

2009

Annual Review



Cover picture: Forced labourers loading cotton onto the truck in Bukhara, Uzbekistan

Photo: Nicole Hill

Right: Children of former slaves at a new school set up by Anti-Slavery International & local NGO Timidria

Photo: Anti-Slavery International



Anti-Slavery International is committed to eliminating all forms of slavery throughout the world including forced labour, bonded labour, trafficking of human beings, descent-based slavery and the worst forms of child labour. Slavery denies millions of people their basic dignity and violates their fundamental human rights.

Anti-Slavery International works to end these abuses by:

- Gathering evidence and exposing cases of slavery.
- Campaigning for its eradication.
- Supporting the initiatives of local organisations to release people.
- Pressing for more effective enforcement of existing laws, and for the development of new laws where needed.

Anti-Slavery International
Thomas Clarkson House
The Stableyard
Broomgrove Road, London SW9 9TL
United Kingdom

tel: +44 (0)20 7501 8920
fax: +44 (0)20 7738 4110
email: info@antislavery.org
www.antislavery.org

Anti-Slavery International, the world's oldest international human rights organisation, has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

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Director's and Chair's Report

The financial year 2008/9 was, as anticipated, a very difficult one. The financial pressures that have been bearing down on Anti-Slavery for the past three years are principally on the need for general funds which required the cutting of four central posts: The Fundraising, and Finance and Administration Teams lost a post each and two posts were cut from the Programmes and Advocacy Team. This meant ending our work on Sudan, despite having contributed to a cutting edge 2008 report on slavery as a weapon of war in Darfur.

In spite of the increased pressure on staff that these cuts brought there were a number of notable successes including:

- The ECOWAS Court of Justice found the government of Niger to be in breach of its national and international obligations to protect Hadijatou Mani from slavery as a result of a case initiated by Anti-Slavery.
- The generous support of Ms Rikki Bewley allowed us to undertake research on implementation of ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.
- We continued to explore new approaches to the eradication of slavery, including ongoing work with Comic Relief and Timidria on establishing schools in remote settlements in Niger. The programme funding was supplemented by the Cooperative Bank's Customers Who Care campaign.
- We launched a domestic work programme to ensure that the voices of workers are heard in the discussions regarding a possible

international convention on the protection of domestic workers.

- We published a new report on bonded labour in South Asia, setting the basis for a renewed engagement across the region in response to the challenges of slavery.
- The UK government ratified the Council of Europe Anti-Trafficking Convention. While welcoming this we took a leadership role in establishing a multi-agency programme to monitor the effectiveness of the implementation of this in the UK.
- Work on trafficking also involved the Law and Policy Forum, an initiative that we established with friends in the legal community and funding from the City Parochial Foundation to allow sharing of learning on the issues associated with trafficking.
- After intense lobbying from Anti-Slavery International and Liberty, the government agreed to introduce two new criminal offences, which will finally set out penalties for holding someone in forced or compulsory labour and domestic servitude.

Even in these times of considerable stress the partners, volunteers, trustees and staff of Anti-Slavery International have demonstrated the vital importance of our work and our capacity as a movement to deliver results. Overall we did succeed in raising a total of £2,175,751 which enabled us to work together with local organisations to combat this global evil. It is with this knowledge that we go forward with the clear intent, even in uncertain times, to see slavery finally eradicated from the world.



Aidan McQuade, Director



Andrew Clark, Chair of Trustees



Trafficking

Following several years of effort, in which Anti-Slavery contributed significantly, the UK Government ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings at the end of 2008. We are now leading a new multi-agency programme to monitor the effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention in the UK.



Our research into access to compensation in the UK for people who have been trafficked into forced labour or sexual exploitation highlights the problems victims face in accessing compensation for their suffering despite the many millions seized from traffickers. The resulting report provides evidence of the barriers to justice, as well as making recommendations for changes in policy that form the basis of our campaign for justice for trafficked people.

Facing page: My husband-to-be sold me for \$2,200. Dalia, a 20-year-old from Moldova.

