



**GLOBAL
FREEDOM
NETWORK**

A UNITED FAITH AGAINST MODERN SLAVERY

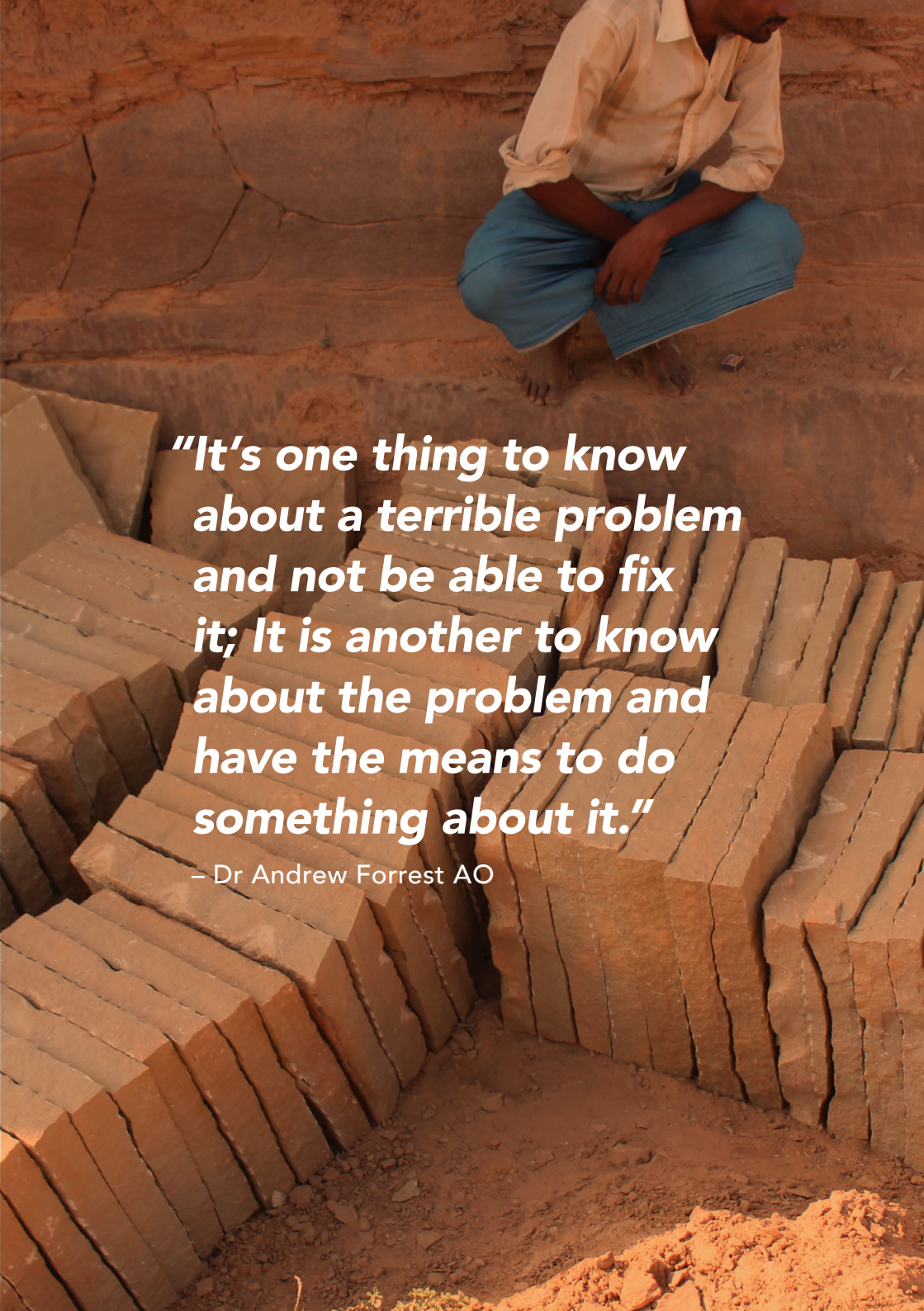
THE JOINT DECLARATION
OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS
AGAINST MODERN SLAVERY

