anti-slavery

Impact Report 2025



Credit: Apsatou Bagaya

Together, we're dismantling modern slavery

What your actions made possible

Join the movement: **antislavery.org**



A shop supported by our partner Timidria, helping survivors of slavery and people of slave descent achieve independent living.

Credit: Jessica Turner for Anti-Slavery International

Supporting people to access their freedom

In Niger, Mali and Mauritania, thousands of people are still born into slavery, denied basic rights, controlled by so-called “masters”, and prevented from shaping their own futures. Together with local partners, we work alongside survivors and descendants of people who were held in slavery, supporting them to live in freedom and dignity.

A vital step towards full inclusion in society, and achieving and enjoying their human rights, is **access to legal identity**. In 2025 we helped people secure birth certificates and identity documents, unlocking access to education, healthcare, social support, and the ability to travel safely. Through socio-economic support, people were supported to develop income-generating activities, including selling goods, **helping build long-term independence**.

You also helped push for stronger national and international legal and policy frameworks, so slavery is criminalised, prevented, and addressed through justice-led responses. Through sustained advocacy with governments and regional and international institutions, we are collectively pushing for legal systems that truly protect people at risk.

In Niger, many children may be forced to beg under the guise of religious education. While many Qur’anic schools are safe, some expose children to trafficking and abuse. In 2025, you helped strengthen child protection responses by supporting training for child protection and law enforcement professionals, **helping prevent exploitation and protect children’s rights and futures**.



Credit: Daouda Correa

Breaking the link between climate change and human trafficking

In 2025, together we helped shape global understanding of **how climate change increases the risk of human trafficking**, contributing to a major report led by the International Organization for Migration. Thanks to your support, we contributed evidence to show that when communities face more frequent disasters, lost livelihoods, and failing essential services, the risk of exploitation rises, especially for people already experiencing poverty or instability.

The report highlighted that strong emergency responses to sudden climate disasters can reduce trafficking risks when they include awareness raising, victim identification, and protection. We also raised concerns about how slower, long-term environmental damage, such as droughts, crop failures and collapsing local economies, is often overlooked, even though it pushes people towards dangerous migration journeys, risky debt and heightened exploitation.

Together, we’re calling for urgent action: embedding anti-trafficking protections into climate policies, creating safe migration pathways for people displaced by climate change, and ensuring strong labour rights in the destination countries. These measures are essential to breaking the link between climate change and human trafficking, and your support is helping make them possible.

Click the link to read the full report: ‘Climate Change, Mobility, and Modern Slavery: Emerging approaches and perspectives from civil society’.



Credit: Fabeha Monir

Forced labour and climate change are deeply connected.

The report found exploitation across intensive agriculture, mining, construction, and even renewable energy supply chains like solar panels and lithium batteries.

Tackling forced labour and driving change in the UK

Keeping forced labour in the spotlight



Credit: Olena Yakobchuk/ Shutterstock.com

A BBC investigation in December 2024, featuring one of our experts, alleged that several UK supermarket own-brand tomato purées appeared to contain tomatoes likely to have been picked or processed using forced labour in the Uyghur Region in China. Throughout 2025, this investigation helped sustain national attention on the issue of modern slavery in supply chains, strengthening campaigns for tougher UK laws and greater corporate responsibility.

Together, this work reinforced a stark truth: the UK continues to import goods linked to forced labour, and voluntary company commitments are not enough to protect workers.

Click the link to read more about the BBC's investigation.

Pushing supermarkets and farm owners to take action

Thousands of supporters joined us in calling on major supermarkets, including Asda, Tesco, Morrisons, and Waitrose, to take meaningful steps to remove forced labour from their supply chains.

Working in partnership with Ethical Consumer, supporters also stood with farm workers in Níjar, Spain, calling for access to clean drinking water and dignified working conditions.

- ✓ **2,600+** supporters challenged supermarkets on forced labour safeguards
- ✓ **1,728** campaigned for farm workers' access to drinking water in Spain
- ✓ **1,132** urged the Mayor of Níjar to restore water and dignity
- ✓ **787** supporters emailed supermarkets demanding immediate action

Together, these actions sent a clear message: people in the UK expect fair, safe, and humane working conditions for those who grow our food.

Marking 10 years of the Modern Slavery Act



Credit: Jessica Turner for Anti-Slavery International

A decade on, the Modern Slavery Act has failed to prevent exploitation or stop high-risk goods from reaching UK shelves.