Photo: Dana Popa. Dana Popa's project 'not Natasha' is available as a touring exhibition and exists as a book. www.autograph-abp.co.uk.

CASE STUDY

Lucy, an Indonesian domestic worker in her late thirties, worked for a diplomat in the UK for two years, having previously worked for him in his home country. Paid only £1.20 an hour, she was prevented from returning home to Indonesia. After being threatened and abused by the family, Lucy finally escaped. Although recognised as a trafficking victim by the UK Government there was little she could do to claim compensation. She was only given temporary leave to remain as a victim of trafficking for less than 90 days, which is not nearly enough time to make a claim under the Criminal Injuries Compensation scheme or make a claim under employment law. Anti-Slavery is campaigning for victims like Lucy to be given temporary residence permits that would give them the time they need to bring a claim for compensation.



CASE STUDY

“I worked with all my family for 20 years in brick kilns. One day my husband got ill, and we were sacked. The owner kept all our possessions until we paid off our debt. People from VSJ helped us denounce him to the High Court. Then I joined VSJ as an activist because I had a little education. I must have liberated over 150 bonded labourers from agriculture and 500 from brick kilns. I am now on bail, because two brick kiln owners denounced me for “poisoning people with my lies”.

Kamaljit Kaur, Activists from partner organisation Volunteers for Social Justice (VSJ), Punjab, India

Bonded labour in South Asia

Our work in South Asia empowers thousands of former bonded labourers by enabling them to assert their rights as workers.

We work with local partner organisations in India, Pakistan and Nepal to press for the effective application of laws banning debt bondage in these countries. During 2008-09 this led to the release of over 1,400 bonded labourers working in agriculture and brick kilns, either through the courts,

in raids carried out in collaboration with the police, and sometimes at great risk, collecting workers directly from their working sites.

Dozens of liberated workers are trained to become activists themselves, and former bonded labourers are organised in workers’ organisations at every level, from the village to the state. In 2008-9, over 2,500 workers were “unionised” in this way in the states of Punjab, Orissa and Chattisgarh in India, in Nepal and in Sanghar, Sindh and Punjab in Pakistan.

These “unions”, run by former bonded labourers, have already been

successful in claiming the entitlement of thousands of agricultural workers to Government schemes of work, housing and education, especially in India.



Facing page: Former bonded labourers in Punjab, India demonstrate to end this abuse and demand enforcement of laws against it.

Photo: Pete Pattison www.petepattison.com



Children in slavery

Despite the high visibility of child beggars on the streets of cities around the world Anti-Slavery has found little understanding of the causes and even less understanding of possible solutions.

Our pilot study into children forced to beg in India, Albania, Greece and Senegal found violence, and threats were used to control the children. The children are forced to work for long hours and hand over most of their income. Many are apart from their families and tend to suffer particularly poor living conditions. Most are denied an education.

Bledi was seven when he was trafficked from Albania to Greece. Together with eight or nine others he was forced to beg from morning to night watched closely by a group of men who made sure they did not spend the money. They were beaten, kicked and also whipped with a belt if they did not bring back enough money. Deported back to Albania after two weeks, he told us: “I always have these experiences in my mind. I will never forget them.”

Anti-Slavery International will be working to get the report’s key recommendations implemented.

- Adequate legislation must be in place to protect children from this exploitation, and the law must be enforced in a way that acts in the best interests of the child.
- Governments must identify, rescue and rehabilitate children who are forced to beg.
- Governments must ensure access to affordable, quality education for all children.



Facing page: Child begging in Senegal

Photo: Amy Farris

Below: A Roma child beggar on the streets of Tirana, Albania

Photo: Terres des homes - Albania





Ending slavery in the products we buy

By putting systems in place, producers and retailers can play an important role in the identification, prevention and ending of the use of forced labour. Anti-Slavery has been actively working with businesses to ensure their goods are slavery free, for example, by sharing best practice with 300 of ASDA's suppliers at their annual conference.