<

Cover image: "please don't
photograph my face, my in
laws cannot see me like this"

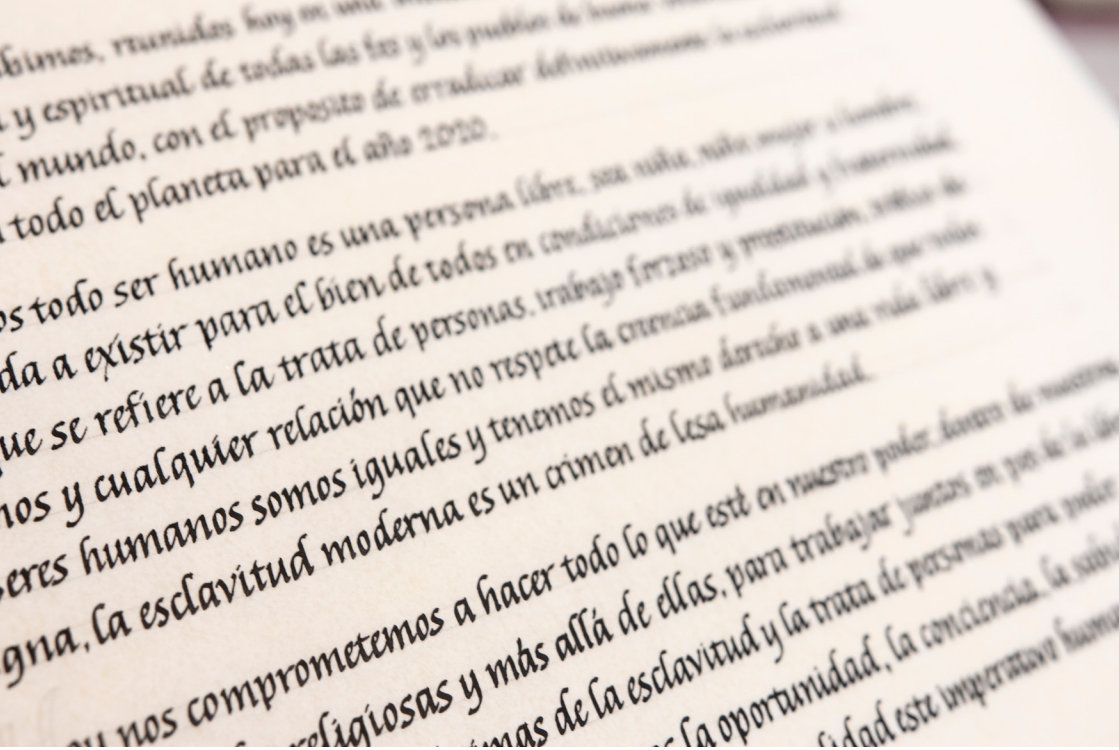
Photo Credit: Grace Forrest

Copyright © 2021. The Minderoo Foundation Pty Ltd.
All rights reserved.

A person wearing a light-colored shirt and blue trousers is squatting in a dry, cracked, reddish-brown earth. In the foreground, there is a large, organized pile of reddish-brown bricks. The background shows more of the cracked earth, suggesting a dry, arid environment. The overall scene conveys a sense of hardship and the challenges of living in such conditions.

***"It's one thing to know
about a terrible problem
and not be able to fix
it; It is another to know
about the problem and
have the means to do
something about it."***

– Dr Andrew Forrest AO



^

The Joint Declaration of Religious
Leaders Against Modern Slavery
translated by hand into Spanish

Calligraphed by hand

v



Over 40 million people around the world are trapped in modern slavery, more than at any time in our history and in spite of the fact that slavery is illegal in almost every country. Those enslaved have had their rights and freedom stolen from them in horrendous circumstances. They are often subjected to abuse, both physical and mental, and are treated as commodities to be bought, sold and traded.

