

E B G Summer 202

Overcoming adversity

- Standing strong against foreign aid freeze
- Demanding reform to the Modern Slavery Act
- Putting modern slavery on the climate agenda



Blood on the shelves • Exploring the Reporter archives • Our supporters in action

3

Reporter

Freedom is a fundamental right

Founded in 1839, Anti-Slavery International is the oldest international human rights organisation in the world. We began fighting to eliminate the transatlantic slave trade and today, we're still fighting to end all forms of slavery and slavery-like practices around the world.

Our vision is to realise freedom from slavery for everyone, everywhere, always. We aim to do this by:

- Making the end of slavery everyone's concern;
- Acting as an ally to survivors and people at risk of slavery, elevating their voices and experiences to create radical change; and
- Challenging and changing law, policy and practice so everyone. everywhere can be free from slavery.

The Reporter magazine was established in 1825 and has been continuously published since 1840.

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Anti-Slavery International The Foundry 17 Oval Way London SE11 5RR United Kingdom

0207 737 9434 info@antislavery.org antislavery.org

Editors: Yasmina Silva, Jessica Turner and Sarah Myers Layout: Berie Stott, dot-ink.com

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Tell us what you want from Reporter

By reading Reporter, you're part of a movement that has its roots in the transatlantic slave trade abolition movement. We're always keen to learn from our supporters and members 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 and comments - and thank you for being part of our movement.

Follow us

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

The hidden human cost of tomato paste on page 8.

Contents

4

6

8

A warm welcome from our new CEO Meet Helen Moulinos, dedicated to championing freedom for all. A setback for freedom. Then a powerful show of solidarity



The hidden human cost of tomato paste

inspiring response from our community.

What a BBC investigation reveals about forced labour in our food, and why UK laws must change.

How the recent US aid freeze undermined freedom and sparked an

The Modern Slavery Act 10 years on: Why it hasn't ended 10modern slaverv

A frank look at the law's impact and what still needs to change.



Marking 10 years of the Modern Slavery Act

Taking your call for tougher action on forced labour straight to No. 10



14 Modern slavery first responders in the UK are at breaking point Why vital support services for victims of slavery are overwhelmed and what must be done now.



mage credit: Jessica Turner for Anti-Slavery Internationa

- From the archives: A legacy of resistance Powerful stories from the past that continue to inspire today's struggle.
- Putting modern slavery on the climate agenda 18 Spotlighting the link between climate change and modern slavery.
- 19
- Put your knowledge to the test Take our guiz and see how much you know about modern slavery.

Anti-Slavery International in the news Recent headlines featuring our work and impact.

21

Our supporters in action Celebrating the amazing efforts of people like you.

22 A legacy of freedom

How you can leave a lasting impact against modern slavery.







A warm welcome from our new CEO

I'm thrilled to be writing to you for the first time as the new CEO of Anti-Slavery International. It is a huge honour to join the world's oldest human rights organisation and a movement built by people like you, who believe everyone has the right to freedom and respect.

For nearly 200 years, Anti-Slavery International has fought for freedom. Today, as modern slavery adapts and evolves, so too must we. Our mission remains unchanged, but the ways we work, the partners we collaborate with, and the challenges we face are always shifting. It's a critical moment to act with urgency, compassion, and courage, and that's exactly what we intend to do.

I'm excited to introduce this latest edition of Reporter magazine, filled with updates and stories that show the scale of the challenges and the power of collective action.

You'll read how a sudden US foreign aid freeze sent shockwaves through our movement, threatening vital projects. Yet, thanks to the incredible response to our emergency appeal, we supported our partners through the storm and kept life-changing work going. This powerful show of solidarity reminds us that, whenever challenges arise, this movement rises even higher.

