

9th Annual Freedom From Slavery Forum "Resilience and Resistance to Modern Slavery: Key Priorities for Asia"

2021 Asia Regional Forum Report August 10-12, 2021

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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.

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 second regional Freedom from Slavery Forum- Asia 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 Asia."

The virtual Forum was an opportunity to increase participation, interaction, networking, learning and sharing with an emphasis on regional priorities, ensuring that Asian grassroots ideas and voices are instrumental in and foundational to the movement as a whole. It ensured that Asian 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 Asian communities." Day two centered around "Strengthening Asia's anti-slavery efforts while engaging survivors". Day three closed by looking outward to the global movement around the theme of "Beyond Asia: 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 Asian 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 Asia, possible solutions, and new partnerships to put those ideas into action.



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

Overview

Day 1's sessions contemplated "How COVID-19 has impacted resilience to modern slavery in Asian 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 experts about the demonstrated, negative effects COVID-19 is having on the resiliency of Asian 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.

The day's programming contemplated questions such as:

- How are Asian 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 UN agencies, civil society organizations, and international organizations. Day One speakers included:

- Forum Advisory Committee Host: Bukeni Waruzi | Free the Slaves
- Keynote Address: Anastasia Vynnychenko | International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Moderator: Manish Subharwal | Impact
- Presenters: Shariful Islam | BRAC Migration Programme
- Speakers:
 - Tandin Wangmo | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
 - Noel Eballe | IJM Philippines
 - Loan Luong | Pacific Links Foundation
 - o Rajiv Sinha | Srijan Foundation
 - o Bishwo Khadka | Maiti

Introduction and Welcome

Bukeni Waruzi, Executive Director of Free the Slaves, introduced the Asia Forum and thanked the Forum's key donors, the Elkes Foundation and Freedom Fund. He also stressed the importance of addressing modern slavery in Asia within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and encouraged attendants to share their ideas to develop robust priorities that will lead to the creation of a global agenda. Bukeni also introduced the keynote speaker, Anastasia Vynnychenko.

Keynote

Anastasia Vynnychenko, Project Manager at the International Organization on Migration (IOM), spoke on the intersection between human mobility and sustainable development, with emphasis on the effect of COVID-19. She stressed that mobility restrictions have had short and long term effects on people, and the pandemic has had disproportionate effects on specific groups and increased individuals' vulnerabilities: 1 in 4 victims of forced labor are migrant workers. She noted that migrant workers are the most vulnerable population to the risks of COVID-19, as they are not only at an increased risk of COVID-19 due to overcrowded conditions, but also to forced labor. These workers are often employed in essential services such as health care and the food industry. Millions have had to return to their origin country due to the pandemic, and many returned without being paid and without job prospects. Many face a lack of access to information, loss of livelihoods and re-migration, irregular work, unpaid work, increased

migration costs, smuggling and trafficking networks, and lack of victim identification and support.

Vynnychenko also shared the IOM's response through a multi-sectoral approach involving government, UN agencies, civil society, businesses, etc. She concluded with three main points:

- leave no one behind;
- there is a corporate responsibility to protect, respect, and remedy; and,
- actors must collaborate to eradicate the issue.

Presentation

A presentation followed by Shariful Hasan an activist and journalist dedicated to the migration sector. In his capacity of Programme Head of the BRAC Migration Programme, he introduced a tragic story of recent events in Bangladesh, discussing the prevalence of slavery in Asia, and highlighting BRAC's response: poverty alleviation, identification of victims, etc.

Panel Discussion

After Hasan's presentation, Dr. Subharwal introduced the following question to kickstart the discussion: How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted resilience to modern slavery?

Tandin Wangmo, National Project Coordinator at the UNODC answered that the COVID-19 pandemic has opened the government's eyes to existing gaps in that the pandemic has both exacerbated these gaps and these gaps have had in turn exacerbated the devastating effects of the COVID-19 health crisis.

Noel Eballe, Sr. Lead for Policy and Advocacy at IJM Philippines followed by describing IJM's work in the Philippines and the rising instances of online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions. Eballe also mentioned the importance of reducing demand to end OSEC and stressed the need for immediate and constant collaboration at the global level to end child exploitation.

Dr. Manish then asked: How has your organization's strategy to address modern slavery changed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? What solutions have been identified?

Loan Luong, Program Director at the Pacific Links Foundation, introduced the work of Pacific Links to empower women and children. Before and through the pandemic, Pacific Links has focused on building online learning platforms for students to overcome a systemic lack of resources, conducted a virtual summer camp for 1,200 students in Central and Southern Vietnam, supported survivors, provided training for law enforcement and service providers, and developed a workers' well-being program during the COVID-19 pandemic, which centers around a mobile app where the user can calculate debt repayment and learn about safe migration.

Rajiv Sinha, Programs Manager, Srijan Foundation, mentioned pre-departure counseling to migrant workers has been a service provided by Srijan Foundation.

Bishwo Khadka, Executive Director of Maiti, introduced the work of Maiti Nepal, especially surrounding interception points at the borders. During the COVID-19 pandemic, mobility has been severely restricted, but people continued to migrate. Maiti Nepal also provides necessary services to vulnerable populations such as internet access to ensure they can be in communication with authorities and personal networks regarding any difficulties they may face.

Workshop

Participants were split into 3 groups to explore specific vulnerabilities they face in their work and how COVID-19 has impacted them. These groups were led by: Maqbool Khokhar, CEO of the Christian Care Foundation; Dr. Pratibha Singh, Director of Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA); and, Kranti Tamang, Executive Director of the Shanti Foundation.

Discussion leads then presented their experiences and their findings with the larger group, ensuring all participants had a chance to learn about other important facets of the issue from other groups.

Takeaways from the session for each group are as follows: Maqbool Khokhar's group

- Recommendations for the movement and CSOs
 - Emphasize working with local and national governments
 - Lobby on how to support overseas workers
 - Install or establish instruments to help victims and strengthen penalty of traffickers during COVID
 - Emphasize private sector engagement to mitigate modern slavery throughout the supply chain

- Lobby to countries on how CSOs can work with women and girls, aka inter-country collaboration and discussions
- Should be a mechanism to support grassroot organizations in far-flung areas, as they are at the front line of COVID and modern slavery

Dr. Pratibha Singh's group

- In response to the question "What vulnerabilities do you face in your work and how COVID has impacted you?"
 - Child marriage increased
 - Children facing increasing vulnerability
 - Returning labour- lack of job opportunities
 - o Increased domestic violence and family violence
 - Migrants returning with wage theft,
 - Potential migrants- migration costs are high, factories closed. Movements restricted, not able to find work support at destination and source countries
 - Gender based violence increased
 - Physical and mental health issues increasing
 - Children getting education online- traffickers bolstering online strategies
 - Regular activities of government and NGOS are restricted due to COVID-19 increasing vulnerability
 - Repatriation support is hampered
 - Counselling support greatly hampered (effectiveness of tele counselling)
 - Increasing poverty
 - Government structures for victim support are not functioning
 - Justice Legal aid, accused released, conviction rates down
- In response to the question "What strategies have you used to overcome some of the challenges COVID-19 presented?"
 - Harnessing technology, such as digital learning, online meetings
 - Community Radio
 - Entitlements access using technology
 - Awareness using social media etc and harnessing for gathering data
 - Tele counselling
 - Online campaigns
 - Migrant forums access to counselling entitlements
 - Piggy backing COVID awareness with awareness on trafficking prevention

