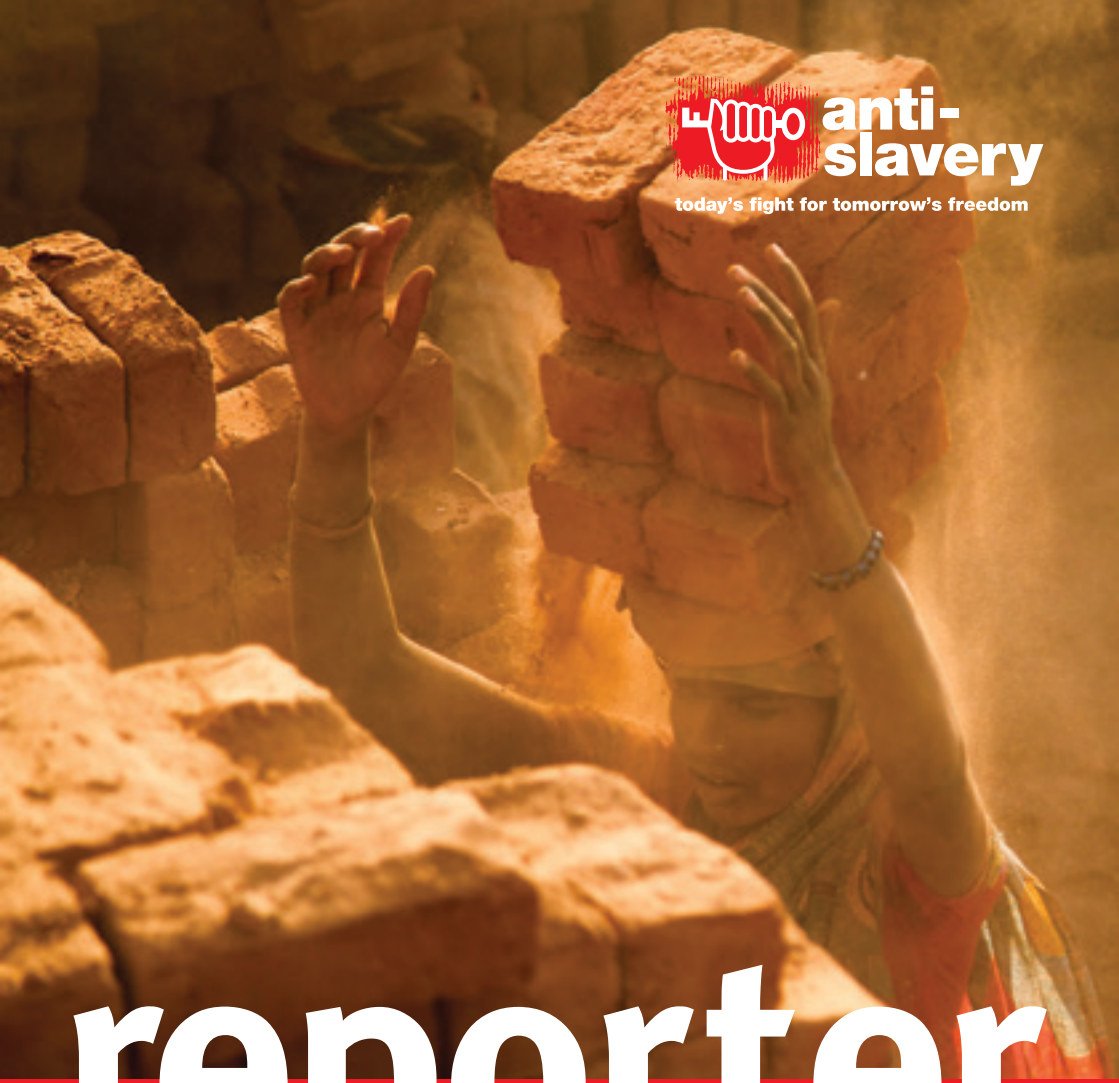

anti-slavery

today's fight for tomorrow's freedom

reporter

Spring 2016

Established in 1825

India's shameful secret

Photo feature on bonded labour in India's brick kilns.

In this issue:

- Slavery and global development
- New project for workers migrating to Qatar

Jakub Sobik
Press and Digital Media Manager

We are delighted to bring you the Reporter in a brand new format. Here at Anti-Slavery we always look for improvements, not only in searching for new approaches to tackle modern slavery but also in communicating with our supporters, who have always been at the heart of our work.

An example of Anti-Slavery setting the agenda on modern slavery is linking it to global development. We were one of the first to spot that much of the development agenda, despite significant progress, wasn't reaching the most vulnerable communities – those at the highest risk of falling into slavery.

"It is our big achievement that slavery has been included in the UN Sustainable Development Goals"

So it is our big achievement that slavery has been included in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, as our director Aidan McQuade discusses (page 4). Historian Richard Huzzey also considers this issue from a historical perspective (page 20).

One of the largest groups that have been regularly left out of development work are Dalits in India. Our South Asia Programme Co-ordinator, Sarah Mount, writes about their large-scale exploitation in Indian brick kilns in our big feature on page 10, striking photographs by Bharat Patel and our local partners' Ganga Sekhar article on empowering women workers (page 16) complementing it.

