



GSN QUARTERLY



The Network: Making It Count

Membership Update, Countdown 2030
Dubai, India Impact Journey, Compassionate
Leadership, Looking to the Future

GSN

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The Global Sustainability Network is a registered charity in the UK.

Charity number 1179511

We welcome new members

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To become a member
CLICK HERE

View our GSN video
HERE

WELCOME



Photograph: GSN member Lisa Kristine

Time to renew our commitment to achieve goal 8

Our Network is stronger than ever, but the road ahead to 2030 to achieving SDG 8 by 2030 is a long and challenging one. Many factors contribute to this- political instability, inadequate laws and ineffective implementation, climate change, the effects of a global pandemic. More people are out of work than ever before, displaced by war, left vulnerable to human trafficking, and modern slavery.

It's time for us to stand up and reassess our own personal commitment and decide where we can make the biggest impact. At GSN, we aim to empower and enable more people in our network to come together to achieve extraordinary things. This is why we are moving to formalise our network membership with a recommended contribution (more details can be found in this newsletter).

Other major plans include creating a 'heat map' so that we can shine a light on UN member countries and track their progress. We are further strengthening our relationships with law enforcement organisations such as Interpol and we will continue to bring important change makers together at our conferences and on our impact journeys.

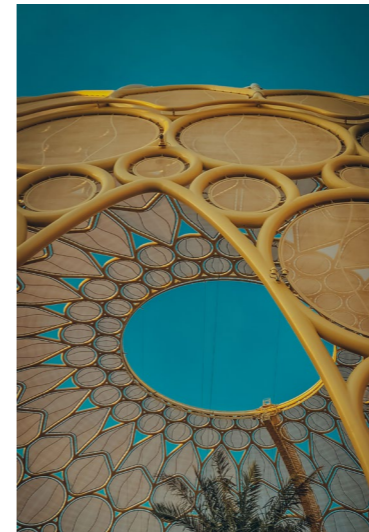
In this interactive newsletter you will find links to further content and collateral that might be of interest. Please reach out to the team if you have any questions.

Looking forward to seeing many of you in London on 21st June for our conference.



Raza Jafar
Founder, GSN

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2023



Photograph: GSN member Lisa Kristine



Our Vision

Our vision is for a world free of slavery, child labour, and human trafficking, where everyone has access to decent work

Our Mission

Our mission is to accelerate global efforts to achieve SDG Goal 8 through identifying and bringing together the most impactful actors and solutions to achieve impact at scale

The Global Sustainability Network (GSN) is a network-based organisation and a platform that brings together 1000+ individuals and organisations working to fast-track efforts towards reaching Goal 8 and to eradicate modern slavery

Modern slavery is an issue that affects millions worldwide. Over 27.6 million people live in forced or compulsory labour conditions. It leaves no industry or community untouched, yet many people do not know that it still exists.

A declaration was made in 2014 by faith leaders to eradicate modern slavery. This was strengthened in 2015 when all 193 UN member countries agreed on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Goal 8, which focuses on eradicating modern slavery and ensuring decent work.

[Read more about SDGs and Goal 8 here.](#)

The GSN was founded in 2015 to help to achieve Goal 8 globally. We believe in the power of the network. Connecting people to achieve the highest-level impact.

We work towards solutions that can be scaled, that can bring us closer to our 2030 goal. We have over 1000 change makers in our network.

From our network many have been connected to go on to create larger scale projects, rolled out solutions across countries and continents, lobbied governments to successfully change policy, raised awareness on the issue of modern slavery across the globe.

Together, we have helped to save lives.

[CLICK HERE FOR MEMBERSHIP](#)



Who are members?

Our members are entrepreneurs, academics, faith leaders, business leaders, survivors, NGOs, change makers.

What does it cost to become a member?

We offer individual and institutional membership. The price of Institutional membership will be tailored to each business or organisation. For individual membership we have a recommended donation of £2,500 annually.

What do you get with your membership?