INTRODUCTION



Helen Moulinos Anti-Slavery International Chief Executive

For nearly 200 years, Anti-Slavery International has fought for freedom. Today, as modern slavery adapts and evolves, so too must we. Our mission remains unchanged, but the ways we work, the partners we collaborate with, and the challenges we face are always shifting. "

You'll also see how our work together continues to push for stronger laws here in the UK. From exposing the risks of forced labour in supermarket supply chains to calling for urgent reforms to the Modern Slavery Act, we're fighting for lasting change that protects workers and holds governments and businesses to account. Thanks to over 10,000 of you who signed our petition calling for import bans of goods made with forced labour, we're getting closer to new and stronger laws.



In this edition, we also celebrate the history of our movement. Our "From the Archives" feature revisits the early days of the Anti-Slavery Reporter, reminding us that perseverance, learning, and collective power have always been at the heart of change.

We're also looking ahead, recognising how climate change is deepening vulnerabilities to slavery, and working hard to ensure that human rights stay firmly on the global climate agenda.

This work wouldn't be possible without you. Your donations, actions, and advocacy are the driving forces behind our mission's success.

As I begin this new chapter with Anti-Slavery International, I am deeply

" We're also looking ahead, recognising how climate change is deepening vulnerabilities to slavery, and working hard to ensure that human rights stay firmly on the global climate agenda.

committed to honouring your trust, amplifying survivor voices, and fighting daily for a world where freedom is a reality for everyone. Together, we can keep building the momentum needed to resist modern slavery and restore freedom for all.

5

NEWS

A setback for freedom. Then a powerful show of solidarity

Earlier this year, a sudden decision by the US Government to freeze all foreign aid sent shockwaves through the global humanitarian community.

As the world's largest donor, the US contributed more than 40% of all international aid in 2024.

The consequences of the freeze were immediate and marked one of the most serious setbacks in recent memory for the global movement to end slavery. The freeze didn't just affect our partners on the frontlines. It disrupted some of our most critical international work, including our campaign to expose state-imposed forced labour in countries like Turkmenistan and our work, alongside partners, to protect migrant workers in

What is state-imposed forced labour?

State-imposed forced labour takes place when national or local authorities force citizens to work, where people have not offered themselves voluntarily. the Middle East. Projects were paused, and plans were put on hold.

In West Africa, three of our partners were among the first hit. With no warning, they had to stop lifechanging work supporting children forced to beg and people born into slavery. Some could no longer pay staff. Others faced the devastating prospect of shutting down completely.

But thanks to you, that didn't happen.

When we launched our emergency appeal, supporters like you responded with extraordinary compassion and generosity, raising over £75,000. These vital funds allowed us to act quickly, sending emergency grants to the worst-affected partners helping to keep their work going. Because of your support, children forced to beg will now receive care, protection and education. People born into slavery will get the support they need to begin rebuilding their lives, instead of being abandoned when they need help most.

We've also been able to restart our vital project supporting migrant workers in the Middle East, which is a huge step forward after months of uncertainty.



Hope for the future – thanks to your support

This progress offers real hope, but the situation is still deeply unpredictable. While some US funding has been reinstated the future is far from secure. The new US administration has not confirmed whether our work will be supported beyond the current grant, which ends in 2026.

This instability is alarming, not just for Anti-Slavery International, but for frontline organisations across the world. These groups are often the only line of defence for people at risk of slavery, operating in some of the most dangerous and underresourced settings. When support disappears, people are pushed further to the margins. They face impossible choices, growing debt and a higher risk of exploitation, while their voices are silenced by the systems meant to protect them.

But your support is helping change that. You've helped us weather this storm, giving us time to plan for the future, work towards stable funding, and keep critical projects running.

The challenge is real, but your solidarity has reminded us that we are not alone. Together, we will continue to campaign for justice, dignity, and a world where no one is exploited in slavery. With you beside us, we will keep pushing forward until everyone, everywhere, can live in freedom.

Thank you for being part of this movement. Your support throughout this time means so much.