Limited development also means limited life opportunities, often the reason why people continue to take risky migration decisions in search of work. Recognising this, we began a new project to protect the rights of Indian workers migrating to Qatar (page 22).

We hope that you enjoy reading this refreshed Reporter. If you have any comments or suggestions, do please feel free to let us know by emailing us at: supporter@antislavery.org or calling us on 0207 501 8920.

We are ready for the new challenges which lie ahead in 2016. We are grateful for your continuous and invaluable support; step by step, together we will end slavery.

Cover: Woman working in one of the estimated 100,000 brick kilns in India.
Photo: Bharat Patel, bharatpatelphotography.co.uk

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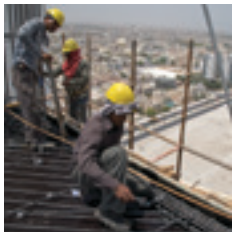


4-5 **News:** Slavery included in the UN Sustainable Development Goals

6 **News:** UK's Modern Slavery Act comes into force; Anti-Slavery helps bring landmark Ireland ruling

7 **News:** Anti-Slavery's former beneficiary named the Queen's Young Leader

8 **News:** Qatar fails to reform 'kafalah' system; Anti-Slavery helps bring important ruling on Senegal's talibés

9 **News:** More global companies caught using Thai slave seafood; World Bank urged to stop funding Uzbekistan's forced labour

10-15 **Feature:** India's shameful secret: bonded labour in the brick kiln industry

16-17 **Voice from the field:** Empowering women in India's brick kilns

18-19 **Voice from the field:** Peru: La Casa de Panchita turns child domestic workers' lives around

20-21 **Our work then and now:** Slavery in the development agenda from a historical perspective

22 **New work:** Protecting the rights of India's construction workers migrating to Qatar

23 **Meet Anti-Slavery staff:** Ellie McDonald, Fundraising & Communications team

24-25 **Supporters' corner**

26 **Supporters speak:** Why I support Anti-Slavery International

Anti-Slavery International, founded in 1839, is committed to eliminating all forms of slavery throughout the world. Slavery, servitude and forced labour are violations of individual freedoms, which deny millions of people their basic dignity and fundamental human rights. Anti-Slavery International works to end these abuses by campaigning for slavery's eradication, exposing current cases, supporting the initiatives of local organisations to release people and pressing for more effective implementation of international laws against slavery.

Ending slavery included in the UN Development Goals

Aidan McQuade, Director

Director Aidan McQuade explains the importance of including the eradication of slavery in the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

■ The United Nations (UN) included a target of ending slavery, forced and child labour in the post-2015 agenda, within Goal 8 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on decent work and economic growth.

It is a victory for a long campaign that Anti-Slavery International began in 2007. Then we identified a grave failing in the Millennium Development Goals (a predecessor to the Sustainable Development Goals) to recognise the issue of slavery as a fundamental issue of poverty.

"It's great news for people in slavery and a good victory for Anti-Slavery International"

Slavery doesn't just to happen to anyone. Two of the main factors behind slavery are vulnerability and prejudice. Most commonly people are vulnerable because of their material poverty, which makes them desperate to seize any opportunities to earn money and increasingly forces them to migrate. It could also take other forms such as vulnerability to threats of physical violence.

If that is coupled with prejudice against certain groups of people, such as against migrant workers widespread across the world, or racist, caste or sexist discrimination, one can identify big groups of people very vulnerable to slavery.

Therefore, in order to tackle slavery effectively we have to identify those groups who are at risk and work towards limiting these vulnerabilities.

Proof that current development policies have failed to reach the most vulnerable is the number of children in slavery. This remains consistently at the same level of 5.5 million despite a steep decline in the number of child labourers in the last ten years.

Putting slavery on the agenda of the world's development agencies is a first step to ensure that all the good work against poverty reaches those most vulnerable groups.

Anti-Slavery has been instrumental in achieving this. Since publishing a paper outlining our views on this issue in 2007 we have consistently called for development agencies to adopt the eradication of slavery as a goal.

Along with Nobel Peace Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi and a coalition of civil society organisations we also instigated an 'End Child Slavery Week' campaign to specifically call on the UN's Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to include the eradication of child slavery, in addition to child labour, in the SDGs.

As a result of our persistent campaigning others started to endorse the idea. A pivotal moment came in 2013 when Pope Francis took up the issue and helped the demand reach critical mass.

The inclusion of slavery in the Sustainable Development Goals doesn't yet solve the problem. Further work is required to ensure that slavery is not overlooked by development actors amongst a whole array of SDG targets.

Precise strategies must be forged to turn the aspirations into a reality for the 21 million people in slavery who were previously overlooked by the development processes. But the first step has been made.

Young boy from so-called 'modern daara' (Qur'anic school) in Senegal where children no longer have to beg and instead receive decent education. Without development agencies targeting the most vulnerable groups of people eradicating slavery will be impossible.
Photo: Anti-Slavery International

Modern Slavery Act comes into force

■ **October.** The UK's Modern Slavery Act has come into force.

