

Report Launch and Actionable items to be lifted during High-Level UNGA76 virtual side-event *On Stemming the Role of Criminal Groups in Contemporary Forms of Slavery Within Nigeria*

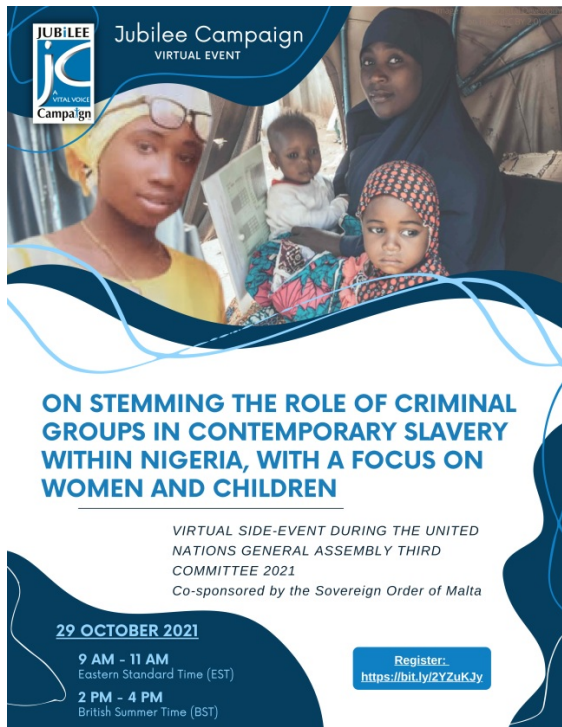


WASHINGTON, D.C., 27 October 2021 –Advocates, eyewitnesses, and human rights experts will address the role of criminal groups in the enslavement of women and children in Nigeria during a side-event in conjunction with the United Nations General Assembly Third Committee meetings.

UNICEF reports that criminal gangs have abducted 1,436 children in Nigeria; with 16 children dead in 2021 alone, more than 200 children are still missing. International Committee on Nigeria (ICON) has, as of June 2021, reported over 2,557 individuals abducted and 2,197 killed by Boko Haram, ISWAP, Fulani militants and other criminal groups. A large part of those abducted are women and girls who are subjected to domestic servitude, forced labour, sexual slavery through forced marriages and unwanted pregnancies.

As the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery releases [his report](#) specifically on the role of criminal groups in contemporary forms of slavery this week, **Jubilee Campaign, together with the Permanent Observer Mission of the Order of Malta, are convening a side-event on Friday 29 October 2021, to place a spotlight on Nigeria to address the plight of Nigerian women and children abducted and enslaved by Boko Haram and other criminal groups.**

The side-event, which starts at 9:00AM EST on Friday 29 October, will host the Special Rapporteur and build on the recommendations made in his recent report within the context of Nigeria and hopes to inspire policy makers to coordinate with civil society and other actors to take solution-based and concerted steps to tackle the slavery by criminal groups.



Jubilee Campaign
VIRTUAL EVENT

ON STEMMING THE ROLE OF CRIMINAL GROUPS IN CONTEMPORARY SLAVERY WITHIN NIGERIA, WITH A FOCUS ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN

VIRTUAL SIDE-EVENT DURING THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIRD COMMITTEE 2021
Co-sponsored by the Sovereign Order of Malta

29 OCTOBER 2021
9 AM - 11 AM
Eastern Standard Time (EST)
2 PM - 4 PM
British Summer Time (BST)

Register:
<https://bit.ly/2YZuK3j>



Jubilee Campaign

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<https://bit.ly/2YZuK3j>

Tomoya Obokata
United Nations
Special Rapporteur
on contemporary
forms of slavery,
including its causes
and consequences

H.E. Prof. Michel Veuthey
Ambassador of the
Sovereign Order of
Malta to combat
and monitor
trafficking in
persons

Hélène Fisher
Global Gender
Persecution
Specialist
Open Doors

Stephen Enada
Director
International
Committee on
Nigeria (ICON)

Fatima Njoku
Human Rights
Lawyer
Stefanos
Foundation

Father Joseph Bature Fidelis
Priest
Catholic Diocese
of Maiduguri

Alheri Magaji
Director
Resilient Aid
and Dialogue
Initiative
(RADI)

