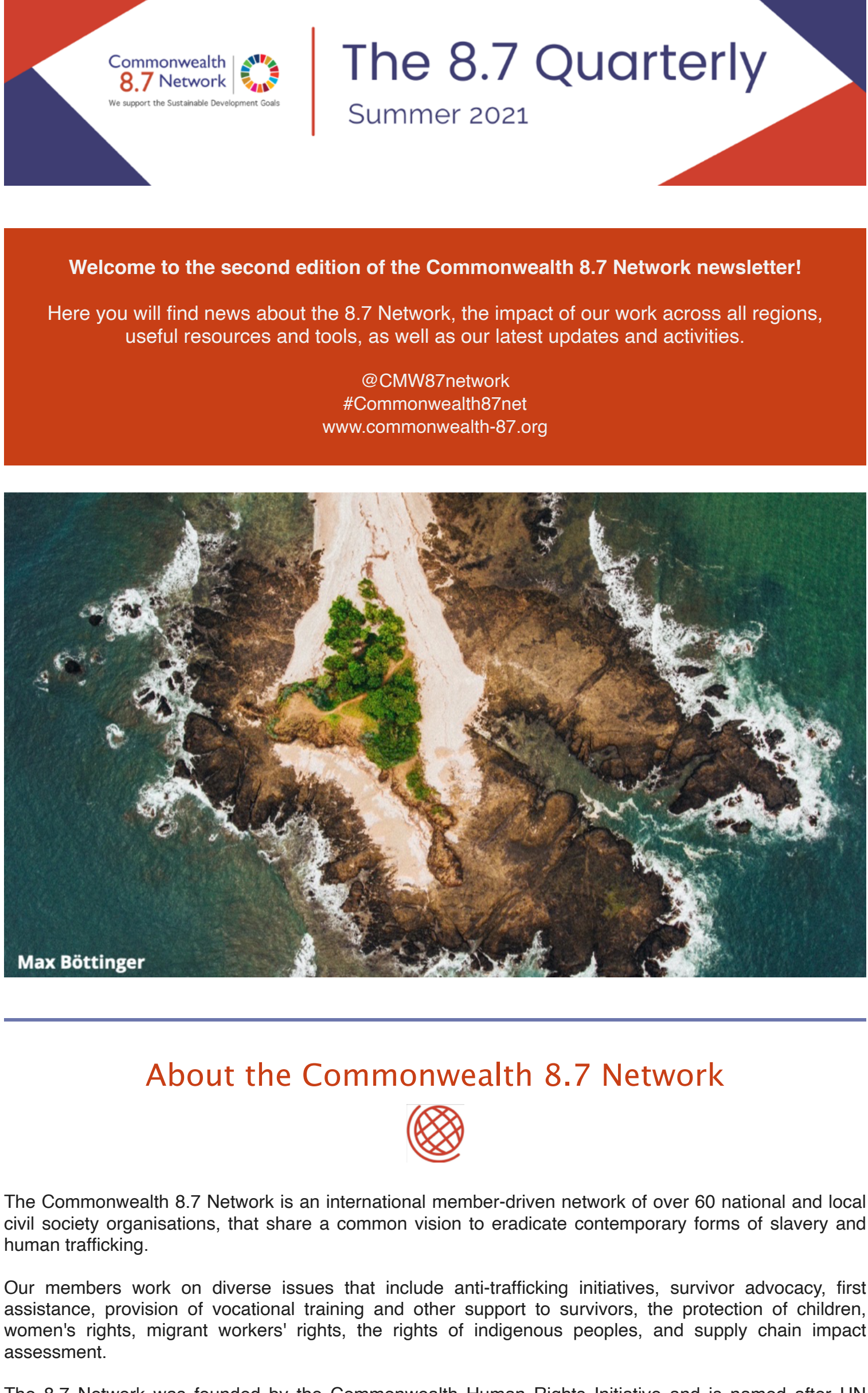


View this email in your browser



## About the Commonwealth 8.7 Network

The Commonwealth 8.7 Network is an international member-driven network of over 60 national and local civil society organisations, that share a common vision to eradicate contemporary forms of slavery and human trafficking.

Our members work on diverse issues that include anti-trafficking initiatives, survivor advocacy, first assistance, provision of vocational training and other support to survivors, the protection of children, women's rights, migrant workers' rights, the rights of indigenous peoples, and supply chain impact assessment.