The Act introduces some positive measures to tackle modern slavery in the UK.

These include the introduction of independent legal advocates for trafficked children, protection for modern slavery victims from prosecution for crimes they were forced to commit, severe sentences for traffickers, and a requirement for businesses with an annual turnover over £36million to report on efforts to tackle slavery in their supply chains.

However, there are negatives too, such as the lack of guarantee of minimum standards of support for victims, a requirement for overseas domestic workers to prove to the authorities they have been trafficked before they can leave abusive employers, and the lack of extraterritoriality of the slavery offence.

The implementation of the Act will now be crucial, as will be the policy reviews which stemmed from the debates around the Act, including the National Referral Mechanism through which victims are identified and assisted. It has a record of failing to recognise and protect victims, especially those from outside of the European Union, who risk deportation rather than protection.

Success: Anti-Slavery helps bring landmark High Court ruling in Ireland

■ **April.** An Irish High Court ruled that Ireland has failed to comply with its own obligations under the European Union Trafficking Directive to identify the victims of trafficking and ensure they are not prosecuted for crimes that they were forced to commit by their traffickers.

Anti-Slavery provided an expert witness report in the case, helping achieve a ruling with potentially far reaching consequences for the way Ireland identifies and protects victims of trafficking.

The case concerned a Vietnamese woman found during the police raid on a cannabis factory in Dublin. Despite her immediately claiming that she was a victim of trafficking, the authorities went ahead with a prosecution for unlawful possession of cannabis.

The judge ruled that the administrative procedure to identify trafficked victims in Ireland was inadequate. She also criticised the manner in which officers working on drugs crimes are carrying out human trafficking investigations.

Angel receiving the Queens' Young Leaders Award from the Queen
Photo courtesy of Queen's Young Leader Foundation

From child domestic work exploitation to meeting the Queen

■ **June:** Anti-Slavery enjoyed seeing the spectacular success of one of its beneficiaries when Angel Benedicto, a former child domestic worker in Tanzania, received the Queens' Young Leaders Award presented by the Queen herself.

Angel became a domestic worker at the age of 16. She was exploited by her employers, working 16 hours a day cleaning, cooking, washing, shopping and looking after two children for £6 a month.

"Angel's organisation 'Wote Sawa' – or All Are Equal – now has over 400 members"

After coming into contact with Anti-Slavery's Tanzanian project partners Kivulini Women's Rights Organization, she managed to build up her skills, confidence and knowledge of her rights.

With the continued support of our partners she left domestic work and set up her own organisation called 'Wote Sawa' – or All Are Equal – designed solely to protect vulnerable children.

The organisation now has over 400 members, runs a shelter for children who escape from abuse, and works with the local community, employers and the police to protect other children from exploitation.

They also teach children their rights and run entrepreneurship training so they can find the skills and confidence to move on to other jobs or set up their own businesses.

Anti-Slavery are proud to have nominated Angel for the award.

Success: Historic ruling on forced child begging mounts pressure on Senegal

■ **July.** In a historic ruling, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child found that the Senegalese government is violating the rights of talibé children, forced to beg for their keep by their Qur'anic teachers in 'daaras' (Qur'anic schools).

Anti-Slavery worked on the case with its Senegalese partners RADDHO and the University of Pretoria Centre for Human Rights. Nearly all our recommendations were upheld by the Committee.

The ruling has greatly increased pressure on the Senegalese government to end the exploitation of talibé children. It also means that the African Union and others are now pledging money to support the implementation of those recommendations.

Senegalese government fails to protect children forced to beg on the streets.
Photo: Emily Reignier

Qatar fails to reform 'kafalah' system

■ **October.** Qatar has failed to change the 'kafalah' sponsorship system in the labour laws reforms.

The reforms have been prompted by international pressure to protect workers' rights after the abuses were originally uncovered by the Guardian with Anti-Slavery's help two years ago.

"Qatar is still on track to organise the world's bloodiest sporting event in history"

Aidan McQuade, director of Anti-Slavery International.

The new rules grant the Qatari interior ministry the right to issue permission for workers to leave the country, but only after the ministry's consultation with the workers' employers.

In effect, the workers still require their employers' consent in order to leave the country or switch jobs. Although the new law bans confiscating migrants' passports, their legal status is still dependent on their employers.

Even these limited changes will not be in force until at least 2017.

More global companies caught using Thai slavery seafood

■ **December.** The Associated Press (AP) investigation uncovered yet more links between slavery in the Thai seafood industry and big western brands.

The AP journalists followed peeled shrimp from the factories using the forced labour of Burmese migrants to Thai exporting companies, and then used US customs records and Thai industry reports to track it globally.

The revelations add to the already mounting evidence that the fishing industry in Thailand, which supplies supermarkets all over the world, is dependent on the forced labour of migrant workers on a massive scale. The investigation piles more pressure on the global food industry to clean up its act.

The first investigation, carried out by the Guardian with Anti-Slavery's help more than a year ago, forced some retailers to join Anti-Slavery's Project Issara to help identify the risks of trafficking within their supply chains.

