

A person wearing a white thobe and a ghutra is looking at a tablet. The tablet screen shows a list of organizations under the heading "HOW TO HELP". The list includes: "Support an Existing Office", "Create new grassroots networks and engagement", "Launch new organizations", "Launch new events", "Department of Children Services Unit", "UNICEF", "Human Rights", and "International Organization for Migration". The background is a blurred meeting table with water bottles and papers.

**GLOBAL  
FREEDOM  
NETWORK**

# Faith For Freedom App

A Toolkit for Faith Leaders

## Who we are

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### Walk Free

Walk Free is an international human rights group working to accelerate the end of all forms of modern slavery. Walk Free is the creator of the Global Slavery Index, the world’s most comprehensive data set on modern slavery. We use this data to mobilise powerful forces for change against these human rights abuses. We work with governments and regulators, businesses and investors, and faith and community leaders to drive systems change and we partner directly with frontline organisations to impact the lives of those vulnerable to modern slavery. We work with survivors to build the movement to end modern slavery, recognising that lived experience is expertise and they are central to identifying lasting solutions.



### Global Freedom Network

Global Freedom Network is the faith-based arm of Walk Free.

We recognise that faith can play a vital role in fighting modern slavery because faith leaders are in a unique position to see into the hearts of their communities. With a philosophy built on interfaith collaboration, Global Freedom Network is grateful to the faith leaders who have come together to tackle modern slavery — an issue which strikes at the heart of human dignity.

Global Freedom Network was founded in 2014, with the signing of the Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders Against Modern Slavery at the Vatican, a world-first event which brought together leaders of many of the world’s biggest faiths in a common cause.

Since then, Global Freedom Network has expanded around the globe, working with faith leaders who are building bridges between people with lived experience of modern slavery and law enforcement, cooperative connections with governments, social workers, and support groups, especially in countries of deep faith and high levels of modern slavery.

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*Cover: An attendee explores the Faith For Freedom app at Global Freedom Network’s Government Engagement Workshop in Mombasa, Kenya, October 2022. Global Freedom Network ran four workshops throughout Africa, aimed at empowering faith leaders to effectively engage with their government leaders to advocate against modern slavery. Photo credit: Walk Free.*

# About this toolkit

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## Guidance

This toolkit is published by Minderoo Foundation Limited's modern slavery initiative, Walk Free, as part of its Global Freedom Network. This toolkit is primarily designed for use by faith leaders, to equip them to engage with their communities on the issue of modern slavery and conduct advocacy.

Minderoo Foundation has exercised care and diligence in the preparation of this toolkit and has relied on information from public sources it believes to be reliable. However, this toolkit is made available on an "as is" basis. Neither Minderoo Foundation, nor any of its directors, officers, employees, or agents, make any representations or give any warranties, and will accept no liability, in connection with this toolkit, including in relation to its accuracy, completeness, merchantability, or fitness for any particular purpose.

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*If you have any feedback or questions, please contact us at [info@walkfree.org](mailto:info@walkfree.org)*

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Above: A nun attends Palm Sunday Mass on March 28, 2010 in Vatican City, Vatican. Photo credit: Franco Origlia/Stringer via Getty Images.



Indian Hindu devotees throw coloured powder at the Radha Rani temple during the Lathmar Holi festival in Barsana on March 21, 2013. Photo credit: Sanjay Kanojia / AFP via Getty Images.

## How to use this toolkit

This toolkit is designed to help faith leaders to engage with their communities on the issue of modern slavery with support from the Faith For Freedom app.

This toolkit provides information on modern slavery, resources to deepen faith leaders' understanding of the issue, the risks, and the ways it presents itself. It will help faith leaders to engage with people in their communities who might be at risk of, or have lived experience of, modern slavery.

This toolkit recommends several advocacy strategies for faith leaders to use to advance collaboration and coordination to end modern slavery. Proposed advocacy tools include writing policy briefs, letters, and submissions; convening high-level interdenominational forums; participating in processions and annual commemorations; conducting advocacy campaigns using traditional and social media; using the pulpit to disseminate messages; and using the Faith For Freedom app.

The Faith For Freedom app is a free resource for faith leaders to understand and address modern slavery and keep their congregations and communities safe.



