



**anti-  
slavery**

today's fight for tomorrow's freedom



# Impact Report

The difference you made in 2017



**Tanya English**  
Chair of the Trustees

Cover image and above:  
**Children supported by our school project in Niger**

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## Momentum is building

■ Ten years ago we marked the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade with a big public campaign. We needed to tell people that slavery still existed.

Fast forward to 2017, and it's hard to open a newspaper without reading a story about modern slavery!

So slavery has hit the mainstream. This is a crucial step towards growing an anti-slavery movement that will end slavery for good.

We can see some green shoots of change already. The UK Modern Slavery Act, even with its flaws, is in place; ending slavery is now one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals; forced marriage is at last officially recognised as slavery.

Of course we operate in very challenging times, with mass migration and huge inequalities of income and power. But we believe every donation, petition signed and message shared on social media helps build the momentum to end slavery – forever.

Thank you for your support.

Finally, I am delighted to welcome Jasmine O'Connor as our new Chief Executive and wish her well as she joins us in the fight against slavery.

## Some stories that inspired us last year

### Kallu and family, India

■ “My wife, children and I worked for 12 hours a day for two years in a brick kiln, in very bad conditions. We never got paid any wages, just enough allowance to survive, but during monsoon months we didn't even get that. I was afraid to complain because the kiln owner made threats towards me and my two young daughters.

One day, I found the helpline run by Volunteers for Social Justice (VSJ) [Anti-Slavery's partners], and they helped us flee the kiln. VSJ took up our case and finally our debt was lifted and we could return home. We were even paid for the whole two years that we had worked.”



Brick kiln worker, India



Community meeting, Doguewara, Niger

### A woman of slave descent, Niger

■ “Before, we had nothing – a woman could not even talk about having her own money. But then Timidria [Anti-Slavery's partners] showed us that, with a small loan, we could start our own small business. We use our earnings to cover everyday expenses and can send our children to school.”

### Mabrouka, Mauritania

■ “From a very young age, I lived with a family as a slave. When other children went to school, I spent all my time working. I pounded grain in a pestle and mortar, washed clothes and cooked meals. I was often beaten and insulted for any reason.

Since I have been with SOS-Esclaves [Anti-Slavery's partners] I have received encouragement and support. They help me forget the suffering I went through. Now I am earning a living and trying to track down my mother, who I haven't seen since I was very young and can't remember her face.”



Mabrouka, Mauritania

# The difference you made to ending slavery

We supported over **81,000** people affected by slavery.



## ■ More schools for children of slave descent

More children of former slaves in remote areas of Niger were able to attend school. They are the first generation from their community to receive a formal education.

Initially Anti-Slavery established six schools for communities of slave descent to break dependency on their masters. The communities now live in freedom and have successfully persuaded the Government to fund their schools and open three new ones.

## ■ Landmark European Court victory

Thanks to Anti-Slavery's intervention, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Greece failed to protect people from trafficking. In an infamous case, a group of Bangladeshi strawberry pickers were shot at by guards, and the Greek court acquitted the perpetrators, but this landmark verdict reiterates European states' obligations to tackle trafficking.

**718** children from communities of former slaves attended our schools in Niger.

## ■ India ratifies conventions to protect children

In a move that Anti-Slavery campaigned for, India ratified two international treaties on the worst forms of child labour and on the minimum age of work. The Government will have to ensure that all children under fourteen are not working, and that no child is working in hazardous industries. The move will make it easier to hold India to account on ending widespread child exploitation.



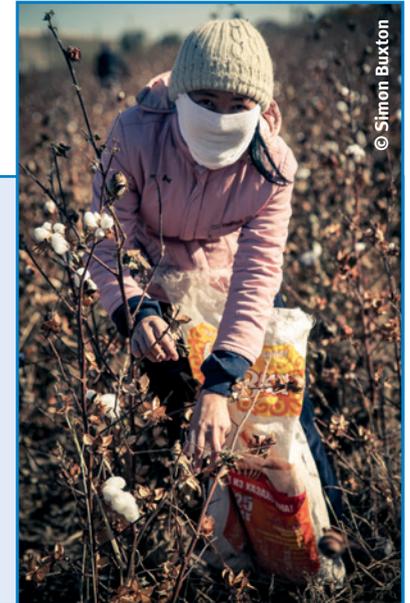
**11** countries, where Anti-Slavery International runs projects directly helping people affected by slavery.

## ■ IKEA withdraws from Turkmenistan

After Anti-Slavery International's intervention, Swedish furniture giant IKEA revealed it would stop sourcing cotton from Turkmenistan.

