



**anti-
slavery**

Impact Report

Standing up for people in slavery in 2019

Welcome



Jasmine O'Connor OBE
Chief Executive

Cover photo: Catherine experienced slavery while working in a private home as a child.
Image by Anti-Slavery International

* Number for the financial year 2018-19.

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Our vision is a world free from slavery

Standing up to slavery

When I think of the difference that individuals and organisations can make, I think of our founder Thomas Clarkson. His lifelong journey to stop Britain engaging in slavery took over 50 years of tireless campaigning.

Today, 180 years on, I believe that we face a similar challenge. Over 40 million people are trapped in slavery and we must change that.

But I also believe that with so many trailblazing people, organisations and businesses who are joining our anti-slavery movement, we can equal Clarkson and his collaborators' challenge.

Last year alone, Anti-Slavery International worked to strengthen and support 20 overseas anti-slavery partners across 21 projects in 13 countries. Together, we directly supported 58,062* women, men and children, helping them build lives free from slavery.

If we keep working together, we can fulfil the legacy of our founder and deliver freedom to everyone, everywhere, always.

Thank you so much for your support.

We worked to strengthen and support 20 overseas anti-slavery partners across 21 projects in 13 countries.

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Children attending a school supported by Anti-Slavery's project in Niger.
Photo: Anti-Slavery International

United Kingdom

Preventing slavery and supporting survivors

In the UK, we campaign and advocate for an effective system that prevents people from being exploited in modern slavery and supports people after they escape.

Thanks to a successful legal challenge which Anti-Slavery supported, the UK Government agreed that people who are identified as victims of slavery should receive support according to their individual circumstances. Before, support would only be guaranteed for 45 days before it was cut off.

The case was brought by two slavery survivors. One of them, LP*, was trafficked for sexual exploitation from Albania. She now has a young daughter to care for and is trying to rebuild her life, but she was shocked when she learnt that she would lose her specialist support so soon after being officially recognised as a victim. Now she hopes for a better future.

In April, we also handed in 12,000 of your petition signatures asking the UK Government to back the Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill, which would guarantee better care for survivors in the UK.

We continue to campaign for better protection for vulnerable people affected by slavery with the new Parliament.



Anti-Slavery supporters campaigning for better protection for survivors.
Photo: Anti-Slavery International

* Name concealed to protect identity.

Together with 13 UK partner organisations we've been advocating for the rights of people affected by slavery.

Mauritania



Tarba (left) and her mentor, who supported her in building her new life in freedom.
Photo: Anti-Slavery International

Tarba is one of the people we stood with after she escaped. She was **born into slavery** and worked without pay – her life completely controlled by her masters. *“I did not rest. I slept little, I was beaten, I was insulted.”*

She eventually ran away and was given literacy and vocational training by our project. *“Today, I feel free, I know where I am going, what I can do.”*

Building freedom from traditional slavery

In Mauritania, we work together with our partner to support people who escape traditional slavery, which still persists in the country.

It is extremely difficult for people who were enslaved from birth, particularly women, to build their lives in freedom. We provide emergency support and a network of female mentors to start this difficult process and help establish themselves in local communities. We also provide literacy and vocational training, which is bringing spectacular successes. Today, for example, 368 women are thriving after our project gave them training, equipment and funds to run small businesses.

We’ve also enjoyed big successes in bringing slavery cases to court, with two harsh sentences given to former masters, which resonated across the country. There have only been five previous slavery convictions in Mauritania’s history, so this is a big step forward to ending slavery in the country.

170 freed women have set up local food and clothing shops thanks to training, equipment and funds provided by our project.

Niger

Providing education, enabling freedom

Like in Mauritania, traditional slavery – when people are born into slavery because their ancestors ‘belong’ to slave-owning families – is still widespread in Niger.

For over ten years, we’ve partnered with a local organisation to establish dedicated hubs to support communities escaping slavery.

