



F R E E D O M F R O M S L A V E R Y

Global Forum 2026

*Freedom in a Changing World: Strengthening
Protection and Accountability, and Transforming
the Systems Behind Modern Slavery*

ARGYLE GRAND HOTEL · NAIROBI, KENYA · 5–6 OCTOBER 2026

Programme at a Glance

DAY 1 | 5 OCTOBER 2026

Confronting Reality and Setting Priorities

08:00–08:30	<i>Arrival, Registration and Coffee</i>
08:30–09:00	Opening Ceremony
09:00–09:40	Dialogue 1: Opening Dialogue
09:40–10:50	Panel 1: Freedom in a Changing World: Key Perspectives
10:50–11:50	Action Labs: Listen, Connect & Set Priorities
11:50–12:00	<i>Networking and Transition Break</i>
12:00–12:50	<i>Lunch Break</i>
12:50–13:10	Keynote 1
13:10–14:20	Panel 2: Survivor Engagement in Strengthening Protection
14:20–15:45	Six Concurrent Side Events
15:50–16:10	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:15–17:00	Panel 3: Reporting Back on Action and Outcomes
17:30–20:00	Forum Reception: Survivor Awards and Introduction of the Forum Ambassadors

DAY 2 | 6 OCTOBER 2026

Building the Roadmap for System Transformation

08:00–08:30	<i>Arrival, Coffee and Networking</i>
08:30–09:00	Opening of Day 2 and Reflections from Day 1
09:00–09:30	Keynote 2
09:30–10:40	Panel 4: Responsible Business and Supply Chain Regulation
10:40–11:50	Action Labs: From Priorities to Action
12:00–13:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:00–13:30	Dialogue 2: Rebuilding After Return: Livelihoods, Dignity and Survivor-Led Solutions
13:30–14:40	Panel 5: Tackling the Systems of Modern Slavery and Trafficking Through Accountability
14:40–16:05	Seven Concurrent Side Events
16:05–16:25	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:25–16:30	<i>Forum Evaluation Survey</i>
16:30–17:15	Panel 6: Reporting Back on Action and Outcomes from Concurrent Side Events
17:15–17:45	Adoption of Principles for Aligned Action to End Modern Slavery
17:50–19:00	Next Steps and Closing of the Forum

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DAY 1 | 5 OCTOBER 2026

Confronting Reality and Setting Priorities

Understanding challenges, aligning perspectives, and defining initial actions

08:00–08:30	<i>Arrival, Registration and Coffee · Entrance Hall · Informal arrival and networking</i>		
08:30–09:00	Opening Ceremony MASTER OF CEREMONIES Emma Gallo Managing Director, International Strategic Initiatives, Grace Farms, USA OPENING REMARKS Hon. Dr Alfred N. Mutua, EGH Cabinet Secretary for Labour and Social Protection, Government of Kenya		
09:00–09:40	Dialogue 1: Opening Dialogue SPEAKERS Dr Katarina Schwarz UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery and trafficking in persons, New Zealand Artlibert Makori Assistant Labour Commissioner, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Kenya MODERATOR Dr Jason Haynes Associate Professor of Law, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom and St Vincent and the Grenadines		
09:40–10:50	Panel 1: Freedom in a Changing World: Key Perspectives MODERATOR Kathy Givens Institute Director, Survivor Alliance, USA SPEAKERS Donat Bagula Mugangu Secretary General, Ministry of Employment and Labour, Democratic Republic of the Congo Anne Makumi Africa Zone Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Response Coordinator, The Salvation Army, Kenya Shamere McKenzie Chief Executive Officer, Sun Gate Foundation, USA Kosal Hor National Director, Chab Dai Coalition, Cambodia Tatiana Kotlyarenko Mentari Human Trafficking Survivor Empowerment Program Inc., USA		
10:50–11:50	Action Labs: Listen, Connect & Set Priorities <i>Participants work in small facilitated groups to share perspectives, identify common challenges and agree on the priorities that matter most. These priorities will form the foundation for the Day 2 Action Labs.</i> LEAD FACILITATOR Professor Zoe Trodd Director, Rights Lab, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom		
11:50–12:00	<i>Networking and Transition Break · Main Plenary Area · Informal networking and room transition</i>		
12:00–12:50	<i>Lunch Break · Dining Area</i>		
12:50–13:10	Keynote 1 KEYNOTE Ambassador John Cotton Richmond Chief Impact Officer, Atlas Free, USA INTRODUCED BY Jose Alfaro Lived Experience Expert; Advisor, The Human Trafficking Legal Center, USA		

13:10–14:20

Panel 2: Survivor Engagement in Strengthening Protection

MODERATOR

Eseosa Eguamwense Lived Experience Consultant, Nigeria

SPEAKERS

Lorena Velásquez

Director for Countering
Trafficking in Persons,
Secretariat Against Sexual
Violence, Exploitation and
Trafficking in Persons (SVET),
Guatemala