- Meaningful networking opportunities
- Members only events, dinners, conferences.
- Flagship conferences 'Countdown 2030' London and Dubai
- Local GSN chapters in your geographical area, focus on what matters to you and help to deliver results
- Nominate and vote on our GSN Hero award.
- Engagement with world leaders, our global ambassadors and thought leaders.
- GSN impact journeys
Immersive field experiences, learning about complex problems and using small groups help to find solutions.
- Leadership opportunities
- Volunteering opportunities

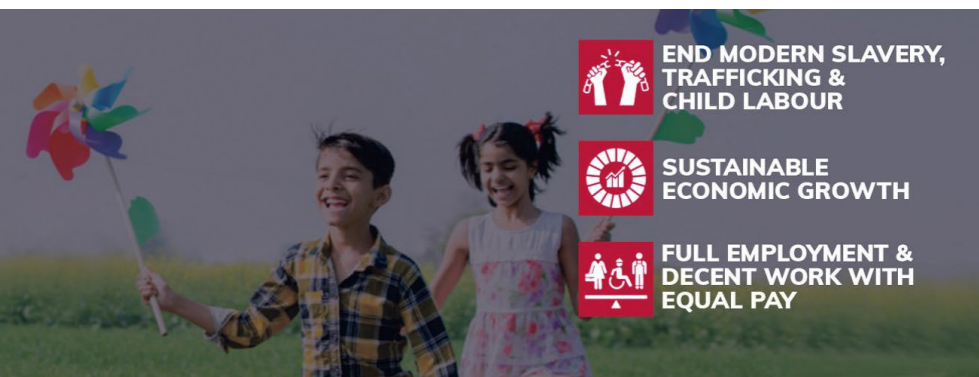
Why are we introducing a formal member structure?

GSN was founded in 2015 to bring people together towards a common goal. As a charity registered in the UK, we need to continually raise funds to operate and grow the network.

As we approach our 2030 Goal 8 deadline, we want to accelerate our impact and we can only do this with dedicated financial support. We want to make sure that you get the most out of the network and to help you to achieve your goals.



COMMITTED TO DELIVER
GOAL 8
OF THE GLOBAL GOALS



Count Down 2030, Dubai Expo

From 10-12 January 2023 Expo Dubai hosted members from across the globe for our annual Dubai conference. Conversations centred on job creation and enterprise development, inclusive employment, elimination of forced and compulsory labour, and the future of work. The conference helped us to gain an understanding of sustainable economic development and how this is imperative to create decent jobs for all, a message which sits at the heart of the SDG Goal 8 vision



Over three days delegates followed a packed schedule in Dubai that included a welcome dinner on 10 January in partnership with the Japanese Government.

The keynote speech was delivered by H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of State for tolerance of United Arab Emirates. H.E commended GSN and our work, especially the commitment "to allowing all individuals, regardless of their circumstances, to achieve their full potential". He said "I embrace the promise and hope expressed in your work, an important force in transforming our world for the better" "which has led to saving many women and children from abuse and exploitation. I commend you for your promotion of justice and human dignity for all." He talked about UAE moving forward to embrace a sustainable future "seeking solutions in a compassionate way".

The 2023 GSN Hero Award was awarded to humanitarian, author, and women's rights activist Zainab Salbi (more information about Zainab here).

H.E Mr. Serge Telle, former Prime Minister of Monaco and H.E Mr. Sekiguchi Noboru, Consul-General of Japan delivered engaging and thought-provoking speeches.

Session 1 focused on opportunities and challenges of transitioning to a sustainable business model. Yogesh Mehta, CEO of Petrochem, and trustee of GSN, spoke about the importance of the next generation in business to drive change, Prof. Naoki Tamaki, visiting fellow, Chatham House, talked about Japan's efforts towards SDGs. Sudhir Maheshwari, Founder and Managing partner, Synergy Capital suggested that the most non-sustainable sectors should step up. He also discussed compassionate leadership, and the power of the right approach to make concrete change. The panel were asked their thoughts on supply chain management, in particular the issue of slavery.