Scan the QR code to download the Faith For Freedom app or visit [www.faithforfreedom.org](http://www.faithforfreedom.org)



## What is modern slavery?

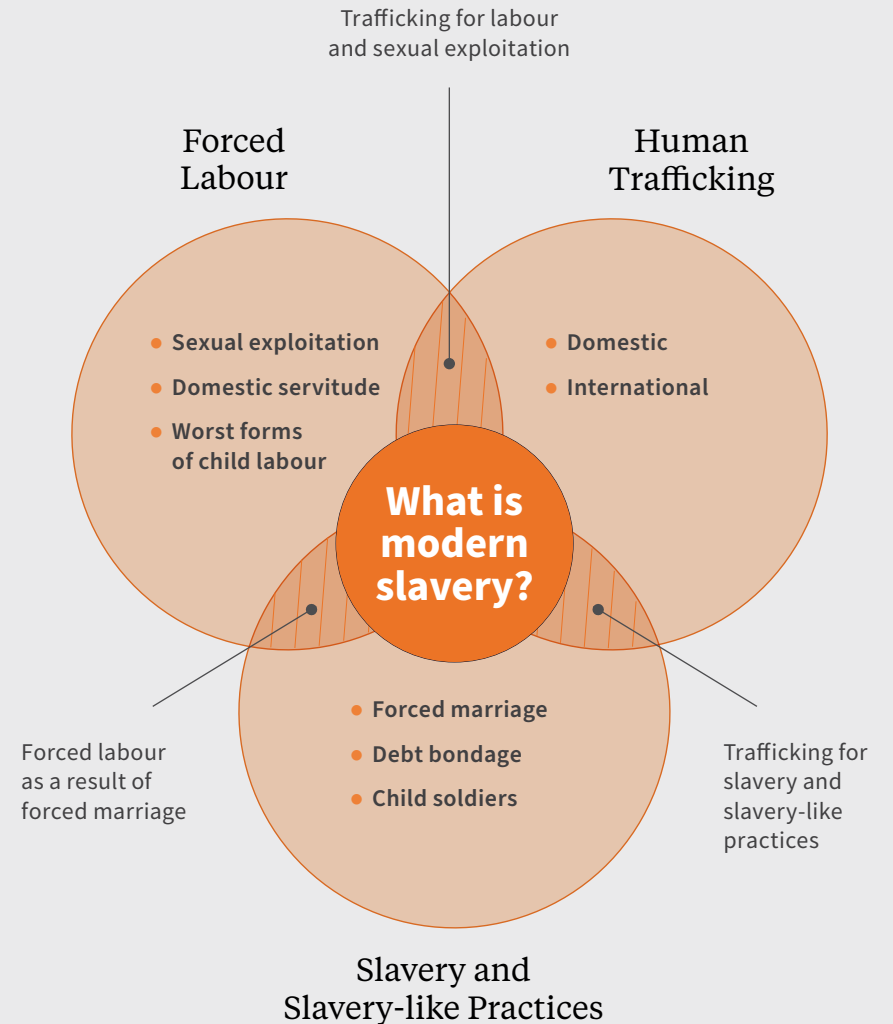
Modern slavery is hidden in plain sight and is deeply intertwined with life in every corner of the world. Each day, people are tricked, coerced, or forced into exploitative situations that they cannot refuse or leave. Each day, we buy the products or use the services they have been forced to make or offer without realising the hidden human cost.

Modern slavery takes many forms and is known by many names — forced labour, forced or servile marriage, debt bondage, forced commercial sexual exploitation, human trafficking, slavery-like practices, and the sale and exploitation of children.

In all its forms, it is the systematic removal of a person's freedom — their freedom to accept or refuse a job, their freedom to leave one employer for another, or their freedom to decide if, when, and whom to marry — in order to exploit them for personal or commercial gain.



A worker sorts jeans at the grading area of the factory floor in Kandla, India, on September 10, 2022. Canam has two sorting and grading facilities in Kandla that can jointly process 120 million pounds a year of used textiles, enough to fill two and a half Boeing 767 cargo jets a day. Photo credit: Prashanth Vishwanathan/Bloomberg via Getty Images.





