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Spring 2023 Welcome to the ninth edition of the Commonwealth 8.7 Network newsletter! Here you will find news about the 8.7 Network, the impact of our work across all regions, useful resources and tools, as well as our latest updates and activities. @CMW87network www.commonwealth-87.org Commonwealth 8.7 LinkedIn #Commonwealth87net

The 8.7 Quarterly

RSS 3

About the Commonwealth 8.7 Network The Commonwealth 8.7 Network is an international, member-driven network of 80 national and local civil society organisations united by a common vision to eradicate contemporary forms of slavery and human trafficking. Our members work on diverse issues including survivor advocacy, direct assistance, vocational training, child protection, women's rights, migrants' rights, indigenous peoples' rights, and human rights due diligence for businesses. Founded by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, the Commonwealth 8.7 Network is named after the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 8.7. The Network serves as a knowledge-sharing platform working collaboratively to raise awareness, build capacity, and advocate for legal and policy change. In 2019, the Commonwealth 8.7 Network received the Commonwealth Secretary-General's Innovation for Sustainable Development Award. Join us today and let's work together to eradicate contemporary forms of slavery and human

trafficking! https://www.commonwealth-87.org/become-a-member

Meet Afasi Komla, Member of the Commonwealth 8.7 Network Dear 8.7 Network Members and Friends,

From Engage Now Africa, we are pleased to present the Spring edition of The 8.7 Quarterly Newsletter, which focuses on a topic of great importance for Network members. In this edition we call attention to the topic of 'Modern Slavery and Disability.' Engage Now Africa is an international non-governmental

organisation committed to empowering individuals, villages, and communities in Africa through healing, rescuing, and lifting. We work

According to the 2022 Global Estimates of Modern Slavery, 49.6 million people are living in conditions of modern slavery, most of them in forced labour. It is widely acknowledged that people with disabilities are at higher risk of trafficking and forced labour due to their particular

Engage Now Africa's efforts to sensitise communities to raise awareness about the dangers of recruiters offering medical assistance to children with disabilities, and the risk of trafficking those children for forced begging is a step towards empowering and protecting vulnerable populations. Collaborative efforts involving government agencies, civil society organisations, and the private sector are necessary to address these issues effectively, and ensure that trafficked persons with

trafficking are not detained or criminalised for acts committed as a result of trafficking.

disabilities are identified and assisted, and that justice is delivered.

Afasi Komla, Executive Director, Engage Now Africa

Beggars and Destitutes Act of 1969 criminalises begging by people with disabilities, which further exacerbates the challenges. The human rights principle of not punishing victims of trafficking, as reflected in the UN High Commission for Human Rights Recommended Principles and Guidelines on human rights and human trafficking needs to be flagged here, to ensure that victims of

On Modern Slavery and Disability The Overlooked Intersection of Human Trafficking and Disability by Shivaun Scanlan, Senior Advisor, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

Collective Action

Commonwealth 8.7 Network

KELLY BEKER

The risks of exploitative labo in the cannabis industry

STEPHEN MORSE

SHIVAUN SCANLAN

8.7 WEBINAR

SERIES

23 March

11:00-12:30 GMT 06:00-07:30 EST

Commonwealth |

8.7 Network

We support the Sustainable Development Goals

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DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN International

IT'S A PENALTY

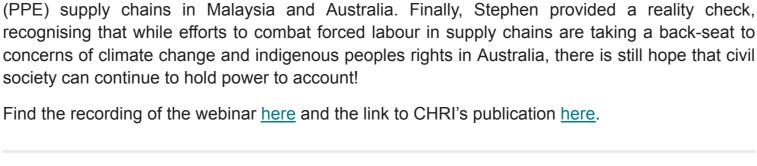
FIFTY EIGHT

2023

EFFECTIVE DUE

SUPPLY CHAINS

DILIGENCE IN



Catch up on: Webinar on human rights due diligence in supply chains

On 23 March 2023, the 8.7 Network welcomed Kelly Beker from the Canada-based Cannabis Education Guild, Stephen Morse from the Australia-based Unchained solutions, and Shivaun Scanlan of CHRI, London to take a closer look at the realities faced in tackling forced labour in business supply chains. Kelly provided an overview of the risks of exploitation in the legalised cannabis industry, stemming from its past association with criminality, and from the systemic exploitation frequently seen in the cultivation and processing of cash crops. Shivaun focused on the findings from the recent CHRI report on forced labour in the Personal Protective Equipment

Child Support Initiative (Nigeria) provided inputs to the Committee to inform their new General Comment on children's rights in the context of climate change. The submission focused on the importance of recognising the impact of environmental harm in the context of Articles 19, 32 and 34 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ensuring that the right to be heard is adequately guaranteed; and that the general obligation on States to protect, respect and promote children's rights with respect to climate change and environmental harms is recognised. You can read the