Slaves can be found in factories, fields and brothels, on fishing boats, within private residences and a multitude of other places where greed and corruption have overridden human values. People trapped in slavery live brutal existences in cities and villages, slums and rural areas.


From Thai fisherman trawling fish, to the Congolese boy mining diamonds, from the Uzbek child picking cotton to the Indian girl stitching footballs - modern slavery is big business. Acknowledging the problem, and advocating against it is our responsibility.

Change is long overdue, and that change has begun.

ABOUT THE GLOBAL FREEDOM NETWORK

The Global Freedom Network is committed to the eradication of modern slavery through engagement with faith leaders around the world and working with them to take spiritual and practical actions to eradicate modern slavery. We empower them to mobilise their efforts and work in collaboration with the private, public and civil sectors to fight modern slavery. We also work with the Governments of the ten leading economies of the world to support them to enact laws, and ensure budget and capability for enforcement, to hold organisations accountable for modern slavery in their supply chains.

The Global Freedom Network is continuing to build upon the momentum achieved from the Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders Against Modern Slavery in events in Vatican City, Delhi, Canberra, Jakarta, Buenos Aires, Medellin and Auckland between 2014 and 2018. We believe that the actions and testimony of the faith leaders will inspire other leaders and their communities around the world to also unite in this vision of ending modern slavery, for all times. Engagement is ongoing with other world faiths that share the aspiration for a world without modern slavery.



Into the light

"Sometimes I wish I could be a boy.
Then I could just work, working is
ok. When we get to a certain age,
or look a certain way, other things
are expected of us. Being a boy
seems so much more simple."

Photo Credit: Grace Forrest

ABOUT MODERN SLAVERY

Modern slavery is a hidden crime that affects every country in the world. In the period between this Index and the last (published in 2016), modern slavery was found in many industries including garment manufacturing, mining, and agriculture, and in many contexts, from private homes to settlements for internally displaced people and refugees. Instances have been identified in Thai fishing, coal mining in North Korea, in the homes of diplomats in Australia, car-wash stations in the United Kingdom, cocoa agriculture in Côte d'Ivoire, and cattle ranching in Brazil, just to name a few examples.

Modern slavery impacts on all of us, from the food we consume to the goods we purchase. It is everyone's responsibility to address and eliminate this crime everywhere it occurs.

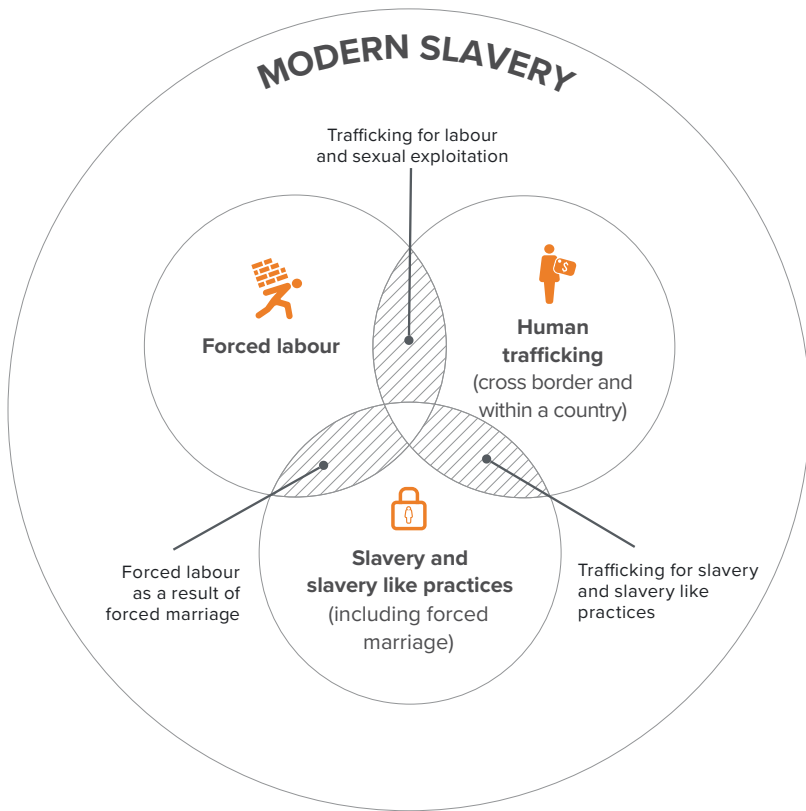
Nearly every country in the world has committed to eradicate modern slavery through their national legislation and policies.