Watch this short thank you video from our partners:





The hidden human cost of tomato paste

A BBC investigation has highlighted the shocking use of forced labour in everyday food products – a stark reminder that UK laws are failing to stop forced labour in company supply chains.

The BBC Eye documentary found that several own-brand "Italian" tomato purees sold in UK supermarkets, including Asda, Tesco, Morrisons and Waitrose, appeared to contain tomatoes extremely likely to have been picked and processed using forced labour.

Most tomatoes from China come from the Uyghur Region, where production is linked to the Chinese Government's programme of repression, surveillance and forced labour of Uyghur and other Turkic and Muslim-majority peoples. Human rights and legal experts have determined that abuses in this region amount to crimes against humanity or genocide.

Find out

more

here:

The BBC investigation, which features one of our experts, gives a stark warning about the origins of products we see on our supermarket shelves every day.

NEWS

Supermarkets have a responsibility to make sure they are not selling you products linked to forced labour. They hold a lot of power and must lead the way in tackling forced labour in their supply chains. They need to show the public the steps they are taking to make sure their products are free from abuse.

As you'll know, consumers care about these issues. Thousands of you have

already signed our petition calling on supermarkets to be transparent and take action to prevent forced labour.

This is a stark reminder that without action from the UK Government to force companies to act, and hold them to account if they don't, we could have products in our homes that were made with forced labour.

Why the UK must introduce import bans

Forced labour is prohibited under international law, but it remains a major global problem. Around the world, there are around 21.2 million people forced to work at the hands of private companies or governments. Industries such as textiles, electronics and agriculture (including tomatoes) are particularly at risk. And, shockingly, products made with such abuses can end up on UK shelves.

The UK Government must introduce import bans to stop goods made or transported using forced labour from entering the market. This would protect workers' rights and make it harder for companies to profit from exploitation.

Import bans are essential, not just to protect human rights, but also to build a fairer and more sustainable global economy. Without strong action, the UK continues to support forced labour through the products it imports, allowing companies to profit from abuse while consumers unknowingly buy exploited goods.

We can't afford to wait. People all around the world are counting on the UK to take a stand. The Government must act now to help create a world where everyone can work freely and be treated with dignity.

Add your voice today

Demand that supermarkets show us the steps they are taking to protect workers and uphold human rights sign our petition:



Have you signed our petition calling on the UK Government to ban goods made with forced labour? If not. vou can do that here:



FEATURE

The Modern Slavery Act 10 years later: why it hasn't ended modern slavery

Ten years ago, the UK Government introduced the Modern Slavery Act to tackle exploitation and provide people who've experienced slavery a way to seek justice. While ground-breaking at the time, major weaknesses in the Act mean it has failed to live up to its promise. Here's why.

The Act was not designed to end slavery

The Modern Slavery Act was never designed to completely end modern slavery. Hoping it would do so was unrealistic. What we really need are stronger laws that can truly prevent slavery and hold perpetrators to account, and better systems to help survivors recover and stay safe.

It hasn't stopped forced labour in supply chains

The Act relies on businesses voluntarily reporting the actions they are taking to tackle forced labour. But this isn't strong enough to prevent slavery and hold businesses to account. As a result, many companies are still profiting from forced labour without facing consequences. We need tougher laws that actually prevent forced labour and stop goods made with forced labour from entering the UK.

Survivors of forced labour still can't get justice

The Act didn't provide a way for survivors to get justice in UK courts if their exploitation happened overseas. This means that businesses can "offshore" their human rights abuses rather than taking responsibility in the UK.

We believe that if a company operating in the UK is implicated in human rights abuses anywhere within its supply chain, the people who were harmed should have access to justice in UK courts. We need laws that compel companies to prevent harm in their supply chains and enable workers to access justice swiftly when prevention measures fail.

The Act failed to focus on safeguarding

Over the past few years, the UK Government has used more and more hostile and inflammatory language about survivors of modern slavery.