Joint submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of

the Child regarding draft General Comment No. 26 on

children's rights and the environment with a special

CHRI, along with Commonwealth 8.7 Network members It's a Penalty (UK), Defence for Children (Sierra Leone), and Youth

focus on climate change

submission here.

with a focus on child labour and forced labour. This handbook was developed by the OECD and ICI, with cofinancing from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ). Trooreither to live, serve and build Meetings in Dhubri, Karnal to raise awareness of bride trafficking

> A meeting was organised in Dhubri district of Assam, India on 20 April 2023 by the leader of a women's group to increase awareness about the problem of bride trafficking. During the meeting, the group discussed various approaches to prevent the trafficking of vulnerable young people within the community. Furthermore, women's group leaders convened to address the issue of identity documents for survivors of bride trafficking in Karnal, Haryana. The lack of availability of identity documents poses numerous challenges

for All Africa have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate on reducing food insecurity and improving the lives of vulnerable street children in Accra, Ghana. Under this partnership, Food for All Africa will provide nutritious meals to vulnerable street children identified by SCEF on a regular basis. Additionally, Food for

All Africa will provide training to SCEF staff and volunteers

on food security, nutrition, and food handling and storage.

Hope for Justice has intervened in a cold sex trafficking

case, successfully identifying the traffickers and making a

federal prosecution possible. A survivor of trafficking and her

child came to their team in North Carolina seeking

assistance to find a place to live. Through detailed

interviews, the organisation's investigators soon discovered

that although her experiences had been reported to police

officers in her home state, her traffickers had never actually

been identified nor prosecuted for their crimes. Through in-

depth intelligence gathering and surveillance, Hope for

Traffickers identified in 8-month cold case

Hope for Justice

Justice managed to identify both traffickers. The evidence and intelligence was passed to a federal agency, and the organisation is continuing to collaborate to ensure those responsible are brought to justice. Hope for Justice suspect the two people identified could lead us to a wider organised network. Hope for Justice / Slave-Free Alliance Partners with Technology Company Exiger to Stamp Out Forced Labor Hope for Justice is partnering with Exiger LLC as part of a growing effort to provide access to Exiger's proprietary realtime supply chain management technology to nonprofits and

specific vulnerabilities? Find out during our next webinar, part of the Commonwealth 8.7 Network's webinar series which aims to engage members and other participants, share You can register for the event <u>here</u>.

UN MIGRATION ROMANIA Toolkit for victim-centric best practices on investigations and

prosecutions in anti-trafficking action

International Organisation for Migration

Tracking Action Project).

Read the guide here.

attitudes to disclosure. It then discusses the model in relation to normativity theory to consider options through which the currently low legitimacy of the reporting governance regime can be enhanced

How to research modern slavery better: small NGOs in research

Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre

(Modern Slavery PEC) organised an event on 30 January 2023 on

building capacity of smaller NGOs to partner on academic research

Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre

and the intended norms established.

Find the recording of the webinar here.

Read the study here.

MODERN SLAVERY POLICY & EVIDENCE CENTRE The modern slavery core outcome set Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre This consensus-driven participatory research project identified a set of seven core outcomes that should, as a minimum standard, be

Read more <u>here</u>.

projects.

Send us your Stories! If you are a member of the Commonwealth 8.7 Network and would like to be featured in the next issue of our newsletter, we invite you to get in touch. And share your stories and photos!

> Donate Keep up to date with us via email and our social media platforms.

We are grateful to all those who have contributed to this edition of The 8.7 Quarterly newsletter and invite you to share it with your networks.

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on sensitising communities in Ghana to prevent modern slavery and address disability issues, including intervening in individual cases of modern slavery, in particular forced begging involving disability. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the phenomenon of forced begging of children with disabilities has skyrocketed not only in the major cities of Ghana but also in East Africa. (See here a BBC documentary on the problem in Kenya, involving Tanzanian children with disabilities trafficked for forced begging in Nairobi.) vulnerabilities. The need for awareness-raising and community-based interventions is crucial, along with challenging cultural superstitions towards children with disabilities. In Ghana, the

Spotlight The featured blog examines the kinds of exploitation to which persons with disabilities are vulnerable. Besides the increasing incidence of children with disabilities exploited through forced begging in Africa and Asia, there are often unreported cases of women and girls with disabilities trafficked for sexual exploitation, and men with cognitive impairments trafficked for forced labour in Europe. The blog references also key international instruments and human rights treaty body

commentaries that address the issue while calling into question the current inadequacy of standard anti-trafficking responses to identify and address the needs of disabled trafficked victims.

Read the full 8.7 blog here

CHRI, along with Commonwealth 8.7 Network members Fifty Eight (UK) and Ulula (Canada) provided inputs for the Special Rapporteur's upcoming report on the role of technology in facilitating and preventing contemporary forms of slavery. The joint submission focused on our network members' activities in putting technology to good use for facilitating the confidential reporting of abusive working environments in locations known for exploitative working conditions, and to communicate information rights and remedies to vulnerable workers. The report will be presented to the UN Human Rights Council in its 54th regular session in September 2023. You can read the submission here.