Kranti Tamang's group

- Key topics of discussion in this group included:
 - Change in the patterns of migrant workers

- Modern day slavery in indistrues increasing
- o Forced marriage as modern slavery
- Lack of capacity of organizations to provide essential services to victims, especially throughout the pandemic
- Rise of unemployment with employers taking advantage of worker's desperation and increased vulnerabilities
- Increased role of digital technologies in facilitating unsafe, exploitative recruitment and trafficking
- Need to change strategies to keep up with radical changes due to COVID-19
- Lower cases of prosecution and trafficker identified
- o Lack of systemic cooperation in the human trafficking space
- Law enforcement integration is needed



Day Two: Strengthening Asia's anti-slavery efforts while engaging survivors

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 Asia's anti-slavery efforts while engaging survviors". 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 throughout the day's sessions.

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 and those interacting closely with survivors from 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 a survivor of modern slavery about her experiences as well as the action items she would like to see the movement address. A panel discussion with CSO leaders and the survivors they empower followed. 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 Address:
 - Angela Guanzon | HEAL Trafficking
- Moderator: Babu Mathews | National Law School of India
- **Presenter:** Skye Maconachie | Blue Dragon Children's Foundation
- Panelists:
 - Huong Dang | Hopebox
 - Bhanuja Sharan Lal | MSEMVS
 - Bartimeues van Oost | CURE Foundation
 - Binoy Krishna Mallick | Rights Jessore

Keynote

Participants heard from Angela Guanzon, a survivor, activist, advisory council member of HEAL Trafficking, and committee chair of Resilient Voices- CAST LA Survivor Network. She recounted her experiences with modern slavery and shared her insights on what the movement needs to prioritize, setting the tone for the rest of the day's sessions.

She began by sharing her story of labor trafficking in the U.S. from the Philippines. She was assisted by an organization called CAST, and currently consults for the organization.

Angela stressed that survivors should not only be storytellers, they should also be influencers of policy and law and work with government, churches, and other stakeholders. Businesses and governments need to better understand how to engage survivors to successfully combat modern slavery. Her recommendations for them include:

- 1. promote survivor empowerment and self sufficiency (they should have comprehensive access that are culturally appropriate and victim centered, and include long-term care)
- 2. survivors should have access to vocational training, financial counseling, and educational scholarships
- 3. use a victim and trauma informed approach, whereby survivors should be compensated for their expertise
- 4. government, law enforcement, businesses, and nonprofits should include survivor input in the design of programs, policies, etc.
- 5. survivors identities and privacy should be protected at all costs

Presentation

Following the keynote address, Skye Maconachie, co-CEO of Blue Dragon Children's Foundation presented on Blue Dragon's efforts to combat modern slavery. She shared how Blue Dragon rescues street children and women and girls in Vietnam from slavery, and from sex trafficking in China. Survivors are rescued through various means, usually through calls from individuals calling for help. Blue Dragon engages in survivor-led, trauma-informed support. They also provide training to law enforcement, rely on a peer support model where survivors work with staff, and organize activities. She emphasized that Blue Dragon takes an individual and holistic approach to healing, highlighting that success is measured on an individual level based on what that survivor considers success, not on a one-size fits all scale. She shared that Blue Dragon values monitoring and evaluation and builds in participatory monitoring for survivors, for them to give feedback on the services being provided, so that they can feel heard and valued.

Panel Discussion

Following the presentation, Professor Babu Mathews from the National Law School of India, moderated a panel discussion where CSO 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: Huong Dang, Founder and CEO of Hopebox; Bhanuja Sharan Lal, Executive Director of MSEMVS; Bartimeues van Oost, Managing Director of CURE Foundation; and, Binoy Krishna Mallick, Executive Director of Rights Jessore.

The day's first panlist was Huong Dang, CEO and Founder of HopeBox, a social enterprise that provides employment for women who experience gender-based violence. Huong shared her story of moving to Hanoi and becoming a street child. She was helped by a social enterprise that provides services to street children, and was thus

able to enroll in an education program through their support. She shared the important role of employment for women and how that provides a road to empowerment. Her experiences led her to found Hopebox in 2018.

Then, Bhanuja Sharan Lal, Executive Director of MSEMVS, introduced the work of MSEMVS in rescuing bonded laborers and victims of human trafficking. He emphasized that rescue is not the destination. He noted that services are essential to allow people to be truly free. He shared that the rehabilitation process must be done in a way that survivors can be permanently free, such that they will never be retrapped in a condition of slavery. Bhanuja then introduced a survivor of bonded labor, Bhirand, who was helped by MSEMVS. Bhirand mentioned his family was forced to work in the brick kiln industry. He was initially rescued by the Labor Department and Police. The government then helped him and he underwent the rehabilitation process.

Thirdly, Bartimeues van Oost, Managing Director of CURE Foundation, shared the work of CURE providing support to children who experience online sexual exploitation (OSEC). CURE's work focuses specifically on providing services to younger children who were not being properly cared for. He shared that they focus on the needs of the children and the experiences they undergo. CURE rephrases the question from "What's wrong with you?" to "What happened to you?"

Finally, Binoy Krishna Mallick, Executive Director of Rights Jessore, introduced a survivor of modern slavery, who shared her story with the Forum participants. She shared how she was in Bangladesh where she experienced domestic violence and how she was able to divorce her husband. However, she decided to go to India with her neighbor for work where she found herself exploited.

Workshop

After hearing from survivors and best practices for engaging with them, participants split into smaller workshops by region to discuss how they have incorporated survivor engagement and survivor-led programming and advocacy into their work and to learn from their peers about how to do so more effectively in the future. 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.

The Regional Discussion Leads for these workshops included: Angela Escobilla, Project Manager of the Balay Mindanaw Foundation; Reann C. Mantilla, Manager of JPI - IDC; and, Sudha Upadhyayula, Head of Operations at My Choices Foundation.

Outcomes of Angela Escobilla's group included:

How can organizations better engage survivors in their work?

- 1. Strengthen inter-agency partnerships with the service providers law enforcers, social workers,
- 2. Create a more friendly environment for the survivors in the shelters
- 3. Provide comprehensive support for survivors education,
- 4. Shelters should have a language translator to communicate with victims survivors who are from other countries
- 5. Develop a more trauma-informed care program for survivors

8 Bharat Pate

How can organizations better engage survivors in their work?