Session 2 focused on 'Job Creation and Enterprise Development'. President and CEO of Education for Employment Global (EFE-Global), Andrew Baird, delivered some stark statistics on the youth unemployment crisis internationally. There are about 70,000,000 Youth unemployed and up to 200,000,000 under employed. This equates to 17% youth being unemployment world-wide and 17% of the youth population vulnerable to extreme poverty, slavery, trafficking, with women and girls twice as likely to be affected. His sentiment that "job creation not only provides the

Our keynote speaker, H.E Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan greets the audience



pathway to economic growth but, as crucially, it provides hope and dignity" become core to the panel's discussions on job creation.

Session 3 focused on 'Inclusive Employment and Decent Work For All'; it offered delegates some take aways on how we can make our workplace more inclusive. Saira Sayed, Director at ImInclusive, Catherine O'Farrell, Founding Partner, Incluzun, Ikanshi Khanna, Manager, Bal Ashram Trust, and Humanitarian Maria Conceicao shared their passion for an alternative vision of the future.

Session 4 focused on 'Elimination of Forced and Compulsory Labour'. It is estimated that over 27.6 million people live and work in forced or compulsory labour conditions. Bishop Alastair Redfern chaired this panel and highlighted that poverty is a complex issue. Panellists Prem Nair, co-founder and director, Huntr & Brook Bello, CEO, More Too Life, shared moving personal stories.

Session 5 Future of work had fascinating incites from Eric Daimler, co-founder and CEO, Conexus, Dr Brook Bello, More to Life, and Patrick Noack, Dubai Future Foundation, chaired by Scott Cunningham, co-founder and CEO, SDGGuild.



Day two day included more interaction and exchange of ideas. We met with survivors of exploitation and also talked to people living with disabilities about how they navigate the job market and what can be done to better help them into employment and how to make sure they are supported in the right way to remain in the workplace.

The conference ended with members discussing the way forward for the GSN and how we can take what we have learned to make the most impact as a network.

Dubai 2023



Spotlight on our members



**LISA KRISTINE -
HUMANITARIAN
PHOTOGRAPHER**

Lisa Kristine has been using photography for more than 30 years to expose human stories and to inspire change.

Travelling to more than 100 countries, on six continents, the fine art prints she has produced over the course of her career, are sought after and collected across the world.

Lisa founded the Human Thread foundation with a mission to educate the public and drive awareness about human dignity and human trafficking through interactive exhibitions, educational programming, and global awareness campaigns.

www.humanthreadfoundation.org



**SHAHI DAYEKH
HUMANITARIAN ARTIST**

Shahi Dayekh is an artist, humanitarian, and philanthropist, based in Dubai.

The youngest member of a family of eight who lived in different corners of the world, from Africa to Europe, the US, Saudi Arabia and finally residing in UAE.

As a young adult, Shahi accomplished her masters in International Law, Peace and Conflict Resolution from the United States and dedicated part of her life to serving humanity. This is reflected in her expressionist work.

Shahi uses her creativity to convey our rapidly changing world and the human emotions, in hope of elevating society.

www.shahiart.com



**SCOTT CUNNINGHAM
TECH ENTREPRENEUR**

Scott is a technology entrepreneur, investor, and global change leader.

He began his career by developing an education technology & training program for the global franchises of a leading early childhood education company. Now, Scott is a business advisor, board member, and expert in helping companies enter channel focused technology ecosystems.

Scott co-founded SDGuild, Developing "The New IP" or Impact Points to measure attainment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

He supports many causes and is currently leading our GSN Heat Map project.

www.sdguild.com

Bridging Leadership

Being a leader doesn't mean having followers; comprehensive and holistic leadership creates companions in the journey to create and sustain social change. On 1 February 2023 we brought together two leaders in Peggy Dulany (Synergos) and Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi



Bridging Leadership through Globalising Compassion
Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi and Peggy Dulany (Synergos)

Bringing Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi and Peggy Dulany together to talk about "Bridging Leadership through Globalising Compassion" provided a fascinating insight into approaches to leadership. 'Bridging Leadership', espoused by Dulany and 'Globalising Compassion', as expounded by Satyarthi.

Compassion is more than empathy
Compassion is more than empathy; it includes a drive to alleviate the suffering and distress of those around us.

