Keynote Address:** Ms. Anousheh Karvar | Chair of Alliance 8.7
- **Moderator:** Lawrenta Igoh | NAP TIP, Nigeria
- **Panelists:**
  - Ruth Juliet Nyambura Gachanja | Advocate, High Court of Kenya
  - Murairi Bakihanaye Janvie | Coalition des organisations de la société civile anti-esclavage (COSCAE), DRC
  - Marcellino Ramkishun | International Organization for Migration (IOM)
  - Alice Eckstein | Delta 8.7, Modern Slavery Programme at United Nations University Centre for Policy Research
  - Janet Butler | United Way Worldwide, Ghana
  - David Ngendo Tshimba | Refugee Law Project (RLP), School of Law at Makerere University, Uganda

## Keynote

Ms. Anousheh Karvar, Chair of the [Alliance 8.7](#), delivered a keynote address highlighting that the global issue of modern slavery needs a global solution, driven by CSOs continuing to press for change, policy reform, and ratifications at the local level.

Ms. Karvar began her speech by relaying important information regarding the newest dataset published by the ILO and UNICEF on the state of child labor on the World Day of Child Labor, June 12, 2021. She shared that the data “showed an increase in the number of child victims around the world, nearly 8 million, mainly in Africa and in the agricultural sector.” Additionally she noted that “we have gone from 152 to 160 million victims of child labor around the world. This is the first increase in 20 years. This is a major setback and yet these dramatic figures do not take into account the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic.”

She continued by championing civil society actors’ role in the fight against modern slavery and calling them to action through partnership, especially through work in the Alliance 8.7. She noted, “I am convinced, in the face of current challenges, we must join forces to be more effective. This is all the sense of the partnership that I have the honor to chair: Alliance 8.7. By bringing together all actors globally and in countries, we seek to place our fight high on the international agenda.” She also urged civil society to launch a sustained campaign for the ratification of the 2014 Protocol on the Eradication

of Forced Labor, onto which the target 50 states have signed this year, but there is still much work to be done.

She noted that as part of this campaign, actors must advocate for the protocols to be implemented and enforced on the local level. She states, “beyond ratification, we must therefore ensure that international standards such as the ILO Forced Labor Protocol are effectively implemented through strong legislation and public policies, appropriate to the realities on the ground and supported by broad mobilization of all stakeholders.”

She shared that this is the fundamental mission of the Alliance 8.7. “The Alliance aims to promote concrete solutions and create national dynamics that involve all actors, including ministries of finance, education, interior, labor, social partners and NGOs.

The Alliance works in 24 so-called “Pathfinder” countries because they are more committed than others to renewing their efforts in the eradication of child labor, forced labor, human trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery.”

She highlighted the group of Pathfinders within the African region: Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Tunisia, Uganda.

She continued by highlighting the main structural challenges on a national level that the anti-slavery movement is up against:

1. “First, the vulnerability of individuals and especially children, due to the economic pressure they are subjected to, the lack of decent income and social protection for families; because of the conditions of poverty, conflict or insecurity in which they live;
2. But also the responsibility of States and the shortcomings observed in legislation or in the implementation of public policies in order to protect fundamental rights, on their territory and beyond;
3. Finally, the risk factors associated with the conduct of companies, such as economic pressure, lack of capacity or, sometimes, commitment to respect for fundamental rights.”

She noted that “to meet these challenges, the mobilization of civil society is essential. NGOs are an integral part of Alliance 8.7 and this is its strength.”

## Presentations and Q&A Session

The final set of presentations, moderated by Lawrenta Igoh, an anti-human trafficking advocate from Nigeria, centered around global factors that exacerbate modern slavery, such as, migration, technology, and a global economy, and highlighted areas for movement response.

Ruth Juliet Nyambura Gachanja, an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya, shed light onto areas of intervention for border crossings on both a CSO and a policy level as well as areas for regional cooperation.

Marcellino Ramkishun, Regional Thematic Specialist for Immigration and Border Management at the International Organization for Migration (IOM), shared insights on the issues of transnational organized crime and migrant smuggling exacerbated by globalization.

Murairi Bakihanaye Janvier, executive secretary of the Coalition des organisations de la société civile anti-esclavage (COSCAE) in DRC, spoke on how the digital revolution and increased internet access is contributing to exploitation and modern slavery that defies national borders.

