We exist so that everyone around the world can live in freedom, forever. We know you share our vision, and we want to thank you for your continued support. Together, we will not stop until everyone is free.

Throughout the past year, we’ve continued our long campaign for important laws in the EU that protect people and the planet from exploitation. We have seen significant progress, meaning these laws – which will have an impact on workers around the world – are now within touching distance. We continue to work on equivalent laws in the UK, bringing more people, businesses, and investors with us in these calls.

However, in the UK, we have also faced a significant rollback in support for survivors of modern slavery by the UK Government, alongside a toxic narratives that have further harmed survivors. Together with allies and supporters, we stood firm in campaigning against the “Illegal Migration” Bill (now Act) and in calling for care and compassion, and we will continue to do so as we push for positive change.

Our partnerships around the world continue to flourish, as we work with grassroots organisations in East and West Africa and Asia to tackle the root causes of slavery. This collaborative work includes helping children in domestic work to know their rights and supporting women newly freed from descent-based slavery.

We continue to call for an end to state-imposed forced labour in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (Uyghur Region), and in Turkmenistan, working with international organisations, including the UN and the International Labour Organization. We are growing our work on climate change and modern slavery, and we have begun to build a new campaign to address the risk of slavery for migrant workers in the Gulf Co-Operation Countries.

We know that ending slavery will take all of us working harder and together, and this year, we are excited to see more allies, partners and donors join us as we expand our work. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, which makes all of this work possible. By working together, we can challenge the root causes of modern slavery, and push for a fairer world where everyone is able to live in freedom.
Tackling slavery around the world in 2022-23

Our work, including everything listed here, is only possible in collaboration with our partners. Find out more about them on page 6.

UK
In the UK, we challenged the “Illegal Migration” Bill – which became law later in 2023 – and the Nationality and Borders Act, campaigning against the laws in their entirety and countering the hostile rhetoric used to justify the harmful legislation. See page 16

EU
In the EU, we campaigned for strong new corporate accountability laws that put people and the planet before profit. If strong enough, these laws would help tackle forced labour, including state-imposed forced labour in supply chains. With the Global Network Against Forced Labour, our advocacy partners based worldwide, we advocated for these laws to be meaningfully drafted and passed by April 2024. See page 12

Mali, Mauritania and Niger
In Mali, Mauritania, and Niger, we provided psychosocial and socioeconomic support to survivors of slavery and continued to challenge the norms and laws that perpetuate descent-based slavery there. See page 8

Ghana and Tanzania
In Ghana and Tanzania, we helped children in domestic work to understand their rights so that they can have more control over their lives and support their peers who are at risk of exploitation. See page 18

Bangladesh, Madagascar and Mauritius
We supported migrant workers at risk of exploitation to enjoy safe and decent work in garment factories in Mauritius. See page 14

Uyghur Region and Turkmenistan
We continued to call for an end to state-imposed forced labour in Turkmenistan and the Uyghur Region by advocating for stronger laws and presenting evidence on systematic abuses to the United Nations, and the International Labour Organization. See page 10
Partnerships powering freedom

To achieve freedom for everyone, everywhere, always, we work in partnership with organisations around the world, harnessing our shared knowledge and expertise to challenge the systems that perpetuate modern slavery.

In 2022, we commissioned an independent review of our global partnerships, inviting our 48 partner organisations to tell us how they felt about working with us. 90% of partners said that working with Anti-Slavery International had helped them become more effective in their work.

From this process, we looked at how they could be even stronger and more equitable. We have critically assessed our partnership model and have been rolling out a new partnership approach. Our new approach will seek to improve the opportunities for learning from each other, fostering further collaboration beyond the confines of a particular project. Through long-term partnerships based on shared expertise, our work can be much more responsive to the ever-changing face of slavery.

We know we won’t end slavery alone and are proud to work alongside our partners, knowing that together, we have a greater impact than we ever could alone.

“Anti-Slavery International’s assistance has helped us to reach almost 200 employers and Child Domestic Workers ... it has also enabled the organisation fast-track information sharing on the rights and protection of vulnerable individuals.”

Protecting people from the climate crisis

The climate crisis continues to destroy lives and livelihoods. Often affecting marginalised communities the most, it’s forcing people to migrate, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and modern slavery.

As the links between modern slavery and climate change become more apparent, so does the need to include measures to address modern slavery in climate change responses. We want to see the prevention of modern slavery becoming part of the solution to the climate crisis.

Gathering essential evidence

In 2022-23, we secured funding to work on essential research and evidence gathering around the inextricable link between modern slavery and climate change – and what we can do so that the climate crisis does not push more people into slavery.

First we will conduct research into the links between climate-induced migration and modern slavery. Additional research will focus on making sure the transition to clean energy is fair, just and works for everyone.

With robust evidence, we’ll identify workable solutions. Then, we’ll share this with decision-makers and start to put these solutions into action around the world.
Ending descent-based slavery

Mauritania, Niger and Mali are some of the last countries in the world where people are still born into slavery. Known as descent-based slavery, people are ‘owned’ by a ‘master’ and face a lifetime of forced labour and abuse. Escaping is difficult, sometimes impossible. When people do break free, they often find it hard to adapt to their new life, facing stigma for being part of the ‘slave class’.

With our partners, we challenge the social norms that perpetuate descent-based slavery, and we persuade governments to listen and take action.

In 2022-23, we continued to work with partners in local communities in Mauritania, Niger and Mali to keep the spotlight on descent-based slavery and build momentum for change. We were instrumental in making sure a UN expert, the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, visited Mauritania, raising awareness of descent-based slavery throughout his trip. He spoke with government ministers, survivors of slavery and civil society organisations, such as our partner SOS Esclaves. He shared his findings at the UN Human Rights Council, including calling for the Government to “tackle the deep-rooted culture of denial of slavery”.

The Government is now under pressure to apply laws against descent-based slavery and empower people who’ve experienced it. This includes helping people to register as citizens and providing financial support.

In Niger, our partner, the human rights organisation Association Timidria, made recommendations to the government to help end descent-based slavery.

These were successfully incorporated into draft new legislation which, if adopted, would strengthen Niger’s legal powers to protect people from slavery, recognise the right to an education, punish those who deny another’s freedom, and give status to organisations, such as our partner Timidria, which would allow them to take legal cases on behalf of victims, minimising the risk and fear of reprisals.

In 2022-23, we continued to work with partners in local communities in Mauritania, Niger and Mali to keep the spotlight on descent-based slavery and build momentum for change. We were instrumental in making sure a UN expert, the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, visited Mauritania, raising awareness of descent-based slavery throughout his trip. He spoke with government ministers, survivors of slavery and civil society organisations, such as our partner SOS Esclaves. He shared his findings at the UN Human Rights Council, including calling for the Government to “tackle the deep-rooted culture of denial of slavery”.

The Government is now under pressure to apply laws against descent-based slavery and empower people who’ve experienced it. This includes helping people to register as citizens and providing financial support.

In Niger, our partner, the human rights organisation Association Timidria, made recommendations to the government to help end descent-based slavery.

These were successfully incorporated into draft new legislation which, if adopted, would strengthen Niger’s legal powers to protect people from slavery, recognise the right to an education, punish those who deny another’s freedom, and give status to organisations, such as our partner Timidria, which would allow them to take legal cases on behalf of victims, minimising the risk and fear of reprisals.

The right to live in freedom

In Mauritania, men, women and children are learning about their rights, overcoming huge obstacles and freeing themselves from slavery.

Minetou* was just five years old when she started doing domestic chores for her master’s family. Her mother, who, like her, was also born into slavery, had just died. Minetou was left to continue her work. She was trapped in a life of slavery, not believing she could ever leave. But when she was about 30 years old, Minetou visited relatives with her three children. During the trip, she met people from SOS Esclaves, our local partner organisation. They explained to Minetou that she and her children had a right to freedom.

Accompanied by someone from SOS Esclaves and a member of the military police, Minetou went back to her master’s house, took her belongings and left. When she returned with her family in her new city, SOS Esclaves gave her money to help her start a new life. Minetou bought some land and built a small home.

Minetou now attends literacy classes run by SOS Esclaves, and her children attend school. They all have identification documents for the first time in their lives, which gives them access to education, a bank account and most importantly, they are recognised as a citizens of Mauritania for the first time. Minetou says she feels free and independent.

What is descent-based slavery?

This is when a person is born into slavery because their mother is enslaved, usually because their ancestors were captured into slavery and their families have ‘belonged’ to slave-owning families ever since. People are forced to work without pay, herding animals in fields or doing domestic work. Children can be taken away from their mothers and put to work without going to school. Adults and children can be inherited, sold, or gifted to other families.

*Name has been changed
This year, along with the Cotton Campaign, a coalition of international human and labour rights organisations, we’ve helped increase scrutiny of Turkmenistan internationally, including at the UN and ILO. Cooperation between the ILO and Turkmenistan has recently increased, and during the Autumn 2023 harvest, the ILO will monitor the cotton harvest for the first time.

Ending state-imposed forced labour of the Uyghur people

In the Uyghur Region, China, state-imposed forced labour is a fundamental part of the Chinese Government’s system of persecution against the Uyghur and other Turkic and Muslim-majority peoples.

In 2022-23, we supported a major step to put global pressure on the Chinese Government to end the systematic abuse of Uyghur people, that includes forcing people forced to work in factories and farms. In July 2022, the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery published a report in which he concluded that some instances of Uyghur forced labour may constitute enslavement as a crime against humanity, warranting further independent analysis. This was then followed in August 2022 by the outgoing UN High Commissioner for Human Rights’ report on the situation in the Uyghur Region, stating that arbitrary detention in the Region ‘may constitute crimes against humanity’.

These reports play a vital role in pressuring the Chinese Government to end state-imposed forced labour. On the back of these reports and testimonies of the Uyghur community, we’ll continue to campaign to end state-imposed forced labour in the Uyghur Region.

Almost 4 million people are exploited in state-imposed forced labour, according to the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration and human rights group Walk Free. This is likely an underestimate.

Every government has a duty to protect its citizens. But in some parts of the world, that very institution is violating their human rights. State-imposed forced labour is when governments force their citizens to work, for example, as a method to mobilise labour for economic development, to punish political dissents, or to discriminate against religious and ethnic minorities.

In 2022-23, we continued to work with international organisations, including the UN and International Labour Organization (ILO), urging them to use their influence on governments and demand the end of state-imposed forced labour.

Keeping the spotlight on forced cotton picking in Turkmenistan

Every year, tens of thousands of citizens of Turkmenistan are forced to harvest cotton. Progress has been limited, with the ILO finding soon after March 2023 that Turkmenistan had made no meaningful progress on tackling this issue since previous reviews in 2016 and 2021.
As part of our mission to end slavery, we call for stronger laws to safeguard human rights and protect the environment. We believe businesses should be legally accountable for preventing human rights abuses in their supply chains. It shouldn’t be a choice – it must be the law.

In 2022-23, we had great success in our advocacy work, alongside civil society partners and business allies, to bring about stronger laws.

**In the United States**

In June 2022, a groundbreaking new law came into effect in the US, which bans all companies from importing goods into the US produced with Uyghur forced labour unless companies can prove their products are forced-labour free.

As the new law comes into effect, along with our allies, we are urging governments not to allow other markets which don’t have the same strong laws to become ‘dumping grounds’ for goods made with Uyghur forced labour. We need to see equally strong import laws worldwide to stop this happening.

**In the EU**

After many years of hard work from us and our partners, as of March 2023 an EU mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence law – that will have a huge impact on workers all around the world – is on the horizon. We’re working on a final push to make sure the legislation remains as strong as our proposals, without being diluted, and becomes law as soon as possible.

We have also been advocating for strengthening the EU’s proposed forced labour product ban. The law would stop all goods made with forced labour from being imported into, or traded within, the EU. As of March 2023, we are disappointed by the proposed law. It fails to put workers at its heart, or allow for strong provisions to address state-imposed forced labour specifically.

We’re using every possible opportunity to make sure workers’ voices are heard by those who have the power to protect them from exploitation. In March 2023, we brought together a delegation of partners from producer countries to Brussels to press decision-makers to protect workers.

**In the UK**

In August 2022, 39 investors, representing over £4.5 trillion in assets, signed a letter calling for a Business, Human Rights and Environment Act. This due diligence law would hold companies accountable if they don’t prevent harm. From polling, we also found that eight out of ten members of the public want to prevent exploitation in supply chains. Our supporters continue demonstrating support for this law.
Protecting migrant workers from exploitation

Around 45,000 migrant workers are employed in factories in Mauritius in 2022. The majority are from Bangladesh, Madagascar, and India. Many find themselves trapped in situations of debt bondage (when a person is forced to work to pay off a debt), having paid extortionate fees to recruitment agents at home while being deceived about the terms and conditions of their jobs in Mauritius.

Between 2019 and 2022, we’ve worked with partners Ovibashi Karmi Unnayam Program (OKUP) in Bangladesh, Etudes Conseils FORMation Entrepreneuriat (ECFORME) in Madagascar, and Confederation of Workers of Public and Private Sector (CTSP) in Mauritius to make sure migrant workers have clear and accurate information about their rights – and what to do if their rights are violated.

We helped to open the Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) in Mauritius in February 2020, and it was formally opened in February 2022. Throughout the project, the MRC became a space where workers went to receive free information, including monthly awareness-raising sessions and support with employment-related problems. Grievances resolved by the Migrant Resource Centre include wage theft, withholding documents and inadequate living conditions.

We also helped develop the Just Good Work mobile app that brings essential information about working life and labour laws directly to migrant workers’ phones. The app is used to report any issues to the Migrant Resource Centre.

Although our project supporting the Migrant Resource Centre and

Just Good Work app ended in May 2022, we and our partners remain committed to supporting migrant workers’ rights protection. We continue to collaborate with ASOS.com, as well as other corporate allies, as we work towards making sure all workers are free from exploitation and abuse.

Equipping workers with knowledge about their rights

Workers heading to Mauritius from Madagascar can benefit from tailored training before they leave home, thanks to our partner ECFORME. Workshops provided information on the risks and challenges of working abroad, workplace rights, and cultural information about Mauritius. Paula*, from Madagascar, took part in the training.

When Paula first travelled to Mauritius, she dreamed of earning enough money to build a house back home in Madagascar. She took a job in quality control at a factory. But the conditions were very hard. Much of the money she earned went to paying back the cost of getting the job and travelling to Mauritius. Paula ended up going on strike, and the factory sacked her.

Back in Madagascar, Paula took part in training to learn about workers’ rights. She now knows that she shouldn’t have lost her job over going on strike and that her employer should have honoured her contract.

Paula wants to return to work in Mauritius and still dreams of building her own home. This time, she knows her rights – and who she can turn to if they are not respected.

*Name has been changed
Tackling modern slavery in the UK

The UK Government’s Recovery Needs Assessment (RNA) was designed to give survivors the support they need as they recover from their experiences – including therapy and financial support. But until 2022, the process hadn’t been independently reviewed.

In Spring 2022, the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group, chaired by Anti-Slavery International, launched the One Day at a Time report into the RNA. The report calls on the Home Office to improve how people who have experienced slavery in the UK are supported and make sure they are not left vulnerable to re-trafficking.

Since it was published, the report has led to important conversations with the Home Office and Members of Parliament about improving the RNA process and the support that is offered to survivors of modern slavery in the UK. Sadly, the situation for survivors has worsened since then due to the Nationality and Borders Act and “Illegal Migration” Bill – now Act.

We continue to urge the Government to adopt our recommendations and develop comprehensive support that aids people’s recovery with meaningful collaboration and input from survivors.

Campaigning against the “Illegal Migration” Bill

The so-called “Illegal Migration” Bill was introduced in March 2023. It effectively bans people who have been trafficked into the UK from claiming asylum or getting support, rather than recognising them as victims of modern slavery.

We worked hard to challenge this cruel Bill. We collaborated with lawyers and made sure anti-slavery organisations and allies were united in our approach to fighting the Bill to stop it becoming law. Our supporters raised their voices too, writing to MPs, signing petitions, organising fundraising activities and sharing information with their friends, families and colleagues.

Despite all our best efforts, the Bill became law in July 2023. We continue to urge the Government to believe survivors and treat them with dignity. Together, our movement has the power to make the change we need to see.

Part of our work to challenge the “Illegal Migration” Bill – now Act – involved countering hostile, sensationalist language and inaccurate messaging used by the UK Government and media about survivors of slavery.

We shared our concerns with UN experts, who sharply criticised the UK Government and MPs, saying their rhetoric has a ‘chilling effect’ on survivors of modern slavery.

Our chief executive, Jasmine O’Connor, wrote an opinion piece for a national newspaper outlining the dangers of the narrative used by the then Home Secretary Suella Braverman. We challenged inaccurate information through a series of information requests and press complaints, with one complaint upheld against the Telegraph for inflammatory reporting and one against the Home Office for misuse of data.

An estimated 122,000 people in the UK are living in slavery*

Just because I was eligible for the therapy didn’t mean I would automatically get it. And when I did get it, it was stopped multiple times. I would be told ‘We are waiting for approval so that you can continue’.

Modern slavery survivor

The charity said they had to close down immediately, something about insurance, and I was living there in the house and not being assessed for benefits. So, they asked us to leave. It was sad because the other girl was re-trafficked.

Modern slavery survivor

*From Global Estimates of Modern Slavery by Walk Free, the International Organization for Migration and the International Labour Organization.
Creating a fair and safe future for children

Around the world, tens of millions of children work in other people’s homes, cooking, cleaning and looking after younger children. Children in domestic work may be providing vital income for families struggling in poverty or saving for their futures.

In Tanzania and Ghana, many children in domestic work are younger than the minimum working age and experience violence, sexual harassment and slavery-like conditions. Our projects are changing attitudes and systems so that children in domestic work face safer conditions and are paid more fairly. We also want to make sure young people who are working can still get an education.

Together with our partners, Challenging Heights and LAWA in Ghana and the Tanzania Child Domestic Workers Coalition (TCDWC), we support children in understanding and asserting their rights and protecting themselves and their peers from exploitation. We bring together schools, religious institutions, lawmakers, and employers for awareness-raising workshops and training. They learn how to support children in domestic work and prevent situations of slavery. Young people also have opportunities to learn new skills, including plumbing and sewing, to build a future without the need to work as domestic servants.

In 2022-23, our work with our partners has led to better conditions for children in domestic work:

- In one district in Ghana, clauses were introduced within existing child welfare by-laws that will help protect children in domestic work from being exploited.
- The Tanzania Government increased the minimum wage for domestic workers by 50%.
- Our surveys found that more children in Tanzania now have employment contracts, which help protect their rights. And in Ghana, fewer children reported work-related illnesses.

Improving knowledge, creating change

Sofia Deo Champunga is a member of local government in Tanzania. She took part in a workshop on child domestic workers’ rights as part of our project with TCDWC.

Through her government casework, Sofia has seen many examples of child domestic workers being exploited. She found that many people employing children didn’t understand their responsibility towards them, and the child domestic workers didn’t know that they were entitled to rights such as having a contract, being free to leave, and accessing education.