Sandra Christie Brown

Founder and President,
Finding Your Light Foundation
Inc., Jamaica and USA

Mary Ann Abunda

Founding Chairperson,
Sandigan Kuwait Domestic
Workers Association, Kuwait

Jeff Paskal Ochieng

Freelance Journalist,
MRRORS, Kenya

Sanjamaya Tamang

Founder and Executive
Director, Shanti Foundation,
Nepal

14:20–15:45

Six Concurrent Side Events

Parallel Session Rooms

PROGRAMME

Six organiser-led sessions; see the side-event schedule

15:50–16:10

Coffee Break · Refreshment Area

16:15–17:00

Panel 3: Reporting Back on Action and Outcomes

MODERATOR

Elisa Franceschinis Managing Director, en.v, Kuwait

CONTRIBUTORS

Representatives of each concurrent side event Short reports on key actions and outcomes.

17:30–20:00

Forum Reception: Survivor Awards and Introduction of the Forum Ambassadors

Reception Hall

17:30–18:00

Local Folklore Dance

*Traditional Kenyan cultural
performance*

18:00–18:10

Opening Remarks

Ambassador Michel Veuthey

Ambassador of the Sovereign Order
of Malta to Monitor and Combat
Trafficking in Persons; Deputy
Permanent Observer to the United
Nations in Geneva

18:10–18:20

Appreciation and Remarks

Helen Enright

Board Member, Free the Slaves,
Ireland

Bukeni Waruzi

Executive Director, Free the Slaves,
USA

18:20–18:50

Survivor Awards Ceremony

AWARDS PRESENTED BY

Francisca Mbuli Awah

Executive Director, Survivors'
Network, Cameroon

SURVIVOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Reflections from the award
recipients**

18:50–19:10

Introduction of the Forum Ambassadors

INCOMING FORUM AMBASSADOR

Professor Tomoya Obokata

Modern Slavery Expert; Former UN
Special Rapporteur on Contemporary
Forms of Slavery, Japan

OUTGOING FORUM AMBASSADOR

**Ambassador John Cotton
Richmond**

Chief Impact Officer, Atlas Free, USA

19:10–20:00

Networking and Conclusion of the Reception

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DAY 2 | 6 OCTOBER 2026

Building the Roadmap for System Transformation

Translating priorities into commitments, solutions, and next steps

08:00–08:30 *Arrival, Coffee and Networking · Entrance Hall · Informal arrival and networking*

08:30–09:00 **Opening of Day 2 and Reflections from Day 1**
 FACILITATED BY **Dr Pierre-Justin Kouka** International Development Strategist and Independent Consultant, Congo-Brazzaville

09:00–09:30 **Keynote 2**
 KEYNOTE **Luis Daniel Reyes Chávez** Deputy Head, International Labour Affairs Unit, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Guatemala
 INTRODUCED BY **Cinthia Belbussi** Latin America Regional Manager, Free the Slaves, Argentina

09:30–10:40 **Panel 4: Responsible Business and Supply Chain Regulation**
 MODERATOR **Wieke van der Kroef** Director, Payoke, Belgium
 SPEAKERS **Prince Gyamfi** Deputy Country Director & Programme Coordinator, International Cocoa Initiative (ICI), Ghana
Christelle Feujio Nguetack Sustainability Consultant, SUCDEN, Cameroon
Geoffrey Otieno Senior Investigator and Workers Support Lead, Equidem, Kenya
Ambassador John Cotton Richmond Chief Impact Officer, Atlas Free, USA
Yesenia del Carmen Díaz Mosquera Human Rights Activist, Fundación Libera, Chile

10:40–11:50 **Action Labs: From Priorities to Action**
Building on the priorities identified on Day 1, participants work together to define practical actions, commitments and next steps. The outcomes will help shape the Forum's collective roadmap for action.
 LEAD FACILITATOR **Carolina Rudnick** Co-Founder and President, Fundación Libera, Chile

12:00–13:00 *Lunch Break · Dining Area*

13:00–13:30 **Dialogue 2: Rebuilding After Return: Livelihoods, Dignity and Survivor-Led Solutions**
 SPEAKERS **Sophia Amimo** Founder and Executive Director, Domestic Workers Returnees of Kenya
Sherrynorth Lamisi Attakora Founder, Sherrynorth Real Life Foundation, Ghana
 MODERATOR **Rebecca Ekpe** Vice-President, Ghana Journalists Association; Editor-in-Chief, Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, Ghana

13:30–14:40

Panel 5: Tackling the Systems of Modern Slavery and Trafficking Through Accountability

MODERATOR

Dr Cherisse Francis Steering Committee Member, Caribbean Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons (CCATIP), Barbados

SPEAKERS

Abigail Adubea Arthur Aidoo

Secretary, West Africa Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, Ghana

Dr Jamaldeen Tonzua Seidu

Deputy Director-General for Regulatory Operations, Cyber Security Authority, Ghana