Janet Butler, Vice President Africa Region & the Caribbean at United Way Worldwide, provided an analysis of a study working to map the human trafficking landscape in Africa, which focused on Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa.

Alice Eckstein, Project Director of Delta 8.7, shared information about the collaborative research project Delta 8.7 undertook to create a series of policy guides focusing on [justice](#), [crisis](#), and [markets](#).

Dr. David N. Tshimba, Senior Research Fellow at the Refugee Law Project (RLP) at the School of Law at Makerere University, offered a critique of the framework the Palermo Protocol has provided in the 20 years since its adoption, especially its rigid focus on prosecutorial justice. He advocated for increased agency for survivors, comprehensive and synergized responses to trafficking, and a movement wide reckoning on the effectiveness of Palermo going forward.

## Workshop

The final workshop of the Forum was dedicated to cultivating a list of regional priorities that would be discussed at the global convening occurring in Marrakesh, Morocco from

December 6-8, 2021. In this interactive session, participants were able to reflect on how other regional movements and the Alliance 8.7 intersect with Africa and the ways in which they can work together to end modern slavery globally. The outcomes of this session are described below in the [African Priorities](#) section of the report.



## African Priorities

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### Overview

Throughout the Forum, workshop sessions were focused on discussing several facets of the anti-slavery movement, including 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 the most threatening to freedom in their region.

### Priority Issue Areas

Participants identified several priority issue areas, many of which were interconnected. A great deal of these issue areas were exacerbated by the COVID-19 global pandemic. For example, overwhelmingly, participants pointed to increased poverty and unemployment levels as a result of COVID-19, especially amongst populations working in informal sectors of the economy. This in turn led to increases in several other types of exploitation, as more people were in need of alternative ways to make ends meet.

Young girls and boys became increasingly vulnerable to exploitation due to the combined factors of schools moving online and being unable to have steady access to education and their parents having greater economic stability. This change manifested in several ways. Street begging, especially by children, is on the rise, and a visible indicator of child exploitation and poverty.

Additionally, forced prostitution of young girls by their parents for economic reasons has increased, has have the related issues of procurement of services and pimping. Relatedly, there are more young girls in maternity homes than in schools in some areas, a phenomenon that is exacerbated due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the unsafe

conditions of traditional education routes. There is also the phenomenon of children being more susceptible to exploitation in brothels/licensed houses.

Women and girls have faced greater challenges to freedom, as violence against and harassment of women and girls has become more prominent. Relatedly, the exploitation of women in mines, including the exploitation and sexual slavery of girls in mines and the use of pregnant women in mine work, were all noted as areas that need prioritization going forward.

## Priority Actions for the African Movement

As well as identifying priority focus areas that the movement should work on, participants also identified which actions are most prescient to solve these issues.

Nearly all participants noted that it is necessary to increase the awareness of the general public with a community-based approach. Because in most local communities modern forms of slavery are little known for lack of popularization and awareness, there is much room to grow in this area. Additionally, research is an integral part to defining the problem of modern slavery. Participants noted that this should be done more at a national and subregional level to enable policy coherence in combatting modern slavery.

In this same vein, it was noted that more attention needs to be paid to government actions that have negatively impacted the fight against modern slavery due to the COVID-19 pandemic response. Unfortunately, due to the dire public health emergency, many countries revised their national and local budgets to direct funds from other public works to pandemic-related relief. However, this left critical infrastructures under- or unfunded throughout the pandemic, further increasing the number of people vulnerable to slavery and exploitation. Some of the infrastructure negatively impacted include: slowness of the procedures for compensating victims who are repatriated without receiving funds, leaving them again vulnerable to modern slavery to make ends meet; increased hardship for reception centers to take care of the victims due of the decrease in funds, leaving more victims without assistance; and, government funds usually donated to CSO projects was instead redirected to organizations focused solely on COVID-19.

Participants were also adamant that more media engagement needs to happen, and the media needs to be more aware of the actions of the anti-slavery movement as a whole as well as the individual actors on a more local level. Journalists and media companies can play a critical role in the movement by sending out the right messages to communities and drawing the attention of donors to organizations and leaders doing

great work that empowers and emboldens freedom. The media also can act as a catalyst to building community resilience by spreading awareness and knowledge about forms of modern slavery in authoritative and informative ways.

