



SIDE EVENTS SELECTION GUIDE

Freedom in a Changing World

Strengthening Protection, Accountability and Transforming the Systems Behind Modern Slavery

NAIROBI, KENYA | 5–6 OCTOBER 2026

Thirteen organiser-led side events run as six parallel sessions on Day 1 and seven on Day 2.
Select one session for Day 1 and one session for Day 2.

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

01

 Global Addiction & Trafficking Consortium

 Workshop

 Strengthening protection systems

THE SESSION

Leaving exploitation does not end recovery. Drawing on early provider research, this session examines how trauma and substance use can intersect for some survivors, and how gaps between services can increase the risk of re-exploitation.

THE DISCUSSION

01

Gaps between trafficking recovery, trauma support and addiction care, including where continuity of care breaks down.

02

Practical changes in staff capacity, programme policies, treatment partnerships, medication access, referral pathways and survivor-informed service design.

03

Cross-regional perspectives from survivors, practitioners, clinicians and researchers on responses that can be adapted locally.

PEOPLE IN THE ROOM



Drew Pierce

Co-founder, Global Addiction & Trafficking Consortium; HealEX



Melissa R. Yao

Co-founder, Global Addiction & Trafficking Consortium; Atlas Free

WHAT YOU WILL TAKE AWAY



Participants will help identify critical service-system gaps and promising responses, contributing to practical recommendations and possible partnerships for future research, training and pilot work.

WHO SHOULD JOIN



Survivor leaders, anti-trafficking service providers, health and recovery professionals, funders, researchers and public-sector actors working on protection and continuity of care.

Emerging Issues and Future Directions for Combatting Forced Marriage

02

 Rights Lab, University of Nottingham

 Workshop

 Accountability across sectors

THE SESSION

This workshop explores emerging trends and challenges in combatting forced marriage at the intersection of sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, violence and conflict, considering both its causes and consequences.

THE DISCUSSION

- 01** Connections between forced marriage, reproductive exploitation, gender inequality, violence and conflict.
- 02** Recovery, redress and service provision, including the long-term effects of harm on survivors and communities.
- 03** Legal and policy approaches, including recognition of conflict-related forced marriage in transitional-justice frameworks.

PEOPLE IN THE ROOM

-  **Dr Erika Miyamoto**
Research Fellow, Rights Lab, University of Nottingham
-  **Dr Katarina Schwarz**
Associate Director, Rights Lab, University of Nottingham

WHAT YOU WILL TAKE AWAY



The session is intended to identify priority areas for prevention, intervention and services, and to generate ideas for future research, policy, practice and global collaboration.

WHO SHOULD JOIN



Practitioners and policymakers working on forced marriage, gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights, conflict, transitional justice and survivor support.

Survivor and CSO Engagement in the Pathfinder Process of Alliance 8.7

03

Free the Slaves & Alliance 8.7

Panel

Survivor engagement

THE SESSION

Policy processes can be designed without meaningful involvement from those most affected. This panel considers how the Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder process has supported survivor and civil-society engagement in national SDG 8.7 roadmaps.

THE DISCUSSION

01

Experiences and lessons from Pathfinder-country processes, including roadmap development and implementation.

02

Gaps and opportunities for survivor and civil-society participation in national anti-slavery policy.

03

Actionable strategies for countries in the Pathfinder process and those strengthening national collaboration.

PEOPLE IN THE ROOM



Carolina Rudnick

Moderator · Fundación Libera, Chile



Donat Bagula Mugangu

Ministry of Employment and Labour, DRC



Angélique Salomé Mbouzie Ahanda

Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Cameroon



Helen Rintari

ILO, Kenya



Fauziah Wanjiru

Survivors Network Kenya



Cinthia Belbussi

Free the Slaves

WHAT YOU WILL TAKE AWAY



Participants will gain practical ideas for involving survivor leaders and civil society in policy development, and for building partnerships through Alliance 8.7.

WHO SHOULD JOIN



Government officials, survivor leaders, civil-society organisations, Alliance 8.7 partners, ILO and UN stakeholders, and policy advocates working on SDG 8.7.