Since taking part in the training, Sofia feels equipped to sit down with employers and workers to talk through the issues. One of the most important things the workshop taught her was the need for written contracts. “I have started to educate people in my village,” she says. “They often worried about how they could enter into written agreements with domestic workers or houseboys. After telling them about this, many people have been enlightened. I have given people these written agreements and they have signed them. They have responded well.”
Income and expenditure 2022-23

Income 2022-23

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual donations</td>
<td>£428,466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust and foundations</td>
<td>£557,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts in Wills</td>
<td>£300,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate</td>
<td>£103,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional grants</td>
<td>£2,406,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>£101,908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>£3,898,158</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditure 2022-23

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>£1,709,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>£269,829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>£1,143,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>£670,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>£3,793,450</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for your support

We would like to thank everyone who supported us throughout the year, including:

- **Individuals** who donate, raise vital funds and awareness of our work, and campaign to end slavery.
- **Patrons** who speak up to raise awareness of slavery and our work to tackle it.
- **Foundations, companies and other organisational donors** who enable Anti-Slavery International to effectively inform better policies and implement programmes to end slavery.
- **Volunteers** who make an enormous difference to our capacity to carry out our work.

You can read our full report and financial statements at [antislavery.org/accounts](http://antislavery.org/accounts)
Working in partnership with others is at the heart of everything we do. We strive to strengthen and support overseas anti-slavery partners around the world.

We are part of a truly global movement against slavery, made up of individuals, fellow anti-slavery organisations, trade unions, law firms, businesses, international organisations and many others. Our grassroots partners, who carry out crucial work often in challenging circumstances, are the true anti-slavery heroes. We thank and honour every single one of them, including those not listed here.

We all want to leave the world a better place through the actions we take in our lifetime. We take comfort in the knowledge that our loved ones will be able to build a better future for themselves with the legacy we leave. But for the millions of people still living in slavery, a better future can seem out of reach. Many people find themselves in situations that make them vulnerable to slavery and exploitation. People like Leila*, in Mauritania.

Leila’s story is both heartbreaking and inspiring. Born into slavery, she endured years of oppression until, aged around 40, she found freedom along with her children. It was at an awareness-raising meeting organised by our partners, SOS-Esclaves, that Leila first learned that slavery is illegal and that everyone has an inherent right to be free. Motivated by this new knowledge, Leila became an active member of the organisation, embarking on a journey to rebuild her life in freedom with her children.

For many people trapped in slavery, the path to freedom is not always clear. By leaving Anti-Slavery International a gift in your will, you have the power to help children and adults escape modern slavery and build a life in freedom. Even a gift as small as 1% of your estate would make an extraordinary difference.

Your generosity could transform the lives of people affected by slavery and help build a world where every individual can live free from exploitation.

Contact Anna Bunn via supporter@antislavery.org for more information about leaving a legacy of freedom.

*Name has been changed
Business Advisory Services Spotlight

Our business advisory services help businesses to identify the risks of modern slavery in global supply chains and develop meaningful steps to address them. We partner with businesses to undertake ongoing and worker-centric due diligence, adapted to local contexts to help tackle, prevent, and remediate forced labour while empowering workers.

We operate with a tailored approach, advising businesses as a ‘critical friend’ around the world. We use our extensive experience and knowledge of all forms of modern slavery, combined with collaboration with our network of civil society, trade unions and businesses, to inform best practices.

We work in partnership with TFG London to identify risk within their supply chains and to mitigate it through worker-centred approaches. Our current focus is assessing the role of human rights within their Distribution Centres while developing our joint calls for systemic change within the sector.

Francesca Mangano, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at TFG London commented that “TFG London forged a longstanding strategic partnership with Anti-Slavery International. Through this collaboration, we have been able to further our responsible business human rights agenda with many projects. Whether it is advocating for stronger legal protections in the European Union and the UK calling for mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence law, to leaning on Anti-Slavery International’s advisory role on strengthening our approach to tackle modern slavery in our supply chain. Most lately working on assessing the salience of human rights risks at our third-party UK distribution centres through a worker centred methodology, we really value Anti-Slavery International’s role as critical friends to challenge business processes for a stronger corporate accountability.”

Find out more about our advisory service: antislavery.org/take-action/companies or speak to Eloise Savill, Private Sector Adviser: E.Savill@antislavery.org