A group of Muslim women pray at a rooftop in Nima, Accra on May 24, 2020 during the Eid al-Fitr celebrations. Photo credit: Nipah Dennis / AFP via Getty Images.



## Who is impacted by modern slavery?

An estimated 50 million people were living in situations of modern slavery on any given day in 2021, according to the latest Global Estimates of Modern Slavery.<sup>1</sup> Of these people, approximately 28 million were in forced labour and 22 million were in forced marriages.

Nearly 10 million more men, women, girls, and boys have been forced to work or marry since 2016. Worldwide, this exploitation has been accelerated through more and increasingly complex armed conflicts, widespread environmental degradation, assaults on democracy in many countries, a global rollback of women's rights, and the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. These factors have caused significant disruption to employment and education, leading to increases in extreme poverty and forced and unsafe migration – heightening the risk of all forms of modern slavery.

It is often the people who are already vulnerable in our communities – women, children, migrants, refugees, and people who belong to marginalised groups – who are most at risk of all forms of modern slavery. More than 12 million of all people in modern slavery are children, and women and girls account for over half of them (54 per cent). Migrant workers are three times more likely to be in forced labour than non-migrant workers.<sup>2</sup>



## How does modern slavery differ by region?

Modern slavery exists in every region and every country, yet the way modern slavery manifests within a country depends on the unique combination of drivers, the size and distribution of vulnerable groups within a population, and the way in which governments respond to vulnerability.

For example, forced marriage is pervasive in countries where patriarchal views lead to gender inequality and discrimination, reinforced, for example, by laws that prevent women from inheriting land or the absence of laws stipulating 18 years old as minimum of age of marriage. In countries with large populations of migrants and without sufficient labour protections for them, forced labour can be particularly pervasive. In other countries, forced labour is perpetrated by the state, leaving survivors with little recourse for remedy.<sup>3</sup>

To find out what modern slavery looks like in your region, please see the following resources:

**Walk Free's Global Slavery Index**  
[www.globalslaveryindex.org](http://www.globalslaveryindex.org)

**Faith For Freedom app**  
[www.faithforfreedom.org](http://www.faithforfreedom.org)



*Buddhist monks walk in front of the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh on August 9, 2017. Photo credit: Tang Chhin Sothy/AFP via Getty Images.*



## Three stories from many: modern slavery today

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The stories below are real examples of modern slavery happening right now, all over the world.

### Australia

A 25-year-old woman came to Australia from the Philippines to take up a position as a domestic worker for a payment of \$800 a month. She had to work from 6am to 6pm in her employer's shop and then undertake domestic work in the employer's home every evening, seven days a week.

She was not allowed to leave the house or the shop and was also sexually assaulted by her employer on a regular basis. She was threatened by her employer that if she went to the police to complain, she would probably end up in prison.<sup>4</sup>



*A photo taken on August 28, 2014, shows a builder working on a construction site in Sydney's central business district. Workers in the construction industry, especially migrants, face a greater risk of exploitation in many parts of the world. Photo credit: William West/AFP via Getty Images.*



### Kenya

A 12-year-old Kenyan girl was pulled out of school by her father and made to undergo female genital mutilation. Soon after, she was told that she was ready to become a wife and was to be married the same day. Her father threatened to kill her if she did not go through with the marriage. At her husband's home, she was hidden away and all of her movements closely monitored. She had limited contact with those outside the home.

### Taiwan

A fisher, aged in his late 30s and from the Philippines, took a job in the Taiwan fishing industry through a recruitment agency. The living and working conditions were poor and salaries often delayed, but he and his colleagues didn't complain for fear of not being paid at all. After not receiving their salaries for three months, they asked to leave but were forced to stay on the vessel for a further six months, with the company citing COVID-19 restrictions as the reason for not processing their repatriations.

*Above: Workers harvest Syrah grapes from vines in a tall vineyard row in the Yarra Valley, Australia, September 2019. Migrant workers are particularly vulnerable to exploitation through coercive recruitment practices and unfair work and living conditions. Photo credit: Jason Edwards/Photodisc via Getty Images.*



## How to talk about modern slavery with your congregations

Religion is at the heart of many people's values and identity. Faith leaders, as the moral and spiritual guardians in their communities, can reach the hearts and minds of millions of people in ways that humanitarian groups cannot.