Governments have a central role to play by enacting legislation, providing safety nets to their populations, and pursuing criminals who participate in this heinous crime.

As no single actor can address all these challenges, governments need the support and engagement of the private sector, civil society, and the community at large.

This information is sourced from The Global Slavery Index which is a tool for citizens, non-government organisations (NGOs), businesses, and governments to understand the size of the problem, existing responses, and contributing factors so that they can advocate for and build sound policies that will eradicate modern slavery.

Visit www.globalslaveryindex.org for more information and downloadable resources.



TERMINOLOGY

Countries use differing terminologies to describe modern forms of slavery. This includes how they describe slavery itself, but also other concepts such as human trafficking, forced labour, debt bondage, forced or servile marriage, and the sale and exploitation of children.

In the 2018 Global Slavery Index publication, modern slavery is used as an umbrella term that focuses attention on the commonalities across these concepts.

Essentially, it refers to situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, abuse of power, or deception.¹

For full terminology please download resource 7 from the below link:
<https://www.globalslaveryindex.org/resources/downloads/>.



We, the undersigned, are gathered here today for a historical initiative to inspire spiritual and practical action by all global faiths and people of good will everywhere to eradicate modern slavery across the world by 2020 and for all time.

In the eyes of God each human being is a free person, whether girl, boy, woman or man, and is destined to exist for the good of all in equality and fraternity. Modern slavery, in terms of human trafficking, forced labor and prostitution, organ trafficking, and any relationship that fails to respect the fundamental conviction that all people are equal and have the same freedom and dignity, is a crime against humanity.

We pledge ourselves here today to do all in our power, within our faith communities and beyond, to work together for the freedom of all those who are enslaved and trafficked so that their future may be restored. Today we have the opportunity, awareness, wisdom, innovation and technology to achieve this human and moral imperative.

Signatures:

Andrew Frost
for the Global Freedom Network
Whitehead

Josh Carter
شيخ يوسف صوفى
مفتي جامعة الأزهر الشريف

Metropolitan Emmanuel
on behalf of H. H. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

The Grand Imam of Al-Azhar uses the word - religions ~

THE VATICAN CITY

2 December 2014

"We call to action all people of faith, leaders, governments, businesses, all men and women of good will, to give their strong support and join in the action against modern slavery in all its forms. Sustained by the ideals of our confessions of faith and by our shared human values, we all can and must raise the standard of spiritual values, common effort and the vision of freedom to eradicate slavery from our planet".

– Pope Francis

On Tuesday 2 December 2014, the world's leading faith leaders gathered together with representatives from public and private organisations, and other influential individuals, at the Casina Pio IV in Vatican City. Global leaders from the Christian, Catholic, Anglican and Orthodox religions, as well as Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim faiths signed the Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders Against Modern Slavery.

Initiated and coordinated by the Global Freedom Network, the event was historic not only for its definitive commitment to work across religions to eradicate modern slavery, but also because it

was possibly the first time ever that these faith leaders had met as a group, unified in a common cause, signing their names on the same document. It was the first time since the establishment of the Catholic Church that the Pope had met with a Grand Ayatollah in person. In addition, it was the first time post the Reformation that the Catholic Church and Anglican Communion had reached an agreement on a global initiative. Furthermore, it was a rare joint initiative between Sunni and Shia Muslim leaders. They were joined by leaders from many countries of the world, representing the business, political and civil sectors.