- 1. "Survivors to "partners for change"
- 2. Build support around survivors, peer support
- Organizer volunteer network group –

Bharat Patel

Outcomes of Reann C. Mantilla's group included:

How can organizations better engage survivors in their work?

- We can look into research and assessment coming from various organizations.
- Work with local partners who provide assistance with survivors.
- Build individual plans for survivor (survival healing)
- Conduct regular feedback (feedback groups) families/ communities
- Work with local groups that include survivors (psychological first aid/ basic skills)
- Referrals
- Survivor Peer Support groups
- Offering opportunities (building their strengths together with communities)
- Opportunity for the survivors to share their voice and be heard and to be included in the decision making (to make their own decisions)
- Provide comprehensive Support Aftercare services (therapy and education)

What can we recommend? **Private and Other** Alliance 8.7 Governments Stakeholders (CSO's, NGOs) Collaboration among To encourage Strict or full destination country compliant in the stakeholders to funds programs Implementation of Survivors summit on anti-trafficking, to laws address the need of the survivor (victim centered approach)

Outcomes of Sudha Upadhyayula's group included:

Country - #0rgs	Org. Working Sector	Forms of slavery prevalent
India - (2)	Prevention of Sex trafficking, child trafficking, Prosecution, Helpline, establishing volunteer network, Forced Religion Conversion, Forced Marriage, in Sex Trafficking too. Thanks	All forms - For labour, sexual exploitation, organ, forced marriage, dance and music (sex),
Nepal - (2)	All types of trafficking – policy advocacy, capacity building of CSOs and stakeholders, network building, Info and resource center to disseminate info (41 members incl 6 survivors), child rights, SAARC mechanism	Labour trafficking, sex trafficking, gender rights, entertainment sector (dance bars, massage parlour),
Bangladesh-(2) BRAC,	Female migrant worker rights, advocacy, VAW, early marriage, legal justice, socioeconomic reintegration support, sex trafficking, in-kind support	Labour, VAW, elderly women exploitation, sex trafficking, medically traumatized vulnerable women,

What is the rate of Prosecutions and convictions in your regions? Reasons

1. India:

- a. Acquittal rate per TIP report was 83% meaning only 17% of accused were convicted (world average 39%)
- b. In 2 of states (Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal) we are working, only 2% were convicted from 2008-2018
- c. No knowledge of family, community and even NGO who can push for correct sections being mentioned in the FIR
- d. No proper documentation to prove during the FIR that the child is a minor
- e. Correct process of investigation is not adopted
- f. As there is no good rehabilitation and counselling the survivors fail to persue the legal case
- 2. Bangladesh Since 2004 labour and migrant trafficking implementation is a challenge, don't have protection. CSOs are involved. Govt. has very less activities. Awareness raising less. PPP

What are the gaps for implementing the laws and policies for modern-day slavery in your country?

GAPS	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
AHTU - not adequately trained and equipped Cases lodged as kidnapped or missing	NGOs can collaborate in building skillset as well as a collaborative network on ground to facilitate reporting and case support



Day Three: Beyond Asia- Threats and solutions beyond the continent

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 Asia with the global movement around the theme of "Beyond Asia: Threats and solutions beyond the continent." Programming focused on global-scale issues including migration, conflict, technology, as well as on connecting the Asian priorities to the global movement.

The day's programming contemplated questions such as:

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

Participants started the day hearing from the CEO of the Remedy Project. 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: Archana Kotecha | Remedy Project
- Moderator: Carol Mortensen | Hagar International
- Presenters:
 - Purva Gupta | Global March
 - o Cecilia Oebanda-Pacis | Voice of the Free
 - Cheryl Perera | One Child
 - o Borislav Gerasimov | Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women
 - Matt Friedman | The Mekong Club
 - Angharad Smith | Delta 8.7, United Nations University Centre for Policy Research
 - Carol Mortensen | Hagar International

Keynote

Archana Kotecha, CEO of the Remedy Project, utilized her keynote address to speak about the weakness of the anti-modern slavery movement, especially with regard to how fragmented and siloed it is. She spoke on UN sustainable development goal (SDG) 8, which is about inclusivity and sustainable economic growth. She highlighted the inherent ownership and responsibility that everyone involved in the movement has over the outcome of its actions.

She spoke about the need for responsible labor sourcing practices and the benefits of building capacity in supply chains. She highlighted that moving to a place of inclusivity and removing structures that discriminate against certain vulnerable groups would enhance the opportunities for value creation amongst all stakeholders. She emphasized that it is only when individuals are treated as valuable stakeholders that one can consider inclusivity and sustainability.

She proposed that the solution is finding commonality amongst each other to drive the movement in the same direction, how to build leverage across a supply chain to have a multiplier effect, and how to be accountable to each other along the way.

Presentations and Q&A Session

The final set of presentations during the Forum was moderated by Carol Mortensen, Executive Director of Hagar International. These presentations centered around global factors that exacerbate modern slavery, such as, migration, technology, and a global economy, and highlighted areas for movement response.

The first presenter was Purva Gupta, Global Coordinator of Global March, and she spoke on child labor as a growing pandemic in tandem with COVID-19. She noted that child labor is reducing as a whole, but it still occurs at a mass scale. COVID-19 is increasing the number of children who are being added to the workforce. She shared the statistic that by 2022, around 9 million children will be forced to work due to the effects of COVID-19 and increased vulnerability that it brings. She also shared recommendations for soltuiosn to child labor including additional and fortified South-South Triangular Cooperation. She highlighted that all efforts need to have southern NGOs at the forefront, with increased support from donor countries. She also noted that there should be more activities around combining rights-based models that ensure communities are kept at the center of the movement.

Next, Cecilia Oebanda-Pacis, Founder of Voice of the Free, highlighted the plight of migrant workers from the Philippines. She shared how Voice of the Free is investing in innovative and technological solutions to the pervasive issue. She spoke about how they created an online platform for migrant workers to be connected with employment. She also suggested that there should be increased collaboration and work with and between governments, private sector actors, unions, etc.

The third presenter was Cheryl Perera, Executive Director of One Child. She introduced her organization and emphasized the importance of including children and promoting a movement that is led by youth. She detailed how she came to found One Child while she was herself a teenager as well as how she engaged other youth to participate in the movement. She shared that the key to success is to include children in the movement and in spaces such as the Forum, as well as to promote their advocacy skills through these vehicles.

Then, Borislav Gerasimov, Programme Coordinator Communications and Advocacy and Editor of Anti-Trafficking Review at the Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women, presented. He spoke on the effects of neoliberalism, climate change, and digitalization, especially on the erosion of labor rights and factors that are pushing people to migrate for salaried work. He noted rising inequality is leading to an erosion of democracy and an increase in authoritarianism in many contexts. Borislav introduced the work of GAATW: building evidence from the ground up and including migrant workers, engaging in policy and advocacy work, strengthening civil society, and working on the ground.

