



STEERING COMMITTEE

Hon. Andreas Schwarz, Chairman  
Germany

Hon. Olivier Cadic  
France

Hon. Alejo Campos  
Panama

Hon. Hélen Conway-Mouret  
France

Hon. Robert Dussey  
Togo

Hon. Manuel Espina  
Guatemala

Hon. Mariano Federici  
Argentina

Mr. Shafik Gabr  
Egypt

Hon. Vladimir Gjorchev  
Macedonia

Hon. Csaba Hende  
Hungary

Mr. Joseph Humire  
Center for a Secure Free Society

Hon. Erzhan Kazykhanov  
Kazakhstan

Hon. Haidara Mamadou  
Ivory Coast

Hon. Andreas Nick  
Germany

Mr. Jacob Norwood  
Booz Allen Hamilton  
Netherlands

Hon. Sooroj Phokeer  
Mauritius

Mr. Frederick Reynolds  
Barclays

Hon. Johannes Selle  
Germany

Hon. Col. Bob Stewart  
United Kingdom

Hon. Ksenia Svetlova  
Israel

Hon. Kadyr Toktogulov  
Kyrgyz Republic

Hon. Dalia Youssef  
Egypt

Hon. Emanuelis Zingeris  
Lithuania

Hon. Marco Zanni  
Italy

Hon. Pavel Popescu  
Romania

Hon. Andres Lu  
Paraguay

Hon. Sonia Krimi  
France

Amb. Onkokame Mokaila  
Botswana

Amb. Carlos dos Santos  
Mozambique

Amb. Lazarous Kapambwe  
Zambia

In Memoriam  
Sir David Amess  
United Kingdom

In Memoriam  
Hon. Andreas Karlsböck  
Austria

**CONGRESSMAN ROBERT PITTENGER**  
*Chairman*  
*Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum*

December 17, 2021

His Excellency Antonio Guterres  
Secretary General  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, NY 10017  
Re: United Nations General Assembly 2022 Topical Focus

Dear Mr. Guterres:

We are writing to request that the focus of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September of 2022 be *Combating Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery*. Currently, there are approximately 40 million people around the world who are trapped in human trafficking, which is a form of modern slavery<sup>1</sup>. Human trafficking is also the second largest criminal enterprise in the world. According to the United Nations Palermo Protocol<sup>2</sup>, trafficking in persons is defined as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation,” and it includes, “the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”

Several recent factors have propelled this humanitarian crisis globally. More than 280 million migrants<sup>3</sup> are among the individuals most vulnerable to the ravages of human trafficking, and the global migration crisis has increased the human trafficking crisis. Those forced to leave their homes, a record 80 million in 2020<sup>4</sup>, are at particular risk. The COVID-19 pandemic<sup>5</sup> has also especially worsened the vulnerabilities of women and girls, who already account for 70% of detected trafficking victims<sup>6</sup>. Generating the equivalent of US \$150 Billion annually around the world, human trafficking is also used to finance terrorist groups such as Boko Haram and brutal

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang-en/index.htm#:~:text=Facts%20and%20figures,15.4%20million%20in%20forced%20marriage>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ProtocolTraffickingInPersons.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/07/world-day-against-trafficking-challenging-misconceptions-about-human-trafficking-in-migration-pathways/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2020/12/5fcf94a04/forced-displacement-passes-80-million-mid-2020-covid-19-tests-refugee-protection.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/07/guidance-addressing-emerging-human-trafficking-trends-and-consequences-of-the-covid-19-pandemic>

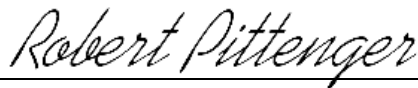
<sup>6</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/endht/en/statements.html>

regimes such as the Taliban<sup>7</sup>. It is also estimated that approximately 40% of deforestation is carried out by victims of modern slavery<sup>8</sup>.

The convergence of these factors has created a global humanitarian crisis of slavery. There are currently more slaves than at any other time in history, and the crisis of human trafficking is intersecting many other crises in the world such as climate change, mass migration and terrorism. Because of this, we strongly urge that the focus of UNGA in New York City in September of 2022 be *Combatting Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery*.

Thank you for your consideration of our letter, and we look forward to your response.

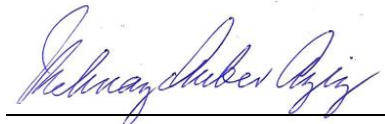
Sincerely,



Hon. Robert Pittenger,  
Chairman,  
Parliamentary Intelligence-  
Security Forum  
United States



Ms. Anne Basham,  
Chair of the PI-SF Taskforce  
on Human Trafficking  
United States



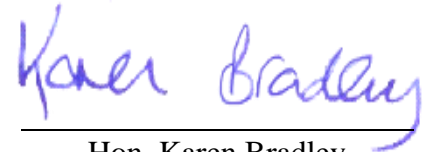
Hon. Mehnaaz Aziz  
Member of the National  
Assembly of Pakistan




Hon. Harriett Baldwin  
MP for West Worcestershire  
United Kingdom



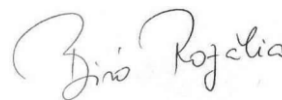
Hon. Rozalia Biro  
Chairman of the Committee  
for Foreign Policy of the  
Chamber of Deputies  
Romania



Hon. Karen Bradley  
MP for Staffordshire  
Moorlands  
United Kingdom



Hon. Arta Dade  
Former Member of Parliament  
Albania



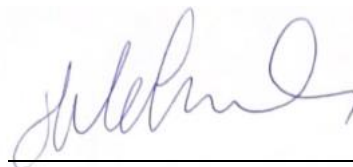
Hon. Naheed Farid  
Member of Parliament  
Afghanistan



Hon. Fawzia Koofi  
First Woman Deputy  
Speaker of Parliament  
Afghanistan



Hon. Davis Opoku  
Member of Parliament  
Ghana



Hon. Shqipe Selimi  
MP, Assembly of the  
Republic of Kosovo  
Kosovo



Hon. John Richmond,  
Former Ambassador at  
Large to Monitor and  
Combat Trafficking in  
Person, United States

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/sep/16/how-sex-trafficking-funds-the-taliban-and-terroris/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://nottingham-repository.worktribe.com/output/5268533/growing-evidence-of-the-interconnections-between-modern-slavery-environmental-degradation-and-climate-change>



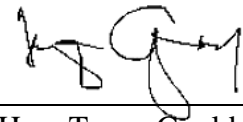
---

Hon. Alicia Kearns  
Member of Parliament for  
Rutland and Melton  
United Kingdom



---

Ms. Rebecca Sharibu  
Survivor Parent Leader  
Founder of the LEAH  
Foundation  
Nigeria



---

Hon. Tanya Gould  
Survivor Leader  
Human Trafficking Expert  
Consultant U.S. Department  
of State  
United States



---

Hon. Rachael Thomas  
Member of Parliament for  
Lethbridge  
Canada



---

Hon. Andréanne Larouche  
Member of Parliament for Shefford  
Canada



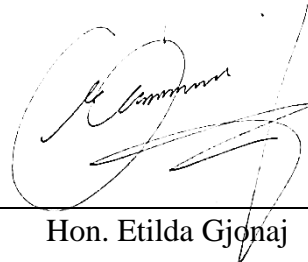
---

Hon. Arnold Viersen  
Member of Parliament for  
Peace River - Westlock  
Canada



---

Ms. Agnes Afrakomah  
Survivor Leader  
Ghana



---

Hon. Etilda Gjonaj  
Minister of Justice  
Albania