It was also mentioned that community systems, such as local informal economies, kinship systems, and community resource-pooling, should be utilized as key mechanisms in combatting modern slavery, especially at the local and regional levels. These systems exist due to a lack of formalized safety nets that would otherwise help to protect against the vulnerabilities that lead to modern slavery and exploitation. However, due to their existence outside the traditional government systems, they are often overlooked as partners in the anti-slavery movement. Instead, local and national governments should engage with these actors and work to ensure they are as resilient as possible, ensuring those on the fringes of society who are most vulnerable to slavery can be reached and assisted. This is increasingly necessary during the COVID-19 pandemic, as these local systems, by virtue of being created by and from the local communities, will therefore be the most connected to and most trusted by vulnerable community members, especially with regard to public health initiatives.

### Priority Actions for the International Movement

In addition to determining priority actions for the African anti-slavery movement, leaders also identified actions for the global movement that would best benefit them, as these movements do not work in isolation from one another.

Many participants noted that COVID-19 has made society especially vulnerable, but that funds were not being appropriated in ways that were most effective. In fact, due to budget revisions in some countries, anti-slavery programs, especially those focused on prevention and services, were underfunded. Therefore, victims and survivors were not getting the aid and resources necessary to be resilient to slavery and exploitation. While governments have turned funding away from anti-slavery efforts, no matter how unintentionally, anti-slavery leaders noted that non-governmental donors were not stepping up to adequately fill this gap in funding. They noted a reluctance of donors to donate funds due to their restricted movement for supervision and restricted in-person deliverables. For the ongoing projects already funded, the restriction had caused the reduction of participants in the activities, as difficulties of target audiences accessing the internet and the restrictions on meeting in person deterred many donors from extending funding.

In addition to needing more donor support, movement leaders also requested more international support for the capacity of their governments on higher levels. Participants

noted that their governments needed more international and inter-regional support to cut off sophisticated and global human trafficking rings and migration routes. Specifically, they noted that increased cooperation was needed in areas such as security, prosecution, border control, and business policies.

Finally, participants nearly unanimously agreed that there needs to be greater engagement between African movement leaders and international movement leaders. They hope that this strengthened partnership would allow for more incorporation of their expertise into broader actions, which would be more cross-regional, larger in scope, and more effective in nature.



## Next Steps

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Participants left the Forum with increased knowledge about how COVID-19, climate change, migration, and globalization are directly affecting root causes of slavery in Africa, possible solutions, and new partnerships to put those ideas into action. After attending all three days of the Africa 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 first in the series of regional Freedom from Slavery Forums, which will take place throughout the rest of the year. The Asia Regional Forum will take place from August 10-12, the Latin America Regional Forum will take place from September 21-23, followed by the Middle East & North Africa in October, and North America, the Caribbean, and Europe in November. 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, which will take place in Marrakesh, Morocco from December 6-8, 2021. The goal of this convening is to elevate the regional agendas and make connections with the larger global agenda.



## Participation and Evaluation

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Across the three days of Forum virtual events, 230 individuals from 21 countries registered and 99 individuals participated (including presenters). Of the 99 individuals who participated, 18 different countries were represented. The countries with the most participants included: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda. Nearly 40% of the participants attended the Forum using French, while the remaining 60% attended using English.

100% of the respondents to our post-event survey either “Agreed” or “Strongly Agreed” that the themes of the Forum were helpful to them.

Recommendations for future forums included:

“Focus all interventions and projects on victims to improve the effectiveness of the fight against human trafficking.”

“Involve more ECOWAS countries in the future who share the same problem to share their experience.”

“It would be an idea to possibly see how in future there can be a forum for Francophone Africa only and another one for Anglophone Africa.”

Comments about the Forum included:

“I think it was a good program and we need to invite more people to attend.”

“All in all the forum was a success and we wish to have more fora in future, especially with donors in order to be able to accelerate our work of freeing slaves.”

## Speaker and Presenter Bios

Day One: How COVID-19 has impacted resilience to modern slavery in African communities

### Keynote



**Dr. David Okech** is Professor at the University of Georgia and Director of the Center on Human Trafficking Research & Outreach, the African Programming and Research Initiative to End Slavery, and the Prevalence Reduction Innovation Forum. He is a board or working group member of numerous global anti-trafficking agencies. He focuses on building research and evidence for building responsive programs and policies in the human trafficking field with a special focus on Africa.

