

Established 1825

Reporter

Summer 2020

Freedom in a time of crisis

How we are fighting
for people trapped
in slavery during the
coronavirus pandemic.

antislavery.org

Cover

Child attending a school supported by Anti-Slavery International in Niger

Image by Anti-Slavery International

Freedom is a fundamental right, everywhere, always

We are the oldest international human rights organisation in the world and were founded in 1839.

Today, we draw on our experience to work to eliminate all forms of slavery and slavery-like practices throughout the world.

We are not interested in easy solutions. Instead, we deal with the root causes of slavery and its consequences to achieve sustainable change.

Our Vision is a world free from slavery.

Our Mission is to work directly and indirectly with beneficiaries and stakeholders from a grassroots to an international level to eradicate slavery and its causes from the world.

The Reporter magazine was established in 1825 and has been continuously published since 1840.

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Cocoa harvest in Côte d'Ivoire

Image by Nile Sprague



Jasmine O'Connor OBE
Chief Executive

Delivering freedom during the Covid-19 crisis

Supporting people affected by slavery is long-term, difficult work. The coronavirus pandemic makes that work even harder.

People trapped in exploitation can struggle to access healthcare; thousands of workers in global supply chains have already lost their jobs; and people across the world on precarious contracts have been left exposed to potential job losses and made even more vulnerable to trafficking and slavery.

We will survive this pandemic and continue to support people affected by slavery across the world.

Thanks to your generous ongoing support, our teams and our partners across the world have been swift to adapt and react. Together, we are monitoring the situation on a daily basis in the UK and across the countries

where we work to protect victims' health and secure their rights.

In the UK, as we fight through the coronavirus outbreak, we are working with other organisations to ensure that people who are trapped in exploitation can safely come forward and get the healthcare they need, without the threat of detention or deportation if they have no legal status.

In other countries, we are collaborating with our partners to protect vulnerable communities from the virus and any further exploitation.

This year, we begin our 181st year in operation. As ever, we are committed to delivering freedom from slavery to everyone, everywhere, always.

We have remained steadfast during the numerous global crises since 1839. We will survive this pandemic and continue to support people affected by slavery across the world.

I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to our supporters, members and donors for their solidarity during these extraordinarily challenging times.

Milestone promise to stop corporate labour abuses

A recent European Commission announcement is a major opportunity to help the 16 million people in forced labour in the private sector.

For several years, Anti-Slavery International has worked with more than 100 organisations to call for an EU-wide law to address abuses in supply chains.

The campaign, whose members include ActionAid, Amnesty International and Global Witness, wants companies and financial institutions to be legally bound

to address the human rights and environmental impact of their global operations and supply chains.

In April 2020, we got news of a huge win: the European Justice Commissioner Didier Reynders announced that the European Commission will initiate a legislative proposal on mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence by 2021.



Girls labouring in India's silk industry
Image by Andy Martinez

Corporate abuse is still rife across the world

- The International Labour Organization estimates that there are 24 million people in forced labour globally, of which over 16 million people are exploited in the private sector. Forced labour is estimated to generate annual profits of \$150 billion.
- A European Commission study on due diligence requirements through supply chains, published in February 2020, showed that only one in three businesses in the EU is currently undertaking due diligence on human rights and environmental impacts.
- In 2018, 321 human rights and environmental defenders were targeted and killed – the highest on record; three quarters of them were defending land, environmental, or indigenous peoples' rights, often in the context of extractive and mega-projects.

EU companies could soon be legally responsible for preventing forced labour in their supply chains.

Over 16 million people are estimated to be in forced labour in the private sector, which includes those producing the materials in goods or products exported to the EU, as well as products made in the EU. For example wine from France, seafood from Thailand, minerals for technology from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and cotton from Turkmenistan.

As things stand, it is difficult, if not impossible, for EU consumers to guarantee they are purchasing slavery-free goods.

The legislation we are calling for will mandate all major companies operating in the EU to demonstrate they have taken action to identify forced labour risks and taken preventive action.