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

04



Maisha Girls Safe House



Workshop



Strengthening protection systems



THE SESSION

Child domestic work often happens inside private homes, where isolation can hide exploitation and abuse. Drawing on Kenyan practice, this workshop examines how separate labour, gender-based violence and child protection systems can miss the same child.



THE DISCUSSION

01

How hidden working environments, power imbalances and limited oversight can create multiple forms of risk.

02

Earlier identification, safe referral, psychosocial support and stronger data visibility for children in domestic work.

03

Coordination across child protection, labour, GBV, justice, health and community actors, via a case discussion.



PEOPLE IN THE ROOM

**Florence Keya**

Executive Director, Maisha Girls Safe House

**Yvonne Njoka**

Project Coordinator, Maisha Girls Safe House

**Anthony Onyaga**

Programs Director, African Institute for Children Studies



WHAT YOU WILL TAKE AWAY

Participants will identify practical ways to strengthen prevention, integrated response, accountability and protection against re-exploitation for children in domestic work.



WHO SHOULD JOIN

Child-protection, labour, GBV, justice and health practitioners; community organisations; policymakers; and anyone working with children in hidden or informal work settings.

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

05

 Azadi Community

 Panel

 Survivor engagement

THE SESSION

This session asks what meaningful engagement of people with lived experience looks like beyond consultation and representation, drawing on the Meaningful Engagement framework to consider deeper collaboration and survivor leadership.

THE DISCUSSION

01

The difference between meaningful participation and tokenistic consultation.

02

How power dynamics, organisational culture and funding structures can enable or constrain survivor leadership.

03

Practical experience from survivor leaders and practitioners, with room to reflect on participants' own approaches.

PEOPLE IN THE ROOM



Mariam Awori Onyanchi
Co-managing Director, Azadi Community



Faith Mwende Kasyoki
Finance Coordinator, Azadi Community



Lavender Akinyi Odhiambo
SRHR Advocate, Polycom Girls



Maryfin Kemunto Maisiba
Program Coordinator, Azadi Community



Mercy Viselo Sibalo
Survivor Leader and Advocate, Azadi Community



WHAT YOU WILL TAKE AWAY

Participants will leave with a clearer understanding of the barriers to meaningful engagement and practical steps for strengthening participation and survivor leadership.



WHO SHOULD JOIN

Survivor leaders, civil-society organisations, funders, researchers, governments and institutions seeking to make lived-experience engagement more meaningful.

Trafficking Risks Among the Urban Refugee Population in Nairobi

06

RefuSHE Kenya

Roundtable

Strengthening protection systems

THE SESSION

This interactive roundtable presents collaborative rapid-research findings on trafficking risks faced by urban refugees in Nairobi, particularly women and girls, bringing refugee-led perspectives into the discussion.

THE DISCUSSION

01

Common trafficking risk pathways, perceptions of risk and conditions that heighten exposure to exploitation.

02

Community-based prevention, early identification and protection approaches grounded in refugee experience.

03

Gaps in referral pathways, safe livelihoods, access to protection and remedy, and collaboration between refugee communities and anti-trafficking actors.

PEOPLE IN THE ROOM



Rose Kanana

Country Manager, RefuSHE Kenya



Nancy Tamasha

Speaker / Facilitator · RefuSHE Kenya



Shirley Kieti

Speaker / Facilitator · RefuSHE Kenya



WHAT YOU WILL TAKE AWAY

The session will generate practical recommendations for a final research report and for locally led prevention, referral and protection responses.



WHO SHOULD JOIN

Refugee and migrant community leaders, protection and legal actors, humanitarian and civil-society organisations, government agencies, researchers and funders.

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

01

 Dr Katarina Schwarz, UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and Trafficking in Persons

 Workshop

 Accountability across sectors

THE SESSION

This workshop is a consultation on the UN Special Rapporteur's merged mandate on contemporary forms of slavery and trafficking, reflecting on progress and identifying major gaps and future priorities.

THE DISCUSSION

01

The implications and opportunities of bringing the former slavery and trafficking mandates together.

