

FREEDOMUNITED

# COMMONWEALTH: COMMIT TO END MODERN SLAVERY

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## CAMPAIGN BACKGROUND

The Commonwealth is a union of 52 countries around the world and is home to 2.2 billion people. The next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) will be taking place in April 2018. With the agenda yet to be set, we have an opportunity to encourage Commonwealth countries to support the inclusion of a mandate to tackle modern slavery. This is particularly important as 55% of the world's enslaved population lives in the Commonwealth. Support for tackling modern slavery has been put forward by the current Commonwealth Chair-in-Office, the Prime Minister of Malta, and the next Chair-in-Office, the Prime Minister of the UK, has made clear her commitment to ending modern slavery. We therefore believe that by building a strong and powerful voice of support, we will be successful in securing this commitment across the Commonwealth.

By asking the public to sign our petition, we can show broad support that will encourage the Commonwealth to take a stance on modern slavery. The Commonwealth will then be able to provide support to member countries to develop legislation and action to help combat this crime. You can see further details of the campaign [here](#).

### YOU CAN HELP BY:

1. Spreading the word on social media
2. Calling on your networks by email
3. Facilitating a group conversation on the topic

### CAMPAIGN LOGISTICS:

We are calling for action from the Commonwealth to adopt a clear, public position against modern slavery across its 52 member countries. Through our [campaign](#) we will be able to demonstrate public support for the Commonwealth to take action on modern slavery.

**This Campaign Kit will help you to promote the initiative.**

Thank you for being part of it:



@freedomunitedHQ  
#CHOGM2018



@freedomunitedHQ  
#CHOGM2018



@freedomunited  
#CHOGM2018



@freedomunitedHQ  
#CHOGM2018

## WAYS YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

### Tell everyone about the campaign on social media!

Feel free to copy and paste the content below in posts on your social media accounts.



Call on the Commonwealth to stand against #slavery #CHOGM2018 <http://bit.ly/2sMCnk0>



55% of people in slavery live in the Commonwealth. Demand action at #CHOGM2018 <http://bit.ly/2sMCnk0>



Join Freedom United in calling on the Commonwealth community to commit to ending #ModernSlavery at #CHOGM2018 – sign the petition here <http://bit.ly/2sMCnk0>



55% of people in slavery reside in Commonwealth countries. It's time we do something about this. Join Freedom United in calling for action against modern slavery at CHOGM 2018. <http://bit.ly/2sMCnk0>

## WAYS YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

### Sign the Petition:

The more petition signatures we gather, the more noise we can make to demand action from the Commonwealth community to commit to introducing legislation that will combat modern slavery. Ask your networks and supporters to get involved!

### Send an Email:

We've put together some draft text below, feel free to amend and share with your networks and contact list:

*We support Freedom United's ['Urge all 52 Commonwealth countries to commit to ending modern slavery' campaign](#) because we believe that more must be done to help the disproportionate amount of people living in slavery in the Commonwealth.*

*The Commonwealth consists of two thirds of the world's population, and yet 55% of the total enslaved population resides in its member states. The Commonwealth does not currently hold a position on modern slavery, and the Commonwealth Secretariat does not provide guidance or resources to member states to help address this disproportionate figure. Join us in calling on the Commonwealth to adopt a position on modern slavery and commit to putting resources towards ending this injustice.*

*Commonwealth countries must outline a mandate for tackling modern slavery at CHOGM, which will shape the Secretariat's work on the issue.*

*We hope we can count on your support for the ['Urge all 52 Commonwealth countries to commit to ending modern slavery' campaign](#).*

*Please sign here: <https://www.freedomunited.org/advocate/commonwealth>*

**Have an email coming up with a little space or a P.S. you can share? Here's a shorter version:**

*We support Freedom United's ['Urge all 52 Commonwealth countries to commit to ending modern slavery' campaign](#) because we believe that more must be done to help the disproportionate amount of people living in slavery in the Commonwealth. Join us in calling on the Commonwealth to adopt a position on modern slavery and commit to putting resources towards ending this injustice. Visit Freedom United's campaign page to sign: [www.freedomunited.org/advocate/commonwealth](http://www.freedomunited.org/advocate/commonwealth)*

## Start a conversation:

Getting the public engaged and aware of how the Commonwealth can help tackle modern slavery will build our voice and help ensure the success of this campaign. One way you can spread the word is to hold a workshop or seminar in your group or organization to discuss the issues at hand and get members thinking about the key subject matters of the campaign.

## Here are some questions to help frame your conversation:

- Why is it important the Commonwealth adopt a mandate to tackle modern slavery?
- How could a Commonwealth mandate help a country like India, which has the highest number of enslaved people in the world?
- How can Commonwealth citizens help influence the decision of the Commonwealth to tackle modern slavery?
- Do you think this campaign is still relevant to countries outside the Commonwealth?
- How do you think an intergovernmental body like the Commonwealth can support the abolition of modern slavery in its member countries?
- How can we, as a group, get the word out about the Freedom United Commonwealth campaign?

We would love to know how you get on! Please add a comment to the campaign page, or send in photos of your group discussion to [info@freedomunited.org](mailto:info@freedomunited.org) and we will share it.

## OUR PARTNERS

### Organizations:



The [Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative \(CHRI\)](#) is an independent, non-partisan, international non-governmental organization, mandated to ensure the practical realization of human rights in the countries of the Commonwealth.

CHRI's objectives are to promote awareness of and adherence to the Harare Commonwealth Declaration, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and other internationally recognized human rights instruments, as well as domestic instruments supporting human rights in Commonwealth member states.



The [Rotarian Action Group Against Slavery \(RAGAS\)](#) is an independent action arm in the family of Rotary International. The Group's aims are two-fold: to raise awareness of slavery and human trafficking to take action to protect people against slavery and its consequences. RAGAS looks to provide information about and promote ways for its members to engage and support anti-slavery and human trafficking projects, programs and campaigns.

### Have any questions about the campaign?

Contact: Miriam Karmali, Advocacy: [miriam@freedomunited.org](mailto:miriam@freedomunited.org)

### Need some help spreading the word on social media?

Contact: Kat French, Social Media: [kat@freedomunited.org](mailto:kat@freedomunited.org)