As the world emerges from the coronavirus pandemic, we must 'build back better'. Anti-Slavery International is looking forward to working with our allies across civil society, government, business and the EU to realise a new normal that values people and planet.

Read our vision of EU legislation to prevent forced and child labour in global supply chains:

www.antislavery.org/eu-legislation

UK government urged to ban import of Chinese cotton made using forced labour

Anti-Slavery International expresses support for rights groups and lawyers evidencing the forced labour regime in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), China.

The UK government is being urged to ban the import of cotton sourced from XUAR, where **Uyghurs and other Turkic and Muslim-majority peoples are being put to work in conditions that amount to forced labour.**

According to rights groups, the Chinese government has detained between one and three million Uyghurs, Turkic and other Muslim people in a state programme to repress the ethnic and religious identity of these populations. This involves labour inside internment camps. **The Chinese government describes the internment camps as voluntary, vocational training centres.**

However, rights groups say that even when people are allowed to leave the detention camps they are shifted into factories and live on-site under 24-hour surveillance and are refused permission to return home.

More than 80% of China's cotton is grown in the XUAR, meaning that almost 20% of all global cotton products are produced using cotton from the region.



Labourer picking cotton in Uzbekistan
Image by Simon Buxton

As a result, almost every high-street fashion brand selling cotton products could be linked to this system.

The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI), the largest cotton sustainability programme in the world, recently withdrew its seal of approval from all Xinjiang cotton. Anti-Slavery International is calling on BCI to permanently end all operations in the region until the human rights situation in the XUAR has improved.

The evidence laid out by rights groups and lawyers sets out the legal basis for stopping the imports. As China lifts its Covid-19 lockdown and restarts its role as a key garment and textile sourcing location, **we will be communicating to global brands that they must take the appropriate steps to ensure they are not implicated in this state-imposed forced labour.**

In partnership with Freedom United, the world's largest community dedicated to ending human trafficking and modern slavery, we are urging the Chinese government to end the persecution and exploitation of Uyghurs and other Turkic and Muslim-majority groups through the use of forced labour.

Sign the petition at
www.freedomunited.org/advocate/free-uyghurs

Mauritania legal win: three new slavery convictions

Our work in Mauritania supporting slavery victims in high-profile legal cases, carried out with partners Minority Rights Group and SOS-Esclaves, has helped secure an important victory.

Two former slave masters have received long prison sentences (10 years and 15 years respectively) and one a suspended sentence.

Despite thousands of people still being born into slavery and literally owned by their masters, **there have only been four previous slavery convictions in Mauritania's history.**

Most significantly, the court have ordered that the victims and their families be given support in establishing civil status (ID), so that they can have equal access to rights and services as Mauritanian citizens.



Slave brothers Said and Yarg waited years for justice
Image by Michael Hylton

Canada modern slavery bill

The Canadian Senate is considering a bill that proposes mandatory modern slavery disclosure by companies in, or doing business in, Canada.

The bill takes many lessons from the UK and Australia Modern Slavery Acts. However, as evidenced by the UK Modern Slavery Act, mandatory disclosure is insufficient on its own.

Legislation must require companies to undertake human rights due diligence to identify and prevent the risk of modern slavery in their global supply chains. Anti-Slavery International will continue to advocate for such laws in the UK and the EU.

New legal project set to help victims

Many slavery victims in the UK do not have access to legal support or state entitlements that help them to recover and move on with their lives. From spring 2020, Anti-Slavery International is teaming up with the Anti-Trafficking and Labour Exploitation Unit to provide legal support that will help people to become formally recognised as victims and gain further specialist legal advice that will help them to recover. **We foresee this new work helping victims to get legal advice on immigration, housing and compensation, which will help them recover from their ordeal and rebuild their lives.**

Covid-19 and slavery: the five big impacts

For people who are enslaved or vulnerable to slavery, the economic and social disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic is affecting their lives in new and profound ways.

As Anti-Slavery International and its partners provide emergency outreach and support across the world – food, water, hygiene materials, education and information – we are observing and documenting the following five coronavirus-related impacts across the world.