To mark the anniversary, we delivered a petition signed by **over 10,000** supporters to 10 Downing Street, alongside Lord Alton of Liverpool and Rahima Mahmut from Stop Uyghur Genocide. The petition called for a law banning goods made with forced labour and was accompanied by a leaflet highlighting everyday products at risk, such as tomato paste.

Progress on the Great British Energy Bill

Over the past year, supporters stood with us to ensure that Great British Energy, the Government's publicly owned energy company, operates free from forced labour. The solar industry remains deeply entangled with forced labour in the Uyghur region, but through Anti-Slavery International's sustained advocacy, including engagement with MPs and Peers such as Sarah Champion and Lord Alton, the Government introduced an amendment to safeguard Great British Energy's business and supply chain from such abuses.

This marks a significant step forward and shows how persistent, collective action can deliver real change, even as we continue to push for stronger UK anti-slavery laws.

Calling for a Business, Human Rights, & Environment Act

In June 2025, **over 145,000*** people helped deliver a powerful message to the Prime Minister, calling for a new Business, Human Rights, and Environment Act. The petition was backed by partners including Corporate Justice Coalition, Friends of the Earth, Labour Behind the Label, Transform Trade, Eko, and Freedom United.

The proposed law would:

- Require UK companies to carry out meaningful, transparent due diligence.
- Hold companies accountable if they fail to prevent harm to people and the planet.

This campaign demonstrates that your support is not only raising awareness but also driving change, holding governments and companies accountable, and making UK supply chains safer for workers worldwide.

Click the link to read our article "The Modern Slavery Act 10 years later: Why it's failed to end modern slavery".



Credit: Gabriela Carvalho

Our partners on a 95km march to Brussels to protest against the harmful "Omnibus" proposal.

Marching to get Back to the Future

In June 2024, the EU adopted the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), a landmark legislation with the potential to **transform global business practices** and **strengthen protections for workers worldwide**.

But in 2025, that progress came under threat. In February, the European Commission introduced its "Omnibus" proposal. This amendment would severely weaken the Directive by reducing companies' responsibilities across their supply chains and removing vital safeguards for people at risk of forced labour.

We stood alongside 75 NGOs from the Global South to challenge the EU Commission's undemocratic introduction of this proposal, not following its own process of consultation with affected communities. We joined partners in reporting the Commission to the EU watchdog about the serious risks this proposal poses to human rights and environmental protections.

In September, Anti-Slavery International's CEO and Head of UK and European Advocacy, joined allies from Friends of the Earth Europe, the European Coalition for Corporate Justice, and the European Trade Union Confederation on a 95km "Back to the Future" march from Maastricht to Brussels to protest against deregulation. The message was clear: **the EU must not turn back the clock on protections for people and the planet**.

We won't stop campaigning until governments put people and planet before profit. No one should have to choose between products that harm workers and the environment, and those that are safe, fair, and sustainable.

Click the link for more information on our protest against the EU's push for deregulation.

200 years of bearing witness



Drawing of Zachary Macaulay by Joseph Slater from 'Life and Letters of Zachary Macaulay' by Viscountess Knutsford (London, 1900).

In October, we celebrated an extraordinary milestone: 200 years since our Reporter magazine first gave voice to the movement to end slavery.

In 1825, abolitionist Zachary Macaulay founded the *Anti-Slavery Monthly Reporter*, believing that exposing injustice could spark change. Two centuries later, that mission endures, documenting injustice, inspiring action, and speaking truth to power.

Across its pages, the Reporter has chronicled humanity's long struggle against slavery, from the transatlantic slave trade to today's hidden forms of exploitation. Generations of campaigners have challenged indifference and demanded accountability. While the systems and language of slavery have changed, the fight for freedom is far from over.

Click the link to read the 200th anniversary issue.

Shining a light on modern slavery

Today, **more than 50 million people** are exploited in modern slavery, in factories, farms, homes, and conflict zones. On Anti-Slavery Day (18 October), we brought this reality into public view with the striking "Slavery Never Ended" projection on Westminster Bridge. It was a powerful reminder that abolition did not conclusively end slavery, but forced it underground.

During Anti-Slavery Week, we also hosted our "Unfinished Freedom" event, where our CEO reflected on our history and future direction, alongside human rights experts, activists, and academics examining why slavery persists and how it can be ended. These moments invited people to confront uncomfortable truths and consider how they can support those experiencing exploitation today.



