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Survivors of modern slavery share powerful stories of forced labour and orphanage trafficking as hundreds to attend Trust Conference

WORLD'S LEADING ANTI-SLAVERY FORUM TO BE HELD 14-15 NOV IN LONDON

LONDON (November 8th, 2018) – The Thomson Reuters Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the world's biggest news and information provider, will welcome slavery survivors, global human rights leaders and anti-trafficking experts presenting innovative ways to address the issue at its annual [Trust Conference](#), held this year at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London.

Some 600 delegates including government and business leaders, top legal and financial firms, philanthropists, NGOs and activists will attend the event, which will include the conferring of the Foundation's third [Stop Slavery Award](#), as well as its Stop Slavery Hero Award.

Human rights issues to be addressed also include the links between the migration crisis and slavery, the rise in violence against women, and the lack of access to land and property rights.

Trust Conference provides an unparalleled platform for the exchange of ideas, experience and expertise from all over the world. Each day ends with a commitment to taking specific and concrete action towards fighting modern day slavery, and to advancing human rights worldwide.

Confirmed speakers this year include: Manhattan District Attorney **Cyrus Vance Jr.**, President of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, **Francesco Rocca**, Journalist and Author **Rana Ayyub**, Principal Researcher and Partner at Microsoft **Chris White**, Former Chief Prosecutor of the UK **Nazir Afzal OBE**, Activist and Acid Attack Survivor **Natalia Ponce de León**, Leader of International Women's Movement FEMEN **Inna Shevchenko**, and poet and activist **Emi Mahmoud. Snezana Vuckovic, Sophie Otiende and Joseph Mwuara** are survivors of trafficking who will share their powerful stories.

"Bringing together the leading voices in the field of slavery and women's rights, and taking action against some of the worst human rights abuses in the world today are the essence of Trust Conference," says Monique Villa, CEO of the Thomson Reuters Foundation and Founder of the global event.

"This very unique conference has never in its history been as needed as it is today. All over the world, we are witnessing a ferocious attack on civil society from the way women's rights are being eroded, to the silencing of those with the courage to speak



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up. We will hear from courageous activists, innovators and corporations who are changing the nature of the fight against slavery and in advancing human rights. This promises to be one of the most powerful and inspirational Trust Conferences ever.”

TRUST CONFERENCE AGENDA

The forum will address global issues through six main themes addressed over two days, in plenary sessions. These are:

- **Orphanages as trafficking hubs**
- **Innovations to tackle human trafficking**
- **Can ‘slave-free’ be a unique selling point for businesses?**
- **Migration and modern slavery**
- **How to secure land and property rights**
- **Violence against women**

A key feature of the conference will be the Trust Conference Actions - concrete initiatives to drive social change with the support of delegates. These range from educating and training trafficked girls in India to connecting refugees to job opportunities using advanced technology in Africa.

STOP SLAVERY AWARD & STOP SLAVERY HERO AWARD

On the evening of November 14, The Thomson Reuters Foundation will present the third Stop Slavery Award to businesses who proved they took exceptional action in cleaning their supply chains of forced labour. Representatives from the winning companies, who will be unveiled on the day, will then participate in a panel discussion about their involvement in the initiative. Shortlisted companies for the Stop Slavery Award are: **ABP UK, Apple, Outland Denim, Standard Chartered PLC, Thai Union Group PCL, Unilever.**

It will also confer the **Stop Slavery Hero Award** to two individuals who have demonstrated integrity and courage in their high-impact efforts to combat forced labour.

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About the Thomson Reuters Foundation:

The Thomson Reuters Foundation acts to promote the highest standards in journalism and spread the practice of legal pro bono worldwide. The organisation runs initiatives that inform, connect and empower people around the world: access to free legal assistance, editorial coverage of the world's under-reported news, media development and training, and the Trust Conference.