As a faith leader, you are uniquely positioned in your communities and have a direct role in influencing beliefs, attitudes, behaviours, practices, and actions.

- Familiarise yourself with the factors that make people vulnerable to modern slavery and who is most affected. Are there vulnerable people or groups in your congregation?
- If modern slavery isn't a topic that you have discussed with your congregation, start with the basic facts (see 'Who is impacted by modern slavery?' page 10).
- Talk with your faith community about what healthy relationships look like and what the law says about marriage in your country.
- Introduce the topic of modern slavery to your small group studies, youth groups and women's groups.
- Choose a date to talk about modern slavery from the list in this booklet.
- Share the faith leader video about modern slavery from the Resources section of the Faith For Freedom app.

## Signs that someone is in trouble

People in situations of modern slavery may show a few, or all of these signs. They can be indicative of situations of exploitation, coercion, and threats that people have experienced.

There may be other reasons why some of these signs exist, so it is important not to conclude that there must be some form of modern slavery based solely on a few of these signs being present.

For more information on how to engage with survivors, please see the document "Identifying and Responding to Modern Slavery: A Toolkit for Faith Leaders" on the Global Freedom Network website.

### Appearance

- Show signs of physical or emotional abuse, including untreated injuries
- Appear malnourished or unkempt, withdrawn or neglected
- Seem under the influence or control of others
- Wear the same clothes every day
- Have a lack of personal belongings or official identification documents

### Work

- Identification documents are withheld by their employer or a third party
- Lack of earnings, wages withheld, or underpayment
- Working to pay off a significant debt
- Abusive/substandard working and living conditions
- Work excessive overtime or given no time off
- Wear no safety equipment when their work requires it

### Accommodation

- Live in dirty, cramped, or overcrowded accommodation
- Live and work at the same address
- Unfamiliar with the neighbourhood where they live or work

### Travel

- Rarely allowed to travel on their own
- Irregular hours of collection and drop off, in crowded transport with other workers
- No control of identification documents required for travel

### Seeking help

- Frightened or hesitant to talk to strangers
- Fear of police, don't know who to trust or where to get help
- Afraid of deportation, and of the risk of violence to themselves or their family



## Key dates to talk about modern slavery

Consider speaking about modern slavery on these dates:

<b>MARCH</b>	
<b>08</b>	<b>International Women's Day</b> Modern slavery disproportionately affects women and girls – they represent 54% of those in modern slavery, 78% of those in forced sexual exploitation and 68% of those in forced marriage.
<b>JULY</b>	
<b>30</b>	<b>World Day Against Trafficking in Persons</b> Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery which is worsened by conflict, crises and climate change.
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
<b>20</b>	<b>International Day of the Girl</b> Girls are especially vulnerable to forced and child marriage.
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
<b>11</b>	<b>World Children's Day</b> One quarter of those in modern slavery are children. Children can experience trafficking, forced marriage, and the worst forms of child labour.
<b>DECEMBER</b>	
<b>02</b>	<b>International Day for the Abolition of Slavery</b> This day marks the date of the adoption, by the General Assembly, of the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.
<b>18</b>	<b>International Migrants Day</b> Migrant workers are more than three times more likely to be in forced labour than non-migrant workers.

Are there other key dates from your faith traditions that you could include?

*A woman lights a candle during Orthodox Easter church service at the St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral on April 24, 2022 in Kyiv, Ukraine. Photo credit: Alexey Furman/Getty Images.*





# How to conduct advocacy

Faith leaders play a critical role in tackling modern slavery. They can change attitudes and provide solace to survivors. This section provides guidance for faith leaders on how to conduct advocacy for stronger action to address modern slavery.