02

Key milestones in global and local anti-slavery and anti-trafficking action over the past century, and remaining gaps.

03

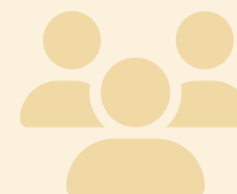
Priorities for future advocacy, policy and practice, informing the mandate's ongoing and future thematic work.

PEOPLE IN THE ROOM



Dr Katarina Schwarz

UN Special Rapporteur; consultation lead



WHAT YOU WILL TAKE AWAY



Participants will be able to contribute substantive perspectives to a global discussion on the mandate's direction and the movement's most pressing future priorities.

WHO SHOULD JOIN



Survivor leaders, governments, civil society, UN and international organisations, researchers, advocates and practitioners working on policy, accountability and systems change.

Leaders Building Leaders: The Harriet Tubman Fellows Keep Going

02

 Human Trafficking Legal Center, Harriet Tubman Fellowship Program

 Workshop

 Survivor engagement

THE SESSION

This workshop centres on the leadership journeys of Harriet Tubman Fellows, exploring resilience, continued growth, mentorship and the ways survivors can become leaders and advocates in their communities.

THE DISCUSSION

01

How lived experience can inform leadership, advocacy and community impact.

02

The value of mentorship, peer support and meaningful connections among survivor leaders.

03

Ways to sustain leadership and continue developing the skills needed to create change and support others.

PEOPLE IN THE ROOM



Anthony Bernaola Paco
Harriet Tubman Alumni Fellow



Evelyn Chumbow
Survivor Leadership, Human Trafficking Legal Center

WHAT YOU WILL TAKE AWAY



Participants will gain insight into survivor leadership and resilience, and identify opportunities for continued mentoring, peer support and leadership development.

WHO SHOULD JOIN



Survivor leaders and advocates, organisations supporting survivor leadership, fellowship and mentoring programmes, and anyone interested in peer-led approaches.

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

03

 Tatiana Kotlyarenko, Mentari Survivor Empowerment Program

 Panel

 Survivor engagement

THE SESSION

Technology can enable recruitment, grooming and exploitation, while also creating opportunities for prevention and support. This panel considers why responses must be shaped by survivor expertise rather than approaches misaligned with lived realities.

THE DISCUSSION

- 01** How technology is used in trafficking operations and how digital tools may support prevention and response.
- 02** Ethical survivor engagement in technology-driven work, including consent, safety and compensation.
- 03** Collaboration among survivor leaders, government and technology actors on digital responses and artificial intelligence.

PEOPLE IN THE ROOM

-  **Tatiana Kotlyarenko** **MODERATOR**
Member, G20/IF20 Working Group on Human Trafficking
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|  Judy Gitau
Associate Director, East and Central Africa, Equality Now |  Naomi Mwangi
Legal Advisor, Gender Based Violence Program, Equality Now (Kenya) |
|  Ndagire Joanita Joshirah
Founder and CEO of Mwangale Foundation (Uganda) |  Linda Alkalash
Founder and Executive Director of Tamkeen for Legal Aid and Human Rights (Jordan) |
|  Sophie Otiende
Founder and Weaver Collective Threads Initiative (Kenya) |  Mohammed Tariqul Islam
Country Director of Justice & Care (Bangladesh) |

WHAT YOU WILL TAKE AWAY



The panel aims to develop practical recommendations for ethical survivor engagement in digital anti-trafficking responses and strengthen connections across the field.

WHO SHOULD JOIN



Survivor leaders, technology and cybersecurity professionals, policymakers, law-enforcement and protection actors, researchers and organisations designing digital anti-trafficking tools.

Participatory Research with Survivors of Trafficking and Forced Labour

04

 Migrant Workers' Action

 Workshop

 Survivor engagement

THE SESSION

This workshop introduces participatory research approaches in which migrant community leaders and survivors of the kafala system are actively involved in conceptualising, developing and implementing research.

THE DISCUSSION

01

The benefits of participatory research and the difference it makes when survivors help shape the research itself.

