

2025 Europe Regional Freedom
from Slavery Forum

FORUM PROGRAM

May 5-7, 2025

Kingdom of Belgium

FPS, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and
Development Cooperation

Place du Petit Sablon 8, 1000 Brussels,
Belgium

DAY 1: 5 May, 2025

09:30 - 10:00 CET

Registration

10:00 - 10:20 CET

Opening Ceremony and Certificate Award recognizing Ms. KARVAR Anousheh of the Government of France

The authority from the Kingdom of Belgium, as the host of the Forum, will welcome the participants to the Forum and present an award of recognition to Ms. Anousheh KARVAR from the Government of France for her global leadership and contributions in addressing forced labour, human trafficking and child labour.

10:20 - 10:40 CET

Keynote Speech: Regulatory Measures on Forced Labour in Europe

We will discuss current legal frameworks and policies aimed at combating forced labour across Europe, considering both country and regional level frameworks and the challenges faced in implementing these measures in Europe, as well as their implications worldwide.

10:40 - 11:40 CET

PANEL 1: Scene Setting: Understanding the Current Landscape on Forced Labour, Child Labour and the Pathfinder Framework in Europe

An overview of the latest trends, challenges, and initiatives addressing forced and child labour within Europe's regulatory landscape, including the Pathfinder Country Framework of Alliance 8.7. Including the policies and programs are initiated to address forced labour, human trafficking, and child labour. The panel will delve into these frameworks to enlighten participants about current efforts and gaps, as well as some of the lessons learned and best practices.

12:00 - 13:00 CET

PANEL 2: Engaging Survivors in Addressing Forced Labour and Child Labor

A discussion on the role of survivor voices in shaping policy, advocacy, and interventions aimed at combating labour exploitation. The panel will bring the strategic perspectives of survivors of forced labour, labour exploitation and child labour in addressing these issues. Additionally, we will evaluate the progress that has been made and some of the gaps that need to be addressed to achieve a comprehensive and lasting change.

14:00 - 15:00 CET

PANEL 3: Forced Labour Ban Regulation: Challenges and the Way Forward

The panel will examine the effectiveness of forced labour bans, the challenges they present, and possible improvements in enforcement. The views of businesses and other key stakeholders will be key to this panel.

15:00 - 16:30 CET

Concurrent Workshops

Room 1

Exploring Cross-National and Cross-Regional Synergies on Import Bans and Other Measures on Forced Labour

A collaborative session on international best practices and cross-border coordination in enforcing forced labour import bans.

Room 2

Best Practices in Research on Modern Slavery and Trafficking

A facilitated workshop on methodologies, data collection, and challenges in researching modern slavery and human trafficking.

17:00 - 19:00 CET

Forum Reception



An informal networking session that will enable participants to connect, exchange ideas, and get to know one another. The evening will include remarks from the Forum host, Free the Slaves leadership, and other guests. Drinks, light beverages and snacks will be served.

DAY 2: 6 May, 2025

08:30 - 09:00 CET

Registration

09:00 - 09:10 CET

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Opening statements setting the stage for the day's discussions.

09:10 - 09:30 CET

Keynote Speech: The Promise of SDG 2030

An overview of Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Target 8.7 and its role in eradicating forced labor, human trafficking, modern slavery and child labor by 2030.

09:30 - 11:00 CET

PANEL 1: Textile Industry, Fast Fashion and the Legislation in Europe: The Complicated Fight Against Child Labor in the Textile Supply Chain

An in-depth look at labor exploitation in the textile supply chain and how policies in Europe address these issues. The textile industry has been increasingly concerned about child labour in general. The panel will discuss the status of the challenges and effective responses to the issue of child labor in the industry.

11:15 - 13:00 CET

PANEL 2: The Europe Pathfinder Country Framework: Meeting the SDG Target 8.7

Insights into the implementation of the Pathfinder Framework and the progress of countries in Europe toward achieving SDG Target 8.7.

This panel will assess the progress made on the promises of SDG Target 8.7, including the elimination of child labor by 2025. It will also determine how governments support businesses or work collaboratively with them and other key stakeholders, such as survivors, civil society organizations, and unions, in achieving SDG Target 8.7 through Alliance 8.7's Pathfinder Framework. The panel will also shed light on efforts being done by non-pathfinder countries in addressing SDG Target 8.7 issues.

14:00 - 15:30 CET

PANEL 3: Debunking Myths Around Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence (MHRDD)

A discussion clarifying common misconceptions and explaining the impact of mandatory human rights due diligence laws.

This panel will explore how businesses are implementing human rights due diligence, the process and mechanism and what would be recommendable to ensure compliance and practical engagement.

15:30 - 16:30 CET

Concurrent Workshops

Room 1

Best Practices on Community Grievance Mechanisms and Remediation

A comprehensive examination of effective mechanisms for workers and communities to report labour abuses and seek remedial action.

Room 2

Engaging Survivors in Pathfinder Framework

A survivor-centered discussion on how their experiences can inform and improve the implementation of the Pathfinder Framework.

DAY 3: 7 May, 2025

08:30 - 09:00 CET

Registration

09:00 - 09:10 CET

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Introduction to the final day of discussions and reflections on key themes.

09:10 - 09:30 CET

Keynote Speech: Reframing Modern Slavery in Europe

A critical examination of how modern slavery is understood and addressed within the context of Europe. This keynote will shed light on the current trends of measures to address modern slavery in Europe, gaps and opportunities.

09:30 - 10:45 CET

PANEL 1: Addressing Forced Labor and Child Labor in the Agriculture Supply Chain

This panel will examine the primary challenges in combating forced labor and child labor within agricultural supply chains. Businesses in Europe are confronted with a changing landscape in supply chains, including policies and regulations at regional, national, and global levels.

This panel will shed light on efforts being made to address these issues in the agricultural sector, bringing the perspectives of those at the frontline of eliminating these issues.

11:00 - 12:00 CET

PANEL 2: Strategies for Coordinating Efforts on Forced Labour and Child Labour in Global Supply Chains

An exploration of multi-dimensional collaborative strategies for diverse stakeholders engaged in addressing forced labor and child labor in global supply chains. The panel will discuss coordination strategies for addressing these issues and explore practical approaches to collaboration among key stakeholders.

12:00 - 13:00 CET

Closing of the Forum, Outcomes, & Next Steps

To conclude the Forum, this session will present an overview of the outcomes and key commitments for participants, as well as some tangible next steps for follow-up, in the lead-up to the global forum to be held in Paris later this year.