### Presenters



**Dr. Alison Gardner** leads the Rights Lab's Communities and Society Programme at the University of Nottingham. She was the lead researcher for the research with Free the Slaves. This research is identifying core 'social-determinants' which make a community resilient against slavery at local level, building an evidence base on the contribution and value of different governance and community-based responses to modern slavery, and sharing knowledge on what constitutes effective anti-slavery governance and policy interventions. She is the winner of the national Marsh Prize for Community

Activism in Combating Slavery and was named in the UK Top100 Modern Slavery Influencers. Her previous work with the Rights Lab included an evaluation of the Clewer Initiative (the Church of England's national antislavery project) and work with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner to map multi-agency anti-slavery partnerships across the UK, identifying potential examples of good practice. She has career experience and expertise in local government and public policy.



**Dr. Phil Northall** works as part of the Rights Lab Communities and Society Programme to understand and advance local responses to modern slavery. This includes work to build a slavery-resilient cities index that takes an asset-based approach to understanding how communities become slavery-free and slavery-proof. It also includes close collaboration with multi-agency partnerships on testing and evaluating transferable local responses to the structural issues that create vulnerabilities to exploitation and slavery. His research background is in urban processes, local economic development, and community engagement, and his PhD explored the economic sustainability of future cities, specifically assessing the potential for 'sharing economy' platforms to deliver local public services and social value under austerity.

**Moderator**



**Maryana Munyendo** is the founder of Missing Child Kenya; a nonprofit community led initiative that uses technology and crowd sourcing for the search, trace and reunification of missing, displaced, lost & found children. Missing Child Kenya operates the only toll-free help line in Kenya dedicated to respond to the emergency needs of missing, lost and found/ displaced children but also link them to services for their short/ long-term care and rehabilitation. Maryana has received several awards and recognition for her outstanding work. She is a Coordinator and Board Member for the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS) and advisory board member for FTS Kenya.

Panelists	
	<p><b>Evarlyne Mboya</b> is Officer in-charge, Cyber division, Directorate of Criminal Investigations, Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Protection Unit (AHTCPU) in Kenya.</p>
	<p><b>Awa Ndour</b> is a jurist working on human rights issues at the Senegalese Human Rights Committee and at the Cellule Nationale de Lutte contre la Traite des Personnes (National Cell for the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons– CNLTP) of Senegal, the national mechanism for coordinating government efforts and strategies on trafficking in persons.</p> <p>Since the establishment of the CNLTP in 2012, she has led processes within the framework of the tri-annual cycles of the National Action Plan to combat trafficking in persons in Senegal. She has prepared reports on trafficking for the United Nations and the U.S. Department of State’s global report against trafficking. She has also led the formation of national policies and strategies in favor of protecting victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants.</p> <p>Additionally, she created and developed a data collection system for judicial actions in the area of trafficking in persons for the Ministry of Justice, which makes it possible to assess trends and developments in trafficking in the country. She participated as a member of the team in the "Operation Epervier," which was a rescue operation for victims of trafficking organized in 5 countries by Interpol.</p>
	<p><b>Mutuku Nguli</b> is the Chief Executive Officer of the Counter Human Trafficking Trust-East Africa (CHTEA), a “Trust” registered in Nairobi, Kenya under the Ministry of Lands. CHTEA is a Christian founded organisation with a strong affiliation to the Catholic faith. Among his core functions, Mutuku steers CHTEA towards the desired vision and mission. He takes full responsibility for the overall</p>

policy implementation and the day to day functions of the institution. Mutuku holds a Master's degree in International Conflict Management from the University of Nairobi, besides other professional courses. He was previously a Country Director for the Action Africa Help International in Somalia and a Country Director for the British Council in Kenya, among other institutions of great repute. Mutuku was previously nominated to present papers at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, US and again at the International Conference on the Great Lakes' Region, Heads of State Summit in Lusaka, Zambia. On both occasions, he represented the voice of the Civil Society. Mutuku has authored chapters of several books within the field of peacebuilding and conflict management, besides contributing several newspaper articles for publication. One most recent article was entitled, "How Covid-19 is fueling online human trafficking" and was given a 2 page [feature](#) by a Kenyan local daily newspaper.