Doug Burton
Author of "Sex
Slavery Driving
Jihadism in
Nigeria"
Journalist

Dr. Gloria Puldu
President
Leah
Foundation

Dr. Oluwasayo Ajiboye
President
Redeemed
Christian Bible
College

The side-event also coincides with the public launch of a report prepared by Jubilee Campaign, titled *Kidnapping & Slavery in Nigeria*, which provides both general information – such as what constitutes slavery and slavery-like conditions – and more specific information with regards to Nigeria, including historical forms of slavery in the nation and broader region, as well as modern forms of slavery perpetrated by criminal groups such as Boko Haram, Fulani militants, and ISWAP. Our report will be briefly introduced during the event by Executive Director of Jubilee Campaign, Ms. Ann Buwalda, a long-time advocate for religious freedom and justice and accountability in Nigeria. We encourage you all to read it and share it to anyone you know who may be interested in the topic of insecurity in Nigeria.

In addition to Ann Buwalda Esq. and the UN Special Rapporteur Tomoya Obokata, His Excellency Ambassador Michel Veuthey, Ambassador-at-Large of the Sovereign Order of Malta to monitor and combat trafficking in persons, who also serves as Deputy Permanent Observer of the Mission of the Order of Malta to the United Nations in Geneva, will share from his wealth of hands-on experience in international humanitarian diplomacy, on the Order's engagement at the United Nations and international fora on this topic.

His Excellency Veuthey will also moderate the panel which includes stakeholders from Nigeria who work daily in advocating for and assisting victims and survivors of violence. Our distinguished speakers include Dr. Gloria Puldu, President of the [Leah Foundation](https://bit.ly/2YZuK3j); Mr. Stephen Enada, Director of [International Committee on Nigeria](https://bit.ly/2YZuK3j) (ICON) - which has released multiple reports and statistics regarding ongoing violence against Christian

communities in the Middle Belt; Ms. Alheri Magaji who co-founded and leads [Resilience Aid and Dialogue Initiative](#) (RADi) which assists internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kaduna state; Ms. Fatima Njoku, a lawyer and the advocacy director of [Stefanos Foundation](#) which assists women and girls subject to forced marriage; Father Bature Fidelis, who provides psychosocial assistance to survivors of sexual violence and slavery by Boko Haram with [Aid to the Church in Need](#); Dr. Oluwasayo Ajiboye, president of [Redeeming Bible College and Seminary](#) (RCBC&S), who also assists survivors of Boko Haram enslavement; and Helene Fisher, Global Gender Persecution Specialist at [Open Doors](#), who has published several reports on the nexus between religious persecution and women's rights. The side-event will explore numerous entry points on how to stem the role of criminal groups in the enslavement of women and children in Nigeria, including the role of media, and we are also pleased to have journalist [Douglas Burton](#) who works with local investigative reporters in Nigeria to share about their work.

Event Details

Side-event Date: 29 October 2021

Time: 9:00 AM EST

Registration link: bit.ly/2YZuKJy

List of speakers:

Prof. Tom Obokata, UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery
Prof. Tom Obokata

H.E. Prof Michel Veuthey, Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta to combat and monitor trafficking in persons.

Ann Buwalda, Executive Director Jubilee Campaign.

Stephen Enada, Director International Committee on Nigeria

Helene Fisher, Global Persecution Specialist Open Doors

Fatima Njoku, Human Rights Lawyer with Stefanos Foundation

Dr. Gloria Puldu, President Leah Foundation

Alheri Magaji, Director Resilient Aid and Dialogue Initiative

Father Joseph Bature Fidelis, Catholic Diocese of Maiduguri

Doug Burton, journalist

Dr. Sayo Ajiboye, President Redeemed Christian Bible College

Event Registration

Jubilee Campaign is a non-profit organization which promotes the human rights and religious liberty of ethnic and religious minorities in the most oppressive countries. We assist individuals seeking asylum from religious persecution as well as promote the care and well-being of larger groups of refugees fleeing religious and ethnic persecution.

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