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.

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.

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.

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

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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.

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.

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.

“A 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.

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 or email Paul at p.sheehan@antislavery.org for more information.
2020 Fighting slavery across the world

40 million people trapped in modern slavery today.

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

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

We challenged governments to end their horrific abuses.

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.

UK
Monitoring the government’s action on trafficking
We ensured trafficking victims receive the support they are entitled to.

Mauritius
Freeing workers from debt slavery
We helped migrant workers stand up for their rights.

Uzbekistan and Xinjiang
Fighting slavery in cotton production
We challenged governments to end their horrific abuses.

Nepal
Liberating children from sexual abuse
We partnered with police to bring abusers to justice.

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

* Known to local people as East Turkistan.
† Figures from the 2019-20 Annual Report and Accounts: www.antislavery.org/accounts

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