A young woman works in bonded labour at a brick kiln, India

Image by Anti-Slavery International



A boy studies at a residential Quranic school, Mauritania

Image by Anti-Slavery International

1 Creating new risks and abuses

For children and young people, social isolation may increase their vulnerability to grooming and abuse. In normal times, some Quranic schools in West Africa carry out forced child begging. In those establishments, with many children now confined to school premises, they are subject to increased abuse and punishment because they are not bringing in an income.

The challenges of self-isolation, social distancing and satisfactory hygiene are particularly difficult for enslaved people and many vulnerable communities living in slums, on the

streets, or in crowded refugee and displaced persons camps.

In Mauritania, the Haratine people are routinely born into slavery and are owned by their 'masters'. Many wealthy families have started to fire Haratine domestic workers, or to oblige them to be confined within the workplace to avoid travelling. This creates an impossible situation: to be unemployed and starve, or to stay with their employer and continue work, but leave their families alone without resources. The full story is on page 16.



**Lax labour laws leave
factory workers vulnerable**
Image by Liuser via istock

2 Increasing vulnerability to slavery

Lockdowns to try to halt the spread of the virus have led to mass layoffs as many global brands have cancelled orders and factories have been required to shut down. The garment industry has been particularly badly affected: by late March over one million workers in Bangladesh had been laid off or temporarily suspended. Similar crises are being experienced by workers across South and Southeast Asia, including Cambodia, India, Myanmar and Vietnam. Mass unemployment, high debt and little government safety net creates opportunities for traffickers.

Acute economic disruption creates increased risks for the poorest people

through food shortages and loss of income. At the end of March, India declared a nationwide lockdown in response to Covid-19. In some villages, market stall holders are being given time to sell food. In other villages there is a total ban on selling. Wheat is ready for harvest, but likely to rot with the rains due and insufficient numbers of labourers to bring the crop in. Many agricultural migrant workers have seen wages drop by a third since last year. Handloom weavers have no work. There is a risk of widespread hunger across many parts of India in the months to come. Families with their livelihoods destroyed by social restrictions may be pressed into bonded labour for survival.

3 Worsening discrimination

Migrant workers returning home due to coronavirus restrictions are at great risk of infection when travelling on crowded public transport, stuck at borders or other bottlenecks where physical distancing is all but impossible. The Haliya people of western Nepal are lower-caste Dalits and often work as bonded agricultural labourers, even though the practice has been outlawed since 2007. As lockdown was being introduced, an estimated 150,000 migrants returned from neighbouring India to western Nepal. Testing is currently unavailable but it is likely many individuals will be infected with Covid-19, leading to their stigmatization and in some cases forcible isolation from the rest of their home community.

Haliya families in Nepal are facing destitution. A rapid assessment of over 6,700 households found more than half are facing food shortages. The growing desperation creates vulnerability to human traffickers offering 'underground' work in construction or agriculture. With schools closed, children are also at risk of being sent out to work.

The dire situation may drive people back into the hands of local landlords and return to outlawed bonded labour, potentially undoing the work of Anti-Slavery International and our partner in western Nepal over the past two years.

Right now, our priority is delivering an emergency aid package of rice, lentils, oil, salt, soap, face masks and hand sanitiser to Haliya households in need. Once the pandemic recedes, we will continue to work on supporting Haliya Federation Representatives, keeping Haliya children in education, training female leaders and creating toolkits so people know their rights and are empowered to claim them.



**Covid-19 has affected efforts to protect
people vulnerable to slavery**
Image by Anti-Slavery International

4 Increasing risks for migrant workers

In the UK, as we grapple with the pandemic, the 'hostile environment' policy is compounding the vulnerability of people trapped in modern slavery. Many are often too scared to reach out to authorities, even when they are in dire need of accessing essential support, such as healthcare. They fear being criminalised and detained, rather than being protected as a victim

of crime. People in slavery are often forced to live in squalid, overcrowded conditions, with many in a room and without access to good washing facilities. The risk that someone with symptoms of coronavirus trapped in modern slavery avoids seeking medical help is a mortal threat to the wider community.



