

## Expert Panel on the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

### Behind Closed Doors: How to Identify and Assist Victims of Domestic Servitude

30 November 2018, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm, Salle IX, Palais des Nations

Organized by the UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery



*Photograph by Vlad Sokhin, Restavek Freedom Foundation*

## Panellists

### Sally Mansfield (Australia)

Moderator



**H.E. Ms. Sally Mansfield** is the Australian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva. Ms. Mansfield is a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and was most recently Chief People Officer. She has previously served overseas as Deputy Head of Mission and Permanent Delegate for Australia to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Australian Embassy, Paris; and Australia's Consul-General to New Caledonia. In Canberra, she has served as Assistant Secretary, Staffing Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and Chief of Protocol, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

### Rosemyrtha M. Innocent (Haiti)



**Ms. Rosemyrtha M. Innocent** is from Haiti, where she became a victim of domestic servitude at the age of six, when she moved into her aunt's house and was forced to work for seven people. Her journey to freedom and rehabilitation started when the director of a school alerted the Restavek Freedom Foundation, an organization supported by the UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, about the abuses she was enduring in the household where she lived. Ms. Innocent was moved to a transitional home run by the Foundation, where she now lives in a supportive environment and is enrolled in school. Today Ms. Innocent aspires to become a world leader committed to raising awareness to protect children in domestic work and other forms of modern slavery.

### Roslyn Phillips (Haiti)



**Ms. Roslyn Phillips** is Rural Program and Development Director at Restavek Freedom Foundation, an organization providing rehabilitation services to child victims of domestic servitude in Haiti. Restavek Foundation receives support from the UN Slavery Trust Fund. Ms. Phillips has expertise in identifying and assessing children subjected to domestic servitude within the community. She leads a team focused on introducing innovative prevention programmes, particularly in rural regions, to combat the recruitment of children for domestic servitude. This also includes raising awareness among parents about the risks of servitude when they send their children to work in urban households. Ms. Phillips completed a master's degree in public health and is currently finalizing a Doctorate in Global Health Leadership. She has worked and studied in Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti, Argentina, South Africa and Hungary.

**George Leonard Sayi (Tanzania)**



**Mr. George Lenard Chimaga** is the Coordinator of the Tanzania Domestic Workers Coalition, an organization operating in Tanzania with the support of Anti-Slavery International and receiving financial support from the UN Slavery Trust Fund. The Coalition aims to enhance the capacity of civil society organizations to protect child domestic workers from abuse and exploitation, including through advocacy at a national and international level. Mr. Chimaga's work has contributed to the adoption of national child rights legislation. He also played a defining role in building the capacity of local communities to combat abuses against domestic workers in Tanzania. He previously worked for organizations combatting poverty of orphans and promoting health of prisoners. He holds a Diploma in Community Development and Social Work.

**Meytal Russo (Israel)**



**Ms. Meytal Russo** is Manager for the Migrant Caregiver Sector at Kav LaOved Workers' Hotline (KLO), an Israeli organisation working with the support of the UN Slavery Trust Fund. Kav LaOved Worker's Hotline is committed to assisting victims of contemporary forms of slavery, domestic servitude and labour exploitation and preventing further abuse. Ms. Russo has years of experience as a human rights lawyer in NGOs and the private sector, providing legal representation to migrant workers, asylum seekers and Palestinians workers in Israel. She is currently involved in developing and implementing strategies to promote the labour rights of migrant caregivers, and in providing legal representation to caregivers subjected to sexual harassment and abuse. Ms. Russo holds a Bachelor of Law, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Behavioral Studies.

**Benedicte Lavaud Legendre (France)**



**Ms. Benedicte Lavaud Legendre**, is a jurist and founding member of RUELLE, an organization operating with the support from UN Slavery Trust Fund in Bordeaux, France. RUELLE focuses on identifying and assisting victims of various forms of modern slavery, including victims of trafficking and domestic servitude. Ms. Legendre's research interest and expertise lies in the field of European criminal law, migration, trafficking in human beings, forced labour, sexual exploitation and public policies. She is the author of the book "Minors and Human Trafficking in France" (Chroniques sociales, 2016) and the coordinating editor of the publication "Nigerian Prostitution" (Karthala 2013). She served as the first President of RUELLE and continues to advise the organization, including through a number of research projects on forced labour, children's exploitation and prostitution.