Matt Friedman, CEO of The Mekong Club, followed. He spoke about his experiences founding the Mekong Club as well as its key objectives. During his presentation, he stressed the importance and relevance of the private sector in the fight to end modern

slavery. He shed light on some key trends that both help and hinder the movement against modern slavery.

Angharad Smith, Programme Officer at the United Nations University- Center for Policy Research and representative 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.

Finally, Carol Mortensen, Executive Director of Hagar International, shared about the work her organization does to thwart human trafficking and modern slavery. She noted several key global solutions for the group to keep in mind throughout their work. These included:

- Poverty reduction, education and social safety nets
- Equality, inclusion and challenging negative social norms
- Legislation and law enforcement
- Emergency preparedness planning and resource mobilization
- Commitment to reach those in greatest need
- Trauma-informed care and survivor-centric case management

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 Asia and the ways in which they can work together to end modern slavery globally. The outcomes of this session are described below in the <u>Asian Priorities</u> section of the report.



Asian Priorities

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. To aid in directing the discussions, participants were asked to categorize their priorities for three main audiences: the Alliance 8.7 and the global movement to end modern slavery; Asian government leaders; and, private sector and civil society actors in the region. These recommendations and priorities are detailed below. It is noteworthy that cross-collaboration between sectors and entities was highlighted in all three categories, clearly at the forefront of the discussion and the primary priority identified by participants.

Priority Actions Relating to the Alliance 8.7 and the Global Movement

Participants prioritized recommendations for the global movement as well as the Alliance 8.7 as the embodiment of this movement at the governmental and international levels. They emphasized that collaboration amongst governments, regional bodies, unions, CSOs, academics, and service providers is lacking and is hindering individual efforts to combat modern slavery thorughout the region. It was noted that greater collaboration at the global level would allow for strengthened protocols around border security, increased and expedited victim identification, and more realistic prevention measures, which would all in turn benefit vulnerable populations most at risk for modern slavery or human trafficking.

Participants also recommended that governments take advantage of and invest more heavily in technological advances. They advised that technology could be better incorporated and embedded into individual programming as well as collaborative processes across governments and borders.

Forum participants shared many recommendations for governments with regard to the way that projects are created, funded, and at the global level. In order for CSO-led projects to be more successful and impactful, CSOs recommended that governments, especially those that regularly make funding anti-slavery projects a priority, make changes to funding calls in order to emphasize and support trauma-informed care programs that strongly rely on partnership building with survivors. CSOs also shared that governments could do a much better job at enhancing awareness raising in local communities in form of grants and collaboration programs in addition to the normal route of going through larger organizations in a trickle-down approach. Additionally, there should be increased communication on the donor side to make sure that CSOs are aware of compliance requirements as well as foster CSO networks where grantees could learn from one another. Participants also noted that continuous government reviews of long-term projects should be done in order to ensure that they are continuing to address the most recent root causes that are affecting vulnerable populations in real time.

Additionally, participants had several recommendations centering around the Alliance 8.7 and Pathfinder country process. They noted that there is increasing need to bring more countries into the fold of the Alliance 8.7 and formalize their commitments to end modern slavery on a global stage. It was recommended that CSOs in current Pathfinder countries in the region (such as those in Vietnam and Nepal) share their best practices for how to pressure non-Pathfinder governments into buying into the Alliance 8.7. In turn, it was emphasized that CSOs should keep a close eye on current Pathfinder countries to ensure that there is indeed progress on the commitments they promised to make as a result of their participation in the Alliance 8.7.

Priority Actions Relating to Asian Governments and Asian Movement Leaders

The second set of recommendations that participants curated applies specifically to Asian governments and the leaders of the Asian anti-slavery movement. These actors are especially crucial to ending modern slavery given the wide breadth of actions they are able to take.

As stated previously, the number one recommendation for Asian governments and the Asian anti-slavery movement was increased collaboration, amongst themselves, but especially with CSOs and national and local government bodies.

Along with greater collaboration, increased support and capacity was at the top of the list of priorities that the participants created. They noted that increased capacity building for government frontline workers would better equip them to not only recognize vulnerable individuals or victims, but would also make them more likely to intervene on their behalf. Participants discussed that increased support is also needed for migrants and overseas workers, especially during the pandemic, which has proven an extremely trying and difficult time for all types of groups, but especially so for those already vulnerable to modern slavery pre-pandemic. With more people economically disadvantaged and looking for more work with fewer jobs available and larger obstacles to travel, human trafficking and labor exploitation has increased in the region. There is a need for increased collaboration in support efforts and a more concerted effort to aid these newly vulnerable populations. Participants highlighted that inclusion of recovery programs, healthcare, housing programs into this support would be an effective use of government resources at this time.

Relatedly, it was emphasized that there needs to be increased unison amongst Asian countries, not just collaboration, especially with regard to laws and policies. It was noted that because there are not many coordinated legal frameworks or policies, it creates a confusing web for potential labor migrants, leaving them more vulnerable to exploitation.

Not only should there be increased coordination between countries, there should also be increased cooperation between the government and the private sector, especially in the creation of labor laws and regulations. With both parties being on the same page from the beginning, there is less room for malpractice or confusion that could lead to trafficking and exploitation.

The patchwork of legal frameworks is also a barrier to access for victims and prosecutors alike that continues to exploit them long after they have been rescued. There needs to be increased focus on the prosecution of traffickers and exploiters with increased access to the legal system for victims and survivors. Relatedly, it was noted that reintegration programs need to be a complementary part of this process, ensuring that survivors have the resources and treatment necessary to remain resilient to further exploitation and trafficking.

In this vein, participants noted that ASEAN and SAARC should consider focusing on larger, more encompassing legal frameworks as well as strengthening mechanisms for the implementation of these laws and policies.

Some recommendations for specific governments included:

- Nepal should create and adopt a standard operating procedure for repatriation and rehabilitation.
- India should pass the Human Trafficking bill that has been drafted and proposed.

Priority Actions Relating to Private Sector and Civil Society Actors

Participants also had many recommendations for the private sector and civil society actors in the fight against modern slavery, principle among them being increased collaboration and support. It was noted that prioritizing capacity building for grassroots organizations, especially with regard to increasing knowledge on trauma-informed care, would greatly benefit the movement. CSOs should make it a priority to share their best practices and success stories with others working in the same space to ensure that as many vulnerable individuals are helped or made resilient to modern slavery as possible.

CSOs and private sector actors would be best utilized by the movement in greater focusing on community prevention measures that would enhance awareness of modern slavery and exploitation at the grassroot level. They should focus more intensely on addressing root cause preventions and spend more efforts on educating themselves and the public about push factors and community issues that are most likely to result in exploitation. It is in this arena that CSOs could most effectively utilize and educate community youth leaders, empowering them to be advocates and more resilient to modern slavery at the same time. Survivors, as well as youth, should be more integrated into anti-slavery programming at large.