Nepali migrant workers
Image by Pete Pattison

5 Disrupting anti-slavery efforts

Coronavirus lockdowns across the world have limited the operations of anti-slavery organisations.

In Mali, the closure of markets risks leaving people destitute and forcing them to return to slavery or to migrate with their children, putting whole families at risk of exploitation or trafficking.

In former slave communities, the schools Anti-Slavery International set up and support are now closed, as part of a nationwide shut down. They usually act as community hubs and

provide education and meals to the children of former slaves. Without this service, most families would struggle to feed their children and would have no other choice but to move to urban centres in search of employment or go back to slavery.

Anti-Slavery International and our local partners are adapting to the situation by providing information, emergency food rations and hygiene materials to the poorest communities – prioritising families that have children enrolled in our community schools.

What happens now?

The priority is helping people to survive this crisis. For as long as it takes, Anti-Slavery International and its partners will provide emergency support wherever we can.

Right now, we are working with governments and partners to ensure:

- **Inclusion:** getting support to everyone who needs it.
- **Protection:** keeping people safe and their rights upheld.
- **Mitigation:** identifying and supporting victims.

As the crisis begins to pass, there will be a need to:

- Build community resilience to slavery and exploitation.
- Prevent the financial conditions that lead to slavery and exploitation.
- Enlist businesses to respect workers' rights along the value chain.

We've set up the Anti-Slavery Solidarity Fund to ensure we can be there for everyone who needs us now and in the long term. Support our work today: www.antislavery.org/solidarity



Five years on from the UK Modern Slavery Act

Image by Timon Studler via Unsplash

UK Modern Slavery Act five years on: time to make it work for survivors

Hailed as a breakthrough on tackling slavery by some, criticised by others for missing major opportunities, the UK Modern Slavery Act is now five years old.

So, how has it helped?

In 2019, more than 10,000 people were identified as potential victims; over 50% more than in 2018.¹ In the year ending March 2019, the police in England and Wales recorded over 5,000 modern slavery offences.

However, the UK government's National Referral Mechanism – where potential victims of slavery apply for support – is beset by delays. When the latest statistics were published, 8 out of 10 potential victims were in limbo – their

lives on hold as they await a decision on whether they will receive support.

Even when a person is identified by the government as a victim of slavery – and in 2019 just 7% of referrals received a positive decision – this is where the problems often begin.

The support they receive is often far from adequate, and those from overseas are more likely to be treated as immigration offenders than victims of serious crime.

Many survivors, even if they get help from the UK authorities, do not have

permission to work, which forces many people to look for jobs, often without having permission to work, which makes them vulnerable to be exploited again.

The Act aims to be tough on traffickers. But if government support cannot meet victims' basic needs, then cases are unlikely to be built, and traffickers can escape justice.

To end modern slavery, we need to ramp up our efforts across the UK and beyond, ensuring that our systems are based on the needs of survivors.

We need to address the issues which prevent people in slavery from leaving, speaking out or reporting their abusers to the authorities. We need to improve access to employment laws to empower people to challenge exploitation.

Traffickers rarely target people with options, people who have a safety net, who can leave, who can go to the authorities and who will be believed. We need to make sure

anyone who could be exploited has access to advice, support and justice.

For non-British victims we need to end the inhumane hostile immigration environment, and make sure survivors have the right to work and study, and have a safety net to rebuild their lives.

Most importantly, the UK needs to put survivors of slavery at the centre of any approach, so we learn from those who have survived slavery.

In 1807, the UK, followed by the rest of the world, made changes to the practice of slave trading that would have been unimaginable 50 years earlier. More recently, **the world has responded to Covid-19 by making changes which would have seemed unachievable just a few months ago.**

We believe the UK does have the means to work with survivors and their supporters to design lasting improvements to the Act, so that future generations can know that we protected thousands of people from the horrors of modern slavery.

