



2024 AGM HIGHLIGHTS

On 1 October 2024, the Commonwealth 8.7 Network held its fourth Annual General Meeting, bringing together 54 members from Africa, Asia, Europe, Americas and Caribbean, and the Pacific.

The 2024 AGM celebrated the Network's growth to 112 members across 26 Commonwealth countries and highlighted the role of community voices in combating modern slavery. Members celebrated past years' achievements; set priorities for capacity building, advocacy, and partnerships; as well as approved constitutional amendments. 8.7 Network members in breakout discussions generated strategies for 2025, including stronger communications, regional engagement, data sharing, and membership growth.

We invite members to build on the meeting's momentum through these actions:

- Subscribe to the 8.7 Quarterly Newsletter – Watch out for calls to contribute!
- Contribute to our advocacy and communications calendars and share opportunities for joint advocacy/awareness raising – Contact 8.7network@humanrightsinitiative.org
- Refer eligible organisations to apply to join the 8.7 Network. More information [here](#).
- Coordinate actions with members in your region – contact the Secretariat to join the WhatsApp group for your region!

Key Outcomes and Priorities for Action

Governance & Constitutional Strengthening

- Amendments to the Constitution were approved to streamline membership removal procedures, adjust quorum requirements, and formalise minor non-substantive changes, ensuring smoother decision-making and organisational clarity.
- Membership categories were refined: definitions of Principal, Associate, and Individual members clarified to better reflect scope and roles.

Capacity Building & Resource Mobilisation

- Capacity building priorities were identified via members' survey: Communications & Social Media; Monitoring & Evaluation; Fundraising & Grant Management; Financial Management; Networking & Partnerships.
- Members highlighted the need for practical tools, stronger support systems, and collaborative approaches to resource mobilisation.

- Members committed to exploring new funding models and partnerships to support the Secretariat, Working Groups, and regional / grassroots interventions.

Strategic Growth & Representation

- As of October 2024, the 8.7 Network stands at 112 members with increased diversity of region and representation from impacted / community-led organisations.
- Growing membership in under-represented regions (e.g. Americas / Caribbean, Pacific) is a priority; members will leverage referrals, promotion, and regional outreach to expand presence.

Advocacy, Awareness & Survivor Leadership

- A call was made to amplify survivor voices, ensuring survivors are not just represented but leading engagement in policy, advocacy, and awareness-raising.
- Members stressed the importance of framing human trafficking as organised crime and tailoring advocacy messages to national and international audiences with tangible examples for stronger impact.

Sharing, Networking, and Operationalising Vision

- Members shared experiences on how Network membership has supported their work individually and collectively.
- Working Groups shared their vision statements, mapping how they will contribute in the coming year (Member Engagement & Growth; Communications & Capacity Building; Advocacy & Awareness; Partnerships & Business Development).
- Breakout discussions surfaced concrete strategies for translating vision into action: better internal communication, regional collaboration, joint advocacy, and visible, scalable project examples.
- Emerging issues, including sustainable livelihoods for survivor empowerment, were also explored through member discussions.