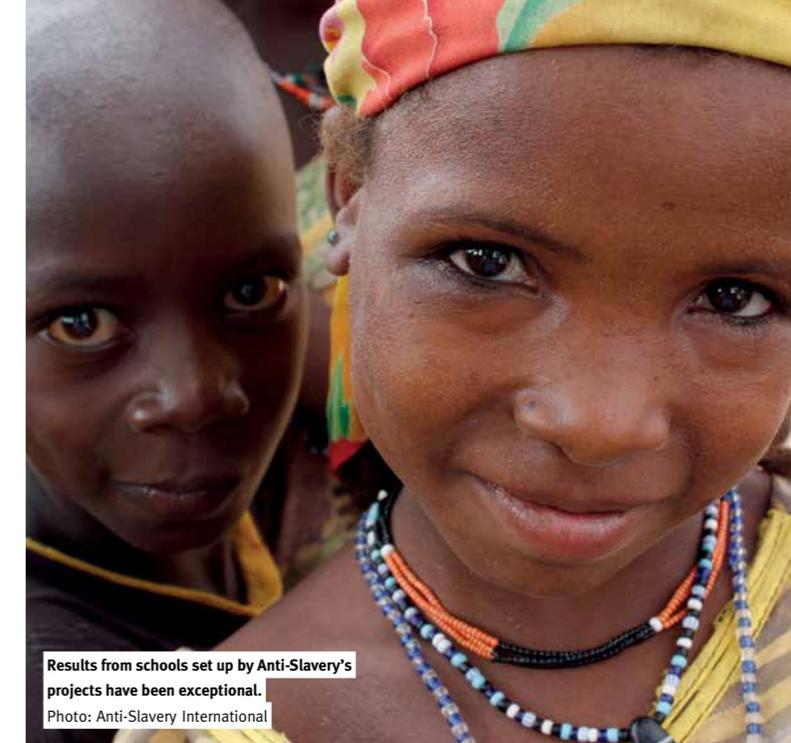
The hubs are centred around schools providing primary education for the first time for these communities and also provide vocational training and micro-loans. Pupils obtain some of the highest pass rates in the country, with the highest proportion of girls at school.

What’s more, the influence of our project communities’ is spreading to neighbouring areas. In 2019 alone, the Government estimated that 5,735 people left their masters and established four independent communities.

1,140 children received full time education in primary schools established thanks to our project.



Fati at her market stall.
Photo: Anti-Slavery International



Results from schools set up by Anti-Slavery’s projects have been exceptional.
Photo: Anti-Slavery International

One of the people we supported in Niger is Fati (left)

Two of her three daughters go to school. *“I received two goats and one ewe. I sold their cubs to set up a small business in the new marketplace in my community. I am very hopeful this will enable me to provide for my daughters. I know that little by little, I will have my own shop, I have a lot of hope.”*

Tanzania

Protecting children working in private homes

In Tanzania, together with our partners, we work to protect children working in private homes, where they are extremely vulnerable to abuse. We provide safe spaces where children can find individual support and learn about their rights and we bring together whole communities to protect children in their neighbourhoods.

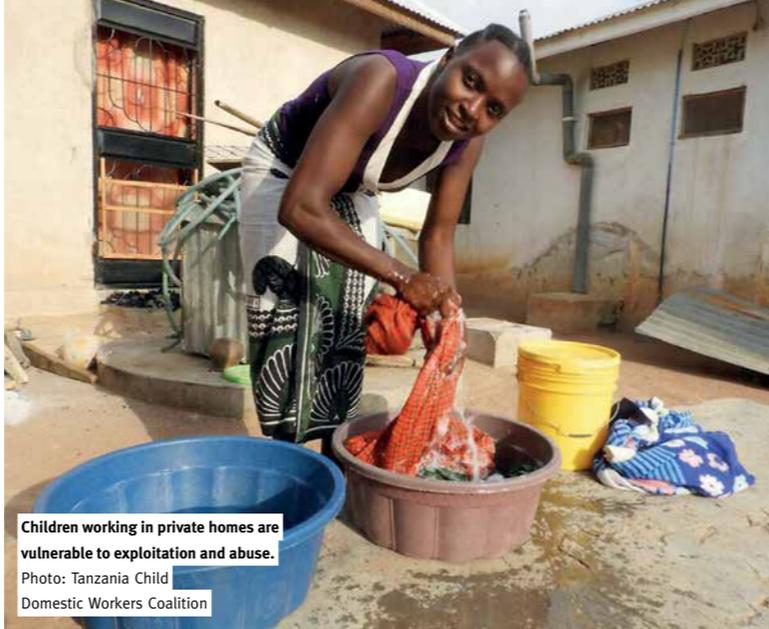
Thanks to this work, hundreds of children have been rescued from exploitation. Further thousands have registered with authorities, received formal contracts and reported dramatic improvement in their working conditions, meaning that they are less likely to be exploited.