However, it is clear that the industry still must do much more to address this issue.

World Bank urged to stop funding Uzbekistan's forced labour

■ **December.** Anti-Slavery International and 38 other organisations forming the Cotton Campaign coalition urged the World Bank to suspend their funding for Uzbekistan's agriculture until the government ends the use of forced labour in its cotton industry.

The World Bank provides over US $500 million to Uzbekistan's agricultural sector which includes the cotton industry, dependent on a mass state-sponsored system of forced labour. It is estimated that every year, over a million Uzbek citizens, including minors, are forced out of their day-to-day jobs and sent out to the cotton fields during the harvesting season.

The World Bank has made a commitment to end its contract with the Uzbek government if forced labour is found in its project areas. Independent civil society monitors have duly provided such evidence during the recent harvest.

To date, the World Bank has not suspended the projects and has given no indication of doing so in the near future.

Photo: Simon Buxton

India's brick kilns' shameful secret

Bonded labour, slavery and extreme exploitation in the India's brick kiln industry is endemic. In this photo feature we explain the phenomenon of the most common – yet the least known – form of slavery in the world, as well as what Anti-Slavery International does about it.

Words:
Sarah Mount, South Asia Programme Co-ordinator

Photos:
Bharat Patel, bharatpatelphotography.co.uk

Sarah Mount, South Asia Programme Co-ordinator

Why is there bonded labour in India?

India holds an infamous record for having the highest number of people in slavery, with some estimating the number to be as high as over 14 million. Most of them are in debt bondage.

A number of critical factors play a role in creating this system of exploitation and slavery: poverty – which forces people to take loans, extreme discrimination of Dalits and indigenous people, and a comprehensive failure of the government to implement laws prohibiting bonded labour.

What's so special about bonded labour in brick kilns

Brick kilns in India employ more than 23 million workers. Abuses in this sector are particularly endemic.

Many workers migrate internally within India. Each year, brokers recruit the workers by giving them a loan. There's no contract, just a verbal agreement. Workers travel to the kiln with their whole family for the entire brick making season which usually lasts eight months.

Once at the kilns, the workers don't receive a regular wage – their earnings

service the debt. They usually have no idea until the end of the season how much they have earned or if they still owe the brick kiln owner.

Since there are usually no written records and the calculating is done by the owners, it is no surprise that many workers find that they are still in debt and have to return to the same brick kiln the following season.

Life in the brick kilns

The conditions in the brick kilns can be extremely harsh. Entire families have to work to pay off their debt. Men, women and children of all ages work for 15-16 hours a day, amongst great amounts of dust and toxic substances, and often in the extreme heat made worse by the brick-burning ovens. Injuries are frequent and can be severe.

Workers usually live within the kiln in squalid and dangerous conditions, with several families living together in one single room. Safe drinking water and toilets are rare luxuries. The great majority of children do not attend school.

Why is it difficult to leave?

It is important to recognise the structure that places all the power in the hands of the kiln owners and leaves the worker families with no protection.

Violence against workers is common. In recent months there have been cases of abduction, mutilations and shootings; tragically, a seven month pregnant woman was kicked to death. Cases like these rarely end in the prosecution of the perpetrators; kiln owners have too much political influence over corrupt local institutions, and who would care or even believe complaints made by a Dalit?

Even though bonded labour and abusive practices are illegal, few politicians or institutions are interested in enforcing these laws. Until recently, the Punjab state had been denying the existence of bonded labour altogether!

What we do about slavery in brick kilns

In our current project, alongside our local partners, Volunteers for Social Justice (VSJ), Jan Jagriti Kendra (JJK) and the Centre for Education and Communication (CEC), we assist brick kiln workers in debt-bondage in the Punjab and Chhattisgarh.

- We help bonded workers to be freed and to obtain compensation. Last year nearly 2,000 workers were released from bondage, and we received almost 3,000 calls on VSJ's hotline.
- We encourage workers to come together as groups to advocate for their rights. Groups formed within brick kilns are already successful in improving their working and living conditions. In Chhattisgarh, over 100 workers' groups were formed, 43 of which are led by women.
- We lobby local and national governments, as well as the brick kiln owners, to implement the law and improve working and living conditions.
- We work to ensure children are able to go to school and have access to healthcare, and that women are empowered and recognised as workers in their own right.
- We reach out to workers vulnerable to slavery to inform them of their rights and social entitlements. Last year we communicated with approximately 50,000 workers.

Where to from here?

Although the project is making significant progress in tackling bonded labour in the brick kiln industry in Punjab and Chhattisgarh, we cannot reach everyone, and bonded labour still remains endemic in India.

Going forward, Anti-Slavery International and our partners hope to tackle bonded labour in additional states in India to enable a more comprehensive and coordinated approach. Our work will also continue to focus on persuading governments to ensure a fair wage system is implemented, to reduce reliance on the loan system and to ultimately transform the brick kiln jobs into decent work.