Driving a problem solver to become a leader
Even the task of changing large scale systems and processes starts with the simplest and smallest task of listening and keeping others at the centre. Listening is what helps to grow compassion within us. Innovation and disruption are two important elements that drive a problem solver to become a leader.

The story of 'Sabu'
Satyarthi told the story of 'Sabu', a trafficked child, and her father approached him to help. Satyarthi, who was running a print magazine

at the time, contemplated whether to write about the trafficking of children. He asked himself, what would I do if my sister or daughter gets trafficked? This one thought changes the course of Sabu's life as he joins hands with Sabu's father and rescues her.

Compassion has a strong seed of leadership
Compassion has a strong seed of leadership within itself, and we connect with our fellow beings through sympathy. Learning and listening are integral parts of being a bridging leader. To achieve social change, we need to walk together and build bridges where individuals from different sectors and walks of life come together to solve society's biggest problems. It was put to us that we must foster courage and resolve to break all conventional barriers and boundaries. Building trust among ourselves and knowing that we are moving towards our mission sustains courage on compassion.

This bringing together of leaders provided a powerful reminder of the importance of collaborative, compassionate, and innovative leadership in creating a more sustainable and equitable future for all.



Impact Journey to India

The Bal Ashram Trust, an innovative grassroots organisation that has transformed the lives of thousands of children across India has had a profound impact on members who were able to see first-hand how and why the Bal Ashram model works

GSN organised an Impact Journey to India from 6th to 10th March 2023. The Impact Journey brought together changemakers and philanthropists to experience first-hand how systemic change can happen through rehabilitation and empowerment of survivors and communities, in this case, a successful model by the Bal Ashram Trust for children.

Bal Ashram Trust is a transformative organisation that addresses complex societal problems to ensure child protection and create a child-friendly world.

The delegates visited the long-term rehabilitation centre for children in Jaipur,

India. They interacted with the alumni of Bal Ashram and their success stories, including Child Rights Activist Kinsu Kumar (Project Officer at the Bal Ashram) and Payal Jangid, who received the ‘Changemaker’ Award from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. These young survivors of child labour and exploitation are now training to be doctors, engineers, writers, law enforcement officers, hoteliers and many more.

The trip was timed to coincide with the Indian festival of colours ‘Holi’. The delegates participated in a session with community members and youth leaders of the nomadic

“The core power of compassion is conviction, commitment, and the willingness to understand and alleviate the suffering of others”

community of Rajasthan known as the ‘Banjaras’. These youth leaders, including Puja and Tara Banjara, fought against the millennia-old custom of child marriage and advocated for children to be educated. Bal Ashram, through its Banjara Education Centre (BEC), has been providing education to the children of the community.

Apart from teaching, Bal Ashram also facilitates the upliftment of the whole community by empowering them and making them aware of their rights. They assist the nomadic community in gaining formal identification within the Indian state through

aiding them to get the right identification documents, land rights etc. The delegates also gained exposure to the Bal Mitra Gram (Child-Friendly Communities), which is a ground-breaking model creating a child-friendly village based on democratic participation where children elect a governance council of children called the ‘Bal Panchayat’ and hold secretarial positions in the child ministry/ Bal Panchayat ministries such as Education, Culture, Food and Hygiene.

Delegates were able to discuss with Bal Ashram founder and Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash



Satyarthi. His message of ‘Globalising Compassion through Compassion in Action’ is a powerful one.

In summary, Satyarthi believes that humans are an endless source of compassion and consciousness. Being with children is the most powerful way to ignite compassion. The core power of compassion is conviction, commitment, and the willingness to understand and alleviate the suffering of others.

The session emphasised the importance of promoting the globalisation of compassion and kindness. Something that resonated with the impact journey delegates but also a message that can be shared across the whole of the GSN network.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2023

**London Conference, 21st June 2023,
Inner Temple, London**

**CLICK HERE TO
JOIN US**

Registered Charity Number 1179511
For more information, please contact sarah@gsngoal8.com
www.gsngoal8.org