We are supporting efforts by the chocolate industry to build thriving cocoa communities free of forced or child labour through Anti-Slavery International's membership of the board of Cadbury's Cocoa Partnership. Moves towards eradicating slavery were boosted by the Fair Trade certification of Cadbury's Dairy Milk chocolate bars.

State sponsored forced labour underpins Uzbekistan's cotton industry. Threats and punishments are used to force children, some as young as ten, to hand pick cotton for up to three months during the harvest period. A 14 year old boy from

Kashkadaria province told researchers: "We're really afraid of getting expelled from school. Every September 2, the first day of school, the director warns us that if we don't go out to pick cotton we might as well not come back to school."

Members of Anti-Slavery International's campaigns network took action by writing to clothing retailers expressing their concern about forced child labour in the Uzbek cotton industry and asking them to not use Uzbek cotton until such time as forced labour is eliminated from production.

Facing page: Labourer forced to pick cotton during the annual cotton harvest, Bukhar, Uzbekistan

Photo: Environmental Justice Foundation



CASE STUDY

"We're really afraid of getting expelled from school. Every September 2, the first day of school, the Director warns us that if we don't go out to pick cotton we might as well not come back to school. The school administration does everything to create the impression that the schoolchildren themselves are the ones who have decided to go out to the cotton fields. But just try to "voluntarily" not go out to the harvest! We're all forced to obey this unwritten law. And, the only way to get cash is to go out and pick cotton. It's painful to see how the kids knock themselves out in the cotton fields to earn this rotten money. Just think about it: in order to earn 50 sum (four US cents), a kid who is barely 14 has to bend down to the cotton bush over 50 times. And his earnings from a day of this work won't even buy him a pair of ugly socks." Boy, ninth grade (14 years old), Kashkadaria province



Courageous fight against descent based slavery

Although criminalised in 2003 at least 43,000 people remain in slavery across Niger. Hadijatou Mani was born into a slave 'caste'. Forcibly taken from her mother aged 12 and sold to her master for the equivalent of \$500, she was 13 the first time he raped her. For the next ten years she was made to work without pay, suffering continuous sexual abuse and beatings.

After failing to receive justice from local courts Hadijatou took her case, with support from Anti-Slavery International, to the Community Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States. The court made the historic decision to condemn the state of Niger for failing to protect her from slavery and award her compensation.

Following the verdict Hadijatou said: "I am very thankful for this decision. It was very difficult to challenge my former master and to speak out when people see you as nothing more than a slave. But I knew that this was the only way to protect my child from suffering the same fate as myself. Nobody deserves to be enslaved. We are all equal and deserve to be treated the same. I hope that everybody in slavery today can find their freedom. No woman should suffer the way I did."

Facing page: US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, Hadijatou Mani and US First Lady Michelle Obama at the International Women of Courage awards, Washington DC

Photo: Getty Images

Right: 2009 Award winner, Boubacar Messaoud, President of SOS Esclaves

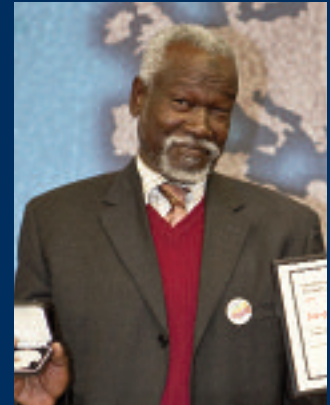
Photo: Peter Wolfes

2009 ANTI-SLAVERY AWARD

Mauritanian organisation SOS Esclaves received our 2009 Anti-Slavery Award for its outstanding dedication and groundbreaking work towards ending descent based slavery in Mauritania.

Slavery has existed in Mauritania for hundreds of years and is deeply rooted within society across the country. Over the past 14 years SOS Esclaves has been leading the fight for it to be acknowledged and addressed. For many years, due to the widespread acceptance of slavery and sensitivity of the issue they challenged, members of SOS Esclaves were continually harassed, threatened and intimidated.