<

The Joint Declaration Of
Religious Leaders Against
Modern Slavery

>

His Holiness Pope Francis
and Dr Andrew Forrest







Signatories at the faith leaders event,
2 December 2014 in Vatican City



Λ

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA
2 December 2015

Dr Andrew Forrest with the
Hon. Julie Bishop, Minister for
Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia

"This is the beginning of a remarkable journey. Together we can combat human trafficking and slavery." – The Hon. Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs Australia

In early 2015, Salvation Army Commissioners James Condon and Floyd Tidd had a vision, inspired by the Global Freedom Network's 2 December 2014 event hosted in Vatican City. They appreciated the unique point of difference that the Global Freedom Network was founded upon, whereby religious faith can be a powerful motivating force to inspire individual and community action, both spiritually and practically, in the fight against modern slavery. Based on this, the Commissioners sought to create a similar initiative for the faith leaders of Australia.

On Wednesday, 2 December 2015, the second signing of the Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders Against Modern Slavery took place at Parliament House, Canberra, precisely one year after the inaugural signing in Vatican City. On this occasion, it was Australian faith leaders who were pledging to do all that they could to take spiritual practical action to end slavery. This initiative was led by the Salvation Army with the support and endorsement of the Global Freedom Network. Christian Evangelical, Baptist, Salvation Army, Presbyterian, Coptic Orthodox, Anglican, Catholic, Muslim Sunni and Shai, Lutheran, Jewish, Hindu, Quakers, Uniting Church and Buddhist leaders took part in the event.

Since 2015, the Australian Freedom Network has participated in these initiatives:

- Raising awareness about slavery in Australia amongst faith communities and continuing to provide ongoing support, strategic alliances and identifying opportunities for joined up practical and spiritual action.
- Inspiring people to engage with the issue of modern slavery as an extension of their faith in Australia.
- Encouraging faith communities to take meaningful actions to end slavery in Australia.
- Unifying faith-based organisations to collaborate on ending slavery in Australia.
- Supporting and amplifying existing anti-slavery work in Australia.

The official party at the
Australian faith leaders

V





INDIAN FREEDOM NETWORK LAUNCH 3 December 2015

^
Faith leaders at the
ceremony in India

"While service is the best form of worship, slavery is the worst insult you can ever give to God. So, anyone who believes in the existence of a higher power should wake up and say no to slavery, no to enslaving human beings. For divine dwells in every heart, in every one." – His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

On 3 December 2015, eight Indian religious and spiritual leaders signed a Joint Declaration to end modern slavery at the Global Freedom Network gathering in New Delhi. This landmark declaration was signed by religious and spiritual leaders from the Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Jain, Baha'i and Jewish religions, whom together represent more than 95% of the Indian population.

The Joint Declaration ceremony began with the religious leaders gathered on stage for the lighting of the candle, followed by the formal introductions of each religious leader. The Global Freedom Network Chairman, Dr Andrew Forrest then officially opened the proceedings. Andrew explained why they were all gathered on that special day, 3 December 2015, in the Stein Auditorium.



^
His Holiness Pujya Swami
Chidanand Saraswati Ji

He stated in Hindi, “human life is sacred” and gave personal testimony of his learnings about modern slavery through his daughter’s experience in Nepal some years ago. Faith leaders were invited to speak about their commitment to ending modern slavery, with all speakers united in the belief that collaboration and solidarity, through the Joint Declaration, would make a difference.

Following the Joint Declaration signing, the Global Freedom Network facilitated a Roundtable discussion. This occurred in New Delhi on the afternoon of the signing. Subject experts in modern slavery, a survivor, influencers and Global Freedom Network team members convened to better understand and discuss more deeply the eradication of bonded and forced labour in India.