Road to empower women workers in brick kilns

Ganga Sekhar, Volunteers for Social Justice (VSJ), Punjab, India

Left: Ganga Sekhar outside the Volunteers for Social Justice's offices with former bonded labourers after obtaining the release certificates.
Photo: Anti-Slavery International

■ Indian brick kilns probably employ the largest unpaid female work force in the world. They are not just underpaid, they are totally unpaid.

A woman moulding bricks on the picture opposite is Pather. Her work day began at 5am and is unlikely to end before 8pm. Not a toilet in sight, she has to sneak into the fields nearby without the farmers noticing, to answer the call of nature. The nearest access to clean drinking water is eight kilometres away.

Her labour is neither recognised nor valued. She is never paid any wages; only her husband will be paid for the entire family's work. That is if the "advance" obtained by them at the beginning of the season from their employers is satisfied. If not, she has to return here and work until the debt is paid off.

No leave. No weekly rest. No maternity benefits. Her child will grow up amid dust and smoke surrounded by nothing but endless rows of raw, dull, brown bricks.

This was the starting point of the brick kiln program initiated by Volunteers for Social Justice to eradicate bonded labour in India's brick kiln industry and which is supported by Anti-Slavery International.

Today, a large number of women have been rescued from bondage in the brick kiln industry.

Women like Pooja (pictured top right). Having just given birth, Pooja and her newly born baby were ill. But because of the 'debt' she and her family had incurred, she couldn't leave the kiln to seek the medical assistance they so urgently needed.

We finally managed to secure their release through the intervention of the National Human Rights Commission.

While she and her child recuperated at the Transit Rehabilitation Centre of VSJ, our team had the chance to talk to her, find out about her hopes and aspirations. She also had an opportunity to watch us work – talking to brick kiln workers, raising awareness, drafting complaints, running about from inquiry to inquiry releasing bonded labourers.

A few months later, as she started her new life of freedom, Pooja contacted VSJ and expressed her interest in becoming a community leader to work with women migrating with their families to the brick kilns. It quickly transpired she had the qualities to lead the women to demand their rights.

Above: Pooja with her family after their release.
Below: Pather is one of many women whose work in brick kilns is not recognised
Photos: Volunteers for Social Justice

With the support and leadership of women like her, we are confident that women's voices in the brick kiln industry will be heard, and that we will finally achieve our objective: women as empowered workers enjoying their full and equal rights.

La Casa de Panchita turns child domestic workers' lives around

Blanca Figueroa, Director of Asociacion Grupo de Trabajo Redes

Blanca Figueroa from local partners Asociacion Grupo de Trabajo Redes (AGTR), on the daily struggles of supporting child domestic workers in Peru's capital, Lima.

■ In La Casa de Panchita, our centre in Lima, we run a wide range of activities from handicraft workshops, school and homework support, to expressive art therapy, English and computer classes.

Photos: AGTR

But at the heart of our work have always been specific issues related to child domestic work: its risks, children and workers' rights, where and how they can get extra support and advice.

Over the last ten years La Casa de Panchita has become an established institution in Lima, a safe space where children working in private homes during the day could come and talk safely about their problems, play with their peers, catch up on education and learn about their rights.

Unfortunately, last year we were informed by our landlord that we had to leave the house we had rented. This is a "bump in the road" as we say in Peru. In July we moved "La Casa De Panchita" to a new premises.

It was hard to let go of the "home away from home" we had built during the past ten years and settle in our new home. For many children moving was not easy, they were used to a different and safer neighbourhood.

The main problem is fitting into premises half the size of the previous one. We converted the garage into a cosy space for workshops for children in domestic work. The difficulty is that now only 15 children can attend at one time, but the cost of the bus that takes them to La Casa de Panchita from their local areas remains the same.

The good news is that more people have started noticing the issues around domestic work. The proof: we've already had a visit from the Peruvian Ombudsman in our new home to offer his support.

We are heartened seeing the progress made by the children. Children like 12-years-old Fatima, who, when she first came to La Casa de Panchita, was extremely shy, but with time we built up her confidence so that now she is not afraid to speak up for herself. Without any shyness she explained to the Ombudsman what child domestic work is like from her perspective.

We are proud to have changed the lives of many girls and boys like Fatima throughout the years. Seeing the transformation of helpless children exploited by their employers to young people standing up for themselves, going to universities and taking up new career paths, is what keeps us going.

Even though we have just moved into a new home, we are determined to keep up the hard work to change the lives of child domestic workers.

For more information about La Casa de Panchita and to support AGTR's work please visit www.gruporedes.org.

Story of Bernardina, 18.

I came to Lima to work as a domestic worker from the rural Andes when I was only 15 years-old.

When I first arrived, I was very humble and shy. I barely spoke to anyone.

My employer took advantage of the fact that I was just a young girl, alone and unaware of my rights. I used to start working at 6am and most days I would have to work till midnight!

I came to La Casa de Panchita because I wanted to get information on how to get my overdue salary.
I attended labour and human rights workshops and thanks to the legal counselling I was able to claim my overdue payments.

I am now studying hard because I want my future children not to have to be child labourers like me and to have all the things I've never had.