Claudia Milagro Montes

Co-Founder, Latin American Survivor Network; Regional Programme Coordinator, A Breeze of Hope Foundation, Honduras

Joycelyn Hughes

Border Security Affairs Specialist and Training Coordinator, CARICOM IMPACS, Antigua and Barbuda

Dr Tasha Reid Hippolyte

Deputy Assistant Director, DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

14:40–16:05

Seven Concurrent Side Events

Parallel Session Rooms

PROGRAMME

Seven organiser-led sessions; see the side-event schedule

16:05–16:25

Coffee Break · Refreshment Area

16:25–16:30

Forum Evaluation Survey · All participants

16:30–17:15

Panel 6: Reporting Back on Action and Outcomes from Concurrent Side Events

CONTRIBUTORS

Leaders of the Day 2 side events

MODERATOR

Laura de Franchis Founder and CEO, The Alternatives Factory, Netherlands

17:15–17:45

Adoption of Principles for Aligned Action to End Modern Slavery

PRESENTERS

Bryon Lippincott

Communications Director, Free the Slaves, USA

Ndagire Joanita Joshirah

Founder and CEO, Mwangale Foundation, Uganda

Shamere McKenzie

Chief Executive Officer, Sun Gate Foundation, USA

17:50–19:00

Next Steps and Closing of the Forum

PRESENTED BY

Bukeni Waruzi Executive Director, Free the Slaves, USA

Side Events

Thirteen organiser-led sessions: six on Day 1 and seven on Day 2.

DAY 1 Monday, 5 October 2026 · Six concurrent sessions

SIDE EVENT No. 01

Breaking the Cycle: Addiction-Informed Recovery as Protection Against Re-Exploitation

Global Addiction & Trafficking Consortium

Explores how addiction-informed recovery can strengthen survivor support and reduce vulnerability to re-exploitation.

SIDE EVENT No. 02

Emerging Issues and Future Directions for Combatting Forced Marriage

Rights Lab, University of Nottingham

Examines emerging patterns in forced marriage and identifies priorities for prevention, protection and future action.

SIDE EVENT No. 03

Survivor and CSO Engagement in the Pathfinder Process of Alliance 8.7

Free the Slaves, Alliance 8.7

Examines how survivor leaders and civil society organisations can participate meaningfully in national Pathfinder processes and implementation.

SIDE EVENT No. 04

Behind Closed Doors: Connecting Child Domestic Work, Sexual Violence and Child Protection in Kenya

Maisha Girls Safe House

Connects child domestic work with sexual violence and child-protection risks, with a focus on practical responses in Kenya.

SIDE EVENT No. 05

From Consultation to Power-Sharing: Meaningful Engagement of People with Lived Experience

Azadi Community

Considers how institutions can move beyond consultation toward shared decision-making with people who have lived experience.

SIDE EVENT No. 06

Trafficking Risks Among the Urban Refugee Population in Nairobi

RefuSHE Kenya

Highlights trafficking risks faced by urban refugees in Nairobi and opportunities for stronger, locally grounded protection.

DAY 2 Tuesday, 6 October 2026 · Seven concurrent sessions

SIDE EVENT No. 01

Consultation on the New Merged Mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and Trafficking in Persons

Dr Katarina Schwarz

UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery and trafficking in persons

Invites participant perspectives to help inform the direction and priorities of the new merged mandate.

SIDE EVENT No. 02

Leaders Building Leaders: The Harriet Tubman Fellows Keep Going

The Human Trafficking Legal Center, Harriet Tubman Fellowship Program, Washington, D.C.

Showcases how survivor leaders strengthen one another, sustain leadership and build lasting impact through fellowship and peer support.

SIDE EVENT No. 03

Centering Survivor Leadership in the Digital Age: Ethical Engagement to Address Technology-Facilitated Human Trafficking

Tatiana Kotlyarenko, Mentari Human Trafficking Survivor Empowerment Program Inc.

Explores ethical survivor engagement and survivor-led responses to technology-facilitated trafficking in a rapidly changing digital environment.

SIDE EVENT No. 04

Participatory Research with Survivors of Trafficking and Forced Labour

Migrant Workers' Action

Migrant community leaders and survivors of the kafala system are actively involved in the conceptualisation, development and implementation of research reports.

SIDE EVENT No. 05

Community Approaches for Preventing and Addressing Forced Labour Risks in Cocoa Supply Chains

SUCDEN & Free the Slaves

Shares community-based approaches for identifying, preventing and addressing forced labour risks in cocoa-producing communities.

SIDE EVENT No. 06

Accountability in the Labour Market: Building Ethical Recruitment Systems for Migrant Workers

Verité

Explores how private-sector engagement can help build safer and fairer labour-migration systems.

SIDE EVENT No. 07

Investing in Accountability: The Case for an I-GRAM

Transparentem

Transparentem proposes an investor-led International Grievance Redress and Accountability Mechanism (I-GRAM) for supply-chain workers to raise grievances and seek redress. The working group will seek input on its design.