However in 2007, after years of tireless work to expose the realities of slavery and defend the rights of those enslaved, new legislation was introduced to criminalise slavery - a true testament to the efforts of SOS Esclaves and a historic step forward for Mauritania in tackling slavery.



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Leading the fight for tomorrow's freedom

Campaigning against slavery, from the 18th to the 21st century.

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Raising awareness of slavery: outreach and education

Anti-Slavery International outreaches to a broad audience, including community groups, faith groups, museums, libraries, schools and universities, as well as the public at large. This takes the form of giving talks and running stalls at various events, including music festivals, and organising public meetings. We also organise virtual support through our website, YouTube, Facebook and Twitter. From these activities, thousands more people have been mobilised, joining our Campaigns Network and taking action. As a result, our campaigns on trafficking and forced labour in the UK and forced child labour in Uzbekistan's cotton industry have raised awareness and put pressure on politicians and companies to persuade them to act.



Facing page: Anti-Slavery stall at Greenbelt Festival

Photo: Anti-Slavery International

Top: The formation of a new group in Exeter by long standing member Graham Martin is an exciting step towards involving more people in our fundraising and campaigning work

Photo: Exeter Anti-Slavery Group

Middle: Talk on modern slavery at SLOT Art Festival in Poland

Photo: Anti-Slavery International

Bottom: Display created by children from Gillespie School as a part of our Niger schools linking programme

Photo: Anti-Slavery International

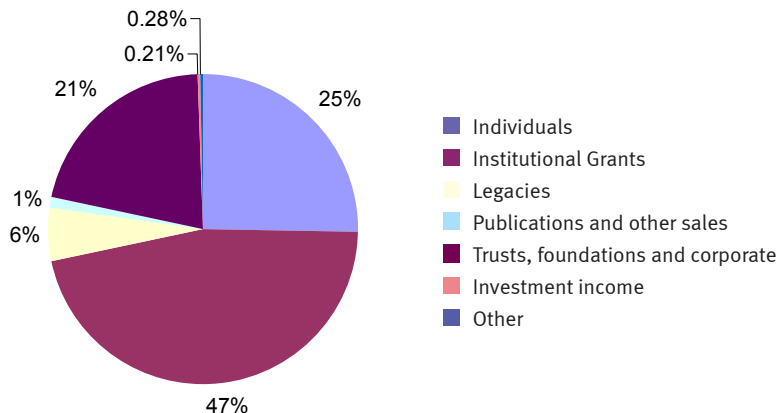
Supporting the international Campaigns Network, our newly established local and student Anti-Slavery groups are a powerful tool in taking the message out into universities and local communities that slavery is still with us, building a wider and stronger Anti-Slavery coalition acting collectively to end slavery. Anti-Slavery International engaged thousands of students, teachers and youth groups within the UK, and across the world, in many countries including Brazil, Canada, South Africa and the United States. The education officer provided support for their work against slavery with materials, presentations, and workshops. Expert training and guidance was provided to numerous organisations including national museums, the Historical Association and the National Human Rights Commission of Korea. Woodhouse College in North London undertook a two-week awareness raising drive and raised over £2000 through fun activities. One student reported “this is the first time in my life that I have done something that actually mattered not just for myself but for other people”. The linking programme between the Niger schools and UK schools continues with teachers and students undertaking joint curriculum projects on climate change and sustainability.

Financial highlights

Income

Individuals	548,114
Institutional grants	1,009,090
Legacies	122,411
Publications and other sales	23,393
Trusts, foundations and corporate	462,092
Investment income	4,587
Other	6,064