The 8.7 Network was founded by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative and is named after UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 8.7 which encourages states to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate contemporary forms of slavery. The 8.7 Network serves as a knowledge-sharing platform that works collaboratively to raise awareness, build capacity, and advocate for changes to laws and policies.

In 2019, the 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! [www.commonwealth-87.org/become-a-member](https://www.commonwealth-87.org/become-a-member)

Our Website

## Message from our Secretariat

Dear 8.7 Network members and friends,

The Commonwealth 8.7 Network is two years old!

As we reach this milestone, we celebrate the 8.7 Network's diverse and dynamic membership.

In this edition of The 8.7 Quarterly, we place a spotlight on our members in the Pacific region, and the disproportionate impacts they face by climate change. The nexus between the deleterious effects of climate change and contemporary forms of slavery is clear - increased poverty, of access to migration, and reduced resilience to natural disasters leaves individuals and communities vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation. Like contemporary forms of slavery, action to combat climate change requires global commitment, coordination, and action.

With the conclusion of the G7 Summit on 13 June, it is clear that climate change is a critical issue within the international community. Yet, more must be done to hold governments accountable and to push them to take real action climate change and contemporary forms of slavery. Coalitions like the Commonwealth 8.7 Network are in a unique position to address these multilateral issues through solidarity, collaboration, and collective advocacy.

As founder and continuing Secretariat to the 8.7 Network, CHRI works to support these efforts by facilitating discussion and debates, enabling sharing learning and movement building, and amplifying messages through collective advocacy at the UN and other policy forums. We prioritise our members' needs and our shared mission to eradicate contemporary forms of slavery.

Thank you for your commitment to the 8.7 Network and for the inspiring work that you do.

Sneh Aurora  
Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)  
Secretariat to the 8.7 Network

P.S. I invite all Commonwealth 8.7 Network members to hold space in your calendars during the week of 25 October for our first Annual General Meeting - where we will come together from across all regions for the first time. If you are not yet a member of the 8.7 Network, now is the time to join!

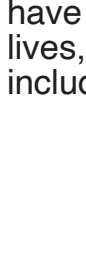
## Spotlight on the Regions

### Contemporary Forms of Slavery and Climate Change in the Pacific

This quarter's Spotlight on the Regions focuses on the continuing and intensifying impacts of climate change that exacerbates risks of contemporary forms of slavery. International cooperation, especially among Commonwealth countries who often feel the negative impact of climate change most acutely due to their geographic locations, is crucial to curbing the negative impact of climate change and progressing towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 8.7.

Climate change and contemporary forms of slavery have been referred to as a "vicious circle" because often those exploitative activities that contribute to environmental degradation, are the same activities that those most vulnerable to climate change are forced to work in, following the destruction of their previous livelihoods. To stop this trend and protect communities vulnerable to both climate change and contemporary forms of slavery, an innovative and interdisciplinary approach is needed.

Find out how our 8.7 Network members **PacificWin, Vanuatu Human Rights Coalition and The Freedom Hub** define the risks and call for local and traditional knowledge to be utilised in the fight against climate change and contemporary forms of slavery.



**PacificWin, New Zealand**  
Peli Kingi

**Vanuatu Human Rights Coalition, Vanuatu**  
Anne Pakoa

*The annual IUS Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report highlights the importance of addressing human trafficking. However, little has been done to address or mitigate the impacts of climate change on forced labour and human trafficking in the Pacific region, as our members Peli Kingi and Anne Pakoa explore.*

*"Human trafficking has occurred in the Pacific as long as people have used their power over others to force individuals into sexual servitude or for labour." - Suzanna Tipakuli, Technical Advisor, Pacific Women's Indigenous Network*

The Pacific Region is vibrant and diverse; and with climate change impacts, its problems have become more complex, as modern challenges; and into this context is the added issues and realities of human trafficking. Increasing effects of climate change have exacerbated deep-rooted vulnerabilities in communities. Despite recognition of the impacts of climate change, little has been done to address the interlinkages with contemporary forms of slavery in the region.

**Pacific Forum Leaders** have long held our collective sense of regionalism; all sector stakeholders have pushed and advocated for the **"Blue Pacific"** as people hold dear. Our battle and our war have become one and the same - climate change. It has affected all dimensions of our Pacific lives, and as the **Box Declaration (2018)** recognised, it affects all aspects of our prosperity, including human, cyber and environmental security.