^

JAKARTA, INDONESIA 14 March 2017

Religious leaders at the Indonesian faith leaders event pictured with Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla, singer Maudy Ayunda and Dr Andrew Forrest

"To fight against modern slavery, we need not only advocacy, but also real action to not fall into the trap of modern slavery" – Vice President Jusuf Kalla

On 14 March 2017, seven religious leaders who represent all religions constitutionally admitted in Indonesia; Islam, Christianity, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism gathered and expressed their commitment to stand united against modern slavery in an event hosted by the Vice President, Jusuf Kalla, at the Vice Presidential Palace, Merdeka Selatan, Jakarta. During the Ceremonial Act, Vice President Jusuf Kalla explained what this declaration meant for the Indonesian people and the importance of the Indonesian government to lead in the global fight on modern slavery.

The event also saw a launch of the Global Freedom Network in Indonesia, with singer and youth leader Maudy Ayunda appointed as an Ambassador for the Network.

In 2017 the Global Freedom Network in partnership with Paramadina University conducted a half day seminar for Indonesian religious leaders. During the workshop, the group developed a strategy for the curriculum of a training program for local faith leaders in Indonesia. The training program was delivered in three locations and each program was held over three days. The program included training delivered by subject matter experts from Indonesian universities and government



Λ

Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla

V

Grace Forrest pictured with singer Maudy Ayunda

agencies, international organisations including the International Organisation for Migration, religious, and non-government organisations. Over 80 participants attended the programs and they have been empowered to create further networks. The training program resulted in strengthening the capability of the religious leaders and local organisations including how to reduce the risk of modern slavery in their communities.





Λ

BUEONOS AIRES, ARGENTINA 16 November 2017

Religious Leaders together with the Secretary for Worship Ambassador Santiago de Estrada, Dr Andrew Forrest, and Mons. Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo from the Pontifical Academy of the Sciences

"We celebrate and accompany the commitment of the various religious expressions here present to work together on the task of securing the freedom of all the victims of slavery and trafficking in people." – Ambassador Santiago de Estrada, Secretary for Worship

In November 2017, the Argentine government hosted the International Labour Organization's (ILO) IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour. During this major global event leading experts and organisations from Civil society, government and business sectors came together to discuss important issues for the international community. The Global Freedom Network hosted a ceremony in which 10 religious leaders from the major faiths in Argentina came together to sign the Religious Leaders Joint Declaration on Modern Slavery. Represented at the event

was the Catholic Church, the Armenian Orthodox Church, the Greek Orthodox Church, the Anglican Church, the Evangelical faith, the Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jewish communities, the Sikh Dharma Community and the Argentinean Islamic Community.

The event also saw the participation of the civil sector, with the attendance of the leaders of the Instituto de Dialogo Interreligioso (IDI), the leading Argentinean CSO working on interfaith relations in the country.



^

Declaration Against Modern Slavery

The Argentine Government, represented by the Secretary of Worship Ambassador Santiago de Estrada, celebrated the commitment from all the religious leaders to end modern slavery as well as highlighting the strength of interfaith relations in the country.

Dr Andrew Forrest together with Archbishop Tarasios, Metropolitan Archbishop of Buenos Aires and Exarch for South America of the Greek Orthodox Church

>





Λ

Religious Leaders together with Dr Andrew Forrest

MEDELLIN, COLOMBIA

26 August 2018

"Today we are signing the Religious Leaders' Joint Declaration Against Modern Slavery on behalf of over 100 denomination and organisations across 20 Latin American and Caribbean nations that make up the Latin American Council of Churches because protecting the lives of those most vulnerable is an evangelical obligation. Human lives cannot be sacrificed any longer in the pursuit of ever growing economic profits, regardless of how this is achieved.." – Reverend Jorge Daniel Zijlstra Arduin, acting President of the Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI)

On 26th August 2018, eight Latin American faith leaders have united to jointly declare their commitment to stand against modern slavery.