We support children to gain confidence and learn about their rights in order to stay safe from slavery.

Photo: Tanzania Child Domestic Workers Coalition

1,026
young people
working in private
homes obtained
written contracts
in the last year,
thus improving
their protection.



Children working in private homes are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

Photo: Tanzania Child Domestic Workers Coalition

Judith* is one of the children we supported. She was just thirteen when she started working in a private home. Her employer refused to pay anything for six months. When Judith complained, she was kicked out onto the streets with no idea how to get back home.

While walking in the dark looking for help, someone kindly took Judith to our partner organisation. They gave Judith a safe place to stay and provided counselling to help her recover. They also made sure Judith's employer paid the withheld wages.

*name changed

West Africa

Addressing forced child begging

Across West Africa, children in residential Quranic schools are forced to beg on the streets, which exposes them to abuse. Students are often malnourished and live in squalid conditions, far from their families.

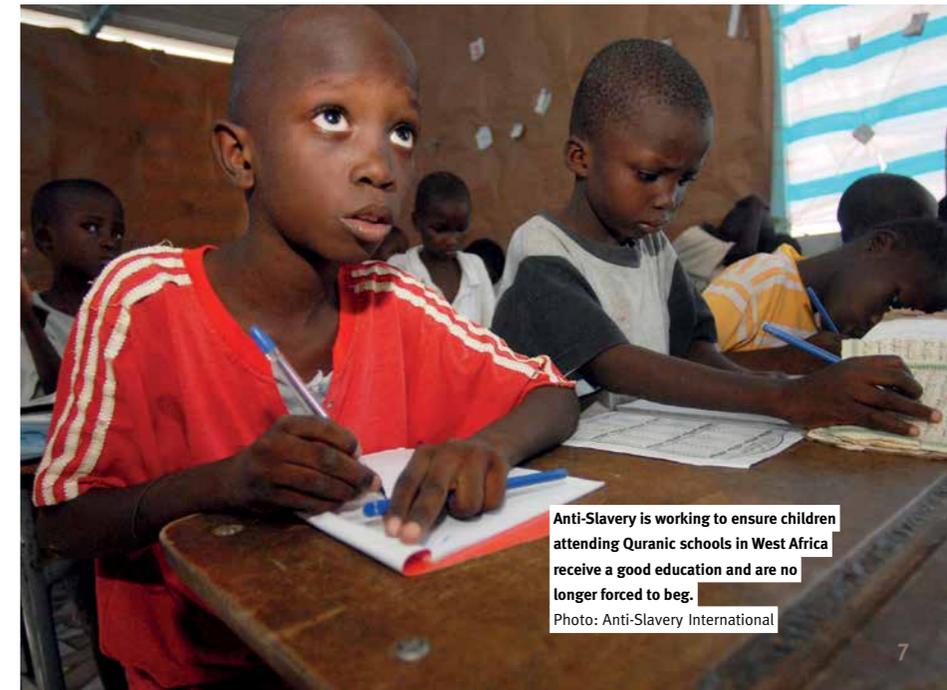
Together with our partners, Anti-Slavery has been working in Senegal with local communities, schools and the government to drive reform of the Quranic schools' system. Our work bringing together communities to protect children in their local schools has significantly improved conditions for the children and many teachers stopped the traditional practice of sending children out to beg.

