



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

Bakhita Centre for Research on  
Slavery, Exploitation and Abuse  
Applied Research, Education and Training

## **Modern Slavery in the UK 2015-2025: Reflecting on 10 years of the Modern Slavery Act and the work of the Bakhita Centre/ Centre for the Study of Modern Slavery.**

St Mary's University, Twickenham, Waldegrave Drawing Room,  
6 - 7 February 2025

The Bakhita Centre for Research on Slavery, Exploitation and Abuse is delighted to announce their 10th Anniversary Celebration Event on February 6th - 7th 2025. This event will bring together practitioners, survivors, academics, friends and supporters of the Bakhita Centre. It aims to provide an opportunity to reflect on the impact of the Modern Slavery Act in the UK in 2015 and how the work of the Centre has contributed to examining key aspects of modern slavery, human trafficking, exploitation and abuse with the aim of turning research findings into tangible actions. Over the intervening 10 years, there have been multiple shifts in focus in the modern slavery and human trafficking sector both here and abroad. Over this period, the Centre's research has identified key issues of concern, working with statutory and third sector partners and people with lived experience to develop targeted interventions.

### **PROGRAMME OVERVIEW**

**DAY 1: THURSDAY, 6 FEBRUARY**

9:00 – 9:30	ARRIVAL & REFRESHMENTS
9.30- 9.45	<p><b>WELCOME ADDRESS: Professor Anthony McClaran</b>, Vice Chancellor, St. Mary’s University</p> <p><b>Video Address: Sir Mo Farah</b></p>
9:45 – 10:30	<p><b>INTRODUCTION TO THE WORK OF THE CENTRE AND THE EVENT: Prof. Carole Murphy, Director of the Bakhita Centre</b></p> <p><b>The Bakhita Centre for Research on Slavery, Exploitation and Abuse (formerly The Centre for the Study of Modern Slavery): Looking back / Looking forward</b></p> <p><b>Contributors: Dr Sasha Jespersen, Sir Tom Phillips (written address read by Dr Chris Wylde), Dr Kathryn Hodges (Former Directors)</b></p>
10:130– 11:45	<p><b>SESSION 1: Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioners Fireside Chat</b></p> <p><b>Discussant: Sasha Jespersen</b></p> <p><b>Contributors:</b></p> <p><b>Kevin Hyland OBE</b>, (First Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner), 2017-2019, Strategy Director (Global) Santa Marta Group</p> <p><b>Dame Sara Thornton</b>, (Second Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner), Consultant and Prof. of Practice in Modern Slavery, University of Nottingham</p> <p><b>Donna Phillips</b>, Head of Strategic Analysis, UK Independent Anti-slavery Commissioner’s Office, (representing Eleanor Lyons, Third Anti-Slavery Commissioner)</p>
11:45 – 12:00	REFRESHMENTS
12:00 – 1:30	<b>SESSION 2: Lived and Learned Experience from Professional Practice</b>

	<p><b>Discussant: Phil Brewer</b>, Specialist Adviser on Modern Slavery at the Human Trafficking Foundation, Honorary Researcher, St. Mary's University</p> <p><b>Contributors:</b>  <b>Sosa Henkoma</b>, Expert by Experience  <b>Antonia Pascal</b>, Criminal Exploitation Specialist</p>
<b>13:30 – 14:30</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>14:30 – 16:00</b>	<p><b>SESSION 3: Advancing Education and Training in the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking sector</b></p> <p><b>Discussant: Dr. Anta Brachou</b>, Post-Doctoral Researcher, St. Mary's University</p> <p><b>Contributors:</b>  <b>Vanna Derosas</b>, Project coordinator, Horizons Summer School  <b>Judith J</b>, St Mary's Student and Volunteer, Horizons Summer School  <b>Kerry Brighthouse</b>, UK Programme Director , Hope for Justice  <b>Dr Kathryn Hodges</b>, Director, PraxisCollab CIC</p>
<b>16:00 – 16:15</b>	<b>REFRESHMENTS</b>
<b>16:15 – 17:15</b>	<p><b>SESSION 4: Section 45 Criminal Exploitation / Circles of Analysis Book Launch</b></p> <p><b>Discussant: Phil Brewer</b></p> <p><b>Contributor:</b> Dr Craig Barlow, Criminologist and Independent Consultant in Forensic Social Work, Honorary Researcher Bakhita Centre</p>
<b>17:15 – 18:15</b>	<p><b>SESSION 5 - FISHBOWL: Collaboration / Coproduction and Research Funding in the modern slavery and human trafficking sector</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator: Dr. Anta Brachou</b>, Post-Doctoral Researcher, St. Mary's University</p> <p><b>Contributors:</b> Maya Esslemont, Director, After Exploitation; and lived experience experts</p>
<b>18:15 – 18:30</b>	<b>SUMMARY AND OUTLINE OF DAY TWO: Prof. Carole Murphy</b>