The religious leaders were brought together at a historic event in Medellin, Colombia, organised by the Global Freedom Network, in collaboration with the Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano (CELAM). The event united religious leaders from the region

to commit to eradicating modern slavery through spiritual and practical actions.

The new signatories join 63 other Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Buddhist, Hindu, Evangelical, Jewish, Sikh, Baha'i and Muslim leaders who have signed the Joint Declaration at historic events in Vatican City (2014), Canberra (2015), New Delhi (2015), Jakarta (2017) and Buenos Aires (2017).



Λ
Hieromonk Simeon Lopez, Representative of Bishop Kirilo, Serbian Orthodox Bishop for Central and South America signing the Book of Declaration

Dr Andrew Forrest, Chairman of Global Freedom Network, called on all Latin American religious leaders to join governments and businesses in the fight against modern slavery.

"We face a mighty foe in slavery and if we work alone we will not succeed, no matter how influential or powerful we may be. But if we recognize this as an urgent cause to unite all leaders, across faiths, borders and industries, we can end suffering for tens of millions of people," Dr Forrest said.

"I call on all faith leaders to raise awareness of this horrible abuse of human rights, to shape positive social values in line with your teachings, and inspire hope."

The event was held following the Congreso Eclesial which gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Medellín Conference.



Λ

Religious Leaders together with
Walk Free's The Hon. Chris Evans

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND 1 November 2018

"I didn't know how much money my cousin was getting from my labour...

There was never any contract or accounting for my work. I jumped on a truck at 6am and pruned and picked grapes until 6pm or dusk, seven days a week. These grapes went to supermarkets and farmers markets in Melbourne and Sydney... After about two years, I was finally able to contact my mother and found out that my cousin had never sent any money to her. I couldn't believe this, and I was emotionally devastated. I felt cheated and deceived by this man, who I and our community trusted, but I also felt trapped."

– Moe Turaga, Freedom Advocate (pictured right)

On 1 November 2018 HRH Queen Nanasipau'u of Tonga, together with senior church leaders from 17 Pacific Islands, Australia and New Zealand, have gathered in Auckland, New Zealand for the signing ceremony of the Joint Declaration Against Modern Slavery.

This event brought together faith leaders, heads of councils of churches and

government representatives representing 15 denominations to attend proceedings and mark the launching of the Pacific Freedom Network.

The new signatories join 71 other Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Sikh, Baha'i, Muslim, Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox leaders who have signed the Joint Declaration at historic events in



Vatican City (2014), Canberra (2015), New Delhi (2015), Jakarta (2017) Buenos Aires (2017) and Medellin (2018).

This event took place alongside the Pacific Conference of Churches' General Assembly, where leaders and key representatives across the Pacific gathered in Auckland, New Zealand from 29 October-1 November.

The assembly meets once every five years and one of the main agenda items is for delegates to determine their priority areas for the next five years. Modern day slavery was unanimously supported as one of these priorities and has been put forward by the secretariat to the council. It is anticipated that this will be adopted, and focus groups established in the coming months.

"Today's development by the Pacific Conference of Churches is really important in strengthening that support mechanism for the Pacific Islander diaspora, and we're working with faith leaders in Australia and NZ to make sure we can support those people, and end the abuses," Walk Free Government Strategist Chris Evans said.

Freedom Advocate Moe Turaga told of his own experience being held in modern slavery in Australia, where he was promised work, study and the opportunity to earn an income for his mother in Fiji.

At the event, leaders spoke of their duty to care for the needs of those who have been discriminated against and treated unfairly.



WALK FREE

Modern slavery is a complex and often hidden crime that crosses borders, sectors and jurisdictions. Walk Free believes that a strong multifaceted approach is needed to end modern slavery. This includes building a robust knowledge base to inform action, driving legislative change in key countries and harnessing the power of businesses and faiths. Through a combination of direct implementation, grassroots community engagement and working in partnership with faiths, businesses, academics, NGOs and governments around the world; Walk Free believes we can end modern slavery.