It was noted that while governments need to make it easier to access legal resources, it is also important that CSOs and private sector actors increase awareness of relevant policies and laws, especially with an emphasis on how to use legal frameworks to their advantage. Relatedly, witness protection should be ensured and a priority for those CSOs working in the rescue and survivor-empowerment spaces of the movement.



Next Steps

Participants left the Forum with increased knowledge about how COVID-19, climate change, migration, and globalization are directly affecting root causes of slavery in Asia, possible solutions, and new partnerships to put those ideas into action. After attending all three days of the Asia 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 second in the series of regional Freedom from Slavery Forums, which will take place throughout the rest of the year. The Latin America Regional Forum will take place from September 21-23, followed by the Middle East & North Africa in mid-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 <a href="https://example.com/orchors.org/linearing-new-mailto-com/orchors.org/lin

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

Across the three days of Forum virtual events, 225 individuals from 21 countries registered and 140 individuals participated (including presenters). Of the 140 individuals who participated, 19 different countries were represented. The countries with the most participants included: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.



Speaker and Presenter Bios

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

Keynote



Anastasia Vynnychenko is a Project Manager at the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Since joining IOM's Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking (CREST) programme in June 2018, she has been advising businesses on responsible and ethical recruitment, building business capacity to address and mitigate risks of forced labour, as well as developing practical tools for ensuring respect of human rights in international supply chains.

Anastasia has gained project development and management skills over the past ten years working with IOM in Eastern Europe and in South-East Asia. She was previously employed by the IOM Mission in Ukraine, where she managed the labour mobility and human development portfolio, focusing on migration research and policy development, financial dialogue with public and sector stakeholders migrant remittances on investment, as well as diaspora engagement in home country development.

Presenter

Shariful Hasan is an activist, a freelance journalist, and has predominantly dedicated 15 years of his professional life in the migration sector. Currently, he



is working as the Programme Head of Migration Programme at BRAC Bangladesh. Through rigorous advocacy, he is trying to ensure the rights of the migrant workers and their families, from grass root level to policy level. He did his Masters in Journalism, Media and Communication from University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and Oslo University College, Norway and has extensive working experience as Senior Reporter in the Daily Prothom Alo.

Moderator



Dr. Manish Subharwal Manish, CEO, IMPACT Partners in Social Development, is a seasoned Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Learning (MEAL) Expert and Social Researcher carrying almost 30 years of experience in various dimensions of social development including child protection, gender, youth development, HIV/AIDS, Reproductive and Child Health, Maternal Nutrition and IYCF Practices, Family Planning. He has sound experience of working with national and international organisations

who work with national and state governments on different thematic areas. Dr. Subharwal is an expert in developing Programmes and M&E

Systems for large-scale projects and programs with multiple levels of reporting. He is also an effective facilitator that helps organizations and networks develop their strategic frameworks.

Subharwal has more than 12 years of experience of working in the field of child protection in all states of India and also in South Asian region. Some of the work to his credit while working with South Asia Regional Initiatives (SARI/Equity) are development of Victim Witness Protection Protocol. compilation of landmark judgments on violence against women and children from South Asia. He has also conducted several researches on survivors of human trafficking, legal mechanisms of rescue, and repatriation rehabilitation and service provisioning for children facing abuse. Manish also has a reasonable sector experience in livelihood, education, nutrition, gender and youth development. He has experience of working in South Asia (India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka), Africa (Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) and the UK.

Panelists



Tandin Wangmo started her career as a primary school teacher after high school, but she continued her higher education along with raising two children. She now holds a Master's Degree in Educational Studies from the University of Newcastle, Sydney, where she was recognized as an outstanding alumnus and received the National Leadership Award on 5th Sept. 2019. Currently she is the Head of Office, UNODC Bhutan and National Project Coordinator for UNODC Regional Office for South Asia. The main focus of UNODC in Bhutan is to support the Royal Government of Bhutan to promote a Rights Based Multi-sectoral Responses to Prevent Trafficking of Persons. Additionally, support is also provided to strengthen capacity to prevent and combat substance abuse and wildlife crime.

She worked at the GNH Centre of Bhutan as the Dy. Executive Director where she mainly worked in program design and training. She joined the 2013 national assembly elections with PDP as a candidate from South Thimphu as well as the party spokesperson and media director. She worked on setting up the Bhutan Red Cross Society before joining RENEW as the Executive Director in 2015, where she helped strengthen its network of volunteers by forging formal working relationships with the RBP and Ministry of Health.



Atty. Noel R. Eballe serves as the Sr. Lead for Policy and Advocacy for the National Investigations and Law Enforcement Development (NILED) of IJM Philippines. In 2013, he joined IJM as Special Counsel for Intervention where he litigated human trafficking as well as sexual abuse cases in court as part of the Legal Interventions Department. Currently, he leads efforts to advance IJM's policy and advocacy priorities in the Philippines particularly in law enforcement development. Prior to joining IJM he was in government service- first as a political officer in the House of Representatives and then clerking for Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Romeo F. Barza. He holds a degree in law from the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Civil Law and a degree in Philosophy from the University of the Philippines, Diliman.



Loan Luong has 20+ years of experience in social work, project management, and business management. She co-founded Cay Mai Social Work Program, a network of social workers that provides social, protection and support services for street and homeless youth, including pregnant teenagers, young mothers, and female street youth. She conducts trainings for responders worldwide and develops curricula on life skills, child sexual abuse & human trafficking prevention, advocacy, and case management.

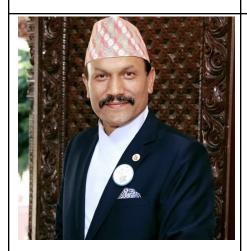


Mr. Rajiv Ranjan Sinha holds a Post Graduate certificate in Rural Development. He is one of the founding members of Srijan Foundation (Hazaribagh, Jharkhand) and since its inception has been associated with the organization. Currently, he is working in the capacity of Programs Manager.

He started his career young as a Project Coordinator at Nav Jagriti Kendra and have been working as a consultant for organizations like UNICEF (MP), AVI (India), CINI (Ranchi) and Population Services International (India). He is also associated with various national and state level

organizations for evaluation studies, research and documentation.

His extensive experience in the field of social sector has helped him develop insights and knowledge about modern day slavery including counter trafficking and bonded labour (especially in the context of Jharkhand). As such, his expertise has also helped him earn membership as a steering committee member in the National Network - "Interim Working Group (IWG)" to abate trafficking and a core group member in the State Network -JATN Jharkhand Anti Trafficking Network (JATN).