Increasing numbers of survivors have been barred from being identified and support, which has made them more vulnerable to re-trafficking and exploitation.

The Government must rebuild trust with people with lived experience of slavery. It must focus on safeguarding and improving ways to prevent modern slavery and support people who've experienced it, so survivors can get the help they need to recover safely.

Too many survivors are excluded

The Act was too narrow. It didn't include reforms to labour rights or measures to protect migrant workers'

rights and prevent discrimination.

We need to see drastic improvements to labour rights in the UK and support and identification processes to make sure all survivors of modern slavery can access them. Migrant workers must not be excluded, and survivors must not be criminalised for actions they were forced to take.

Where do we go from here?

There's still a lot to celebrate after 10 years of the Modern Slavery Act. But now, the UK Government must do more. It must take strong action to protect people from modern slavery and hold businesses accountable for failing to prevent harm.



Marking 10 years of the Modern Slavery Act

To mark the 10th anniversary of the Modern Slavery Act, we delivered a petition to 10 Downing Street. We were joined by Lord Alton of Liverpool and Rahima Mahmut from Stop Uyghur Genocide.

We're incredibly grateful to more than 10,000 supporters who signed the petition calling on the UK Government to introduce a law banning goods made using forced labour from entering the UK. While we were there, we also delivered a leaflet showing some of the products with a high risk of being made with forced labour. It's clear the Modern Slavery Act isn't strong enough. It hasn't been able to prevent modern slavery, properly support survivors, or clean up business supply chains. Today, more people are exploited in the UK than ever before, and an estimated £20 billion worth of goods at risk of being made using forced labour are imported and sold here, like the tomato paste and fruits that we see in our supermarkets.

The Act urgently needs to be strengthened with new laws that directly tackle these problems.

FEATURE



Important progress: the Great British Energy Bill

The Great British Energy Bill was proposed to establish Great British Energy as a publicly owned energy company to provide green energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency.

For the past year, we've been campaigning to make sure the Great British Energy Bill will rule out products made with forced labour. In the same week as the anniversary, it was clear that the government was under increasing pressure over clauses in the Bill to rule out products made with forced labour.

We had something to celebrate in April when the UK Government introduced its own amendment to make a new government company, Great British Energy, responsible for ensuring there is no modern slavery in its business or supply chain. And we're thrilled to see our continued conversations with lawmakers, such as Sarah Champion MP and Lord Alton, and the pressure they have applied to the Government finally pay off.

This is an important step in the right direction. We know the UK needs broader, stronger anti-slavery laws. But we also want to make sure that this new Government company isn't complicit in forced labour as we work towards introducing all the measures that we need to see.

FEATURE

Modern slavery first responders in the UK are at breaking point

Many survivors of modern slavery in the UK are finding it hard to get help from 'first responders' – organisations that can make sure they are identified as survivors and get the support they need. Urgent action is needed to fix this.

Reporter

Summer 2025

14

Since 2009, we have chaired the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group (ATMG), a coalition that monitors how well the UK is following its anti-trafficking commitments.

What are first responders?

First responders are designated organisations that can refer potential survivors of modern slavery into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The NRM is the UK's system for identifying and supporting survivors. First responders include statutory services like the police and local authorities, and non-statutory services like non-government organisations (NGOs) and charities.



The ATMG has published a briefing highlighting the pressure that first responder organisations are under, and the serious risk this poses to survivors.

The report reveals a worrying gap in support for survivors. In 2024, over 19,000 people were referred into the NRM. Trusted frontline charities are vital for many survivors, but they are at breaking point, overwhelmed and under-resourced as demand for their support continues to rise.

Why this matters

FEATURE

Non-statutory first responders are extremely important because:

- Many survivors do not trust public authorities – this could be due to threats made by traffickers, their precarious immigration status, or past experiences.
- They provide a higher quality of referrals.
- The support they offer takes into account the trauma people have been through and they make survivors feel as comfortable and supported as possible.

