The 8.7 Quarterly

Autumn 2026

Welcome to the 8.7 Quarterly

Welcome to the 8.7 Quarterly edition of the Commonwealth 8.7 Network Newsletter!

Every quarter we bring you the latest news on Commonwealth 8.7 Network activities, upcoming events, useful resources and tools, as well as stories and updates from partners.

Kind regards,
Commonwealth 8.7 Secretariat
Commonwealth 8.7 Network Coordinators
Commonwealth 8.7 Network Leads
Commonwealth 8.7 Network Partners

About the Commonwealth 8.7 Network

The Commonwealth 8.7 Network is an international, member-driven network of over 130 national and local civil society organisations and individuals united by a common vision to eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking by 2030.

Our members work to ensure secure employing survivors' leadership, support vulnerable communities, and influence policy and practice. We believe that ending modern slavery requires people's rights and human rights are integral to its sustainable.

Our network is coordinated by the Commonwealth Secretariat. The Commonwealth 8.7 Network is a special case for UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 8.7. The Network serves as a platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and coordinated action, ensuring that efforts are aligned and amplified for high-impact policy changes.

Implemented in COVIDIA promotes its essential free and private, academic, transparent, and independent research and analysis to inform policy and practice. Our work spans Commonwealth Offshore Data and advocacy focus and activities protecting vulnerable populations from the risk of modern slavery and human trafficking, including migrant workers, women and girls, and children. Our research and analysis underpinned in order to bring evidence-based to inform and influence policy and practice.

The urgency of the task cannot be overstated. According to World Bank estimates by 2050, more than 1 billion people will be displaced by climate change, with over 200 million at risk of being forced to move to another country. Vulnerable communities also face poverty, underfunding, and limited access to education, healthcare, and social protection, which increases their risk of being trafficked or exploited. Modern slavery, the Gulf and gap to achieve State-Commonwealth challenge, ensuring that vulnerable communities are protected and empowered to thrive in a world free from exploitation.

Alex Kinsella, President and Trustee, Commonwealth 8.7 Network

Message from Anthony Alexander, Trinidad and Tobago, Individual Member of the Commonwealth 8.7 Network

Dear 8.7 Network Members and Friends,

Modern slavery and human trafficking are not distant crimes. They are lived realities, shaped by exploitation in critical labour affecting our cities in Western communities.

Trinidad and Tobago's experience underscores how these harms unfold in ordinary spaces: Chinese-owned Wholesale, Indian-owned Wholesale, Bus, Bus-to-school-bus, and Chinese-owned Wholesale. Workers are trafficked into these sectors, and the challenge for action is what prevention in vulnerable populations.

Our work with the Commonwealth 8.7 Network, and the Commonwealth 8.7 Secretariat, and the survivor-led advocacy network Ex-Slave Rights Project, has shown that ending modern slavery requires sustained, cross-sector collaboration. It requires survivor leadership, strong data, and the 5-4 Regional Criteria and Service Model architecture for the Gulf and gap to achieve State-Commonwealth challenge, ensuring that vulnerable communities are protected and empowered to thrive in a world free from exploitation.

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Anthony Alexander, Trinidad and Tobago, Individual Member of the Commonwealth 8.7 Network

Spotlight

On the Impact of Climate Change on Modern Slavery in Small Island Developing States

Human trafficking and modern slavery in increasingly affecting ecosystems and communities worldwide, including in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Climate change is a key driver of this crisis, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and creating new pathways for exploitation. Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and the depletion of natural resources are forcing communities into precarious situations, making them increasingly susceptible to trafficking and modern slavery. Vulnerable populations, including women and children, are disproportionately affected, facing heightened risks of exploitation in sectors such as fishing, agriculture, and tourism. The interconnectedness of these challenges underscores the urgent need for comprehensive strategies that address both climate resilience and human rights protections in these vulnerable regions.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, which pose a threat to such as land displacement, small populations, reliance on ocean resources, and limited resources. These factors create a perfect storm for exploitation, as traditional livelihoods disappear, communities fragmentation, and desperate people are compelled to seek the protection and basic sustainable communities facilities, exacerbating socio-economic inequalities. The interconnectedness of climate change and modern slavery underscores the urgent need for comprehensive strategies that address both climate resilience and human rights protections in these vulnerable regions.

To address these challenges, governments, policymakers, international organisations and grassroots must work together to:

- Strengthen mitigation and Resilience: Support renewable energy, reducing SIDS through sustainable infrastructure, and implementing climate adaptation measures to protect vulnerable communities.
- Protect Vulnerable Populations: Ensure comprehensive healthcare, education, and social protection to mitigate hazards vulnerable and reduce exploitation risks.
- Combat Trafficking and Modern Slavery: Implement robust anti-trafficking and modern slavery legislation, ensuring effective enforcement and support survivors with comprehensive services.
- Promote Sustainable Livelihoods: Support alternative livelihoods and economic diversification to reduce reliance on vulnerable sectors, fostering resilient communities.
- Raise Awareness and Advocate for Global Cooperation: Raise awareness of the interconnectedness of climate change and modern slavery, advocating for international cooperation and resource mobilization.

By The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Manchester & the Commonwealth 8.7 Network

Climate Change, Migration, and Human Trafficking in the Caribbean: A Call for Integrated Action

By Adrian Alexander, Trinidad and Tobago, Commonwealth 8.7 Network

The Caribbean, a region renowned for its vibrant culture and breathtaking landscapes, is facing dangerous convergence. Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and unsustainable coastal practices. This environmental instability has far-reaching consequences on the economy, culture, and well-being of the Caribbean people. Simultaneously, the region grapples with the complex issues of migration and human trafficking, exacerbated by the vulnerabilities created by the interplay of climate change and socio-economic factors.

Read the full 8.7 Blog here.

8.7 Members' News

New projects and publications from our members

ACT ALliance, Caritas Italiana the Nationwide Thematic Network against Human Trafficking and Exploitation (NTN) and Caritas Internationalis (CI) have launched a new project to support victims of human trafficking. The project is funded by the European Commission and aims to strengthen the capacity of the sector's response to human trafficking, promoting a shared approach to victim identification, protection and assistance in the region and key to contact trafficking.

Grassroots Rural Africa, Grassroots Rural Africa, Grassroots Rural Africa,