One of the world's most oppressive regimes, Turkmenistan operates a system of forced labour to produce cotton, its major export product, ruthlessly cracking down on activists.

After our involvement, IKEA agreed that continuing its presence would mean condoning human rights abuses in the country.



**90** small loans were given to survivors of slavery in Mauritania.

**80** people who escaped slavery in Mauritania accessed literacy training.

## ■ Corporates take action

The corporate world is making more efforts to tackle slavery in supply chains.

Last year Anti-Slavery entered a strategic partnership with online clothing giant ASOS to help improve its 'on the ground' practices preventing exploitation, and Legal & General, the financial services company, incorporated our advice in its updated child protection policy. We also successfully campaigned for the European Parliament to pass a resolution calling for legally binding measures on global supply chains.



## The difference you made to ending slavery

### ■ Qatar commits to reforms

Under pressure from campaigners, Qatar has committed to labour law reforms for migrant workers, including a minimum wage and the right for workers to organise and leave the country if they wish. Although positive, the reforms won't change the 'kafala' system that gives employers control over workers' visas, enabling

exploitation. Anti-Slavery was the first to expose this issue, prompting an investigation by the Guardian newspaper.



We answered **9,105** calls to our helpline for bonded labourers in India.



### ■ Exposing India's brick kilns

Anti-Slavery's report and documentary revealed shocking levels of slavery in India's brick kiln industry and the Indian Government's systematic failures to protect workers from slavery.

Our report found that 96% of brick kiln moulders had their wages withheld, trapping them in a never ending cycle of debt. Up to 80% of children under fourteen were found to work for nine hours a day. The exploitative practices affect up to an estimated 23 million workers.



### ■ Forced marriage is slavery

In a significant campaign win for Anti-Slavery International, the UN officially recognised forced marriage as a form of slavery. Its inclusion in the International Labour Organization's (ILO) estimates of people in slavery will increase the pressure on governments around the world and direct more resources to tackle it.

The ILO estimated that 15.4 million people are in forced marriage, with 40.3 million people in slavery worldwide in total.



**100%** of domestic workers from the area covered by our project in Mwanza, Tanzania, reported being paid regularly.

### ■ UK improves victim care

Responding to Anti-Slavery's campaigning, the UK Home Office announced reforms to the system of support for victims of slavery, including separating victim identification from the immigration system and modestly extending the length of guaranteed support to 90 days. Although positive, the changes fall short of creating the comprehensive long-term support system we are calling for, which would allow survivors to rebuild their lives.

**1,194** workers were released from debt bondage in India.

### ■ Cotton Crimes – signs of change

The Government of Uzbekistan acknowledged the existence of forced labour in its cotton industry and recalled thousands of workers back from the fields.

This unprecedented move potentially signals reforms to a system that forces over 1 million Uzbek citizens into the fields every year and harshly punishes any dissent.

In March 2017, hundreds of Anti-Slavery supporters successfully campaigned to free Uzbek activist, Elena Urlaeva, from detention in a psychiatric institution.

**7,311** children in Senegal are no longer forced to beg.

**20** communities adopted new schools free from child begging.



# Why we support Anti-Slavery International

So happy to be an abolitionist, and to be able to take actions to further this cause!

**Elizabeth Matthews, supporter**

I'm delighted to be invited to support the work of Anti-Slavery International, to help shine a light on a 21st century scandal which shames society. Once you have heard the voices of the victims of modern slavery, their stories never leave you.



**Julie Etchingham, broadcaster and patron of Anti-Slavery**

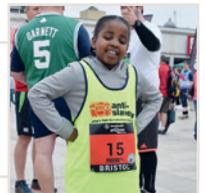
I'm Barbadian (and now British) now living in England and the descendant of slaves, arguably an ultimate product of slavery and anti-slavery! Growing up in the Caribbean, the work and role of the Anti-Slavery Society has always been an important part of my consciousness as to the critical role that the Society, alongside the efforts of the slaves and free blacks themselves, played in getting freedom. To some extent, our gift is an overdue payment!



**Alan Smith, supporter**

I choose to support and raise money for Anti-Slavery to help children who are forced into slavery.

**Fiona, ran the Family Mile in Bristol**



## Your gift could change lives:

- **£6.50** could pay for a year's school books and pens for a child from a community affected by slavery
- **£24** can pay for a child born into slavery to receive a year's education
- **£180** could pay for a former victim of slavery to be trained in the management of small business

## Donate today at

**[www.antislavery.org/donate](http://www.antislavery.org/donate)**

To join as a member for £5 per month, go to **[www.antislavery.org/membership](http://www.antislavery.org/membership)** or call us on 020 7501 8920.

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