**Mamadou Wane** is the National Coordinator of the Platform of Human Rights Promotion (PPDH), a coalition of Senegalese civil society organizations and international NGOs founded by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.

He is also a researcher specialist of Children's Rights and Protection and a member of Senegalese Association of Evaluation (SENEVAL). In this capacity, he has carried out research on child begging in the daaras; the implementation of programs to combat child trafficking in Senegal and Guinea; money laundering related to child trafficking; the actions of the Senegalese government and its partners to protect children against the effects of COVID-19 pandemic.

He holds a DEA in sociology from Paris VIII University in France. He previously held the position of Principal Administrator of the Children in Particularly Difficult Situations Protection Program at UNICEF.

## Day Two: Strengthening Africa's anti-slavery efforts

Keynote	
 A portrait of Grace Kalekye, a young woman with her hair styled in numerous thin braids, wearing a blue and white striped top.	<p><b>Grace Kalekye</b> is a survivor of human trafficking and a member of the Free the Slaves advisory board in Kenya. She is an upcoming musician and a professional dancer.</p>
Moderator	
 A portrait of Evelyn Chumbow, a woman with dark hair styled in a bun, wearing a light-colored, textured sweater, against a solid orange background.	<p><b>Evelyn Chumbow</b> is a survivor of child labor trafficking turned anti-trafficking activist and public speaker. She has focused her life's work on ending modern slavery. Ms. Chumbow was brought to the U.S. from Cameroon at age 9 and forced to cook, clean, and care for her trafficker's children. She was never paid for her work, and any hope that she might escape her miserable life was undermined by beatings she received from her trafficker. For seven years, she lived in constant fear, working day and night.</p> <p>Today, Ms. Chumbow works tirelessly to raise awareness and help other survivors. She serves as an adviser to human trafficking nonprofits and has been invited to brief government agencies about human trafficking from a survivor's perspective, including the Dept. of Homeland Security, the FBI, and the Dept. of Justice. She was appointed by President Obama to the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking. Ms. Chumbow fulfilled a lifelong dream in 2015, graduating with a bachelors in homeland security studies from the University of Maryland University College. She works as a project assistant at the law firm of Baker McKenzie in Washington.</p>

## Panelists



**Abena Annobea Asare** is the current Director at the Human Trafficking Secretariat under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MOGCSP) in Ghana. She also doubles as the National Project Coordinator for the Ghana Employment and Social Protection (GESP) Project. She has 11 years working experience on issues of gender based violence, child protection, child labor, migration and human trafficking related issues. She has facilitated many capacity building training programs, engaged in advocacy programs, served as a resource person and supported the rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of over 2,900 child and adult trafficking victims. She is currently the Secretary to the Anti-Human Trafficking Management Board and also serve on other national Boards. Since 2011, Abena has helped to design and implement anti-slavery and trafficking programs in sectors such as fishing, cocoa, mining, domestic servitude and sex trafficking in collaboration with government entities and grassroots partners as well as fund raising programs to implement our sector activities.

She holds a Master's degree in Migration Studies (M.A) at the University of Ghana, Legon Center for Migration Studies. She has two first degrees; BSoSc in Gender and Transformation Studies, University of Cape Town, South Africa and Bachelor of Arts Honors in Political Science Major and Sociology Minors at the University of Ghana, Legon. Additionally, she holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Public Administration from the Ghana Institutes of Management Studies (GIMPA) and a Postgraduate Certificate in Women Leadership and Social Management from the China Women's University in Beijing of the People's Republic of China.



**Honorable Alexis Bahunga** is the provincial deputy of North Kivu, DRC, vice-president of the G7 parliamentary group, and deputy rapporteur of the Economic, Financial and Parliamentary Control Committee (Ecofin). Before being sent to the Provincial Assembly of North Kivu as a deputy, he held roles as the executive of a public financial authority, chairman of the board of directors of a financial institution, and at other humanitarian focused endeavors. He holds a degree in political and administrative sciences from the University of Goma.

He is a Congolese politician very committed and very active in the politics of the Province of North Kivu. He is also an active humanitarian interested in human rights issues, particularly those related to modern slavery in the DRC.



