

Expert Panel on the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
Organized by UN Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

1 December 2017, 11 a.m., Salle XXII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

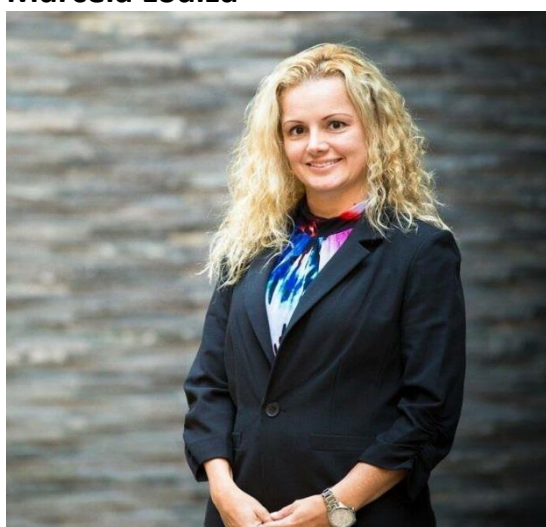
Panellists

Renu Rajbhandari



Ms. Renu Rajbhandari is a Trustee of the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, to which she contributes as a medical doctor and women’s rights advocate. After obtaining her degree in medicine, as a young doctor working in public hospitals, she met patients/victims of contemporary forms of slavery. The horrific physical condition of victims of sexual slavery led her to become a full-time women’s human rights activist and to found the Women’s Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) in Nepal, developing a preventive health and treatment program for rural marginalized Nepalese women. Ms Rajbhandari was the first national rapporteur against trafficking in women in Nepal. She is also Executive Committee member of the Migrant Forum Asia and member of the Women Human Right Defenders International Coalition.

Marcela Loaiza



Ms. Marcela Loaiza was trafficked from Colombia to Japan, where she was sexually exploited by the Yakuza crime ring for eighteen months. She later began her journey to rehabilitation, which has turned her into the survivor, writer and activist she is today. Her main focus is helping and protecting those who are at risk and/or have fallen into the webs of modern day slavery. To this end, in 2011 she created a foundation in Colombia to assist survivors of sexual slavery overcome their psychological trauma and reintegrate into society; this foundation is a grantee of the UN Trust Fund. This work led her to be named as one of the Fortune magazine’s 500 Heroes. Ms. Loaiza is the author of two books entitled “Atrapada por la Mafia Yakuza” and “Lo que fui y lo que soy”.

Suamhirs Piraino-Guzman



Mr. Suamhirs Piraino-Guzman is Healthcare Coordinator at the *Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST)* – an organization awarded by the UN Trust Fund. As expert in behavioural psychology, he has years of experience developing curriculum and providing training on trauma-informed care, mental health, the commercial sexual exploitation of children, evidence-based practices and more to a diverse range of audiences. As a male survivor of child sexual exploitation and trafficking, Mr. Piraino-Guzman has been an active member of the National Survivor Network, and currently assists in coordinating the network. He was appointed by former President Barack Obama to the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking.

Issa Kouyaté



Mr. Issa Kouyaté is the Founder and Director of *Maison de la Gare*, a shelter operating with the support of the UN Trust Fund in Senegal to assist hundreds of street children, including *talibé* children, and other at-risk youth. As a former *talibé* himself, Mr. Kouyaté is committed to improving the lives of children. He first became a chef cooking for the children; from there, his small operation grew into a shelter where as many as 200 *talibés* now visit daily, seeking basic needs like food, medicine and protection. Mr. Kouyaté has been incredibly successful in raising awareness about the conditions of and risks for children who live and beg on the streets, and has helped build support from local officials to prevent human trafficking.

Eileen Walsh



Ms. Eileen Walsh serves as Head of Therapies for *Helen Bamber Foundation* in London – an organization awarded by the UN Trust Fund. She has twelve years of experience working as a clinical psychologist with asylum-seekers and refugees, in particular victims of contemporary forms of slavery suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other psychological problems following trauma. Ms. Walsh has specialized experience in assessment and treatment of victims of contemporary forms of slavery, including domestic servitude and both sexual and labour exploitation. She is involved in research studies on the psychological impact of labour exploitation, and evidence-based psychological treatment for survivors of modern slavery.