¹ UK Home Office (2019)

Mauritania lockdown: helping the most vulnerable



Our partner in Mauritania, SOS-Esclaves, has been taking steps to help extremely disadvantaged people in slavery and people of slave descent, who have been hit hard by restrictions to curb Covid-19,

says Sarah Mathewson, Anti-Slavery's Africa Programme Manager.

Back in March, the Mauritanian government acted swiftly – banning travel between regions, restricting outings and gatherings and imposing a curfew between 6pm and 6am. All markets were closed and only food shops remained open. Police vehicles with loudspeakers patrolled the streets to force people back to their homes.

While these measures have undoubtedly helped reduce the spread of the virus (at the time of writing, in June, the official number of cases is over 1,100), they have also had a huge impact on the most vulnerable people.

For most of Mauritania's Haratines (people descended from slaves), the order to stay 'inside' is meaningless. **Haratines typically live in incredibly crowded slums where homes are makeshift tents or shacks that are open to the elements, sheltering 10-15 family members at a time.** The only way the poorest Haratines survive is to go out to work, for example, by travelling to employers'

homes to do domestic work, selling wares on markets, offering repair services on the street or finding work at the docks or on construction sites.

Many wealthier families started to 'let go' their domestic workers in March for fear of contamination, or obliged them to be confined within their own homes to avoid travelling back and forth.

For most domestic workers whose families depended on their income, this put them in an impossible bind: to be unemployed and starve, or to stay with their employer and continue work, but leave their families alone without resources.

Confinement within their employers' homes exposed more people to the risk of exploitation and abuse, a dire prospect for Haratines who are only a generation or so out of slavery.

SOS-Esclaves, with extra financial help from an individual donor and its members and partners, moved quickly to distribute large quantities of meat and rice to 30 vulnerable Haratine and

12 direct slavery survivors and their families in Nouakchott. In partnership with the UN Population Fund, SOS-Esclaves also led the delivery of handwashing stations, soap, kettles, bleach and hand sanitiser gel to a total of 678 vulnerable people across eight regions, including around the capital.

The community outreach was done in ways that respected the social distancing orders and also gave all of the recipients clear information and advice on avoiding the coronavirus. Networks of SOS-Esclaves members also reached out in solidarity to the poorest Haratines and slavery survivors around them, which helped

ensure that many hundreds more had food and clean water.

In May, the government's restrictions were tentatively being lifted. While the country's borders remained closed and travel between regions was still limited, the curfew had been shortened, markets were re-opening and people were beginning to move freely again. We very much hope that Mauritania will continue to be spared any further spread of the coronavirus. Anti-Slavery International commends SOS-Esclaves' response to countering the fallout of the pandemic and is heartened that it has the infrastructure and capacity to reach and support the most vulnerable in a time of crisis.



Coronavirus prevention kits have been distributed to vulnerable families in Mauritania.

Image by Anti-Slavery International

We have hope for the future



In a speech given to the Oxford Union in January, Anti-Slavery International CEO Jasmine O'Connor urged us all to light a candle of hope, join with others and get active.



Hope is the idea that we want something to happen or be true, and to have a good reason to think that it might happen.

Anti-Slavery International was established by a group of individuals over 180 years ago united with one hope – to rid the world of slavery. Buoyed by the success of the parliamentary campaign to end the transatlantic slave trade, these individuals came together to stand in solidarity and hope with similar movements all around the world.

Fast forward to 2020, and over 40 million people around the world are trapped in modern forms of slavery.

The rise of populism and 'othering', the persistence of economic systems that perpetuate vast wealth inequality, closing political space for campaigners in many countries and an assault on the global human rights system – all this suggests there is not a lot of hope that we will turn the tide on slavery any time soon.

While despair might feel obvious, I firmly believe we can have hope for the next decade. In fact, in the midst of chaos, hope is inevitable for three reasons:

1. History tells us we can have hope – it's what humans do – we are hard-wired for survival and restoration.
2. The present tells us we can have hope – there is evidence of hope all around us, we just need to open our eyes.
3. We get to shape the future, which means we have the **choice** to build hope.