Our projection on Westminster Bridge to mark Anti-Slavery Day (18 October)

Mapping your impact worldwide in 2025



Credit: Anti-Slavery International

UK

In 2025, you helped keep survivor protection and preventing forced labour on the national agenda. Together, we pushed for stronger UK laws, delivering petitions to Downing Street to stop goods made using forced labour entering the UK, securing a vital amendment to the Great British Energy Bill, and calling for a Business, Human Rights, and Environment Act to tackle abuse and environmental harm in UK supply chains. (see pages 4-5)

UK

Through new research from the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group, we highlighted the growing pressure on frontline charities supporting survivors of modern slavery.

EU

In 2025, we stood against the EU's proposal, which would weaken protections for workers and the planet under the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD).

In September, we joined a 95km march from Maastricht to Brussels with partner organisations, sending a clear message: **EU laws must protect people and the planet**. (See page 6)



Credit: Gabriela Carvalho

View our campaigns and add your voice:



Credit: Anti-Slavery International

UK

Cases of enslavement and exploitation are commonly reported in many conflicts. In June, we joined the Red Line for Gaza coalition, standing alongside civil society and the public to urge the UK Government to do everything in its power to protect civilians and prevent further harm. **Over 100,000* people have emailed their MP in solidarity with Palestinians**, demanding that they do everything in their power to end the genocide and support the Palestinian people in finding freedom and safety.

RED LINE FOR GAZA

Credit: War Child UK

Switzerland, China and Turkmenistan

You helped bring global attention to state-imposed forced labour. At key international forums in Geneva, Switzerland, we raised concerns about forced labour in the Uyghur Region, China and Turkmenistan. We ran a co-led event at the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, engaged with the UN Human Rights Office, the UN expert on contemporary forms of slavery, and the International Labour Organization on a range of topics.

Turkmenistan

Uyghur Region



Credit: Cara Prestley for Anti-Slavery International

Mali

Niger

Kenya

Indonesia and Kenya

You helped shine a light on exploitation risks facing app-based workers in the fast-growing platform economy. Working with our partner, Equidem, we published new research with delivery and ride-hailing workers in Indonesia and Kenya, highlighting unsafe working conditions, debt, excessive hours, and pressure created by ratings and penalties. We are calling for governments, companies, trade unions, and the International Labour Organization to agree global standards for decent work in this sector.

Click the link to read the full report

Indonesia

Mali

You helped strengthen efforts to end slavery at its roots. Working alongside partners, we **advocated for a comprehensive anti-slavery law in Mali**, and saw these recommendations echoed by the UN Independent Expert on the human rights situation in the country.



Credit: Alice Mutasa

Niger

Together with local partners, you helped children and adults of slave descent, as well as survivors of slavery, secure birth registration and identity documents, which is a vital step towards education, healthcare, and full participation in society. (See page 2)



Credit: Marius Dobilas/ Shutterstock.com

Watch our short video on your impact in 2025:



Interested in fundraising for Anti-Slavery International? Get inspired here:



*These signers include people who took action through coalition campaigns as well as directly with Anti-Slavery International.

Thank you for your support

From all of us at Anti-Slavery International, thank you for being the driving force behind our movement. Everything we achieved in 2025 was made possible by your actions, voices, and commitment to freedom.

Here's a snapshot of what we've achieved together:

- Your generous donations and fundraising efforts sustained and strengthened our work. A special highlight was our BBC Radio 4 appeal, where your donations, along with a generous match from an anonymous donor, helped raise **over £100,000**.
- **More than 261,000* people** added their voices to our campaigns by signing petitions to strengthen laws and protections against modern slavery.

Together, these actions helped push slavery into the spotlight, strengthen accountability, and support long-term change.



Broadcaster Lucy Watson recording our Radio 4 Appeal.

Credit: Thea Littlewood for Anti-Slavery International

Lauren and Rob from Essential Recruitment celebrating completing their run for freedom at the London Landmarks Half Marathon.



Introducing our new partnership with Farewill

In 2025, we partnered with Farewill, the UK's leading will-writing service. Supporters of Anti-Slavery International can write their Will for free through Farewill, with no obligation to leave us a gift. However, choosing to include Anti-Slavery International in your Will can help ensure our work continues for generations to come, and we are truly grateful to those who decide to pledge this legacy of freedom.

For more information, please visit **farewill.com/antislavery**
Or contact Farewill on **020 8050 2686**.

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