We also work to empower children to claim their voice on this issue. Last year, we initiated the creation of a first ever organisation of children and young people with experience of forced begging.

Together with our partners, we now support a growing group of current and former Quranic students to engage with the media, lobby the authorities and change social norms that underpin this harmful practice.

Recently, we've extended our successful project into neighbouring Niger, Mali and Nigeria.

We helped to prevent **917** children from being forced to beg on the streets of Senegal.



Anti-Slavery is working to ensure children attending Quranic schools in West Africa receive a good education and are no longer forced to beg.

Photo: Anti-Slavery International

Nepal

Aamuktha, a former victim of trafficking, became a paralegal to help others.
Stock image by Lucian Alexe on Unsplash



Preventing trafficking through training

In the aftermath of the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, children and young people have become increasingly vulnerable to trafficking.

Anti-Slavery worked with its partners to deliver knowledge raising sessions to improve the awareness of children and young people about the risks of being trafficked.

We also supported 45 girls and women personally affected of trafficking by training them as paralegals and arranging placements at police stations. This develops their skills and allows them to support survivors in other trafficking cases when they are identified by the police.

Aamuktha is supported by Anti-Slavery's project. Her father borrowed money to fund her college education, which left the family with mounting debts.

In sheer desperation, Aamuktha agreed to take some drugs to India to help pay off the debt. But once there, she was taken to a brothel, where she was locked up, beaten and raped repeatedly.

Through sheer determination and courage, Aamuktha escaped and returned home. She was ashamed and scared. But thanks to Anti-Slavery's project, Aamuktha trained as a paralegal and now works for the police helping other trafficking victims in Nepal.

Over 1,000 children participated in our awareness sessions on the risks of trafficking.

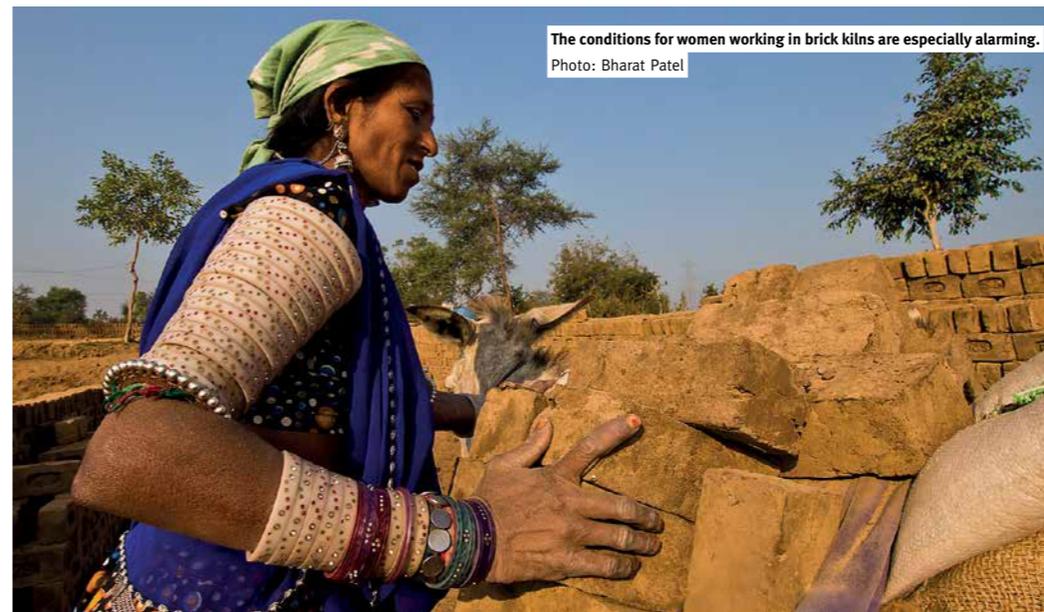
India

Addressing debt bondage

Many brick workers in India are trapped in a cycle of debt-bondage, forced to toil in harsh conditions with little recourse to the law. Anti-Slavery has recently concluded a successful project on this issue.