[Read More](#)

Find out more about **PacificWin**: [www.linkedin.com/in/pacificwin-pacificmigration-453a369/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/pacificwin-pacificmigration-453a369/)

Find out more about **Vanuatu Human Rights Coalition**: [anna.vanhrc@outlook.com](mailto:anna.vanhrc@outlook.com)

### The Freedom Hub, Australia

Sally Irwin

*The impacts of climate change have reduced resiliency of communities in the Pacific while natural disasters have increased. Heightened poverty and displacement have left the people more vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking. Indigenous knowledge should be utilised to protect the environment and ensure its rights.*

*"The Pacific Islands are facing devastating impacts of climate change including increasing droughts and water scarcity, coastal flooding and erosion, changes in rainfall that affect ecosystems and food production, and adverse impacts to human health" - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)*

Climate change affects everyone, but the impact on the Pacific Region is stark, in particular exacerbating the prevalence of contemporary forms of slavery. The Pacific Islands are particularly impacted by climate change due to the salinization of freshwater and arable land, as well as exposure to storm surges and extreme events. This leads to failing crops, destruction of animal habitats, and a disruption to marine life.

The increase in natural disasters compromises the islanders' ability to process or access food, shelter and clean water. These factors lead to poverty and the displacement of people, causing them to be vulnerable to traffickers, smugglers, deceptive recruiters, and exploitative employers.


"New research has revealed alarming evidence of modern slavery in Australia, New Zealand, and their Pacific Island neighbours, fuelled by widespread poverty, migration, and the abuse of cultural practices. These vulnerabilities are likely to increase as climate change exacerbates poverty and migration." *Walk Free's research* has found that commercial sexual exploitation of children and forced labour are persistent problems throughout the region. With one in four Pacific Islanders living below the national poverty line, it is essential that governments prioritise the impacts of climate change, indigenous rights, and economic development.

Read More

Find out more about **The Freedom Hub, Australia**: <https://thefreedomhub.org>

## 8.7 Members' News


New projects and publications from our members:



**glow**  
GLOW: Global Labour Watch

**Beacon of the Freed** - The Glow program aims to counter human trafficking in the form of sexual exploitation, a problem that occurs in the hospitality and tourism industry. By collaborating with specialists in these sectors, the initiative offers innovative tools to help the tourist industry take action without causing harm.


[Read more](#)



**DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL**

**Defence for Children International** in their Winter 2021 newsletter highlights how COVID-19 continues to show how inequalities and children's rights violations are exacerbated by this health emergency worldwide. Defending children's rights is in the best interest of all, including governments.

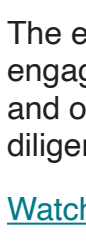
[Read more](#)



**International COCOA Initiative**

In their annual report, **International Cocoa Initiative (ICI)** outlines how they have adapted to the new realities of the COVID-19 pandemic through their responsiveness, strength, and resilience. ICI were able to react and adapt to protect their staff and put first the safety of the communities they work with.

[Read more](#)



**HRCP**

**Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP)** released a detailed report on the government's response to COVID-19, making recommendations that have wider implications for politics, the economy and healthcare. The theme for this year's report is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic explored through a human rights lens.

[Read more](#)

## Network Action

### 8.7 Webinar Series- Establishing Partnerships with Businesses to Eradicate Contemporary Forms of Slavery

**10 June 2021** - With speakers from the 8.7 Network including: **Pati Godfrey-Simpson, CEO - Scoobie Issues Foundation**; **Meenal Sachdev, Director & Co-Founder - Shiva Foundation**; **Quentin Lake, Executive Director - F2U 5021**; and our moderator, **Vera Belazavetskaia, Director of Programmes - UJALA**, we explored the various ways in which businesses and civil society organisations can collaborate to mitigate forced labour and eradicate contemporary forms of slavery.

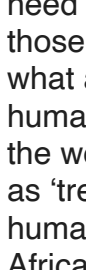
The experts provided tips and good practice on engaging with philanthropic branches of businesses, and on providing support to businesses to conduct due diligence and human rights impact monitoring/remediation.

[Watch the recording of the webinar.](#)

Keep an eye out for our upcoming 8.7 Webinars on:

- Climate Change and Contemporary Forms of Slavery
- Fundraising - Open to 8.7 Network members only
- The Impact of COVID-19 on Migrant Workers

### World Day Against Child Labour



**CHRI**

**World Day Against Child Labour**  
12 June 2021

**12 June 2021** - In recognition of the World Day Against Child Labour, 8.7 Network members shared their work and experiences in tackling child labour in their respective countries: Bangladesh, Fiji and Nigeria. Representatives from NACTAL, Homes of Hope, Aparajyo- Bangladesh highlighted the importance of tackling child labour and gave recommendations for governments to take action in this short video.