Tolerating lesser evil

Richard Huzzey

One of Anti-Slavery International's current priorities has been to place forced labour on the development agenda. Historically however, linking abolitionist efforts and development brought mixed results. Richard Huzzey explains.

■ The link between development and the work to eradicate slavery has run throughout the organisation's history, right back to its foundation as the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society (Anti-Slavery International's predecessor) in 1839 and to generations of abolitionists before that.

Olaudah Equiano, the former slave who published the "Interesting Narrative" of his life in 1789, argued that Britons had more to gain by trading with free Africans than dealing in slaves.

Thomas Clarkson – whose name is given to Anti-Slavery International's current offices – assembled a travelling case of sample spices, dyes, and goods from agricultural production that Africans would be able to export, once the raids of slave traders had been extinguished.

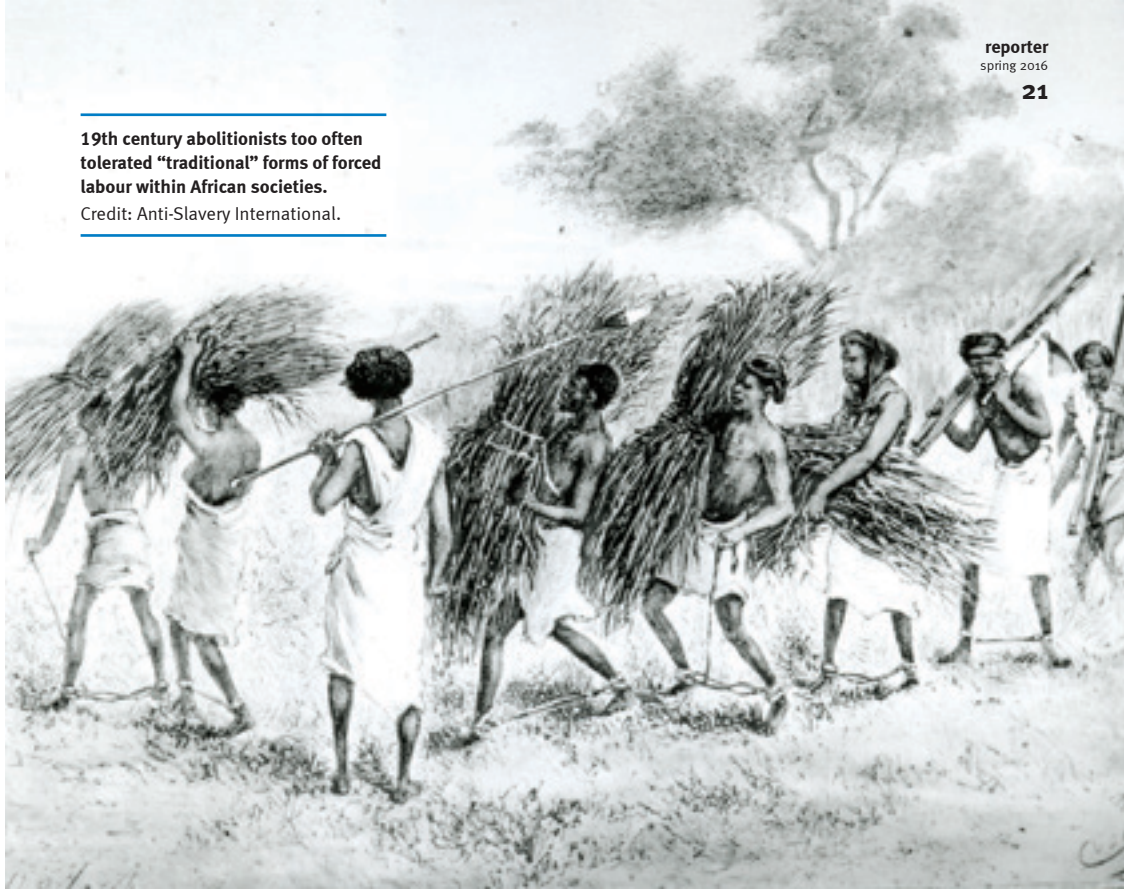
Equiano and Thomas's brother John Clarkson played leading roles in the abolitionist experiment to establish a colony of free Africans in Sierra Leone. The plan was to spread the knowledge and example of the benefits of commercial agriculture as an antidote to slave trading.

However, the strict discipline of labour in Sierra Leone foreshadowed the coercive, superior attitude that abolitionists often showed towards less developed societies. Equiano quit the mission before it left England, out of frustration at his marginal, token role.

By the 1840s, following emancipation in Britain's colonies, campaigners remained interested in tying development and abolition. They gradually realised that British trade with West Africa was not the easy antidote some had hoped as it remained intertwined with the continuing slave trade to the Americas.

However, in the second half of the century the Society started to work with the Aborigines' Protection Society to prevent forced labour of colonised peoples in British territory across the world.

Yet, while vigilant against British slave ownership, abolitionists tended to go along with government's policies tolerating "traditional" forms of forced labour within African societies – it was the evil of slavery of "higher" over "lower" races that they opposed.



19th century abolitionists too often tolerated "traditional" forms of forced labour within African societies.
Credit: Anti-Slavery International.