Walk Free is working closely with the Australian Government on the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, and will champion business sector engagement in this regional program. It also successfully advocated for an Australian Modern Slavery Act as well as pursuing avenues to encourage all leading global economies to enact laws to ensure all organisations are held accountable for taking proactive steps to remove modern slavery from their supply chains.

"I first discovered slavery when I was only a child myself. I was working with children who had been rescued and were going through rehabilitation. Despite the fact we were all just girls spending time together, their physical and emotional scars – from the torture they had endured – fundamentally changed my view of the world and my place in it." – Grace Forrest

Walk Free's Global Slavery Index (GSI) has developed world leading research to provide measurement of the size and scale of modern slavery, as well as assess vulnerability and governmental responses. Together with the International Labour Organization, they developed a joint Global Estimate of Modern Slavery. Alongside this, the Global Freedom Network (GFN) is working to catalyse world faiths in the fight against modern slavery. More broadly Walk Free works with governments and businesses around the world in a range of initiatives to change legislation and address supply chain issues.

Walk Free is also scaling effective antislavery responses in partnership with the Freedom Fund. The Walk Free continues to work with faiths, governments and NGOs throughout the world to agitate for change and support initiatives dedicated to the eradication of modern slavery in all its forms.

Through a combination of direct implementation, grassroots community engagement and working in partnership with faiths, businesses, academics, NGOs and governments around the world; we can accelerate the end of modern slavery.

walkfree.org

THE GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX

The Global Slavery Index, first published in 2013, was developed to seek to close the gaps in the evidence base, needed to understand the nature, scale, drivers and solutions to modern slavery. The Index draws on both random-sample, nationally representative survey research and state of the art statistical modelling to provide an estimate for prevalence of modern slavery for 167 countries. The Index also tracks and measures steps governments have taken to address the issue, allowing a country by country comparison of effort and progress. The Index allows for clear data to be widely available and holds countries accountable for the actions they are taking to end modern slavery.

In 2017, we launched the Global Estimates of Modern Slavery with the International Labour Organization in partnership with the International Organization for Migration. The Global Estimates include estimates of forced labour and forced marriage and will be used to measure progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 8.7.

globalslaveryindex.org



Bali Process
Government &
Business Forum

The Bali Process Business and Government Forum brings together government representatives from 45 countries, 3 United Nations organisations and members of the private sector. The Forum, which was held in August 2017 and co-chaired by Dr Andrew Forrest and Mr. Eddy Sariaatmadja, provided a unique opportunity for information sharing and implementing partnerships with the joint goal of ending modern slavery. The Forum is envisaged to have the joint outcome of promoting good business practices across the private sector while also encouraging legislative changes by government. Cooperation across government and the private sector is needed to end modern slavery and the Bali Process Business and Government Forum is a positive step towards putting an end to this crime in the Indo-Pacific region.

baliprocessbusiness.org

Faith For Freedom ♥

The Faith For Freedom App is a practical information tool for faith leaders, clergy and their staff to help identify modern slavery and human trafficking and safeguard their communities. Produced by the Global Freedom Network, this free app provides clear, concise information about the crimes of modern slavery. It explains what modern slavery is, how to detect it, how to respond to people affected by it, and how and where to find help to address it. The App has country-specific information as well as an international mode. The App was developed in collaboration with advisory panels of faith leaders. We recognise that faith leaders see into the hearts of their communities and can play a vital role in protecting their congregations from harm.

faithforfreedom.org



The Freedom Fund is a philanthropic initiative committed to ending modern slavery by identifying and investing in frontline efforts. It was established in 2013 by founding investors Humanity United, the Legatum Foundation and Minderoo Foundation, who were the three main private funders in the modern slavery area at the time. The main areas they wanted to address with the establishment of the Fund was the need for a private donor fund to combat modern slavery, the importance of engaging in research to identify the best anti-slavery interventions, and the requirement to unify the modern slavery field.

freedomfund.org



#EndModernSlavery
globalfreedomnetwork.org