



# Impact Report

The difference you made in 2018



Cover image: **Women of slave descent supported by microloans to start small businesses in Niger.**  
 Above: **Choueida escaped after being born into slavery in Mauritania.**  
 Photo: Michael Hylton



**Jasmine O'Connor OBE**  
 Chief Executive

## Fighting back against slavery

■ Throughout 2018 we faced significant challenges to human rights, from the callous treatment of those seeking asylum in Europe and the US, to a rise in populism across the world.

But in the midst of them there has been an enormous fight back. As slavery continues to hit the headlines, our growing anti-slavery movement is having an impact. In the last year alone our members, supporters and donors have helped strengthen over 17 anti-slavery movements across 19 projects in 14 countries.\* Together we have changed laws and policies to stop slavery in its tracks.

I hope you will continue to be a part of this movement, fighting now, for freedom for all.

\*All numbers in this report are for financial year 2017-18 unless stated otherwise.

We worked to strengthen **17** overseas anti-slavery partners across **19** projects in **14** countries.

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

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

UK Registered Charity 1049160  
 Company limited by guarantee 3079904  
 Registered in England and Wales

## Lives you affected last year

### Sarita\*, Nepal

■ “When I was 8 or 9, my parents sent me to work in someone else’s house. I got up at 5am every day and worked all day, I was treated like a dog. I was just given leftovers for food.

Sarita ran away and is now being trained as a paralegal by Anti-Slavery partners and helps others who’ve been trafficked.

“It has given me courage. I will never again be the Sarita back then who couldn’t express herself.”

\*name changed



### Freedom after 25 years

■ In 1992, Mohan Lal and his wife Bhagavati, travelled to work at a brick factory in Punjab with dreams of a better life. Instead, they became trapped in debt bondage for 25 years. They had three children and the whole family was forced to work there.

Mohan and Bhagavati managed to educate their children, which is very unusual for brick factory workers. When the factory owner stopped their youngest son, Hardeep, from taking an exam, he called the Anti-Slavery hotline for help and managed to free the family.



### Adamou\*, 16, Niger

■ “I am the first one in the family to go to secondary school and this makes my parents very proud. Life in my home village has changed a lot since the schools were built [by Anti-Slavery for people escaping hereditary slavery]. There are no slaves in my village any more.

My dream is to become the President of Niger. I would build schools and wells in every village and release people who are still in slavery.”

\*name changed



## The difference you made to ending slavery

**77,388** people were empowered by Anti-Slavery International and its partners to understand, assert and claim their rights.

### Cuts to victim support reversed

■ The UK High Court reversed the cuts to support for asylum seeking victims of trafficking. Anti-Slavery was the first to identify the cuts and closely worked with lawyers in bringing the case to the Court.

The cuts from £65 to £37.75 per week quietly implemented by the Home Office in March 2018 made it difficult for victims to afford the most basic needs such as a healthy diet or travel to counselling. We continue to campaign for a new law improving support for victims, join us at [www.antislavery.org/protect-not-neglect](http://www.antislavery.org/protect-not-neglect).

### Trafficked labourers rescued in Nepal

■ A complex rescue mission, led by Anti-Slavery and its partners, liberated a group of 47 men, women and children, including an 11-day-old baby, from a brick factory in Nepal and brought them back home to India.

The families of workers were initially lured on a promise of decent jobs in northern India, but the entire group was then sold for 250,000 Indian rupees (around £2750) to neighbouring Nepal. The conditions were compared to labour camps, with workers being beaten, intimidated and left without pay.

### Working with business to source responsibly

■ Anti-Slavery is encouraged by the increasing seriousness with which businesses take the risks of slavery tainting their supply chains.

The online clothing giant ASOS, clothing brand Whistles and luxury goods retailer the White Company are amongst the businesses that we worked closely with last year. We help businesses to reduce the risk of slavery in their operations, which benefits vulnerable people who need safe employment and consumers who wish for their products to be made responsibly.



### From slavery survivors to entrepreneurs

■ For a person born into slavery it is incredibly challenging to leave their master and embrace freedom. It is extraordinary therefore when those newly freed start to run their own businesses.

But 180 women in Mauritania have thrived after an Anti-Slavery project gave them training, equipment and funds to run local co-operatives, which they developed into food shops and a clothing store. All shops made a profit last year and some groups have developed strategies to boost their sales like stocking products their competitors don't have, such as gas bottles, ice and couscous.