Racist ideas about a civilising mission became bound up with anti-slavery development. The League of Nations and later the United Nations started with definitions of slavery drawn up by Lord Lugard, governor of British Nigeria, who distinguished between "traditional" practices for the natural development of colonies and the higher standards expected for the "civilised" world.

Historian Tony Hopkins has persuasively suggested that the post-slave-trade development in Africa constituted the world's first (of many) development plans for the continent. However, toleration of forced labour and imperial conquest sat comfortably alongside abolitionism and development plans.

Today, Anti-Slavery International is working alongside activists in the developing world rather than dictating to them. The efforts to eradicate slavery remain intimately tied to developing wealth for the poorest communities in the world; poverty and slavery have always bred together, and legal emancipation without agency and independence allows new forms of forced labour to re-emerge.

Richard Huzzey is a lecturer in History at the University of Liverpool and Co-Director of the Centre for the Study of International Slavery. He is the author of Freedom Burning: Anti-Slavery and Empire in Victorian Britain (Cornell University Press, 2012).

Protecting the rights of construction workers migrating to Qatar

Sarah Mount, South Asia Programme Co-ordinator

Sarah Mount, South Asia Programme Co-ordinator

■ The exploitation and abuse of thousands of South Asian construction workers in Qatar has been under the spotlight in the last few years, particularly in the context of the controversial 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Thousands of Indians and Nepalese continue to migrate to Qatar every year, many without knowing the potential risks that lie ahead. In recent years the highest number of workers have originated from the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, where assistance for workers is scarce.

To ensure that information is reaching those migrating from north India, Anti-Slavery has initiated a new project, partnering with Delhi's Centre for Education and Communication (CEC).

This project provides safe migration training and easy-to-read materials to thousands of potential migrants and their families. It is crucial that workers are aware of the situation that they may encounter in Qatar, so that they can make an informed choice about whether to migrate. If they do decide to go, workers and families know their rights and how to seek assistance.

To ensure sustainability and increase our reach, we also train local civil society organisations and trade unions, so that they can provide similar information and assistance in the future.

Migrant workers in Qatar have commonly suffered exploitation but many more travel there every day in search of better lives.
Photo: Pete Pattisson

It is our hope that our project will continue to contribute to ensuring that migrant workers – naturally seeking a better life for their families – are protected against exploitation, human rights abuses, forced labour and human trafficking.

In a new series, we are presenting Anti-Slavery International staff. We start with introducing our latest arrival Ellie McDonald, who joined the Fundraising and Communications Team in January to support the fundraising of Anti-Slavery community groups and challenge events participants.

Ellie McDonald, Fundraising and Communications Assistant

Ellie, tell us what led you to join Anti-Slavery International.

At University, I became the leader of the University College London (UCL) Anti-Slavery Group. I worked on campaigns on modern trafficking globally and the UK Modern Slavery Bill.
After graduating I continued to advocate for ethical supply chains in the electronics industry.

My current role brings together many of the things I'm passionate about: human rights, ethical supply chains and community organising.

What is your role at Anti-Slavery International?

I support the fundraising and campaigning work of Anti-Slavery supporters. Currently we're preparing for the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade on the 25th March. This is a particularly important commemorative day with specific focus on the key role played by women victims of slavery, many of whom resisted, led and maintained the dignity of their communities.

Today, there is still an estimated 13,000 victims of slavery in the UK alone and a minimum of 21 million people enslaved globally, 5.5 million of whom are children. So we're hoping that many will join us in March to address this continuing problem by raising funds and awareness on modern slavery in their community and in the workplace!

Is there anything that you would like to say to our Anti-Slavery groups, members and supporters?

Get in touch! I want to meet with as many of our groups as possible to organise a big fundraising drive in the run up to 25th March. Whether you're planning to run the Silverstone Half-Marathon as a team (we do have 49 places!), do a cash collection, organise a pub quiz or a village fete, start planning now!

Photo: Nile Sprague

Christmas appeal

Huge thanks to everyone who donated to our recent appeals! If you have not had a chance to respond yet, you can still donate to our Christmas appeal by returning the enclosed donation form or by visiting **www.antislavery.org/christmas**

25th March 2016

25 March 2016, the International Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, offers the opportunity to honour and remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal slavery system.

It also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice. This year it also coincides with Good Friday. To commemorate, we invite our loyal members and donors to help us raise funds and awareness during the month of March. **Please call 0204 501 8920 or email supporter@antislavery.org** to request your pack and start planning now with the support of your local community!

"The reason why we remember with admiration our proud heritage of Clarkson, Wilberforce, Buxton, Equiano, Lincoln, Morell, and Casement, is that they displayed that very rare quality of moral courage: they were prepared to stand alone in the face of the received political and economic wisdom and put their names to the assertion that, 'The world is unjust because humans have made it so. And if we make different moral and political choices, as we must do, we can change that.'

Together we can continue to be that voice of moral courage in the contemporary world and work tirelessly to raise awareness, as well as lobby governments, both internationally and here in the UK. We are looking forward to hearing from you in 2016 and we hope you will join our March campaign."

