

UN Human Rights Council 54th session
Online side event



SPEAKER

Tomoya Obokata

Special Rapporteur on
Contemporary forms of Slavery



SPEAKER

Mário Martins

Deputy Permanent
Representative
Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the UN and Other International
Organizations in Geneva



SPEAKER

Ranjana Sharma

Participatory Action
Researcher, CLARISSA Nepal



SPEAKER

Jean Quinn

Executive Director of
UNANIMA



SPEAKER

Balakrishnan Rajagopal

Special Rapporteur on the
Right to Adequate Housing




MODERATOR

Steven Malby


UK Modern Slavery Envoy

HOMELESSNESS AND CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

Causes,
connections, and
countermeasures

 Tuesday 19 September 2023

 1400 - 1500 CEST

 Hybrid - online ([click here to access](#))
and Room XXV, Palais des Nations,
Geneva

MODERATOR AND SPEAKER BIOS

Tomoya Obokata

Special Rapporteur on Contemporary forms of Slavery

Prof. Tomoya Obokata was appointed as Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences in March 2020. He is a scholar of international law and human rights, specializing in transnational organized crime, human trafficking and modern slavery.

Mário Martins

Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN and Other International Organizations in Geneva

Mário Martins assumed his function as Deputy Permanent Representative to the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva in 2020. Prior to this, he served as Diplomatic Advisor to the President of the Portuguese Republic as well as working for embassies in Tel Aviv, Beijing and Washington DC.

Ranjana Sharma

Participatory Action Researcher, CLARISSA Nepal

Ranjana Sharma is a Participatory Action Researcher (PAR) with 'Child Labour: Action Research Innovation in South and South-Eastern Asia' (CLARISSA) Nepal programme. Her primary focus is on research generating evidence and facilitating action research cycles related to the supply and demand aspects of modern-day slavery, specially the adult entertainment sector and neighbourhood dynamics. Ranjana, is directly involved in fostering participatory action research processes with children working in the worst forms of child labour, as well as business owners operating in the sector. Ranjana has co-authored and advocated for CLARISSA Nepal's Research and Evidence Papers based on children's life stories, with the aim of disseminating PAR approaches with researchers, practitioners and policymakers.

Jean Quinn

Executive Director of UNANIMA

Jean Quinn, DW is the Executive Director of UNANIMA International, the Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development, and is on the Executive Committee of the NGO Working Group to End Homelessness. A member of the International Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom, Jean has spent a vast number of years working with the homeless in Dublin. She is the Founder of Sophia Housing in Ireland, which is now celebrating its 25th year as an organization. With a focus on helping women and children, Sophia was founded on the idea that when a person is homeless, what they really need is a home, and with that home, the wrap-around supports needed to help emerge from homelessness. She continues advocating for women and children on behalf of UNANIMA International at the United Nations.

Balakrishnan Rajagopal

Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing

Mr. Balakrishnan Rajagopal, assumed his function as Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing on 1 May 2020. He is Professor of Law and Development at the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). A lawyer by training, he is an expert on many areas of human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, the UN system, and the human rights challenges posed by development activities. Recently he participated in an scientific advisory committee to inform the report of the UN Secretary General on [inclusive policies and programmes to address homelessness \(A/78/236\)](#).

Steven Malby

UK Modern Slavery Envoy

Steven Malby was appointed Interim Modern Slavery Envoy in May 2023 until a permanent successor is appointed. Steven is also currently the Deputy Head of the FCDO's Human Rights Department. He was previously Head of the joint FCDO/Home Office Serious and Organised Crime Overseas Policy Network. Prior to joining FCDO, he was Head of the Office of Civil and Criminal Justice Reform at the Commonwealth Secretariat, London and worked for the Division for Treaty Affairs at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna. He is a Visiting Fellow in international human rights law at the University of Essex. The Envoy role builds partnerships with countries, international organisations, and civil society in order to grow international consensus and encourage joint action to prevent and tackle modern slavery, including trafficking in persons from origin and transit countries.