**Agnes Igoye** escaped human traffickers at 14, when the Lord's Resistance Army raided her village in search of virgins. Today she serves as Uganda's deputy national coordinator for the prevention of trafficking in persons. She is a Senior Aspen New Voices Fellow and contributes to teaching an online child protection course at Harvard University. Agnes has spoken at UK Houses of Parliament and to USA Members of Congress advocating for sustainable laws and policies to counter human trafficking

Agnes is a member of The Labour Migration Experts Reference Group at the Inter-governmental Authority on Development regional bloc. She built a rehabilitation center for survivors of human trafficking in Uganda and serves as an Ambassador and Mentor at The Clinton Global Initiative University

She is a Harvard Kennedy School Mid-Career Master in Public Administration (MC/MPA) graduate. A 2010/11 Fulbright/Hubert Humphrey Fellow (University of Minnesota) and studied Forced Migration at the University of Oxford. Agnes obtained an Undergraduate degree in Social Sciences and a Master's degree in Sociology at Makerere University.

One of New African Magazine' 100 most influential Africans in 2015, Agnes is a recipient of several awards including the Diane Von Furstenberg (DVF) International Award; The Josephine S. Vernon award-Harvard Kennedy School; University of Minnesota's Distinguished Leadership Award for Internationals; Global Freedom Exchange Award from Vital Voices and Hilton Worldwide Global Partnership and the 2017 Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U) Alumni Honor Roll from President Clinton and Chelsea Clinton.



**Me. Andrews Kananga** is currently the Executive Director of the Legal Aid Forum – Rwanda, a position he has held since 2008. From 2004 – 2008, he was a Senior Legal adviser to National Semi-traditional Courts (Gacaca) that were charged with trials of people suspected of having committed Genocide in Rwanda. In 2012, Andrews was among the three Legal experts nominated by the Ministry of Justice in Rwanda to oversee the development of a legal aid policy in Rwanda. He has contributed enormously to legal reforms in Rwanda which ushered in the legal aid policy, legal aid bill, reform of the penal code and criminal procedure code and many more pieces of legislation that favor access to justice for the poor and vulnerable in Rwanda. Andrews is a founding member of the African Centre of Excellence for Access to Justice (ACE-AJ) and head of research in the same center.



**Radoslaw Malinowski** is Polish by origin and has been living in Kenya since 2007. A law graduate currently pursuing his PHD with doctoral research focused on the VII century slavery contract between Christian Nubia and Muslim Egypt. In 2010, he founded HAART Kenya, a non-governmental organization working against human trafficking in Kenya. Since 2011, he has been a lecturer at Tangaza University (Nairobi). He is a consultant to the International Peace Support Training Centre (AU) and author of several briefs and manuals on human trafficking and irregular migration in relation to security and human rights.

## Day Three: Beyond Africa: Threats and solutions beyond the continent

### Keynote



**Ms. Anousheh Karvar** is the Delegate of the French Government to the ILO's Governing Body, as well as the Labour & Employment Task Officer to the G7 and G20. She chairs the Global Partnership against Child labour, Forced labour, Human traffickig and Modern Slavery (Alliance 8.7).

She was formerly Deputy Director of the Minister of Labour's cabinet (2016-2017), Social Counsellor to the President of the Parliament (2017-2018).

In 2012, she joined the General Inspectorate for Social Affairs, the French Government audit, evaluation and inspection office for health, social protection & labour policies, as a Senior Officer and Head of Labour and Employment Section (2013-2016).

She holds a PhD in History and Sociology of Science, at the University of Paris – Denis Diderot.

### Moderator



**Lawrenta Igoh** is an Anti-Human Trafficking advocate from Nigeria working with the government focal Agency (NAPTIP) in freeing and rehabilitating victims of human trafficking, bringing traffickers to justice and preventing human trafficking through the Reforms Unit. She is equally working on expanding access to justice and social welfare service for individuals and families in secluded places in Nigeria using the platform of Auxano Foundation, a volunteer-led NGO with community interest she created with her team since 2012 to Educate, empower, help prevent root causes of human trafficking within at risk and marginalized demographic group and contribute in building recovery for survivors. An alumnus of the Public Leadership and Management institute at Bridgewater State University Massachusetts, USA, under the Mandela Washington Fellowship (MWF) for Young African Leaders. She completed a Master's program at the Nigerian Defence Academy and a recent graduate of an advanced Criminology and Criminal Justice Programme from Solent

University Southampton, UK under the prestigious Chevening Scholarship Award. Lawrenta served as Lead Researcher for United Way Center for Human Trafficking and Slavery in her just concluded Landscape Analysis on Human Trafficking in Sub Saharan Africa and have engaged and addressed survivors and youth group, anti-trafficking frontline workers, law/policy makers and high-level audiences and stakeholders in different capacities in Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia and South Africa during the study. She ultimately hopes to translate all her interests into the realisation of relevant African development Agenda and global advancements.