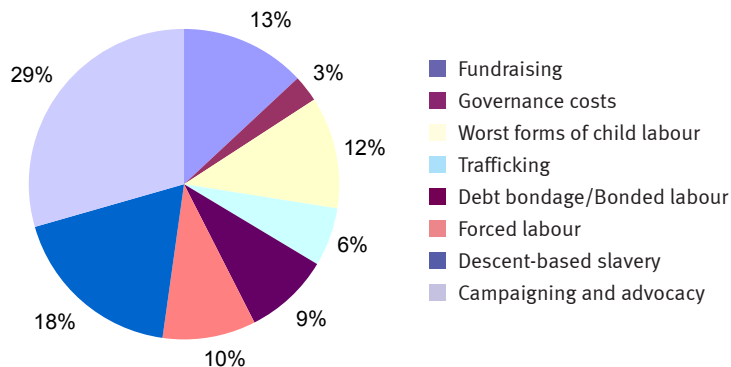
2,175,751



Expenditure

Fundraising	245,634
Governance costs	54,136
Worst forms of child labour	221,294
Trafficking	120,643
Debt bondage / Bonded Labour	166,963
Forced labour	184,881
Descent-based slavery	347,432
Campaigning and Advocacy	560,377

1,901,360



Thanks

Anti-Slavery International would like to express heartfelt thanks to all those who supported us. Individuals held events and raised vital funds and awareness of our work, as well as campaigned through writing letters and emails to decision makers. The contribution of trusts, foundations, and other organisational donors, often consistently over the years is also much appreciated.

The involvement of interns and volunteers made an enormous difference to our capacity to effectively campaign and implement programmes to end slavery. Their dedication and skills are hard to value; however a cost of £40,000 if just the minimum wage is used as a guide is a fair estimate.

Special thanks go to the following:

A & S Burton 1960 Charitable Trust
AB Charitable Foundation
The Amicus Foundation (The AEEU Learning Fund)
The Bromley Trust
Barbara Cairns Trust
Brian Dunn
Cambridge Rag
The Christian Film and Television Commission
The Clara E Burgess Charity
Chelsea Football Club Ltd
City Parochial Foundation
Clifford Chance
St Columbia's Church
Comic Relief
The Co-Operative Bank
Department for International Development
The Dorfred Charitable Trust
The Ericson Trust
European Commission
Exeter Anti-Slavery Group
Frances Lincoln Limited
The Fulmer Charitable Trust
Mrs H L Grimwade Charitable Settlement
The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust
The Robert Fleming Hannay Memorial Charity

The Hasluck Charitable Trust
The Heritage Lottery Fund
The Hilden Charitable Fund
Holy Trinity Church
Howick Foundation
Humanity United
The Innominate Trust
Irish Aid
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Pete Kirkham
The Left Field
London Borough of Lambeth
Lee and Gund Foundation
Graham Martin
The Oak Foundation
The Col W W Pilkington Will Trusts - The General Charity Fund
The Eva Reckitt Trust Fund
Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation
The Scotshill Trust
The Sigrid Rausing Trust
The T.U.U.T Charitable Trust
The Waterloo Foundation
The William Allen Young Charitable Trust
The Wishart Family Trust
The Wyndham Charitable Trust
Valerie Belsey
Woodhouse College

Your support is needed

- £7,500** could pay for micro-credit for 300 former slaves (mainly women) in West Africa. This will provide a number of benefits: empowerment and confidence building, alongside basic skills development which accompany the income-generating objectives.
- £3,000** could pay for local radio campaigns in Niger. At present each slave's life is entirely bounded by their owner. They enjoy no communal existence. The local radio broadcasts will reach 20,000 people, using the indigenous languages: Tamecheq and Hausa; promoting the importance of education, plus human rights advocacy, child welfare and addressing key issues such as early marriage.
- £1,000** could help us to mobilise over 16,000 members of our campaigns network, enabling them to put pressure on authorities to take action.
- £100** could pay for local court costs to file a case to assert a bonded labourer's freedom from their 'employer'.
- £45** could buy school dinner for 180 school children in Niger. For the majority of children attending our schools, the balanced meals provided in the canteen are their only source of nourishment. Life in the desert region is harsh; children are particularly vulnerable in times of drought or when food is in short supply. Your gift can provide dinner for the children in one of the new schools in Niger. These dinners provide nutrition to ensure the children's health, and their ability to concentrate throughout the day. Furthermore, the provision of meals will encourage parents to send their children to school.
- £25** could pay for five former slaves to be educated about their human rights so they will not fall back into slavery.

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