Working with our partners, we supported improvements in working conditions at 31 brick factories and secured the release of 2,251 workers from debt bondage.

2,251 workers released from debt bondage throughout our project.



The conditions for women working in brick kilns are especially alarming.
Photo: Bharat Patel

Bindu and her family became trapped in debt bondage after moving hundreds of miles away from home to a brick-making factory in Punjab.

Despite assurances of good living conditions, Bindu's family was forced to live in squalid accommodation, suffering daily threats and violence from the factory owner.

Tragically, Bindu's brother-in-law became ill with fever and, without any treatment, died soon after, leading Bindu to contact Anti-Slavery's local partner for help.

Thanks to this interaction, Bindu was able to force the local authorities into action and all workers ultimately were released, received compensation, and were assisted to return home.

Stopping slavery in global supply chains

Addressing slavery practices in global supply chains is central to Anti-Slavery's work.

As 'critical friends', we continued encouraging businesses in the UK to go beyond compliance with the Modern Slavery Act and develop practices preventing exploitation in all parts of their supply chains. We worked with brands such as Whistles and The White Company.

We also teamed up with leading online fashion retailer ASOS and other partners to help end the exploitation of migrant workers travelling from Bangladesh and Madagascar to work in the garment industry in Mauritius.

In partnership with a wide coalition of organisations, Anti-Slavery has been encouraging global brands to pledge to not knowingly use cotton from Turkmenistan, picked by forced labour. Over 70 brands have already signed the pledge.

70 businesses signed the Turkmenistan cotton pledge committing to not knowingly source cotton from the country.

We are very excited about the growing momentum behind a potential game-changer

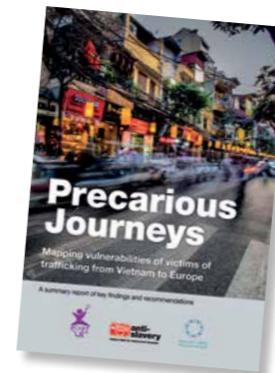
Together with partners, we built a coalition of over 100 organisations to back the campaign for an EU-wide law that would make businesses legally responsible for potential abuses in their global supply chains. Excitingly, the campaign has also been backed by a number of international brands, adding an extra impetus.

Anti-Slavery is working to end forced labour in the cotton industry in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.
Photo: Anti-Slavery International



Addressing trafficking from Vietnam to Europe

In our collaborative project, we worked to address trafficking from Vietnam to Europe. Our partners ran awareness raising campaigns in Vietnam and provided support for trafficked Vietnamese children in the UK. In the aftermath of the tragedy in October, when 39 Vietnamese people were found dead in a lorry in the UK, our research report on trafficking from Vietnam, **Precarious Journeys**, attracted significant attention. We hope this can hasten the development of mechanisms for people to migrate safely.



Raising awareness of the risks of trafficking in a Vietnamese school.
Photo: Anti-Slavery International



Hadijatou Mani, Niger's anti-slavery hero.
Photo: Anti-Slavery International



Anti-slavery hero ends slavery practice in Niger

The 'fifth wife' is a practice where men buy 'unofficial' wives, in addition to the four permitted by Islam, who are treated as slaves. But in 2019, this practice was outlawed in Niger.

The win comes after a decade-long legal battle, started by Anti-Slavery and its partner. At the centre of the battle was Hadijatou Mani who, as a 12-year-old girl, was sold for around £200 to an older man. She escaped and bravely took on her former master in court. She was finally able to see her unofficial marriage ruled unlawful, following the ruling by Niger's highest court.



**Thank you for helping us to support so many people in 2019.
We couldn't have done it without you.**



For more information on how to support Anti-Slavery International,
please visit www.antislavery.org/donate or call **020 7737 9934**

Anti-Slavery International is a UK Registered Charity (1049160)