Joint submission to the Special Rapporteur on

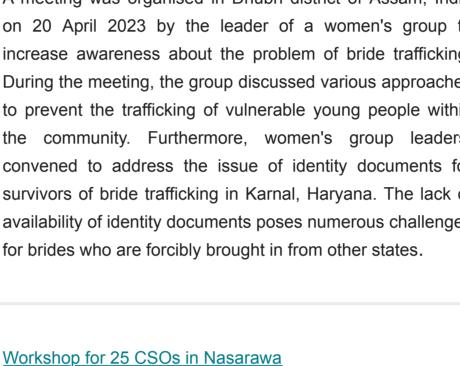
Contemporary Forms of Slavery in response to his call

for inputs to his report on slavery and technology

New projects and publications from our members: Business Handbook on Due Diligence in the Cocoa Sector: Addressing child labour and forced labour International Cocoa Initiative The handbook helps companies identify, prevent and address risks related to human rights in the cocoa sector,

8.7 Members' News

Empower People, India



Network Against Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour, Nigeria

The Network Against Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour

(NACTAL) organised a three day workshop in Keffi,

Nasarawa State. It commended the federal government for

adopting a National Action Plan on Human Trafficking as a

roadmap to combat trafficking in Nigeria. NACTAL further

engaged in constructive deliberations and recommended that

all the state and non-state actors should ensure that all their

interventions are tailored towards achieving the content of

the National Action Plan. NACTAL also urged all its Member

Organisations to adopt the newly reviewed Strategic Plan

and implement their activities accordingly nationwide.

SCEF and Food for All Africa join forces to combat food

Street Children Empowerment Foundation (SCEF) and Food

insecurity and empower street children in Accra

Street Children Empowerment Foundation, Ghana



6 June 2023

Commonwealth

Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government

JUSTICE

MODERN SLAVERY POLICY & EVIDENCE CENTRE

MODERN SLAVERY POLICY & EVIDENCE CENTRE

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8.7 Network

We support the Sustainable Development Goals

NGOs, equipping global charity leaders with the same tools

that major Fortune 500 companies and government agencies

are using to gain insights and visibility into their supply

chains. The partnership aims to promote the use of machine

learning technology and the largest forced labour and supply

chain data network in the world to help fight modern slavery

Commonwealth 8.7 Network webinar on Modern Slavery

Join us for discussion about the issues surrounding disability

and slavery with speakers from Africa, Europe and the

Caribbean sharing their perspectives. In what way does disability create vulnerability to human trafficking and exploitation? What forms does it take and how must our responses adjust and accommodate the differences and

and exploitation in supply chains.

Upcoming Events

and Disability

Read the guide <u>here</u>.

Modern Slavery: training

delivered online and in person.

growing tide of migration

Government of Wales

Read more <u>here</u>.

Justice and Care

knowledge, exchange experience and inspire change. Resources and Tools PPN 02/23 - Tackling modern slavery in government supply chains - Guidance **UK Government** This guidance sets out how UK Government departments must take action to ensure modern slavery risks are identified and managed in government supply chains.

Training information for professionals who come into contact with

modern slavery victims. This provides an overview of the signs and

symptoms of slavery and how to report modern slavery. This can be

Issue Brief - Addressing vulnerability to modern slavery in a

This Issue Brief discusses the connection between conflict and

climate-change induced migration and modern slavery, explores the

policy responses formulated to combat modern slavery among these

displaced populations, and recommends further steps that need to

An investigative guide focused on respecting the rights of the victim

in cases involving human trafficking crimes, aiming to improve

capacities and coordination to work together on anti-trafficking action

for task forces set up by LUTPA (Leading a United Pathway to anti-

be taken to address this growing issue. Read the brief here.

Springer Link This study utilises the ethical trade initiative assessment framework to evaluate the content of 95 UK government suppliers' modern slavery statements. The findings suggest that in a modern slavery context, discovery challenges are more important than firms'

Transparency in Supply Chains (TISC): Assessing and

improving the quality of modern slavery statements

Impacts of lack of legal advice on modern slavery survivors Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre Research analysing the quality of the UK's legal advice provision for adults with lived experience of modern slavery. Read the research <u>here</u>.

reported on in interventions for adult survivor recovery, healing, well-

being and reintegration. This core outcome set provides a framework

for research, policy and service design, development and evaluation.

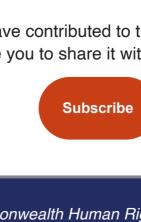
Join us today and let's work to eradicate contemporary forms of slavery and human trafficking! Together, we can raise awareness, strengthen skills, share good practices and advocate for changes to laws and policies. The Commonwealth 8.7 Network offers three membership categories based on your/ your organisation's mandate. To learn more about how you can join, visit: https://www.commonwealth-

Join our Network!

Join the 8.7 Network

Thank you!

Email the Secretariat



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