<b>18:30-19:30</b>	<p><b>DRINKS RECEPTION</b>  <b>With Address by Caroline Haughey OBE KC</b>  Criminal Barrister at Furnival Chambers specialising in Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery spaces, Honorary Doctorate, St. Mary's University 2023</p>
--------------------	---

**DAY 2: FRIDAY, 7 FEBRUARY**

<b>9:00 – 9:15</b>	<b>ARRIVAL &amp; REFRESHMENTS</b>
<b>9:15 – 9:30</b>	<p><b>WELCOME ADDRESS</b>  <b>Neena Samota</b>, Associate Prof. Criminology and Sociology, MA Human Trafficking, Migration &amp; Organised Crime, St. Mary's University</p>
<b>9:30-10:45</b>	<p><b>SESSION 6: Role of Religion in Anti-Trafficking, Modern Slavery and its Implications</b>  <b>Discussant: Prof. Carole Murphy</b>, Director Bakhita Centre  <b>Contributors:</b>  <b>Cardinal Vincent Nichols</b>, Archbishop of Westminster (Video address)  <b>Sr. Imelda Poole IVBM OBE</b>, President of Mary Ward Loreto (Written address)  <b>Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfern</b>, Chair of the Clewer Initiative  <b>Sr Marie Power HFB, Co-President</b>, Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking &amp; Exploitation (RENATE)</p>
<b>10:45-12:00</b>	<p><b>SESSION 7: Modern Slavery: Intersections with Domestic Abuse</b>  <b>Discussant: Dr Maria Mellins</b>, Professor in Criminology and Community Safety, St. Mary's University  <b>Contributors:</b>  <b>Bella Tomsett</b>, University of Brighton  <b>Aivi Doan</b>, Modern Slavery Manager, Refuge  <b>Charlotte Hooper</b>, Head of Operations for Cyber Helpline TBC</p>
<b>12:00-12:15</b>	<b>REFRESHMENTS</b>

<p><b>12.15-13:30</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 8: Racialisation, Globalisation, Colonialism and the Modern Slavery Act</b>  <b>Discussant: Dr Cherisse Francis</b>, Senior Lecturer in Law and Subject Lead for Student Experience, St. Mary’s University  <b>Contributors:</b>  <b>Dr Jason Haynes</b>, Associate Professor of Law, Birmingham Law School, University of Birmingham  <b>Debbie Ariyo OBE</b>, Chief Executive, AFRUCA UK  <b>BASNET</b></p>
<p><b>13:30-14:30</b></p>	<p><b>LUNCH</b></p>
<p><b>14:30-15:45</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 9: A Reckoning with Britain’s Broken Immigration System</b>  <b>Discussant: Neena Samota</b>, Associate Prof. Criminology and Sociology, MA Human Trafficking, Migration &amp; Organised Crime, St. Mary’s University  <b>Contributors:</b>  <b>Julia Tinsley-Kent</b>, Head of Policy and Communications, Migrants’ Rights Network  <b>Kunle Olulode MBE</b>, Director, Voice4Change England  <b>Anya Edmond-Pettitt</b>, Researcher, Institute of Race Relations</p>
<p><b>15:45- 16:00</b></p>	<p><b>REFRESHMENTS</b></p>
<p><b>16:00 -17:00</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 10: WORKSHOP</b>  <b>Facilitator: Dr Anta Brachou</b>  Interactive workshop designed to inspire reflection, dialogue, and action - to identify ways forward for academia and professional practice within the modern slavery, human trafficking, exploitation and abuse sectors.</p>
<p><b>17:00– 17:15</b></p>	<p><b>CLOSING REMARKS: SUMMARY ACTION PLAN</b>  Prof. Carole Murphy, Director of the Bakhita Centre</p>