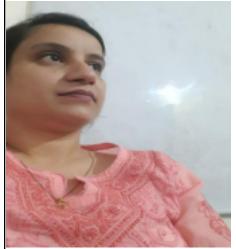
Bishwo Ram Khadka was born in 1965 and educated in Tribhuvan University of Nepal. He is one of the key persons who collaborated with Ms. Anuradha Koirala, in upgrading Maiti Nepal's nationally and internationally reputation expanding the areas of intervention and contributing in strategic planning. Joining Maiti Nepal in the capacity of Assistant Director, he has demonstrated tremendous skills to add values to the organizational mission in manifold directions. As an Executive Director of Maiti Nepal now, he has proven himself a pivotal person who has vision, willingness, vigour and utmost energy to strengthen the leadership of Maiti Nepal and enrich its reputation through appropriate and timely delivery of ideas and thoughts. It is in his tenure that Maiti Nepal and the Chairperson Ms. Anuradha Koirala gained accolades and got felicitated with various national and international awards, including the CNN Hero of the Year, 2010, World Children Prize 2002, Padma Shree from Indian government in 2017, and many more.

He and his team mates have worked hard for organization's noble cause and it is well appreciated by the government of Nepal. As a recognition and reward, the Chairperson Ms. Anuradha Koirala was appointed as governor of Province no. 3 of Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal in 2018.

Regional Discussion Leads



Maqbool Khokhar is the CEO of the Christian Care Foundation. Working among Minorities since 2011 till date, worked for community development from north to south of Pakistan among every tribe and race.



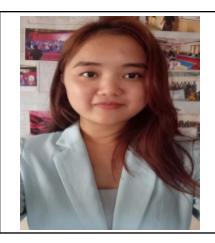
Dr. Pratibha Singh is currently the Director of Community Health and Development Programs at the Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA) and Child Protection and safeguarding officer EHA.

She is passionate about the wellbeing and safeguarding of children. She has pioneered and led the programs for prevention of child trafficking and human trafficking in EHA since 2008. She worked at the grassroots level with communities in helping build mechanisms for safeguarding through a holistic approach combined with advocacy at local state and national level. For their work with communities, they were awarded the chief minister's award for best social action NGO in Udalguri district of Assam in 2010.

Currently, she provides leadership to more than 50 programs across 7 states and 63 districts in North and North East India. Safeguarding and prevention is an integral part of all her work.

In 2019, she piloted the parenting for lifelong health -teens with UNICEF as a strategy for prevention of violence against children, one of the root causes of trafficking.

Her work with children and safeguarding continues at various levels through organizational capacity building, community resilience building and networking.



Kranti Tamang is a young activist on anti-human trafficking and HIV. Ms. Tamang is a daughter of a trafficking survivor and woman living with HIV who has been actively involved in the anti-human trafficking movement and for the rights of people living with HIV in Nepal for years. She is an organization development coordinator at Shanti Foundation a nonprofit organization established and is operated by women living with HIV and trafficking survivors for survivors.

Day Two: Strengthening Asia's anti-slavery efforts while engaging survivors

Keynote

Angela Guanzon is an advocate, consultant, and survivor of labor trafficking. She serves as an Advisory Board member for Freedom United and she's also a member of the CAST Survivor Leadership Program where she serves in a leadership role to change systems and pass laws to protect victims. She advocated and worked closely to pass the California law SB 477, a law that regulates the services of foreign labor contractors, and it requires them to register with the Labor Commissioner. Angela provides training healthcare providers, victim advocates, and law enforcement. She participated in the development of the 40 hour Human Trafficking Investigation course with the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards & Training (POST), and the Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime Professional Development for Human Trafficking Survivors pilot training. Angela is a 2016 Human Trafficking Leadership Academy Fellow of National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC).

Presenter



Skye Maconachie is the co-CEO of Blue Dragon Children's Foundation in Hanoi, Vietnam. Skye specialises in leadership development, program development and safeguarding. Skye has a Masters of Social Work and 19 years experience working with disadvantaged children and families across Asia, Canada and Australia.

Moderator

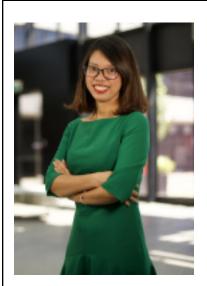


Professor Babu Mathew has been a faculty member of NLSIU right from its founding days. He has taught Legal Methods, Law, Poverty and Development and Labour Law for Graduate students. He was instrumental in setting up the Centre for Child and the Law and the Centre for Labour Studies. He held the Government of India Chair on Juvenile Justice. He was Registrar of the National Law School during which time the International Training Centre was established as a successful profit centre of the University.

He was awarded the Nehru Fellowship which facilitated research into the Public Sector and led to the first PIL against disinvestment in the Karnataka High Court. He then went on deputation from NLSIU to become the Country Director of Action Aid International.

He is presently Adjunct Professor at NLSIU where he teaches in the Master's Programme on Public Policy. He is also Chairperson of the Institute of Public Policy and Director, Centre for Labour Studies at NLSIU.

Speakers



Huong Dang, Founder & CEO of HopeBox, was born in 1986 in a farming family. Her father passed away when she was very young. Her mother had to work very hard just to make a living. At 13, Huong arrived in Hanoi by herself, and babysat for Hanoi's families to earn \$10/month. Despite all these difficulties her passion for study never stopped. Huong registered for a night class at a Continuing Education Centre. She became a street kid, waking up at 2am to cook sticky rice and sell on the street. Her life was full of challenges and dangers. There were many drug dealers where she lived and she slept on a small bed under the stairs.

In 2012, Huong commenced an Associate Degree in Melbourne via a KOTO - Box Hill Institute scholarship. Huong completed her Master of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Swinburne University of Technology (Melbourne, Australia), where she won the Swinburne Achievement Award. After graduating, Huong worked as a Business Analyst for Infrarisk Melbourne. Huong returned to Vietnam in early 2017 with a great passion to give back to KOTO, the organisation that changed her life and worked as Director of Partnerships and Engagement. In May 2017, she was selected as a Young Leader representing Vietnam in the Australia

Vietnam Young Leader Dialogue. She took a break in 2019 and moved to the UK to work as Client Service Manager.

Huong founded HopeBox in 2018 – a social enterprise that provides employment for women from Gender-Based Violence. Huong is now working for KOTO as Director of Partnerships and Strategy.



Dr. Bhanuja Sharan Lal is the Executive Director of Manav Sansadhan Evam Mahila Vikas Sansthan (MSEMVS) based in Varanasi.

Around 1996, Bhanuja began to work directly on issues of child labour, especially in carpets. He ioined MSEMVS as an intern in 1996 after completing 'Masters in Social Work' and was involved in women empowerment programmes in rural areas. Mr. Bhanuja throughout his career realized that without a strong mechanism for rehabilitation other efforts are not going to sustain the freedom of the child laborer. He has always stressed on the proper rehabilitation of the freed laborer through education and livelihood building. Mr. Bhanuja became the Director of MSEMVS in 2003, and he is responsible for leading more than 75 frontline anti trafficking workers in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Bhanuja and his team have enabled communities to progressively dismantle entrenched systems of bonded labour at brick kilns, farms, and quarries etc. in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand.