Dr Aidan McQuade, Director

Run for Freedom

We have 49 places in the **Silverstone Half-Marathon** on 13 March 2016 and 60 places in the iconic British 10k London Run on 10 July 2016. Corporate teams are welcome. Please call **0204 501 8920** or email supporter@antislavery.org and visit **www.antislavery.org/runforfreedom**

Payroll-Giving

If your employer is already registered for payroll-giving, you can now start giving through your salary to Anti-Slavery International. Please visit **www.antislavery.org/payrollgiving**.

Membership fees increase

Our minimum membership fees have remained at £4 per month or £48 per year for many years. We hope you will understand if we increase the minimum amount to just £5 monthly.

Furthermore, while there is a minimum amount to be a member, there is no longer an upper limit. So any new monthly direct debit donors who wish to support our work with more than £5 a month are welcome to become members too by simply ticking the box on our direct debit online donate page.

We will be in touch later in 2016 with more news on membership related activities. In the meantime, do not hesitate to contact supporter@antislavery.org if you have any queries.

If you would like to receive more copies of **the reporter** *please email us at supporter@antislavery.org*

Why I support Anti-Slavery International

Margreet (left) and Sarah (right) live in Switzerland. They are training to take part in the London Marathon on 24 April. They are fundraising as a team. Together they are aiming to raise an incredible £4,000!

Margreet Groot

'Child labour in cocoa farming is a major issue. The development of the child should start with having the right to play and to education. I'm really proud to do my bit for Anti-Slavery, to continue the great work they are doing connecting governments, private companies, NGOs and raising awareness for such an important matter.'

Sarah Renfer

'I'm appalled that slavery, and forms of forced and bonded labour still exist today. It is especially concerning to me that this also includes children. I have been working in educational technology for the last few years and would love for every child to have the opportunity to learn and play, instead of being forced to work. Raising money for Anti-Slavery is my personal contribution to the work you do to eradicate slavery, and making it possible for children to have a better life.'

We will have an incredible team of five runners taking part in the London Marathon on 24 April. But for those lucky enough to have gained a place in the London Marathon ballot entry, we would love to hear from you too!

Check our website: www.antislavery.org/runforfreedom for information about the cheer points for family, friends, members and supporters to join us on the day! You can also find out information about our other runs and events you can participate in to raise funds for Anti-Slavery.

Yes, I want to support the fight against modern slavery

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Mobile Telephone

I give Anti-Slavery International permission to contact me ☐ By telephone ☐ By SMS

Email address

☐ **Please send me news and updates by email (you may unsubscribe at any time)**

giftaid it I am a UK taxpayer and would like Anti-Slavery International to reclaim the tax on all my donations made this year, in the previous four years and on all future donations. (Please note, you must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax we, and other charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) you donate to, reclaim on all your donations and in the appropriate tax year. Tax year is 6 April one year to 5 April the next). Date:
Please notify us if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or address, or if your tax status changes.

Please accept my gift of £ (Please do not send cash)

☐ **I enclose a cheque or charity voucher made payable to Anti-Slavery International**

☐ **Please debit my Visa/Mastercard/CAF Charity Card** (last 3 digits for CAF cards only)

Card No.

Expiry date

Name on card

Signature

Date

To help us save on administrative costs, we will only thank you for your donation if you tick this box. ☐

Data Protection: We do NOT trade names with other organisations, 'list swap' or rent out our supporters' list. In accordance with the 1998 Data Protection Act, we will only hold your details for administrative purposes and to provide you with updates about our work and what supporters like yourself are helping us achieve. If you do not want to receive any further communication by post from us in the future, including our annual review and our newsletter, please email supporter@antislavery.org

Choueida mint Mbowrik was born into slavery in northern Mauritania

Photo: Michael Hylton

"I grew up in Zouerate, right up in the desert. From the earliest age, we used to look after our master's animals, collect firewood and fetch water. I always knew we were different from the master's children. They were never hit or beaten. They learned the Qur'an and went to school. There was no question of us going! When I started having children they separated them from me. They started working as soon as they could walk. Life was all about work."

Choueida was rescued from slavery with the help of her brother Maatalla, who had escaped his masters a few years earlier, and Anti-Slavery project partners SOS-Esclaves, who fought for years to help find and free the whole family. She now lives in Mauritania's capital Nouakchott.

"These days, my life is very different. Now I am free and independent. I have been earning a little money by looking after the house next door. I have a little table where I sometimes sell things. I take my children to Qur'anic school. I'm proud to be free."

Anti-Slavery International and SOS-Esclaves continue to support Choueida and her family. We are lobbying for state financial support for her and for her to receive a formal ID – currently a nearly impossible feat for former slaves, without which they cannot be recognised as Mauritanian citizens, set up a bank account, find a job or even send their children to school. We also continue to pursue her case through the courts for her masters to be prosecuted.

Your donation could:

- help meet the costs of medical services, counselling and shelter for people like Choueida recently rescued from slavery
- contribute towards the costs of pursuing the cases of former victims of slavery through the courts
- ensure that all victims of trafficking in the UK have their rights protected

To donate online please scan here: