

Reporter

Summer 2021

A vicious circle: exploring the link between the climate crisis and exploitation

- Fighting for laws to protect people and planet
- Our campaign to ditch detention for survivors of modern slavery
- Shedding light on the solar industry's slavery links

Freedom is a fundamental right

Anti-Slavery International is the oldest international human rights organisation in the world – founded in 1839 to tackle the slave trade, and working hard ever since.

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

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

Our vision is to realise freedom from slavery for everyone, everywhere, always.

We aim to do this by:

- Making ending slavery everyone's concern.
- Acting as an ally to survivors and people at risk of slavery, elevating their voice and experience to create radical change.
- With others, challenging and changing law, policy and practice so everyone, everywhere can be free from slavery.

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Tell us what you want from Reporter

By reading Reporter you're participating in a movement that has its roots in the battle against the trans-Atlantic slave trade. We're always keen to learn from our readers, and would love to hear what you'd like to see in the magazine. Please drop us an email at media@antislavery.org with any ideas, suggestions or comments. Thank you for being part of our movement.

Follow us

Please follow us on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date with our campaigns – you can find links to our social media on our website antislavery.org.

Coffee beans in Brazil
Credit: Marcel Gomes, Repórter Brasil

INTRODUCTION



Jasmine O'Connor OBE
Chief Executive

Our movement is our strength

The important work we do supporting people in, and vulnerable, to slavery is only possible thanks to our supporters' and collaborators' contributions. We know we must always remain nimble when tackling the many forms that modern slavery takes, responding quickly when a risk or opportunity to help is identified.

We work to disrupt the root causes of modern slavery – discrimination, poverty and weak rule of law. By working on these root causes we help prevent people from becoming vulnerable enough to become exploited, and make sure support is in place to help survivors to thrive.

“... the race to drive down consumer goods prices is leading to exploitation for poor workers...”

In anti-slavery work it's also critical to listen and learn from others. We have been learning from some of our grassroots partners about how the race to drive down consumer goods prices is leading to exploitation for

poor workers, and how survivors need to be fully supported and involved in the way charities and governments design their modern slavery work. We have also learned from our supporters about what motivates them to donate to and campaign for the cause.

This broad collaboration that makes up our movement is our strength. Despite the immense challenges of the past year, we have seen people mobilise in a manner not seen in recent years: supporters and members increasing their financial contributions, record numbers of you lobbying your MPs, companies committing to do more and better for people and planet, local NGOs joining forces to build a stronger movement for freedom for all, and survivors informing policy and legal change.

This gives me immense hope. I know that with a diverse and growing movement of people committed to freedom, we will make it a reality for everyone.

I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to our supporters, members and donors for your trust in our work and your commitment to freedom for everyone, everywhere, always.

UK government's 'New Plan for Immigration'

Our UK team has had a very busy few months, responding to divisive immigration, asylum and modern slavery proposals from the UK government.

We want the UK to be a beacon for freedom from slavery. But recent proposals from the Home Office could make lives harder for victims and survivors of modern slavery. We've recruited a new Parliamentary Officer to help make sure MPs and peers listen to us while they deliberate on new laws. And in March, we also found ourselves calling on YOU to help us.

Ditch Detention

Earlier this year we learned of government plans to detain many survivors of modern slavery in prison-like settings. Under the plans, survivors officially recognised as potential trafficking victims would not automatically be released from detention, leaving them in environments known to put them at risk of serious mental and physical harm.

We launched our Ditch Detention campaign to challenge the plans, working closely with survivors and partner organisations, and asked our supporters to write to their MPs to protest against the plans. More than a thousand people joined the campaign. Sadly, the government didn't listen, and pushed its policy through parliament with scarcely a whisper of debate. But our campaign isn't over.

The 'New Plan for Immigration'

In July the government published the Nationality and Borders Bill, which aims to enshrine the divisive 'New Plan for Immigration' in law. We were examining the Bill as Reporter went to print. We have been alarmed by proposals that threaten to discriminate against and criminalise vulnerable people – effectively labelling them as either 'good' or 'bad' due to factors entirely outside of their control.

We're always open to finding ways to improve the UK's modern slavery system. That's why we work closely with survivors through the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group, to understand what's needed by the people that depend on a system that should protect them and help them to recover. But the government's plans look like a continuation of the failed and destructive 'hostile environment' policy that has done immense harm to vulnerable people.

We will fight hard against any plans to make life harder for victims and survivors of modern slavery. We'll be posting updates on the Nationality and Borders Bill on our website and across social media – including details of how you can help us fight for a better deal for victims and survivors.



Supplying hope: research shows how business laws could protect workers

Sixteen million people are estimated to be in forced labour in the private sector – a hidden population that desperately needs our support.

It can be hard to be sure that goods on your local supermarket shelves don't have their roots in human rights and environmental abuses. Without laws that compel businesses to make sure their supply chains are free from these abuses, consumers can be left wondering if the goods they buy are causing harm to people and planet. This is unfair on workers, bad for the environment, and means it's harder for consumers to exercise ethical choices.

We've been working hard with charity and campaign partners to insist governments hold businesses accountable for their supply chains' human rights and environmental damage. In Brussels and Westminster, working with partners from across Europe and the Global South, we've been calling for:

1. Strong laws that protect people and planet. Governments must **introduce strong laws** that make companies responsible for any human rights abuses and environmental harm caused by their supply chains. These laws would force companies to take meaningful steps to prevent and remedy forced labour, and give victims access to justice.

2. Import controls. In June this year, the G7 committed to making

sure global supply chains are free from forced labour. One of the main ways the G7 could achieve this is by introducing **import controls on goods made or transported with forced labour**. Customs authorities can identify products, manufacturers or companies whose goods are likely to be tainted with forced labour, and then block or seize these goods. This protects consumers from inadvertently buying the products. **Import controls make those responsible for this forced labour halt and prevent further exploitation and provide remedy to victims.**

3. Joint approach. Import controls must be introduced as part of **strong legal, trade and development frameworks to address root causes of forced labour**. We have called for the introduction of stronger laws, such as mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence (mHREDD), and believe the two approaches – mHREDD and import controls – are complementary.

It's essential that governments coordinate on this, which is why we're happy that the European Commission is set to publish proposals for a new mHREDD law. Find out more about this development on page 8.

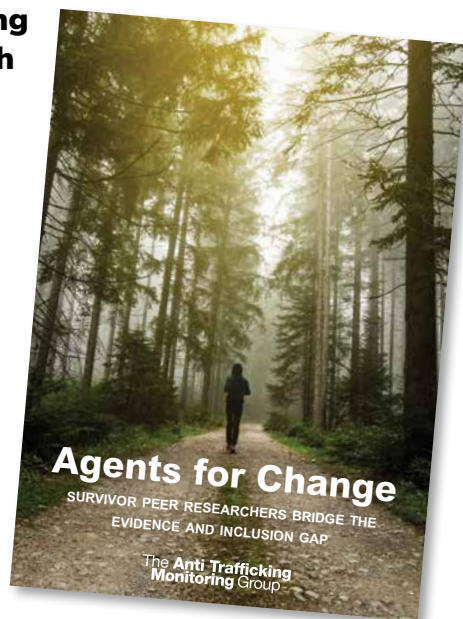
Why survivor voices matter: “Don’t call me sweetheart!”

As the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group (ATMG) publishes research by survivors on why their voices should be included in policy-making, here one survivor – Kimberley – explains her role in the research project.

When I arrived in London I was filled with excitement, trepidation and anxiety. The coming together of survivors is incredibly powerful: suddenly all those dreams and aspirations that were taken away for such a long time return, and ideas, passion and insight quickly fill the room.

I have always been passionate about survivor voices being included in policy development. Survivors are experts by experience, which is something that non-survivors lack. But the survivor voice is often ignored and silenced by patronising responses, turning attention to the individual’s pain or suffering.

Many non-survivors working in the modern slavery field are unaware of how damaging their own language and, ultimately, ignorance can be. For example, I recently spoke to an official who continues to work, high up the ladder, in the modern slavery sector and I was trying to instigate a



discussion. I hadn’t made an inquiry, I wasn’t asking for advice, I simply wanted to hear their view. I was greeted with: “Oh sweetheart...” and then they refused to engage with me.

Once my rage had subsided, it occurred to me that this person didn’t know who I was. They didn’t ask about my experience or my qualifications. They didn’t know anything whatsoever about me. I could have been from the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner or the Home Office. I could have been their mother. I could have been you.

“Survivors are experts by experience, which is something that non-survivors lack.”

Survivors come from diverse backgrounds, they include mothers, doctors, teachers. They are often multilingual and come with a wealth of expertise and qualifications. They are essentially you and me. It’s important

In survivors’ own words

ATMG’s project offered a group of peer researchers a chance to talk about their needs and wishes. We hope this vital work helps policymakers better understand the impact of the National Referral Mechanism. You can read the report online at <https://bit.ly/2Umlwgl>

that you and I are involved in research, community building, policymaking and so on, so that we can create a society that is inclusive and rich in diversity. But sadly, this isn’t happening.

The opportunity for survivors to have their voices heard is key to their self-empowerment. They can help foster a deeper understanding of best practice. Their experience provides a holistic view of the modern slavery landscape, an in-depth knowledge and understanding of modern slavery policy frameworks, and a recognition of their strengths.

Please listen to our new podcast series on our YouTube channel to hear peer researchers discuss the need for survivor voices in the anti-slavery movement. Head to YouTube and search for Anti-Slavery International.

Credit: Sasha Freemind on Unsplash

New European law could protect people and planet

The European Union is the world's biggest trade bloc. With 450 million consumers, its regulations can have a big impact on businesses far beyond the EU's own borders.

The EU can use that influence for good. In the next few months, the European Commission is expected to publish its proposal for a business and human rights law requiring companies operating in the EU to prevent and address human rights abuses and environmental damage in their supply chains.

Leading up to this important announcement, we joined the European Commission's public consultation on the proposed law.

“We started work at 5.30am, walked more than 5km to the coffee field and continued non-stop until after 6pm every day, except for a few Sundays when the farmer allowed us to rest. The sleeping facilities were built to be a home for animals, not humans. The gate was always locked with a dog preventing us from escaping. The farmers and their gatekeepers were constantly humiliating us.”

Rescued coffee workers, Brazil



A leather worker in India
Credit: Cividep India

This consultation proved to them that people look to the EU to show leadership, courage and compassion for oppressed people everywhere.

For maximum impact, the proposed law must make sure businesses tackle both the impact and root causes of forced labour and child labour. A legal duty to respect human rights must be embedded at every level of every supply chain, covering every worker and child. Living wages and freedom of association must be protected as fundamental rights, not benefits that can be sacrificed in pursuit of low costs.

It's time we made Europe's supermarket shelves and websites completely free of goods made through forced labour and child labour.



EU law. Global impact.

We worked with Rights Lab at the University of Nottingham, to understand the impact of an EU-wide mHREDD law. Take a look at the report at antislavery.org/eu-business-and-human-rights-law

G7: a missed opportunity on climate change?

In June, leaders of the world's wealthiest nations met in Cornwall for the G7 Summit. It was an opportunity for them to show leadership on critical challenges facing the world.

Before the Summit, we worked hard with partners across the anti-slavery sector to call on the G7 to show a clear commitment to global action on forced labour – including supply chains – specifically in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China.

The Summit brought some good news, as it committed G7 trade ministers to work together to tackle forced labour. It also promised continuing pressure on China to respect human rights, especially in the Uyghur Region. But the climate emergency didn't receive the attention we felt it needed. Leaders didn't progress on meeting a global promise of US \$100 billion for climate finance, and didn't commit to low carbon development. We're now looking ahead to COP26, the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow this November, with the hope that the international community will recommit to tackling the climate crisis.

Trading up in Uzbekistan

For almost a decade we have been calling for an end to abusive cotton harvest labour practices in Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. Finally we see rays of hope in Uzbekistan.

In a practice with Soviet-era heritage, Uzbek and Turkmen governments force people into the cotton fields to support the states' cotton harvests. Teachers, doctors and other key workers – even children – face coercion, violence and

abuse during their forced labour.

Turkmenistan continues to deny that it maintains this practice. But over the last year we've been pleased to see some small signs of progress in Uzbekistan. The government has abolished its cotton quotas, banned forced labour, and even allowed cotton workers to form the country's first independent trade union.

There's still a long way to go before the Uzbek cotton trade is free from abuse. We're working with partners in the Cotton Campaign to ensure Uzbekistan maintains progress in ending forced labour – and to make sure Turkmenistan and China do the same.

Cotton Campaign: Find out more at cottoncampaign.org

Shining a light on the solar industry

The solar industry has huge potential to limit carbon emissions and must play a role in tackling the climate emergency. But could it also be hurting one of the world's most abused peoples?

Sadly, a report published by Sheffield Hallam University implicates almost the entire global solar industry in the forced labour of Uyghurs and other Turkic and Muslim-majority peoples.

Around 1.8 million people in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region face state-sanctioned human rights abuses, including forced sterilisation, forced labour and forced separations. Experts say these abuses could amount to genocide.

Sheffield Hallam's report shows that the global solar industry receives raw materials from the Uyghur Region and it is impossible to be sure these

materials are not tainted by human rights abuses. Of particular concern, Uyghur workers are involved in the first stages of production – including crushing quartz rocks and working in the coal-fuelled furnaces for the production of polysilicon – as well as further along the supply chain.

Ninety Chinese and international solar energy companies – including from the UK, Japan and the US – have supply chains linked to this forced labour. In the UK, up to 40% of the solar industry is linked, including solar projects commissioned by the Ministry of Defence.

In the UK, up to 40% of the solar industry is linked to China's abuse of the Uyghur people, including solar projects commissioned by the Ministry of Defence.

Solar-grade polysilicon mined for the production of solar panels



Credit: Anders Jacobsen on Unsplash

This is a crisis for the Uyghur people, and for the global effort to tackle the climate emergency. We need:

- **The solar industry to urgently end all links with Uyghur forced labour.** This includes ending all direct and indirect sourcing of polysilicon from the Uyghur Region; and not working with Chinese companies, further up the solar supply chain, that support Chinese government forced labour programmes of Uyghurs in their facilities.
- **Investors and governments to pressure the solar industry to end Uyghur forced labour.** Governments must publish clear guidance on the need for the solar industry to exit the Uyghur Region, ban the import of solar energy products made with polysilicon from the Uyghur Region and from implicated suppliers, and introduce mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence laws. Governments themselves must urgently make sure adequate due diligence is undertaken to prevent the use of Uyghur forced labour in government solar projects and public procurement.
- **Governments to urgently support the solar industry to find alternative sources of polysilicon.** The source should remain affordable, allowing for growth and be accessible by all countries.

We're proud to continue to work with a global community of human rights, development and Uyghur organisations as part of the Coalition to End Uyghur Forced Labour. Working together, we'll continue to do everything we can to make sure businesses and governments cut all ties with the Uyghur Region.

Solar industry Uyghur forced labour links:

- 95% of solar panels globally rely on one primary material – solar-grade polysilicon.
- The Uyghur Region accounts for approximately 45% of global solar-grade polysilicon supply.
- The Uyghur Region's largest raw materials supplier for the solar industry is heavily implicated in the forced labour of Uyghurs.
- All four of the Uyghur Region's polysilicon manufacturers are implicated in Uyghur forced labour, either through direct participation and/or through raw material sourcing.
- The four largest global solar panel suppliers source from at least one of these polysilicon manufacturers.



Mexican migrant caravan

Credit: Sean Hawkey

Climate change and modern slavery: a vicious circle

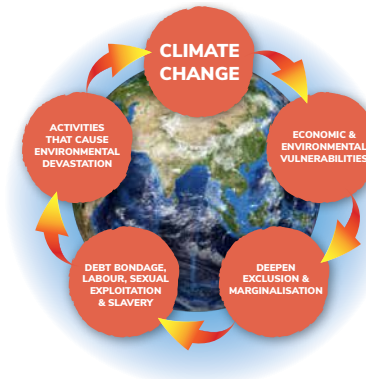
For people already at risk of modern slavery, the climate crisis presents a horrifying new threat to their freedom.

Climate change affects everyone. The increase in intensity and frequency of extreme weather events like cyclones and hurricanes, together with rising sea levels and desertification, leaves millions of people at risk of losing their homes and livelihoods. And environmental degradation is leading to extreme inequality, as well as driving migration and leaving people at risk of exploitation. We cannot ignore the link between the climate crisis and modern slavery.

Our new report, *From a Vicious to a Virtuous Circle*, examines the link

between these two challenges, and demonstrates why our focus on climate change and the environment is a necessary part of our campaign to end slavery for everyone, everywhere, always.

In the report, we show that climate change and modern slavery form a vicious circle, in which the climate crisis forces many people into unpaid labour, actively contributing to environmental harm. The report's author, Dr Chris O'Connell of Dublin City University, spoke to people who've experienced this cycle of



exploitation and environmental harm at first hand. The report includes compelling case studies from Peru and Bolivia, looking at the reality of the vicious circle.

We know from our work on modern slavery in the UK and worldwide that to tackle the issue – and to support survivors – we must tackle the root causes. When we look at the effects of climate change, it's clear that

We can't afford to step back: millions more people look set to fall into modern slavery because of the injustices created by climate change.



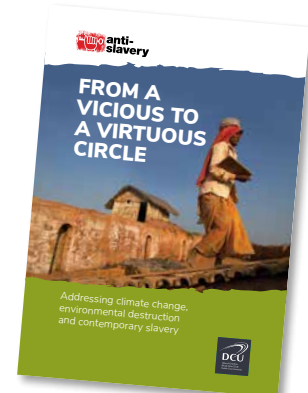
A Bolivian family on their field where crops failed this year

Credit: Sean Hawkey

this is going to be one of the most challenging campaigns we have ever mounted. But we can't afford to step back. Without concerted efforts at a global level, including from experienced campaigners like Anti-Slavery International, potentially millions more people look set to fall into modern slavery because of the injustices created by climate change.

This year, the UK is President of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), so we have an opportunity to make sure that modern slavery is put at the heart of global climate policymaking. Right now, we have an opportunity to design a global recovery that has human rights and climate justice at its heart: we need to build a new global economy, based on equity, justice and sustainability.

Climate change is a global problem. It needs a global solution. We couldn't be prouder to add our voice to the clamour for change.



Read the full report by Dr Christopher O'Connell, CAROLINE research fellow at Dublin City University, at antislavery.org/climate-change-modern-slavery

Sad news on child labour

New global estimates on child labour released by the International Labour Organization and Unicef show an increase for the first time in two decades.

At the beginning of 2020, 160 million children – 63 million girls and 97 million boys – were in child labour globally, accounting for almost 1 in 10 of all children worldwide.

This is a shocking development. Global progress against child labour has stalled for the first time in 20 years, and the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to drive millions more children into child labour. The new estimates warn that nine million more children globally are at risk of being pushed into child labour by the end of 2022, as a result of the economic and social shocks of the pandemic and school closures.

The data shows that we are losing ground in the fight against child labour. If the world is serious about ending it by 2025, we need to pursue a 'leave no one behind' approach. That's why we're clear that global efforts to end

child labour by 2025 must include a clear focus on ending child slavery.

Your support allows us and our partners to continue the fight. Our projects around the world are having a lasting impact on ending child slavery, including our work to end forced child begging in Nigeria and a project to prevent child trafficking through information campaigns in Nepal.

The new child labour estimates remind us that there is a long way to go – but, with your support, we continue to work hard so that no child is left in slavery.

Global child labour statistics

- **160 million children** are in child labour
- An increase of **8 million** children since 2017
- **79 million** are in hazardous work
- **112 million** work in agriculture
- **122 million** work in rural areas
- **8.9 million** more children will be working by the end of 2022 because of Covid-19.

(Source: ILO/Unicef)

“Child labour compromises children's education, restricting their rights and limiting their future opportunities, and leads to vicious inter-generational cycles of poverty and child labour.”

Unicef

Tackling forced child begging in northern Nigeria

In December we published a new report on forced child begging in northern Nigeria, where an ancient schooling tradition has morphed into a system of exploitation.

Nigeria has more children growing up without a formal education than anywhere else in the world. Of its estimated 15 million out-of-school children, nearly 10 million are Almajirai: boys as young as four who are sent to Islamic boarding schools to receive religious education.

Once, these Qur'anic schools provided a chance for children from poor families to access education and increase their opportunities in life. But since the 1980s, the system has moved away from its roots as a traditional form of structured religious guidance to one based on exploitation. In many cases, boys are forced to beg on the streets in order to sustain the schools, their masters and the boys' own subsistence.

Today, millions of these boys are forced to beg. They are exposed to physical, psychological and sexual violence while being denied a decent education. Alarming, these boys and young men – abused, marginalised and ill-educated – make ideal prey for terrorist and trafficking networks in the Sahel.

Our report on the Almajirai system, *Shackled to the Past*, studied its effects by interviewing hundreds of people within the communities

affected by it – including Almajirai children themselves. Distressingly, our research found that Almajirai – growing up without parents and abandoned by their government – suffer most from an acute sense of loneliness.

What's needed is wider access to food and basic education, and strong enforcement of Nigeria's existing federal and state laws on education and child welfare. Nigerian authorities have committed to caring for children, but we need to see a dramatic escalation of support from other actors: humanitarian, development and aid organisations, civil society, parents and Almajirai communities themselves.

The longer the Almajirai children's plight is ignored, the bleaker the prospects for dignity, human rights and socioeconomic justice in Nigeria, and the greater the threat to regional and international security. We hope our report will help advance the children's case so that future generations can look forward to a brighter future, free from exploitation.

Read about the report at
antislavery.org/forced-child-begging-in-nigeria

Caring for those affected by Covid-19

Those who are in, or vulnerable to slavery, are among the most impoverished people on earth, and among the most vulnerable to Covid-19.

We worked hard through 2020 to help protect people from the short-term effects of the pandemic and prevent a long-term increase in modern slavery. Here are some of the ways we helped – with your generous support:

Niger:

- Trained 54 staff on Covid-19 and best hygiene practices.
- Distributed food and soap to 360 households with children enrolled in our project schools.
- Provided weekly deliveries of water to nine communities.
- Held awareness-raising events on Covid-19, reaching 1,580 people.
- Broadcast 40 radio shows on preventing the spread of Covid-19.

Nepal:

- Provided emergency food supplies and soap to more than 1,710 households in five regions in the far west of Nepal.

Mauritania:

- Distributed resources such as handwashing facilities, soap, water-boiling devices, bleach and hand gel to 678 vulnerable people of slave descent, survivors of slavery and vulnerable families across eight regions.

In Niger, people are learning best hygiene practices.

Credit: Timidria



Emergency supplies given out in Niger as part of our Covid-19 response

Credit: Timidria

Below: Handwashing stations were set up to stop the spread of coronavirus

Senegal:

- Provided Covid-19 emergency support to children in Qur'anic schools who are forced to beg.
- Distributed health and hygiene kits across the 130 Quranic schools supported by our project.
- Developed Covid-19 leaflets in seven national languages.



Case study: Alhad and his family, Niger

Before Covid-19, our living conditions were better. I had an animal trade and earned enough to meet my family's needs. Since the beginning of the pandemic, this business brings in nothing. I no longer earn enough to look after my family. With this crisis, the cost of living has doubled. I was forced to live off my savings as my business was no longer running. Today, I have just received food support. I cannot but thank the generous donor. This support is going to give me a little breathing space. These supplies will be enough for my family for a month.

Meet Anti-Slavery International's new abolitionists

We couldn't do our valuable work without your generous support. We also rely on the energy, commitment and contribution made by our volunteers. Here, two volunteers in our fundraising and communication team explain how and why they got involved.



Georgina Russell

Georgina is a Masters student at the University of East Anglia, studying media and international development.

"I think most people have a moment when they realise the world is unjust. For me, it was when my pen pal in Zimbabwe never returned to school after the political unrest in 2007. That series of events affected me in a way I couldn't explain at the time. It angered me, it frustrated me but, most importantly, it made me want to do something about the inequality experienced around the world.

"I went on to gain a degree in International Development. I focused on global inequality, and my thesis was on child domestic workers in Dhaka, which led me to Anti-Slavery International. The website became a reference point and reading about their work gave me hope that someone was trying to end this horrific exploitation. The charity's determination to achieve lasting structural change resonated with my studies, and with the findings from my research.

"I am now volunteering at Anti-Slavery International for my Masters placement. I'm pleased to be contributing to the anti-slavery movement, even in a small way, and I'm learning so much from everyone here. The opportunities they're offering me fit my skillset, but also help me to develop both personally and professionally.

"I would encourage you, if you have a spare afternoon or day a week, to reach out to Anti-Slavery International and ask about volunteering. You'll be contributing to an incredible cause, and will gain a lot personally."



Sushma Puri

Sushma is a journalist and documentarian.

"I've been a journalist for over 35 years, in TV and BBC radio. In that time, I've had the privilege of working in the UK and abroad on some amazing stories and I've met some memorable people. Now that I'm semi-retired I want to carry on using the skills that I've acquired over the years and what better way than by volunteering to further the aims and objectives of this fantastic organisation.

"One of the stories I covered for BBC radio that really affected me was when I went to India in the 1980s. I managed to go inside a matchstick factory and saw young children, whose parents were indentured labourers, working to pay off their parents' 'debts'. They were barefoot, dressed in rags and working in dangerous conditions. They should have been at school but were condemned to a life of servitude by

"I needed to do something for those who are being trafficked, who are scared, vulnerable, being treated badly, in the UK and around the world. All of us have a duty to help them."

an unscrupulous, criminal employer. Remembering that story years later made me think that I could do something about similar issues now.

"So that's why I decided I needed to do something for those who are being trafficked, who are scared, vulnerable, being treated badly, in the UK and around the world. All of us have a duty to help them.

"So here I am now, a volunteer with Anti-Slavery International, excited to be part of a team that want freedom from slavery for everyone."

Inspired to volunteer?

Whether you have two hours a week or a whole summer, we'd love to hear from you about volunteering with us. Contact us at **supporter@antislavery.org** to let us know how you can help us.

Please keep an eye on **antislavery.org/about-us/jobs-and-volunteering**, as we post requests for volunteers there.

Simon's 'Freedom Ride' in tribute to Thomas Clarkson

Simon John

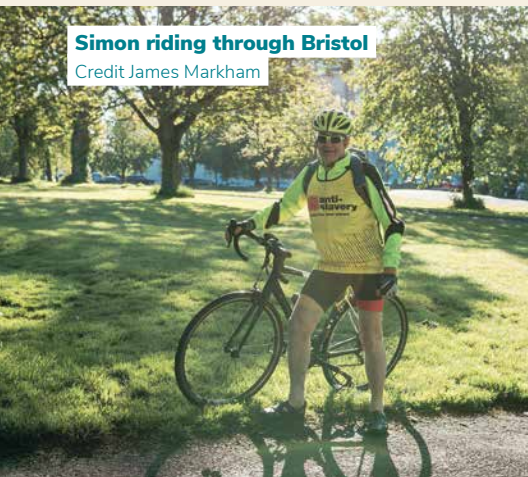
Our supporter, Simon John, describes his Freedom Ride and how Thomas Clarkson inspired him to take on this 900-mile challenge.

At the start of 2020, I had the idea of a speaking cycle ride from Land's End to John o' Groats as a homage to Thomas Clarkson, the founder of Anti-Slavery International.

Starting around 1787, Clarkson rode across the country on horseback to research conditions on slave ships and collect the tools of enslavement as evidence. He rode from his home in Suffolk to London, Bristol or Liverpool, and on his travels he stopped and spoke to anti-slavery societies about the horrors of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, showing his collected evidence.

Simon riding through Bristol

Credit James Markham



Simon on the Clifton Suspension Bridge

Credit James Markham



I had hoped to set off in late April, but bad weather and the Covid-19 lockdown delayed me. Instead, I offered to start giving talks from that time, allowing me to give far more than I originally planned.

When I began to organise my cycle ride, the second lockdown had begun and, with the inability to meet in person, meeting virtually became the norm. This presented a new opportunity: if I was going to be giving talks online, their proximity to my route no longer mattered.

When we are all aware of what we can do to end modern slavery, fewer people will be enslaved to satisfy our consumer demands.

CELEBRATING SUPPORTERS

Although my route would go on to take me up the west of England, I was able to speak to schools, faith groups and clubs across the country and even to a club in Colorado. By the end of June, I had spoken to over 120 groups and students – around 4,000 people.

Although I started in a 65mph gale at Land's End, the wind was at my back. That Saturday evening I wrote off my bike and it took me most of the next day to find a suitable replacement. At this point, I'd made a navigational error and had to take a 12-mile detour back to that day's starting point – and a late supper. On Sunday I nearly drowned in a Devon deluge.

I knew things were looking up on Monday because every time it began to rain heavily, I happened to be passing a pub.

My visit to the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool was a sobering

highlight. Its focus on the trans-Atlantic slave trade is cleverly related to modern slavery.

I've been particularly struck by the kindness of complete strangers: either when I was completely lost or when they waived campsite fees or randomly donated to Anti-Slavery.

Although it was something of a logistical challenge, the cycling itself wasn't insurmountable, even at the age of 75. The scenery was glorious and for the most part I enjoyed near perfect weather.

I only hope those who heard me talk of the suffering of our brothers and sisters living in modern slavery, not only heard my words but will now act on them. When we are all aware of what we can do to end modern slavery, fewer people will be enslaved to satisfy our consumer demands.

Simon planning his next part of the journey

Credit James Markham



Our charitable champions

These past six months, we've seen some incredible fundraising and awareness-raising from our supporters – here are some highlights (and inspiration!).



Hull heroes

On a miserable day in May, students from Hull University's Anti-Slavery Society (HUASS) completed a 5km fun-run, raising over £900 for our work. Lizzie Muir, our Fundraising and Communications Executive, gave a talk to students a few weeks later and they told us they're now "looking at their food and clothes with new eyes". We're enormously grateful to Sarah, HUASS President, and her team for their fantastic efforts in raising awareness and joining our fight.

Readers rock

We'd like to say a big thank you to you, our loyal supporters. Covid-19 has presented many challenges but, because of your generosity and support, we've been able to continue our fight for freedom and bring many more people out of slavery. None of our work is possible without you, and we are beyond grateful.

If you'd like to fundraise for us or raise awareness about modern slavery, please email Lizzie Muir at e.muir@antislavery.org, or visit our Take Action page antislavery.org/take-action.

Bronx brilliance

Exciting news from New York, where we gave a remote talk to students at the Bronx School of Law, Government and Justice. After hearing about our work, seventh graders produced flyers and posters, and wrote stories on modern slavery for their assessment in social studies. Huge thanks to their teacher, Mr Sutz, for his hard work in raising awareness of modern slavery with his students. We absolutely loved the projects.



Freedom flight



Anti-Slavery International supporter and artist, Jane Oldfield, held a fantastic art exhibition at the Cowper & Newton Museum, Buckinghamshire, to support our work. Jane's work explores what it means to be free, using flight as a metaphor for freedom from slavery. She said: "Imagine someone in modern slavery being a bird with their wings clipped so they can no longer fly. Freeing someone from slavery takes a

lot more action than helping their wings grow back, but if we all join forces and help how we can, together we can fight today for tomorrow's freedom." We couldn't agree more.

Sadly, it's too late to see the exhibition but you can see Jane's beautiful work at www.janeoldfield.co.uk.

A legacy for freedom

We'd like to thank our patron, Professor Benjamin N Lawrance of the University of Arizona, for his generous donation of more than £30,000 in memory of his late dear friend, Ann Frances Totterdell.

Ann, who passed away in 2018 at the age of 73, was a journalist who worked as a film reviewer and features and fashion editor before writing a book with her partner, Alexander Stuart, about the death of their young son. Benjamin met Ann at UCL in 1992-93 when Ann left journalism to study Classics. She later returned to work as an editor, author and researcher, and the pair remained close friends.

As executor of Ann's estate, Benjamin kindly chose to support Anti-Slavery International in her memory. In recognition of her academic background, her estate will fund our work in schools alongside other ongoing projects.



Ann Frances Totterdell
Credit: Benjamin N Lawrance

antislavery.org**Hadijatou and her baby**

Credit: Anti-Slavery International

What will your legacy be?

We take comfort in the knowledge that one day our children and grandchildren will build a better future for themselves and the generations to come, through our legacy.

But women in slavery don't enjoy the same comfort.

In countries like Mauritania and Niger, slavery is hereditary and passed down from mother to children. Children are the property of their 'masters', who can sell them – or even give them away.

Thanks to gifts in Wills from supporters like you, Hadijatou's legacy to her children took a new turn.

Like her mother, Hadijatou was inherited, sold and made to work without pay. But with assistance from Anti-Slavery International, she brought a case against the state of Niger and received compensation.

With the money, Hadijatou was able to build a house, raise animals and farm land to support her family. She was also able to send her children to school.

When you remember Anti-Slavery International in your Will, you help to protect future generations from slavery.

Even small bequests can make a difference. Please take a moment to consider remembering Anti-Slavery International in your Will.

For more information about gifts in Wills and how your support can have a lasting impact, please visit antislavery.org/legacy or email supporter@antislavery.org.