But, over the years, these organisations have raised concerns about the limited capacity and resources available to support survivors of modern slavery.

They need support

Non-statutory first responders face unsustainable pressure to refer potential survivors to the NRM. The latest ATMG report reveals:

- There aren't enough non-statutory first responders. This means that designated organisations receive a high number of people requesting support and cannot give proper attention to everyone.
- Most first responders aren't funded to carry out referral services. Submitting a referral to the NRM takes time, experienced staff, sometimes an interpreter, and knowledge of how to accommodate trauma. With limited resources and staff, first responders can't always allocate enough staff to complete referrals.
- Waiting times are too long. Sometimes it can take months to complete referrals, so survivors are not able to swiftly get support.

First responder organisations are crucial. But with an increase in NRM referrals year on year, a lack of resources continues to prevent survivors from being identified and getting the support they need.

We need urgent action to ensure that first responder organisations can keep providing vital support to survivors.

Find out what non-statutory first responders are calling for to improve capacity.

Read the full briefing:





mo anti-

oday's fight for tomorrow's freedom

Want to dive deeper into our story?

Don't miss the special 200th anniversary edition of the Reporter, arriving this Autumn. It will be packed with powerful moments from our history.

From the archives: a legacy of resistance

Did you know, there was a Reporter magazine before Anti-Slavery International even existed?

First published in 1825 by abolitionist Zachary Macaulay, the Anti-Slavery Monthly Reporter gave voice to a growing movement calling for an end to slavery.

FEATURE

Physical copies of the Reporter from the 1800s can still be found in collections at the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool, the Bodleian Library, the Wellcome Collection, and the British Library.

Then, 14 years later, in 1839, the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, which later became Anti-Slavery International, was born. Since then, our name has changed several times, but our commitment to freedom has stayed the same. As we look back through the pages of old Reporters, we're reminded of how far we've come and how far we still have to go.

Today, nearly 50 million people are estimated to be exploited in modern forms of slavery. By revisiting our archives, we not only honour our history but also draw lessons for today's campaign to end slavery.

What worked then? What must we do differently now?

For two centuries, we have kept the tradition of the Reporter alive, reporting on the victories and challenges in our mission to end modern slavery. We will continue to learn lessons from the past as we work towards a better future for everyone, everywhere.

Through the years, one thing remains true: change takes perseverance, learning and people power. We're proud to continue this legacy by working alongside survivors, governments, businesses, allies and supporters like you.

Want to explore the archives?

Visit **archive.org** to read editions of the Anti-Slavery Reporter dating back to the 1800s.

Trigger warning: Some historical issues contain language that wouldn't be used today and may cause offence.



Reporter Summer 2025 **17**

Putting modern slavery on the climate agenda

As the impacts of climate change worsen, so too does the risk of exploitation. Around the world, climate change is driving people from their homes and livelihoods, making them more vulnerable to forced labour, trafficking and forced marriage.

That's why our climate team has been working hard to make sure modern slavery is part of the global climate conversation. Here's a snapshot of what we've been doing:

New report: climate change, mobility and modern slavery

In March 2025, we published a new report on the connection between climate change and modern slavery. It calls for a well-rounded approach to climate action that recognises the

links between environmental breakdown and people being displaced and exploited.



Definitions:

Climate adaptation are the actions that help reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.

Loss and damage are the negative impacts of climate change that are not fully avoidable through prevention, reduction and adaptation efforts.

COP29: speaking up on a global stage

We took part in COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, to discuss climate finance, adaptation, and making sure that the shift to a cleaner, more sustainable economy is fair for everyone. We know that people pay attention to migration and mobility in discussions on climate adaptation — that is, why people move or don't move because of the impacts of climate change. So, it's crucial for us to continue emphasising how climate-induced migration can lead to modern slavery.

Listen to our climate change advocacy manager share more:

Launching the Climate Change and Modern Slavery Hub

In October 2024, we launched a new online hub bringing together vital evidence on the links between climate change, migration and modern slavery. The goal is to help decision-makers create policies that reduce the risk of modern slavery.

Stav tuned as we continue this critical work pushing for a climate-resilient future where everyone can live free from exploitation.

Put your knowledge to the test

As one of our committed supporters, you will have discovered some powerful insights about our work and history.

Now's your chance to see just how much you've learned. Take a few minutes to tackle this crossword about the movement to end slavery.

Hint: The answers are in this issue of the Reporter, on our blog, or on our social media.

1a

2a

Across

and develop steps to

5a Sahelian country. Passed a

penal code in October 2024

that criminalises slavery in

6a In the early 1990s, formerly

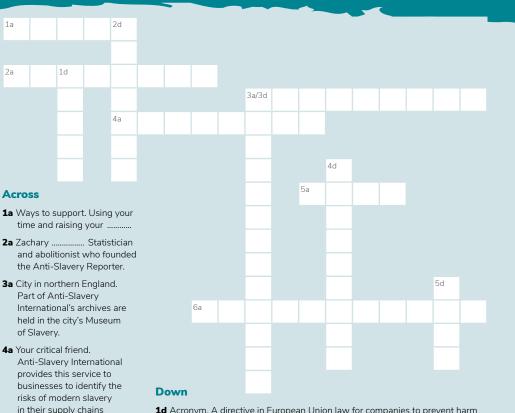
known as Anti-Slavery

International for the

address them.

the country.

protection of .



- 1d Acronym. A directive in European Union law for companies to prevent harm to people and planet.
- 2d Writer and abolitionist who wrote about his experiences in slavery and became involved in the abolitionist movement in Britain in the 1780s.
- 3d The negative impacts of climate change that are not fully avoidable through prevention, reduction or adaptation efforts.
- . Half Marathon which happened on 6 April 2025. 4d | ondon Runners saw the sights of the City while representing Anti-Slavery International.
- **5d** A coalition. Created to keep an eve on the UK's compliance with European anti-trafficking laws. Anti-Slavery International chairs it.

Anti-Slavery International in the news

Ten years on, the UK's **Modern Slavery Act is still** not fit for purpose

Reporter

Summer 2025

20

For the 10th anniversary of the Modern Slavery Act, Sian Lea, our Business and Human Rights Manager, wrote an article for Sustainable Views. a Financial Times specialist service. Though ground-breaking when it was introduced, the Act has failed to provide an effective framework to tackle modern slavery in the UK.

Read more about the Modern Slaverv Act on page 10.

Read the full article here:

Housing support for survivors of modern slavery

This PoliticsHome article discusses a briefing by the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group. The article and the briefing are about how difficult it is for survivors of modern

slavery to get safe and appropriate housing.

Read the article here:

And the briefing here:



UK Government urged to investigate flights from China suspected to be linked to importing goods made with forced labour

One of our experts is quoted in Politico. The article looks at products being imported into the UK that are at an extremely high risk

of being tainted with forced labour.

Read the article here:

Sign our petition calling for an import ban on goods made with forced labour:





paid by the pick, not by the hour

In February 2025, Anti-Slavery International sent a joint letter to the Low Pay Commission asking for an investigation into unfair payment for workers who came to

the UK on seasonal visa schemes. The issue was covered in the Guardian.



Illustration: Faltrego for Anti-Slavery

Internationa

Our supporters in action

We're constantly inspired by our dedicated supporters. From personal challenges to team efforts, every step you take brings us closer to a world free from slavery.

Here's what some of you have been up to.



For Anti-Slavery Day 2024, staff at the Academy of Executive Coaching completed a 25km walk across central London. Along the way, they passed the London Museum Docklands and other significant historical landmarks and learned about the fight against slavery, as they raised funds and awareness for Anti-Slavery International.

Louise Laing

congratulations to

our supporter. Louise.

