

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 and present an award of recognition to 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-level and regional-level frameworks and the challenges faced in implementing these measures in Europe and their implications worldwide.

Keynote Speaker: Samira Rafaela (Former Member of the European Parliament; Cornell University)

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 that 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.

Panelists: Javier Martín (European Commission), **Anousheh Karvar** (Government of France), **Ira Rachmawati** (ITUC Belgium), **Jeff Morgan** (SUCDEN Trading)

Moderator: Laura de Franchis (The Alternatives Factory)

11:40 - 12:00 CET COFFEE BREAK

12:00 - 13:00 CET

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

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.

Panelists: Dr. Hyab Yohannes (University of Glasgow), Maud Pommier (MIST), Juliet Omoruyi (MIST), Mustafa Qadri (Equidem)

Moderator: Joanna Ewart-James (Freedom United)

13:00 - 14:00 CET LUNCH BREAK

14:00 - 15:30 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 key stakeholders will be key to this panel.

Panelists: Raluca Ipate (European Commission), Anousheh Karvar (Government of France), Angelique Mbouzie (Government of Cameroon); Helene de Rengerve (Human Rights Watch); Ruslan Myatiev (Turkmen News)

Moderator: Sofía González de Aguinaga (BIICL)

15:30 - 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.

Facilitated by: Sian Lea (Anti-Slavery International), Sofía González de Aguinaga (BIICL)

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.

Facilitated by: Dr. Faiza Zafar (Rights Lab), Dr. Hyab Yohannes (University of Glasgow)

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.

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.

Speaker: Marija Andjelkovic (ASTRA)

09:10 - 09:30 CET

Keynote Speech: The Promise of SDG 2030

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

Keynote Speaker: Fabian Bonertz (OSCE)

09:30 - 11:00 CET

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

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

Panelists: Muriel Treibich (Clean Clothes Campaign), Eveline de Wael (Fair Wear), Maria Pia Bianchetti (Independent), Andrews Wallis (Unseen)

Moderator: Samira Rafaela (Former Member of the European Parliament; Cornell University)

11:00 - 11:20 CET COFFEE BREAK

11:20 - 13:00 CET

PANEL 2: Strategies for Sustaining Current Funding Landscape to Address Forced Labour, Child Labour; and Trafficking in Persons

This panel will explore challenges, opportunities, and viable solutions to address funding issues that have affected the sector. In recent days, many humanitarian activities and the work of NGOs and INGOs have seen their funding affected by funding freezes and funding cuts by some government donors. In light of these challenges, the work on forced labour, child labour is inevitably affected.

Panelists: Dr. Hyab Yohannes (University of Glasgow), Mustafa Qadri (Equidem), Fabian Bonertz (OSCE), Donat Bagula (Government of the DRC)

Moderator: Suzanne Hoff (La Strada International)

13:00 - 14:00 CET LUNCH BREAK

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 advisable to ensure compliance and practical engagement.

Panelists: **Sarah Dekkiche** (International Cocoa Initiative), **Alena Kahle** (Fair Trade), **Jeff Morgan** (SUCDEN Trading), **Ben Vanpeperstraete** (Anti-Slavery International)

Moderator: **Hélène de Rengerve** (Human Rights Watch)

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.

Facilitated by: **Faustine Auger** (International Cocoa Initiative), **Laura de Franchis** (The Alternatives Factory)

Room 2

Engaging Survivors in Policy Framework Development

A survivor-centered discussion on how lived-experience can inform and improve the development and implementation of policy framework at the national, regional and global levels. An example of a policy framework will include the Pathfinder Country Framework of Alliance 8.7.

Facilitated by: **Donat Bagula** (Government of DRC), **Dr. Hyab Yohannes** (University of Glasgow), **Maud Pommier** (MIST)

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.

Speaker: **Sam Reid** (Migrants Help)

09:10 - 09:40 CET

Keynote Speech: Reframing Modern Slavery in Europe

A critical examination of how modern slavery is understood and addressed within the European context.

Keynote speakers: **Prof. Tomoya Obokata** (United Nations), **Prof. Tim McCarthy** (Free the Slaves & Harvard University)

09:40 - 10:45 CET

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

This panel will examine the primary challenges in combating forced labour and child labour within agricultural supply chains. European businesses are confronted with a changing landscape in supply chains, including policies and regulations at the regional, national, and global levels. The discussion will highlight ongoing efforts to address these issues in the agricultural sector.

Panelists: **Angelique Mbouzie** (Government of Cameroon), **Marco Dubbelt** (GMACL), **Andrew Wallis** (Unseen), **Maria Pia Bianchetti** (Independent)

Moderator: **Joanna Ewart-James** (Freedom United)

10:45 - 11:00 CET COFFEE BREAK

11:00 - 12:00 CET

PANEL 2: Coordinating Multi-Stakeholder Efforts in Global Supply Chains

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

Panelists: **Jeff Morgan** (SUCDEN Trading), **Isabelle Adam** (International Cocoa Initiative), **Donat Bagula** (Government of DRC), **Suhasini Singh** (Fair Wear)

Moderator: **Sian Lea** (Anti-Slavery International)

12:00 - 13:00 CET

Closing of the Forum, Outcomes, & Next Steps

To conclude the Forum, this session will summarize key outcomes, commitments, and next steps ahead of the global forum in Paris later this year.

Closing Speakers: **Laura de Franchis** (The Alternatives Factory), **Bukeni Waruzi** (Free the Slaves), **Eva Nullens** (Government of Belgium)