**Presenters**



**Ruth Juliet Nyambura Gachanja** is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya. She is a child rights and anti-human trafficking specialist, with an LLM in Minorities, Rights, and the Law from Middlesex University (United Kingdom), and an LLB from Moi University, Kenya. She is also pursuing an Advanced LLM in International Children Rights at Leiden University.

Ms. Gachanja recently chaired the Justice Working Group under Alliance 8.7 and led the process of developing the recently launched Justice Policy Guide to ending modern slavery. She currently works as a Law Lecturer at Kabarak University. She is also championing the work of Love Justice International in Kenya- an international NGO that works on intercepting human trafficking through transit border monitoring. Miss Gachanja also serves as the Board Chairperson of African Institute for Children Studies.

Previously, she served as the first Chairperson of the first Advisory Committee (2014-2017) on Human Trafficking established under the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act, Kenya and the Executive Director of The CRADLE-The Children Foundation.



**Murairi Bakihanaye Janvier** is currently the President of the Association pour le Développement des Initiatives paysannes (ASSODIP) and the program manager of the project against modern slavery. He is also the Executive Secretary of the Coalition des organisations de la société civile anti-esclavage (COSCAE), which is composed of 11 NGOs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The COSCAE network has been created to fight modern slavery in Democratic Republic of Congo. Additionally, Janvier is currently the Urban Secretary Reporter of Coordination of Civil Society in Goma. He has experience in human rights related to the exploitation of natural resources and prisoner rights (in the administrative and financial management as well as in research).

Previously, Janvier worked at Karisimbi Commune in Goma, at SOPROP NGO. Janvier is interested in issues related to human rights and the exploitation of mineral resources in particular. Janvier has a license degree in Private and Procedural Law. He has, with colleagues, published articles on the socio-economic situation in the mining areas of North Kivu. He is the 2016 recipient of the Roger N. Baldwin Medal of Liberty awarded by Human Rights First.

**Marcellino Ramkishun** is the Regional Thematic Specialist for Immigration and Border Management at the International Organization for Migration (IOM).



**Alice Eckstein** is Programme Manager for the Modern Slavery Programme at United Nations University Centre for Policy Research. She is Project Director for Delta 8.7 – the global knowledge platform for the Alliance 8.7 that identifies effective measures to achieve Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Alice holds a Master’s degree in History from the University of Chicago and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Medieval Studies from Barnard College.



**David Ngendo Tshimba** is currently Senior Research Fellow at the Refugee Law Project (RLP), School of Law at Makerere University. He earned his Ph.D. (History and Political Studies) from the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Programme at the Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR). Prior to joining the RLP, David benefited from a host of research fellowships, including with the Council for the Development of Social Research in Africa (CODESRIA) on a book project on peace and security in the Africa's Great Lakes region; the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) on its African Great Lakes Project; the University of Michigan African Presidential Scholars Program (UMAPS) for his doctoral study on historicizing political violence in the Rwenzori region astride the Congo-Uganda border; and Action for Development (ACFODE) research project on violated bodies in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement, western Uganda. David's research interests pertain to thematic issues of (political) violence, (forced) migration, and (social) justice.

### Closing Remarks



**Bukeni Waruzi** serves as Executive Director of Free the Slaves. Previously, he formed the DRC grassroots nonprofit group AJEDI-KA/Child Soldiers Project to confront the widespread enslavement and the use of children as soldiers by armed militias and 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 a senior program manager for WITNESS in New York, a group that empowers victims worldwide to collect evidence that brings perpetrators to justice.

Waruzi has spoken to high level audiences including the United Nations Security Council, the International Criminal Court and the Children's Caucus of the U.S. Congress. He currently represents anti-slavery groups as a civil society member of the Global Coordinating Group of Alliance 8.7, the global initiative to attain Sustainable Development target 8.7, the end of child and forced labor worldwide.