02

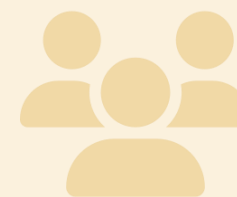
How to make research processes accessible and trauma-informed.

03

How participants can apply participatory methods to their own research, advocacy and knowledge-production work.

PEOPLE IN THE ROOM

 **Dara**
Lead Facilitator



WHAT YOU WILL TAKE AWAY



Participants will strengthen their understanding of participatory research and contribute ideas for a wider shift toward survivor-centred approaches in research.

WHO SHOULD JOIN



Survivor and migrant community leaders, researchers, academic institutions, think tanks, civil-society organisations and funders commissioning modern-slavery research.

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

05

 SUCDEN & Free the Slaves

 Panel

 Responsible business and supply chains

THE SESSION

This panel shares practical approaches to preventing and addressing forced-labour risks in cocoa-growing communities in Cameroon, focusing on locally based strategies developed with strategic partners.

THE DISCUSSION

01

Current community-level prevention and mitigation strategies in cocoa-growing areas.

02

Lessons from collaboration among communities, business, government and other strategic partners.

03

Actionable approaches and models that may be adapted to other agricultural and supply-chain contexts.

PEOPLE IN THE ROOM



Prof. Zoe Trodd
Moderator · Rights Lab, University of Nottingham



Christelle Feujio Nguéfack
Sustainability Consultant, SUCDEN



Ndi Nancy Saiboh
Business Engagement Coordinator, Free the Slaves



Andrews Obed Asamoah
International Cocoa Initiative, Ghana



Wieke van der Kroef
Director, Payoke

WHAT YOU WILL TAKE AWAY



Participants will gain adaptable ideas for community engagement and risk reduction, with an opportunity to join a continuing learning and knowledge-sharing network.

WHO SHOULD JOIN



Community organisations, cocoa and agricultural-sector actors, responsible-business practitioners, government representatives, funders and organisations addressing labour exploitation in supply chains.

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

06



Verité



Roundtable



Responsible business and supply chains



THE SESSION

This workshop provides a practical introduction to ethical recruitment and its role in reducing forced-labour risks for migrant workers, and how companies, civil society and international organisations can build safer migration systems.



THE DISCUSSION

01

The core principles of ethical recruitment and how they can reduce forced-labour risks in labour markets.

02

Ways to engage private-sector actors in safe and fair labour migration.

03

How civil society and international organisations can strengthen corporate accountability and ethical recruitment.



PEOPLE IN THE ROOM



Sarah Lince

Program Director, Verité



Bhanuja Sharan Lal

Executive Director, MSEMVS



Tsering Diskit

Communications and Programs Liaison, Free the Slaves



WHAT YOU WILL TAKE AWAY

Participants will build a working understanding of ethical recruitment and leave with practical questions, exercises and resources for engaging companies.



WHO SHOULD JOIN

Migrant-worker organisations, civil society, employers and recruiters, business and human-rights practitioners, government labour and migration officials.

Investing in Accountability: The Case for an I-GRAM

07

 Transparentem

 Working group

 Responsible business and supply chains

THE SESSION

Transparentem will introduce a proposed International Grievance Redress and Accountability Mechanism (I-GRAM). Led by investors, it would give workers across supply chains a channel to raise grievances and seek redress for forced labour and other workplace abuses.

THE DISCUSSION

01

Lessons from existing multi-company accountability mechanisms, including models used by international financial institutions.

02

How an I-GRAM could be governed and operated, and the benefits and challenges it might face.

03

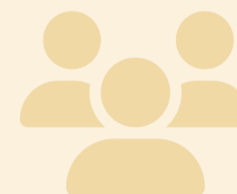
Feedback from workers, survivors, unions, businesses, investors and civil society.

PEOPLE IN THE ROOM



Karen Stauss

Chief Program Officer, Transparentem



WHAT YOU WILL TAKE AWAY



Discussion and a short questionnaire will help Transparentem refine the I-GRAM design and develop a concept paper.

WHO SHOULD JOIN



Workers and survivor leaders, unions, businesses, investors, civil society and accountability practitioners.