### Schools as beacons of freedom

■ Our schools established for people who've escaped traditional slavery in Niger went from strength to strength last year. They obtained excellent pass rates of over 80% on average at the end of the 2017-18 school year, far above the national average of 53%.

132 students from our schools, including 49 girls, have already been admitted to secondary schools since the project began, an absolute first for the communities that have never had access to any formal education in the past.

**54** Quaranic schools stopped the practice forcing their students to beg on the streets as a result of our project in Senegal.

**307** children and adults of slave descent benefitted from literacy training in Mauritania.

**273** families in Niger were supported through the provision of microcredits and small loans in 2017.

# The difference you made to ending slavery

## Nepal's women taking on the traffickers

■ 45 young women who are survivors of exploitation in Nepal have been trained as paralegals and benefitted from placements in police stations, building up their skills and confidence and helping the police to improve responses to other trafficking cases. All women have reported an immense positive impact of this placement on their self-confidence.

We also reached out to areas most affected by the 2015 earthquake with special awareness raising programmes designed to empower whole communities, and especially girls, to become resilient to traffickers trying to take advantage of them.



## From slavery to justice

■ Two brothers who were born into slavery in Mauritania, won substantial

compensation for their ordeal after a seven-year legal fight led by Anti-Slavery and partners.

Their case was the first in the history of the country to end with the prosecution of their former masters for slavery crimes, back in 2011.

Last year also saw the third and fourth convictions for slavery in Mauritania's history, which – with the government hostile to anti-slavery activists – provides a glimmer of hope for those seeking their freedom.

## Changing attitudes, improving rights

■ In Lebanon, migrant women employed in private homes are routinely abused and exploited.

In 2018 an awareness campaign to shine a light on common behaviours, that keep domestic staff in illegal servitude, proved very popular. Three short videos, including one of a child questioning their parents' treatment of her nanny, was viewed by more than 700,000 people.



## Uzbekistan commits to end its Cotton Crimes

■ In a major breakthrough, one of the world's largest cotton exporters Uzbekistan, which forces its citizens out of their regular jobs into the fields to pick cotton, has publicly committed to ending this practice. The Uzbek Government even invited Anti-Slavery and our partners to discuss ways to end the forced labour system.

The Government is yet to fully put their commitment into practice and we continue to campaign for more progress.

## Forced-labour tainted cotton banned from the US

■ The United States banned the import of products produced with Turkmen cotton, a result of campaigning by the coalition Anti-Slavery is working with to end forced labour in that country.

Turkmenistan, one of the world's most oppressive regimes that forces its own citizens to harvest its cotton, is under increasing pressure to stop the practice, with over 40 global brands joining our pledge to stop sourcing Turkmen cotton until abuses end.

**2,471**

Tanzanian children working as domestic workers received protections, training and education.

**369**

Bangladeshi migrant women were equipped with the knowledge and skills to better protect themselves from abuse in domestic work in Lebanon.

**703**

children born into slavery attend six schools managed by our project in Niger.

# Why we support Anti-Slavery International

I believe everyone should have the right to live a life free from servitude, to determine their own future and to create and follow their own dreams, just as I am lucky enough to be able to do.



**Ben Hammond, aka the Planet Prancer, who dances across the US to raise funds for Anti-Slavery.**

It was special to have represented Anti-Slavery in the London Marathon – a small charity punching above its weight in a fight against an immense global problem. I may have suffered a bit but nothing like the thousands of victims who are helped every year by Anti-Slavery.



**Paul Henty ran the London Marathon in support of Anti-Slavery in 2018.**

We continue to support Anti-Slavery because we feel it has the knowledge and experience, with on-the-spot partners, to tackle the whole problem of slavery.



**John Gaselee, trustee of Wyndham Charitable Trust and a descendant of William Wilberforce.**

When you realise that slavery still exists and possibly exists in your street you have no choice but to add your voice to the cries for recognition of the horror and the need for change.

**Anti-Slavery supporter.**

## Your gift changes lives:

- **£6.50** could help pay for a year's school books and pens for a child from a community affected by slavery
- **£24** could help pay for a child born into slavery to receive a year's education
- **£180** could help pay for training a survivor of trafficking to become a paralegal

## 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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