



**Impact  
Report  
2020**

# **FIGHTING SLAVERY IN LOCKDOWN**

Your support meant more than ever in a world brought to a halt by Covid-19. Thanks to your help, vulnerable people still had hope as the pandemic raged.

# Five lessons from the pandemic

**Your generosity gave us the resources to rapidly adapt to the pandemic. As we pushed through 2020, we discovered that Covid-19 is...**

## 1. Creating new risks

For enslaved or vulnerable people, self-isolation is not an option or leads to unemployment and destitution.

## 2. Increasing vulnerability

Rocketing unemployment due to Covid-19 forces many into forms of slavery for survival.

## 3. Worsening discrimination

Low-caste and slave communities are marginalised further as they are more exposed to the virus.

## 4. Increasing risks for migrant workers

Many are too scared of the authorities to seek healthcare if they fall sick, helping to spread the virus.

## 5. Disrupting anti-slavery efforts

We are providing emergency outreach and support – food, water, hygiene materials and information – to enslaved or vulnerable people.

## Niger

We distributed food and soap to **360** households and set up **12** handwashing stations.

## Nepal

We ensured emergency food supplies and soap for over **1,710** households.

## Senegal

We delivered health and hygiene kits to **4,930** children in Qur'anic schools.

## Mauritania

We provided handwashing facilities, hygiene products and water-boiling devices to **678** vulnerable people.

A woman cycling through Kathmandu.

Image by Lucian Alexe via Unsplash



# 'Fast fashion' forced labour

**In modern supply chains, especially for 'fast fashion' brands and retailers, the desire to drive down costs can result in slavery. Current laws are not enough to stop the abuses.**

Alongside 100 partners including Adidas, Mars and Unilever, we have been promoting new human rights legislation in the EU to end forced and child labour in global supply chains.

**Only one in three** EU businesses is searching for human rights abuses in their supply chains.

Globally, at least **16 million** women, men and children are in forced labour in the private sector, producing goods that end up in markets across the world.



**A child working in a small garment factory in Dhaka, Bangladesh.**

Image by Sk Hasan Ali/Shutterstock

# Exploited and persecuted

## Uzbekistan

Every year in Uzbekistan, the government forces thousands of people to leave their regular jobs to go and pick cotton, often under dangerous conditions far from home. After more than ten years of working with the international Cotton Campaign, we saw progress towards reform in Uzbekistan.

## China

The horrific abuses of Uyghurs and other Turkic and Muslim-majority groups in China include forced labour on cotton products. We continued to urge the Chinese government to end this injustice and we talked to major brands to ensure these textiles do not enter their supply chains.

The Better Cotton Initiative has now withdrawn its seal of approval from all cotton produced in the Uyghur Region of China.



**As many as 1.8 million Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz and Hui have been detained in internment camps and prisons.**

Image supplied by End Uyghur Forced Labour

# Born into slavery

**In Mauritania and Niger, thousands are born into slavery every year.**

You helped us liberate people and support survivor communities by setting up schools, community services and microfinance projects. Without you, we could not have helped shape Mauritania's new anti-slavery law, leading to the first successful prosecutions in the country.

## Niger

**1,080** adults received education, training and income-generation support.  
**1,583** children received full-time education in primary schools established thanks to our project.

## Mauritania

**404** people have received literacy training and **311** freed women have set up food and clothing shops thanks to training, equipment and funds provided by our project.



Women in Mauritania received support to start their own businesses.

Image by Anti-Slavery International

# "I felt so relieved that he was in jail"

**This is Binsa's\* story of escaping sexual exploitation in Nepal.**

Around 95% of child sexual exploitation and trafficking cases in Nepal are never reported to the authorities. Your support enabled us to work with the Nepal government, partners and the police to prevent these abuses and make sure perpetrators are brought to justice.



Sexual exploitation and trafficking cases are rarely reported to the police in Nepal.

Image by Philartphace via iStock.

Aged 16, Binsa got a live-in cleaning job in a hotel. Soon, the owner stopped paying Binsa and began sexually assaulting her, bringing other men to do the same.

"He hit me," Binsa told us. "I did not have the confidence to run away. There were just as many problems at home."

Even when girls like Binsa manage to escape from exploitation, very few of them ever see justice.

Eventually, Binsa reached out to a friend whose uncle is a policeman. The perpetrator was arrested for human trafficking and jailed for life.

"I felt so relieved when I was informed that he was in jail," Binsa said. She is now studying law, with support from an NGO, as she wants to help other people who have experienced exploitation.

\*Name changed to protect her identity



# Help end slavery for good

By leaving a gift in your Will to Anti-Slavery International you will be helping future generations to live in freedom.



*"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

For more information about gifts in Wills and how your support could have a lasting impact, please visit **[www.antislavery.org/legacy](http://www.antislavery.org/legacy)** or email Paul at **[p.sheehan@antislavery.org](mailto:p.sheehan@antislavery.org)** for more information.

# 2020 Fighting slavery across the world

**40 million**  
people trapped  
in modern  
slavery today.

In 2020, we  
directly supported  
**23,627** people to  
build lives free  
from slavery.

In the UK, we  
supported **16** partner  
organisations to advocate  
for the rights of people  
affected by slavery.

## UK

### Monitoring the government's action on trafficking

We ensured trafficking victims receive the support they are entitled to.

## Mauritania and Niger

### Freeing people born into slavery

We supported people to break free from their 'masters'.

## Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal

### Ending forced child begging

We worked with Qur'anic schools to protect children.

## EU

### Removing forced labour from supply chains

We pushed for new legislation to stop human rights abuses.

We spent  
**£2,876,340**  
on eradicating  
slavery and raising  
more vital funds.†

## Uzbekistan and Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (Uyghur Region), China\*

### Fighting slavery in cotton production

We challenged governments to end their horrific abuses.

You helped us raise  
**£2,660,063**  
from a wide range  
of donors and  
supporters.†

Overseas,  
we supported **21**  
anti-slavery partners  
across **10** projects  
in **10** countries.

## Nepal

### Liberating children from sexual abuse

We partnered with police to bring abusers to justice.

## Mauritius

### Freeing workers from debt slavery

We helped migrant workers stand up for their rights.

## Our incredible supporters

Anti-Slavery International supporters ran, hiked, biked, campaigned, lobbied and petitioned throughout 2020 – find out how you can get involved at [www.antislavery.org/take-action](http://www.antislavery.org/take-action)

\* Known to local people as East Turkistan.

† Figures from the 2019-20 Annual Report and Accounts:  
[www.antislavery.org/accounts](http://www.antislavery.org/accounts)