[Watch the narrative and watch the video](#)

### 'COVID exacerbated modern slavery - and offers a chance to end it'

Earlier this year, **Francesca Awah Mbili** of the **Survivor Network**, Cameroon, participated in a virtual High Level Dialogue, focusing on the role of survivors. States need to be survivor-inclusive. Survivors are those who have first-hand experience of what a country wants to combat against human trafficking. Francesca commended the work of the Commonwealth 8.7 Network as 'tremendous when it comes to combatting human trafficking in Cameroon and other African countries'.

Two High Level Dialogues were organised by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) and **Walk Free** in Canberra and London respectively, in anticipation of the 2021 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) which was ultimately postponed. The Dialogue in London brought together various high level speakers including former UK Prime Minister, Theresa May, **Nazhat Shameem Khan**, President of the United Nations Human Rights Council, and **Dama Sara Thornton**, the UK's Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. Speakers highlighted the eradication of contemporary forms of slavery as an integral action point for the delivery of a common future for the Commonwealth.

A follow up piece was published by Thomson Reuters Foundation, asserting that, despite the postponement of CHOGM, efforts to eradicate contemporary forms of slavery should not be delayed.

[Watch the recording of the High Level Dialogue \(London\).](#)

[Read the article](#)

### Collective Advocacy at the UN

*Submission to the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery - Country Visit to Sri Lanka*

**29 April 2021** - The Foundation for Innovative Social Development, Sri Lanka and CHRI submitted information on contemporary forms of slavery in Sri Lanka, particularly on child labour and exploitation in the tea industry, ahead of the Special Rapporteur's planned country-visit to Sri Lanka later this year.

[Read here](#)

*Submission to the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants for his report: 'After one and half years: the impact of COVID-19 on the human rights of migrants'*

**21 June 2021** - **WARBE Development Foundation**, Bangladesh and **CHRI** made a joint submission to the Special Rapporteur in contribution to his upcoming report. 'After one and half years: the impact of COVID-19 on the human rights of migrants.' The submission emphasised the uniquely vulnerable situation of migrants in Bangladesh and the importance of ensuring migrants' rights to achieve SDG Target 8.7.

[Read here](#)

## Upcoming Events

**July 2021**

**Upcoming 8.7 Webinar: The Nexus between Climate Change and Contemporary Forms of Slavery**

Email to register your interest: [8.7network@humanrightsinstitute.org](mailto:8.7network@humanrightsinstitute.org)

This webinar will explore how the continued and intensifying impacts of climate change exacerbates the risks of contemporary forms of slavery. International cooperation, especially among Commonwealth countries who often feel the negative impact of climate change most acutely due to their geographic locations, is crucial to curbing the negative impact of climate change and progressing towards SDG Target 8.7.

**15 July 2021**  
(17:30 - 19:00 BST)

**Sector-Wide Conference One Year On: Race Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the Anti-Trafficking Sector**  
**Human Trafficking Foundation and BME Anti-Slavery Network**

[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/one-year-on-eradicating-race-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-sectors-154846088217?aff=ebdsdbrseminars&keep\\_t=1](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/one-year-on-eradicating-race-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-sectors-154846088217?aff=ebdsdbrseminars&keep_t=1)

This conference is an opportunity to both look inwards and address the lack of diversity and inclusion in our sector. It will look at the best way to implement BME Anti-Slavery Network's (BASNET) publication 'Promoting Racial Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: An Action Plan for the UK Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Sector' to meet the needs of victims and survivors from different ethnic backgrounds and make charities more representative of the range of survivors we aim to support.

**21 July 2021**  
(17:30 - 19:00 BST)

**Responding to Human Trafficking and Exploitation**  
**NECCD**

[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/responding-to-human-trafficking-and-exploitation-sectors-154846088217?aff=ebdsdbrseminars&keep\\_t=1](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/responding-to-human-trafficking-and-exploitation-sectors-154846088217?aff=ebdsdbrseminars&keep_t=1)

This training will provide an overview of indicators of potential human trafficking and exploitation including commercial sexual trafficking and labour trafficking, and strategies and resources for working with potential victims/survivors of human trafficking and exploitation.