*The following section is partially adapted from “Kenyan Advocacy on Child and Forced Marriage: A guide for faith leaders”.<sup>5</sup>*

*For more information on faith leader advocacy, please see the full report on the Walk Free website: [www.walkfree.org/reports/kenyan-advocacy-on-child-and-forced-marriage/](http://www.walkfree.org/reports/kenyan-advocacy-on-child-and-forced-marriage/)*

## Why should faith leaders get involved?

Modern slavery involves the exploitation of people for profit or personal gain. It constitutes a fundamental violation of human rights, and undermines the core principles of our faiths. Yet faith leaders are uniquely placed to make a difference – as custodians of their faiths and pillars of the communities they serve, faith leaders can play a vital role raising awareness and transforming attitudes to create lasting positive change.

Faith leaders can follow the steps outlined here to develop an advocacy plan to champion action to end modern slavery.

## Steps in the advocacy process

### Identify the issue

What is the issue you seek to address?

1

### Collect information

Build your understanding of the issue, its causes and consequences, and the environment in which it occurs.

2

### Set your goals, objectives, and indicators for success

What is your desired outcome and how will you know it has been achieved?

3

### Identify your target audience

Map the relevant stakeholders - *who are the decision makers with authority to bring about the desired change?*

4

Who are the advocates and collaborators - *those who have access to and are able to influence the decision makers?*

### Develop your message

Consider why you want to address the issue, who you are trying to reach with the message, and what action you want your audience to take. Clearly state your asks.

5

### Identify channels of communication

Consider the best way to communicate your message. Advocacy communication should inform, persuade, move to action, or maintain relationships and support.

6

### Implement

Carry out your advocacy plan.

7

### Evaluate

Monitor and evaluate the results.

8



## Survivor engagement

Survivors have invaluable insights when it comes to developing solutions to modern slavery, yet often, efforts to address the issue are designed and developed without their input. Survivor involvement is important as it recognises that lived experience is expertise. It refers to the development or delivery of a process or project that is being carried out “with” or “by” survivors rather than being “for” or “about” them. Faith leaders should both seek to engage survivors in their own advocacy plans, and should advocate for survivor inclusive government responses. Survivor involvement must always be safe, supportive, trauma-informed, and consensual.

Faith leaders may also find themselves in a position to respond directly to an instance of modern slavery – as trusted members of the communities they serve, they are well placed to identify and support survivors. When responding to modern slavery, faith leaders should use a trauma-informed, survivor-centred approach. Ensuring survivor safety and the right to information, non-discrimination, consent, privacy, and confidentiality is paramount. Faith leaders should refer reports to the relevant authorities. More information is available in the **Faith For Freedom smartphone app** and on the **Global Freedom Network website under “Resources”**.

More resources on trauma-informed approaches and survivor engagement are available at: [www.survivoralliance.org/survivor-engagement-resources](http://www.survivoralliance.org/survivor-engagement-resources)

## Advocacy tools and approaches

In addition to the steps outlined above, some specific actions faith leaders can take include: writing policy briefs, letters, and submissions; connecting with other faith leaders; conducting advocacy campaigns using traditional and social media; and using the pulpit to disseminate messages.

## Policy briefs, letters, and submissions

Policy briefs, letters, and submissions calling for increased action to end forced and child marriage are an effective way to communicate your message to government stakeholders. Such efforts should be informed by evidence, draw attention to areas where further action is required, and recommend solutions. Papers can be presented to relevant government institutions or ministers with a view to influencing policy and lawmaking. Faith leaders can seek meetings to present their policy asks face-to-face or virtually. Faith leaders can also make submissions to UN bodies to inform their review of their country’s response and related recommendations for their government: The UN Human Rights Council assesses how countries are meeting their human rights obligations through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The UPR process allows civil society actors to make written contributions to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to inform the review. More information on the submissions process and review periods can be found here: [www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/ngos-nhris](http://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/ngos-nhris)

*A rabbi lights the menorah during a morning service, also known as shacharit, at The Great Synagogue on December 17, 2020 in Sydney, Australia. The Australian Jewish community observe Hanukkah. The menorah holds nine flames, one known as the shamash (“attendant”), is used to kindle the other eight lights. Photo credit: Lisa Maree Williams via Getty Images.*





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## Connect with other faith leaders

Faith leaders can work together to develop and agree on a coordinated advocacy approach to end modern slavery, targeting all levels of government. This approach takes advantage of the intra- and inter-faith structures that exist within countries and internationally. Faith leaders can also share information, resources and tips for discussing modern slavery in their communities and identifying those who may be at risk. The Faith For Freedom app includes the details of faith leaders from several countries who are already working on this issue.

