

Hello,

Welcome to **Week 9 MSCOS**. The success of our Community of Practice relies upon [YOU](#) and we need you to tell us how we are doing!

Please help us by simply answering the **3 short questions** at the end of this email and press reply. ↓

Please check out this week's news, features and of course, our online pages and [discussion forums](#). You can find all of our previous weekly updates [here](#).

This week we would like to thank [Shandra Woworuntu](#), **international survivor leader** for speaking to us about her multi-faceted work in relation to **criminal justice** (featured below). Also, to [Dr Emma Veitch](#) and [Dr Silvia Unigwe](#) who have updated us on their **Modern Slavery** and **Cognitive Disability Working Group**; (see their invitation for health practitioners below)

ONLINE FORUM UPDATE: 17 MAY 2023



Our **MSCOS online expert forum** on [Finding purpose in life and self-actualisation](#) will now be on **17 May 2023**. It is led by **Ruth Aguele** and attended by the **MSCOS Research Advisory Board**. We are also inviting survivors who are involved in the MSCOS Community of Practice.

We welcome all contributions to the [Finding Purpose in Life and Self-Actualisation](#) discussion forum, which is reserved only for people with lived experience.

[Finding Purpose in Life and Self-Actualisation](#)

THIS WEEK'S FEATURE



This week our feature is on the core outcome, [Safety from Any Trafficker or Other Abuser](#). In our [Week 6 round up](#), we set out recommendations for criminal justice systems from our [Research Advisory Board](#). In their opinion, the professional employment of survivor leaders is key to effective criminal justice systems. Their recommendations are [here](#).

Safety from any trafficker or other abuser

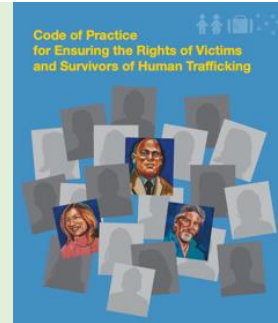


Shandra Woworuntu
International Survivor Leader

“It is important to have survivor leaders professionally employed in criminal justice systems as independent expert consultants, victim support advocates and victim navigators. I work as an expert consultant on organized crime and illicit ‘massage parlors’ for Attorney General hearings in the USA, and I also work ‘on the ground’ with police and prosecutors. In the course of my work I have helped to close down many brothels in the USA in collaboration with police, and I have also undertaken vital outreach work to help women who are, or have been, trapped in situations of sexual exploitation. This includes providing individual support throughout criminal investigation, prosecution, and vital follow up after a case has concluded. Survivor Leaders can understand the specific needs of victims: we are trusted by survivors, so we can provide support, guidance, mentorship and empowerment. We can help survivors to pursue justice against their traffickers, and by securing convictions, we prevent other adults and children being victimized.

When survivor leaders act as consultant experts, it supports survivors to feel more confident about providing their own witness testimony. Survivors know better than anyone the abuse and violence that traffickers inflict on their victims and their information can help Judges and courts to understand operations, trends and patterns of human trafficking. It also lessens the need for excessive questioning of victims.

- Former Chair of International Survivors Advisory Council (ISTAC)
- Founder and CEO Mentari Human Trafficking Survivor Empowerment Program
- Expert consultant for OSCE/ODIHR and the NRM Handbook



The [ISTAC Code of Practice](#) is clear on the need for appropriate remuneration and professionalization of survivor leadership: **our narrative must not merely be inspiring, but the lessons that lie within must be turned into solutions.**”

Shandra Woworuntu was speaking to Rachel Witkin

- Member of United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking
 - WHY SLAVERY? Ambassador to the United Nations
 - Author: [Taste of Freedom, recipes for resilience to benefit survivors of trafficking.](#)
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[Access to Medical Treatment](#)

The **Modern Slavery and Cognitive Disability Working Group** brings together expertise on supporting survivors of modern slavery with cognitive disabilities.

The working group is currently developing a valuable **toolkit** to support the work of frontline practitioners with the aim of improving service provision for survivors with cognitive disabilities. This resource will be developed for professionals and include simple, accessible guidelines, with in-depth working guides for practitioners who are working closely with clients with cognitive impairments who have experienced human trafficking/modern slavery.

Dr Silvana Unigwe (GP, former head of Medical Advisory Service, Helen Bamber Foundation) and **Dr Emma Veitch** (Clinical Psychologist, Helen Bamber Foundation) have recently convened a number of semi structured discussions with variety of health professionals (working in physical and mental health) to capture current practice and identify gaps in service provision, knowledge and training in this area. This information will be fed back to the working group in due course.

If you are a healthcare practitioner interested in this project, please contact Dr. Emma Veitch: emma.veitch@helenbamber.org

[3 SIMPLE QUESTIONS: WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! Just fill in – and press ‘reply’](#)

	Yes	Maybe	No	Optional comments
1. Do you think informal membership of the MSCOS Community of Practice is useful to your work/interests?				
2. Do you read the weekly updates or keep them in sight for future reference? You can find all of them here .				

3. **Open feedback** – please let us know any thoughts you have or any suggestions for the MSCOS Community of Practice in our 'Optional Comments' box.

We provide **weekly updates, discussion forums, expert online workshops** and podcasts, led and informed throughout by the **MSCOS Research Advisory Board** which comprises professionals with lived experience.

Please forward MSCOS to any colleagues or network connections that you think may be interested in our work, and they can sign up to receive newsletter invites via our contact form [here](#), or by a direct email to mscos@kcl.ac.uk.

The MSCOS Community of Practice content is designed and directed by Queenie Sit and Rachel Witkin.



[Working with core outcomes as a set](#)



[Secure & suitable housing](#)



[Safety from any trafficker or other abuser](#)



[Long-term, consistent support](#)



[Trauma-informed services](#)



[Finding purpose in life and self-actualisation](#)



[Access to medical treatment](#)



[Access to education](#)