**10 August 2021**  
(12:00 - 11:00 BST)

**How Businesses Can Support Survivors Of Modern Slavery**  
**The Prince's Responsible Business Network**

<https://www.bic.org.uk/e/when-the-businesses-can-support-survivors-of-modern-slavery/>

This webinar will provide insights into the challenges and barriers survivors of modern slavery face renegeating back into society. It will also share how businesses can most effectively support survivors.

**26 August 2021**  
(15:00 - 16:30 BST)

**Understanding Mitigation in the Climate Security Nexus**  
**COIAG**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/understanding-mitigation-in-the-climate-security-nexus-sectors-1566718118792?aff=ebdsdbrseminars>

Because of a changing climate, the way governments and communities manage land, water, and food systems is now more than ever a pivotal factor in whether societies can endure peace. Join a panel of high-level speakers to better understand how 'mitigation' relates to climate security as a solution for sustainable peace.

**Once a month**

**communityBUILD: Leveraging your Business Volunteers Partnership**  
**Business Volunteers Maryland**

[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/communitybuild-leveraging-your-business-volunteers-partnership-registration-1412134281652?aff=ebdsdbrseminars&keep\\_t=1](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/communitybuild-leveraging-your-business-volunteers-partnership-registration-1412134281652?aff=ebdsdbrseminars&keep_t=1)

CommunityBUILD trainings develop the talents and tools of nonprofit professionals and organisations to better serve their mission. Business Volunteers Maryland makes strategic connections between people, businesses, and nonprofits. This virtual learning opportunity will provide an introductory overview to the work of Business Volunteers Maryland and how nonprofits organisations can leverage a partnership.

**Week of 25 October**

**First Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Commonwealth 8.7 Network**

SAVE THE DATE!

The report identifies the main products which are at risk of forced and child labour in individual countries. It also highlights current corporate initiatives to combat exploitation in supply chains and provides an overview of good practices for companies.

## Resources and Tools



**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**Western Australian Legacies of British Slavery**

The University of Western Australia

The Western Australian Legacies of British Slavery project, in collaboration with the National Centre for Biography, presents a series of online seminars around the theme of Writing Slavery into Australian History.

[Watch the recordings](#)




**Businesses and Duty of Care on Human Trafficking and the Elimination of Labour Exploitation through the Supply Chain**

**Jonathan Clivier**

The report identifies the main products which are at risk of forced and child labour in individual countries. It also highlights current corporate initiatives to combat exploitation in supply chains and provides an overview of good practices for companies.

[Read here](#)




**CHILD LABOUR**

**Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward**

**United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and International Labour Organisation (ILO)**

UNICEF and ILO have launched their **Child Labour Global Estimates and Trend Report**. The latest global estimates indicate that the number of children in child labour has risen to 160 million worldwide - an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years.

[Read here](#)




**MAKING DECENT WORK**

**Making Decent Work a Reality for Domestic Workers**

**International Labour Organisation**

The International Labour Organisation has released a report examining the progress and prospects 10 years after the adoption of the Domestic Workers Convention.

[Read here](#)



**WALK FREE**

**Global Slavery Index Survey- Invitation to participate!**

**Walk Free**

**Walk Free** is currently collecting data for the 2022 edition of the **Global Slavery Index (GSI)** and are seeking for civil society groups, NGOs, survivors and academics to provide input to the **assessment of the work of business volunteers**. You can support their research by: completing a survey, responding to a series of questions via email, or participating in an interview.

All responses are anonymous, and contact details will be kept confidential. For more information, contact **Katharine Bryant** at [kbyrant@walkfree.org](mailto:kbyrant@walkfree.org).

## Join our Network!

Join us today and let's work together to eradicate contemporary forms of slavery and human trafficking! Collectively, we can raise awareness, strengthen skills, share good practice, and advocate for change to laws and policies.

Our members have access to an exclusive Slack channel where we share ideas, resources and tools!

The 8.7 Network offers four membership categories based on the mandate of your organisation. Individuals working on these issues can also apply. To learn more about how you can join, visit <https://www.commonwealth-87.org/become-a-member>

Join the 8.7 Network

## Send us your Stories!

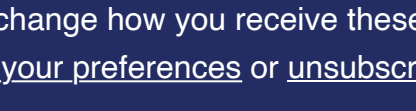
If you are a member of the Commonwealth 8.7 Network and would like to be featured in the next issue of our newsletter, we invite you to get in touch and share your stories and photos!

Email the Secretariat

Thank you!

Donate

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



Email YouTube Twitter

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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