## Use the pulpit to disseminate messages

Through the congregational model, the pulpit provides an opportunity for faith leaders to draw on the religious scriptures highlighted in this guide to deliver key advocacy messages. People of faith hold a deep conviction as to how religion shapes their lives, and the pulpit allows faith leaders to raise awareness of the issue of modern slavery to foster greater understanding, attitudinal and behavioural change.

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*Left: A woman walking in the courtyard of the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in the UAE capital Abu Dhabi on November 17, 2017. Photo credit: Giuseppe Cacace/AFP via Getty Images.*

## Advocacy campaigns using traditional and social media

Faith leaders can design, develop, and implement advocacy campaigns using traditional and social media. It can focus on one or more areas where further action is required to address modern slavery and call for increased action. Advocacy campaigns can be disseminated through multiple channels, including via social media; newspaper features; and television, radio, and podcast interviews and discussions.

Faith leaders should consider the diversity of their audiences and seek to provide content in diverse languages, observe cultural and traditional sensitivities, and involve both traditional and local leaders in these conversations.

Faith leaders can conduct advocacy through processions and annual commemorations, harnessing the rich faith tradition of community outreach. In this setting, messages could include, but are not limited to: how to report cases and where to seek help, using the Faith For Freedom app for deeper learnings, promoting equity for both genders, and promoting education for girls.



## Take action: Faith For Freedom phone app

Faith For Freedom is a free app for faith leaders, clergy, and their staff to help identify and address modern slavery and keep their congregations and communities safe.

This free digital resource provides clear, concise information about 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 Faith For Freedom 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.

Faith communities can become a place where survivors' voices are lifted up and congregations are informed and passionate about seeking justice for those affected by modern slavery.



*Muslims participate in the first Tarawih prayer of Ramadan at the Auburn Gallipoli Mosque in Sydney, Australia, on April 12, 2021. Photo credit: Steven Saphore/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images.*

### What's in the app?

*The Faith For Freedom app includes the following information. Refer to the country profiles for region-specific content.*

#### About

This section includes information about the app along with general information about modern slavery, including definitions and laws for specific countries. It describes why faith leaders should pay attention to modern slavery and the role of faith.

The app's country-specific content is guided and reviewed by an invite-only Advisory Panel. The Advisory Panel is composed of faith leaders of the major faith groups in each country. They provide expertise and demonstrate that tackling modern slavery should be a priority for faith leaders and communities.

#### Identifying people in modern slavery

This section contains practical tips for how faith leaders can identify people in their communities who may be more vulnerable to or in a situation of modern slavery. The country profiles include specific information about how modern slavery can present in those countries, or particular risk factors for people leaving the country for work.

#### How to help

The app contains referral pathways for faith leaders to engage service providers if they encounter people in modern slavery or those who are at risk. The referral pathways include a range of services (legal, medical, emergency, and others) covering as many regions of each territory as possible. Participants undergo a vetting and due diligence process to ensure that they comply with local regulations and laws.

#### Resources

There are several resources specifically designed for faith leaders, including advice on how to talk about modern slavery with their congregations and best practices of survivor engagement. There are videos of faith leaders talking about modern slavery and prayers from major faiths. This section also includes information on faith leader advocacy.

#### More about Global Freedom Network

Faith leaders can find out more about Global Freedom Network's activities, such as signings of the Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders Against Modern Slavery. There is also a link to the latest Global Slavery Index, published by Walk Free.

## Testimonials



Very Rev Opeyemi Awe  
General Secretary,  
Africa Methodist Council

**The Faith For Freedom App is a trailblazer in the engagement of faith-based organisations in joint action against all forms of human trafficking, which is a crime against humanity.**

The app offers information which can assist faith leaders in engaging their. The app has also made interfaith cooperation possible in a world where there is so much division. It is loaded with many resources that the Africa Methodist Council introduced it to its members and invited Global Freedom Network to speak about it at the Council's commemoration; 2021 United Nations International Day for the Abolition of Slavery to raise awareness of the atrocities of modern slavery.