Ultimately, the story of humanity is one of collaboration and kindness. Whether it's the great depression of the 1930s, which led to the birth of a caring welfare state in the UK that gave rights to workers; or the story of how, out of the horrors of World War II, we created innovative systems to build and maintain peace; it's always a story of how we co-operate to care for each other and overcome dehumanising forces.

Image by Woraput via Shutterstock



Around the world, movements are rising and joining up. For years, we have accepted and turned a blind eye to the exploitation of the people producing our goods and services. But in only a few months, over 100 organisations have joined our campaign to make EU businesses legally responsible for abuses in their supply chains. And an increasing number of businesses are standing up to be counted. (See News on page 4)

By the end of this decade, we have reasons to hope that exploiting people for profit will be out of the question.

Media headlines would have us believe that we are as divided as ever. But, in the UK, the evidence actually tells us that social trust is at the highest level for years. Trust in our political

institutions may be diminished, but we still trust each other.

So, we have a choice. I'm not saying we should ignore the context we are in right now or pretend it's not a dire situation, but I am saying we have a choice. We can come together, find a common story, connect across our differences and drive an imaginative plan for our futures, in our families, our streets, our country, our world.

We can have hope for the next decade because we can be that hope. We can either give into despair and curse the darkness or we can light a candle of hope, join with others and get active.

Read the full speech text at
www.antislavery.org/hope-future

Remember Anti-Slavery International in your Will

Thanks to our generous supporters who remember Anti-Slavery International in their Will, last year, we received more than £430,000 from gifts in Wills, supporting thousands of people affected by slavery.

For more information about gifts in Wills and how your support could have a lasting impact, please visit www.antislavery.org/legacy, call Paul on **020 7737 9434**, or email p.sheehan@antislavery.org for more information.



“Today, it is inconceivable that slavery still exists. I urge you to help make the world a better and fairer place for all. Help change forever the lives of people in slavery today by leaving a legacy to Anti-Slavery International.”

Dame Judi Dench, Anti-Slavery International Patron

Annual Supporter Conference

Save the date for our **Member and Supporter Conference and AGM** in central London – or online – in the afternoon of **12th November 2020**. All supporters and members are welcome, and do tell a friend to join too. Please RSVP to the invitation letter in the autumn to secure your place.

If you're not a member, why not join today and help finally bring an end to slavery. Membership starts from £5 a month, which is just 16p a day.

Simply email supporter@antislavery.org or call **0207 737 9434**, or you can join online at www.antislavery.org/membership



Tell us what you think and win a £50 M&S voucher

Visit www.antislavery.org/survey to complete a short survey or if you receive a survey with your copy of the Reporter you can fill it out and post it back to us.

Please respond by **20th July 2020** for your chance to win a £50 M&S voucher.

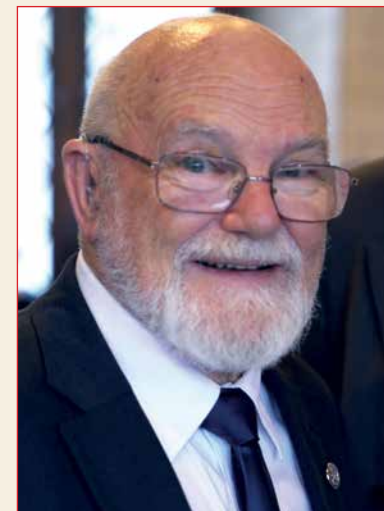
Tribute to Andrew Clark

It is with great sadness that we recently learnt of the passing of Andrew Clark, following his battle with cancer. In 1995, Andrew became a member of Anti-Slavery International, was chair of the charity twice (from 2007 to 2011 and interim Chair from March to October 2014) and remained a close friend ever since.

Anti-Slavery International always had a special place in Andrew's heart, and he hosted fundraising concerts at his home in Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, in 2007, 2010, 2014 and 2017, which together raised over £15,000.

Over the years, Andrew had dedicated a lot of time and passion to Anti-Slavery International, helping shape our work to eradicate modern slavery and enable more people to live in freedom.

Andrew's kindness, warmth and passion touched many people within our organisation and the wider community. We pass on our sincere condolences to his family and those that knew him.