TCS London Marathon

who completed the

incredible £1,796 -

as well as grabbing a

new personal best at

2025, raising an

4 hours and 52

minutes!

A massive

Running for change



Cara Rainbow

Cara took on her first road half marathon this year - and she did it for freedom.

⁴⁴ After watching a documentary 15 years ago, I knew I wanted to help end modern slavery."

Essential Recruitment

Our lona-time supporters at Essential Recruitment showed incredible dedication by running for freedom at the London Landmarks Half Marathon.



Operations Managers Lauren and Rob raised £1,775!

We want to say a huge thank you to every one of our supporters who has taken on a challenge and helped raise vital funds for freedom. Your efforts are changing lives.

Feeling Inspired?

Ready to take on your own challenge? Visit our website or email us at



supporter@antislavery.org





Migrant farm workers in the UK

Read the article here:

FEATURE

A legacy of freedom

We all want to leave the world a better place, making sure our loved ones have a bright and secure future. But for millions of people still trapped in modern slavery, freedom often feels out of reach.

By leaving a gift in your Will to Anti-Slavery International, you can help people escape modern slavery and rebuild their lives in freedom.

Even a small percentage of your estate can create lasting change, offering hope and freedom to people who need it most.

Why your Will matters

Leaving a gift in your Will is one of the most powerful ways to create lasting change and will help:

- Achieve long-term change by tackling the root causes of slavery and exploitation.
- Work with survivors, placing their voices at the heart of everything we do.
- Strengthen a global movement fighting slavery for over 180 years.
- Influence laws and policies through work with the United Nations, European Union and national governments.

Types of gifts you can leave

Leaving a gift in your Will is simple, and there are a few types of gifts you can leave:

- A share of your estate: a percentage of what's left after loved ones are provided for.
- A fixed sum of money: a specific amount you choose.
- A specific item: this might be property, shares or a personal possession.

Whatever you decide, your gift will help transform lives.

Ask for donations instead of flowers

Another way you can help more people live in freedom is by asking for donations to Anti-Slavery International instead of flowers at your funeral. This simple request ensures your memory lives on while helping those exploited in modern slavery. You can include this request in your Will or ask your solicitor to add a separate note.

Your legacy can change the lives of people like Saidou

In Mauritania, people are still born into slavery, forced into a life of brutal labour with no way out. Women like Saidou are made to work from childhood, facing violence and hardship. When she fell seriously ill and was no longer able to stand, her enslavers abandoned her. With no support, she managed to crawl to a nearby road, desperate for help.

Thanks to support from our local partners, Saidou escaped slavery, received medical care, and built a new life. Today, she is thriving with her own business and is part of a community of women supporting each other towards freedom.

By leaving a gift in your Will, you can ensure more people like Saidou have the chance to escape slavery and build a future full of hope.

Saidou and two of her adult children.



How to leave a gift in your Will

If you don't have a Will, a solicitor can write one for you. If you already have a Will, simply contact your solicitor to add a gift to Anti-Slavery International.

You can also request a legacy postcard to keep with your Will or send to your



Together, we can build

a world where everyone

lives in freedom. dianity

and safety.

solicitor. The postcard invites them to get in touch with you to talk about leaving a gift to Anti-Slavery International. Request your legacy postcard:



Get in touch

We'd love to hear from you if you're considering leaving a gift of freedom in your Will.

Please contact **supporter@antislavery.org** or call us on **020 7737 9435**.

How much do you know about Anti-Slavery International?

Set up 186 years ago, Anti-Slavery International is considered the oldest human rights organisation in the world. Our movement has a long history and has included international campaigns applying pressure on governments and magazines to raise awareness on slavery worldwide.

Which came first, the Anti-Slavery Society or the Reporter magazine?

A. The Society

B. The Reporter

Know someone who'd love to support the campaign against modern slavery?

Encourage them to join the movement today. Just share this QR code so they can sign up.