Mr. Bhanuja Sharan Lal was awarded the "TIP Hero 2014" by US Department of State for his tremendous work addressing Human Trafficking. Each year, the Department of State honors individuals around the world who have devoted their lives to the fight against human trafficking.

Bhanuja is the member of: working Committee of NITI AAYOG, Govt. of India for the sustainable engagement with CSOs; Task Force on Bonded Labour and Child Labour in Varanasi at district level; and, the Monitoring Committee "on Laws related to women and children i.e. Immoral Trafficking

Prevention Act, Juvenile Justice Act, Adaptation Act etc. "at Commissioner Level of Varanasi.

While directing MSEMVS, Bhanuja completed his Ph.D. on the issue of Child Trafficking along with Graduation in Law with Labour Laws.



Bart van Oost was born in Maastricht, Netherlands and completed his University studies in Finance and Real Estate in Hasselt, Belgium. In 2015, he left his successful banking career in Belgium to serve as Managing Director at C.U.R.E. Foundation, Inc. Since then, has been actively involved in the development and operations of Rancho ni Cristo – an aftercare shelter that provides girls rescued out of Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) with a safe place to grow and heal from the trauma of their past.

Since it opened its doors in December 2015, Rancho has been "home" to more than 40 girls. It is one of the few OSEC-specific shelters in the Philippines today.

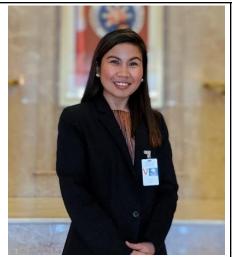
In partnership with national and international organizations more than 40 girls have been rescued, 18 perpetrators have been convicted and 9 survivors have been reintegrated back into their community since 2015.



Binoy Krishna Mallick has experience as human rights activist and managing multi sectoral development projects on cross border illegal migration. rescue, repatriation reintegration of trafficked children, women and men including gender and social injustice towards women. He secured national and international awards for his excellent performance and dedication towards combating human trafficking in the rural areas of Bangladesh. He is known as a great human rights activist with strong negotiation skills and ability. He has a BSS (Hons) degree in Political

Science and is the current executive director of Rights Jessore.

Regional Discussion Leads

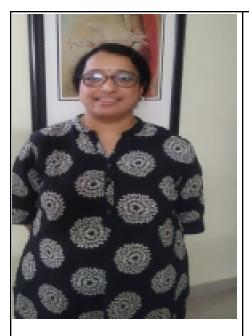


Ilde Angela "Angie" Escobilla is a project manager of the Balay Mindanaw Foundation Inc. where she leads in the implementation of the institution's community-based peacebuilding, development and child protection programs in Northern Mindanao, the Philippines. She is currently pursuing her Master of Arts in Applied Conflict Transformation Studies the Pannasastra at University in Cambodia. She is an alumna of the Young Southeast Asia Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) and a fellow of the Professional Fellows Program of the US Department of State. She is also a visiting fellow at the International Rescue Committee in Boise ID, USA in 2019 where she was able to work with refugees, asylum seekers, and victims and survivors of human trafficking.



Ms. Reann C. Mantilla is currently the Project Manager of Cinemobile Project an advocacy awareness raising project on anti-human trafficking being implemented by the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation- Integrated Development Center, Inc.

She is a women and a child protection advocate and has been providing support to women and children victims of violence, sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as developing capacity building programs and conducting trainings for their project partners and communities mostly in Caraga Region, Mindanao. She also represents the organizations to different women and children bodies and committees in Caraga, Region.



Sudha Upadhyayula is the Head of Operations at My Choices Foundation. Sudha has been leading the operations of the anti-human trafficking work of Operation Red Alert since August 2016. She joined My Choices Foundation after 20 years of a corporate career, driven by a

desire to contribute to society. She thrives on the versatility of the daily demands of her current role. Sudha believes in the concept of lifelong learning. She is currently enrolled for PhD at Tata Institute of Social Sciences and is conducting research on the subject "Understanding modus operandi of the traffickers". Streamlining processes and getting work done is her forte. Her mission is "making others better because of her presence and ensuring the impact lasts in her absence".

Day Three: Beyond Asia: Threats and solutions beyond the continent

Keynote



Archana Kotecha is a UK qualified barrister and London School of Economics graduate who started her career practicing corporate law with KPMG then with DLA Piper. After 7 years as a corporate lawyer, Archana joined the UN Refugee Agency's Legal Protection Team in London and subsequently the Immigration Advisory Service and Stop Trafficking UK in London. She has worked on a number of trafficking related asylum cases and produced an anti-trafficking toolkit for UK lawyers. She has served on the Victim Care Committee of the UK Human Trafficking Centre that was instrumental in the efforts to set up the National Referral Mechanism of the UK in 2009. She was also a committee member of the NSPCC's anti-trafficking and contributed to а number anti-trafficking and refugee stakeholder groups in the UK.

Following a move to Hong Kong, Archana joined Liberty Shared. Until recently, she was the Head of Legal and Asian Region Director for Liberty Shared. While at Liberty Shared, she produced a Hong Kong

focused Victim Identification Toolkit/NGO training, set up an online Legal Resources Centre (housed on Liberty Shared's website) and has been involved in lobbying the Hong Kong Legislative Council and rights advising human practitioners governments on trafficking in persons and forced labour. At Liberty Shared, Archana was also responsible for running regional legal projects including a regional Legal Impact Hub that focused on building access to justice for victims and promoting creative use of laws across the region to trafficking by promoting better combat а understanding of laws, using strategic litigation and partnership forging better amongst various stakeholders within and across borders.

Disrupting the activities of traffickers by improving financial slavery's visibility within modern institutions, educating NGOs and lawyers on anti-trafficking legal frameworks and victim identification have also been key aspects of Archana's work. Through her work with Liberty Shared, Archana has engaged extensively with institutions. regulators and financial corporations with a view to improving due diligence efforts to highlight human rights related risks and liabilities. In addition, she has been focusing on the application of anti-money laundering frameworks and existing risk structures within these institutions to identify and disrupt human trafficking networks. Archana's expertise also extends to remediation mechanisms and she has collaborated with partners like the International Organisation for Migration to develop Remedial Guidelines for the palm oil and electronics sector Malaysia. in Archana recognized as a regional subject matter expert and regularly advises various ASEAN bodies and specialist inter-agency teams in different countries in the region. In June 2017, Archana was named as one of the top ten innovative lawyers in Asia Pacific by the Financial Times Asia and she is also an alumni of the prestigious International Visitor Leadership Program run by the US Department of State. Archana was named in the Diversity List 2020 and is also a Social Standards committee member of the Asian Seafood Improvement Collaborative and an honorary Legal Lead for The Zubin Foundation's Call Mira Helpline.