Africa Methodist Council are willing to spread the app to our Conferences especially among young people who are mostly affected by human trafficking and irregular migration. I personally use the app as a ready-made resource for speaking on the atrocities of human trafficking. Not only does it speak about the problem but links and resources to the solution are also part of the package. Thank you Global Freedom Network for all you are doing in God's name for humanity.

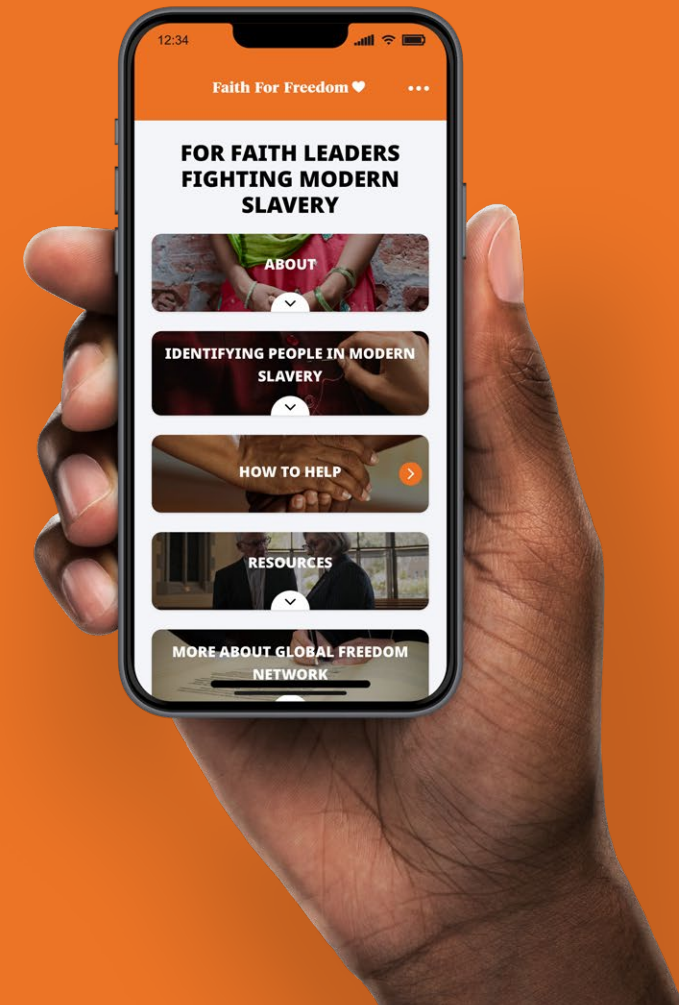


Sheikh Armiyawo Shaibu  
Spokesperson,  
Office of The National  
Chief Imam of Ghana

**This is to acknowledge the introduction of the Faith For Freedom App to His Eminence, The National Chief Imam of Ghana's office.**

Developed by the Federation of Faith Leaders under the Global Freedom Network, the app launched on August 21, 2021. It serves as a vital tool for identifying and supporting victims of modern slavery. With both Universal and Ghana profiles, offering information in multiple languages including English and Twi, it aids in awareness creation and education.

The Office of The National Chief Imam finds the app highly effective, advocating for its use in mosques and Islamic centers nationwide. Equipping Imams with necessary skills has furthered its reach, particularly in urban areas. We extend heartfelt gratitude to the Global Freedom Network for this invaluable humanitarian contribution.



Faith For Freedom 

Scan the QR code to download the app and learn more about modern slavery, how to respond to situations of modern slavery, and the important role of faith in addressing the issue.

[www.faithforfreedom.org](http://www.faithforfreedom.org)





## Endnotes

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1. International Labour Organization, Walk Free & International Organization for Migration 2022, Global Estimates of Modern Slavery, pp. 2, 6. Available from: [https://cdn.walkfree.org/content/uploads/2022/09/12142341/GEMS-2022\\_Report\\_EN\\_V8.pdf](https://cdn.walkfree.org/content/uploads/2022/09/12142341/GEMS-2022_Report_EN_V8.pdf). [14 March 2024].
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## THE GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX 2023



For more information  
on modern slavery,  
visit the Global Slavery  
Index 2023 website.