Do-it-from-home events



To keep fit and have fun during the lockdown, do-it-from-home events are a great way to support Anti-Slavery's fundraising.

Steps to Freedom is our first-ever do-it-from-home challenge, where participants walk and record their steps every day in solidarity with the 40 million people

trapped in modern slavery. Check it out at

www.antislavery.org/steps-to-freedom

For more home-based ideas, contact Rebecca on r.chambers@antislavery.org or **0207 737 9434**

Save the date:

Anti-Slavery Day, Sunday 18th October

Every year, community groups are at the heart of Anti-Slavery Day, raising awareness in their local communities and fundraising to support Anti-Slavery International's vital work.

We will be putting more information on our website soon, but if your community group would like free promotional resources, please get in touch with Rebecca at r.chambers@antislavery.org or on **0207 737 9434**.

CELEBRATING SUPPORTERS

Mya runs for freedom

"I ran the Great North Run last year for Anti-Slavery International and I have already signed up to do it again this year. I chose the charity as I am committed to ensuring that every person around the world has equal opportunities and the freedom to make their own decisions. I believe people in our modern society can often forget to be grateful for these basic rights, which 40 million people worldwide are denied."

Thank you Mya!
You are a true inspiration.



Mya on the Great North Run 2019



Soloists Christina Gill and Wills Morgan

Image by Vox Holloway

Songs of freedom

Vox Holloway, one of London's leading community choirs, performed last year at the Hackney Empire and at Anti-Slavery International's 180th Annual Conference. Their show, called 'Freedom Song', tells the incredible true story of the Fisk Jubilee Singers, a choir of emancipated slaves in the United States. Thank you for all your incredible support! Copies of Freedom Song are available at www.voxholloway.com/vox-shop-2

Student action on slavery

A big thank you to Humanise the Hidden, a group of young Oxfordshire students formed as part of the National Citizenship Service, who raise awareness of modern slavery and fundraise for Anti-Slavery International's work.

They organised a pub quiz and a sponsored walk, with stalls, a raffle and face painting for spectators, and have so far raised over £350 for Anti-Slavery International's vital work.

Children of slave descent are thriving in schools founded by Anti-Slavery International and partners

Image by Anti-Slavery International



Will you help protect future generations from slavery?

By leaving a legacy to Anti-Slavery International you will be giving a priceless gift to help end slavery for good.

To find out more about leaving a gift in your Will to help future generations, please visit www.antislavery.org/legacy or contact Paul at p.sheehan@antislavery.org or **0207 737 9434** to request a legacy information pack.

The people you help:

Bimala from Nepal



The people of the Haliya caste in western Nepal are some of the most discriminated and vulnerable people in Nepal. Historically, Haliya people have suffered under a debt-bondage system where they're forced to work to pay off inter-generational debt. The labour is often imposed under brutal circumstances and many find that repayment of the loan is impossible as the debt increases.

Access to education is one of the largest barriers to Haliya people escaping slavery. Many Haliya haven't received an education, as families struggle to afford to send their children to school. This perpetuates the cycle of exploitation as young people are unaware and unable to stand up for their rights.

18-year-old Bimala grew up in bonded labour with her family. Her mother took on extra work to pay for Bimala's education and she finished school with excellent results. Despite their hard work, further education was out of reach.

Thanks to our scholarship project, Bimala has been able to train as a laboratory technician. With her qualification, Bimala will be able to get a good job and end her family's cycle of poverty. She is excited to complete her training, which will provide her with the skills to access better employment opportunities in the future. One day, she hopes to open her own lab.

Please donate now to give the gift of freedom:

- **£12** could help pay for school supplies for two children for a whole year.
- **£24** could help pay for a whole year's education for a child born into slavery.
- **£50** could help provide microcredits to support survivors of slavery to set up their own small business.

Donate today

at www.antislavery.org/donate

To join as a member for
£5 per month, go to
[www.antislavery.org/
membership](https://www.antislavery.org/membership)

or call us on **0207 737 9434**