Moderator



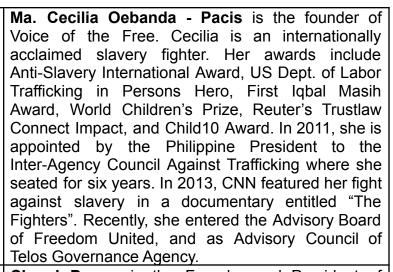
Carol Mortensen is the Executive Director of Hagar International With a Masters in International Development and more than 20 years international NGO global and country feminist leadership and management and three years regional consultant in Asia, Carol evidences a passion for social justice, gender equality, inclusion and child rights particularly for those from the most marginalized and disadvantaged backgrounds. With a profound understanding of the drivers and root causes of inequality, program innovations have been profiled internationally and nationally, national legislation and implementation standards influenced, and the lives of vulnerable women and children transformed. As Global Quality & Compliance / Executive Director for Hagar International she chairs global working groups and manages complex program and people portfolios, that contributed to Hagar International reaching more than 208,000 beneficiaries impacted by human trafficking, slavery, and abuse, directly and indirectly across Afghanistan, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar, and Singapore in 2020.

Presenters



Purva Gupta is a human rights advocate, with a decade of experience in child rights, particularly child labour. She holds the position of the Global Coordinator at the Global March Against Child Labour, and has a range of experience in leading and supporting advocacy, research, capacity building, and community participatory interventions across countries on child labour in economic exploitation. Her thematic areas of interest include intersection of child labour with education and domestic work. She has an MSc in International Development from the London School of Economics and a Master's Degree in Commerce from University of Delhi.







Cheryl Perera is the Founder and President of OneChild, the first organization in the world empowering a child and youth-led movement against the sexual exploitation of children (SEC) through prevention education, advocacy, survivor care and survivor empowerment, impacting over 80,000 in 11 countries. Appointed to the Order of Ontario, distinguished as a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader and one of Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100, Cheryl Perera is an international children's rights advocate. Her life-long crusade that she started as a high school student in the anti-trafficking field, now spans nearly 2 decades and has led her to become a sought-after speaker, sharing the stage with Heads of State. UN Secretary-Generals and Nobel Laureates. She has assisted law enforcement in investigations, pioneered Canada's first vouth-led prevention education program on sex trafficking directed at schools, and the Canadian private sector's first-ever engagement in ending the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism; and has provided shelter and long-term comprehensive care to hundreds of child victims in Asia. She holds a MAS in Children Rights from the University of Geneva and is a graduate of Harvard University and the University of Oxford's Executive Education Programs on Transformational Leadership and Public Policy in the 21st Century. A recipient of 29 awards, her work has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, Al-Jazeera, CNN, Financial Times of London, Gulf News (U.A.E.), Daily News (Sri Lanka), Dong-A Ilbo (Korea) and in 5 books.



Borislav Gerasimov is the Communications and Advocacy Coordinator at the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women and the Editor of the journal Anti Trafficking Review. He holds a degree in English Philology from Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski, Bulgaria, and has previously worked at women's rights and anti-trafficking organisations in Bulgaria and the Netherlands. He has also been involved in various capacities in the work of organisations supporting Roma youth, LGBTI people, people living with HIV/AIDS, and sex workers in Bulgaria and the Netherlands.



Matt Friedman is an international human trafficking expert with more than 30 years' experience. He is CEO of The Mekong Club, an organization of Hong Kong's leading businesses which have joined forces to help end all forms of modern slavery. Mr. Friedman previously worked for USAID and the United Nations in over 30 countries. Mr. Friedman offers technical advice to numerous governments, banks and corporations working to eliminate all forms of modern slavery and is the author of twelve 2017. Mr. Friedman won Asia's books. In prestigious "Communicator of the Year" Gold Award.



Angharad Smith is a Programme Officer for the Modern Slavery Programme at United Nations University Centre for Policy Research.

Prior to joining the Centre, Ms Smith held a research and policy internship at ECPAT International Secretariat in Bangkok, where she conducted secondary research into the sexual exploitation of children. Before her internship, she supervised a team of researchers at the University of Nottingham Rights Lab responsible for delivering data collection on government response to modern slavery for the Walk Free Foundation's 2019: 'Measurement, Action and Freedom' report.

Ms Smith holds a Master's in Slavery and Liberation from the University of Nottingham, the first Master's degree of its kind to provide comprehensive training on how best to achieve the liberation and social reintegration of those in slavery. During that time, she also worked as a Research Associate with the Rights lab conducting research into Slavery in Conflict. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in History and Ancient History from the University of Nottingham. Following her studies, she was elected into the role of Student Union President, a position which involved representing student interests and holding both financial and legal responsibility for the Union.

Regional Discussion Leads



Kuldeep Chauhan is the Regional Director for Asia at Free the Slaves. He is passionate about human rights, social justice issues, community-initiated solutions and improving access to opportunities for marginalized, economically- disadvantaged communities. He values the field perspective, builds trust and rapport with stakeholders and believes in a problem-solving attitude. His pragmatic approach has been forged through years of designing and implementing development programs in several Asian countries.

Kuldeep has worked in recent years managing donor funded programs, training and capacity building in private sector supply chains, stakeholder relations, resource mobilization and oversight of resources and operations. Prior to joining Free the Slaves Kuldeep, worked with Oxfam, Leonard Cheshire Disability, and Fairtrade in Asia Pacific in various operational and senior leadership roles.

As the India and South Asia director, Kuldeep's mission is to change the conditions that allow modern slavery to exist. He represents Free the Slaves in the region; provides ongoing technical assistance to partner organizations in strategic design, implementation, measurement and reporting; and holds responsibility for overall management of the regional program, strategy

development, business development and program oversight.

Kuldeep holds bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and a double master's in business management specializing in human resource management and marketing.



Romcy Madronio is the Southeast Asia Regional Manager at Free the Slaves. Before joining Free the Slaves, Romcy managed a community-based youth leadership program in the Philippines for the Ayala Foundation, which he expanded to several sites including Muslim Mindanao conflict areas. He became the Ayala Corporation's Business Club coordinator, enabling efforts to foster business synergy and community outreach. As a project management officer, Romcy developed financial monitoring and report streamlining for various initiatives of Ayala's corporate resources group.

Romcy holds a university degree in education from Xavier University in the Philippines and a diploma in global environmental issues from the East-West Center in Hawaii, which he attended as a U.S. State Department scholar. He is also an active mentor of the U.S. government's YSEALI (Young Southeast Asian Leadership Initiatives) in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations region.



Tsering Diskit is the India Country Program Officer at Free the Slaves. Her commitment to the betterment of society, as well as her respect for the Free the Slaves approach to ending all forms of modern slavery, motivated her to join FTS in 2018 as the India country program officer.

Tsering was born & raised in a beautiful place called Ladakh in northern India. She earned a master's in social work from Banaras Hindu University, Uttar Pradesh, India. She started her career with GoodWeave India as an assistant inspection monitoring and certification supervisor.

She is motivated to improve the lives of people and committed to ending all forms of inequality, exploitation and discrimination. She is dedicated to build a world free from all forms of slavery.

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.