

Anti-Slavery International strategy 2026-2031

Introduction

In a world where modern slavery is increasing, where traditional forms have not been eradicated, and new forms are evolving with global developments and increasing vulnerability for many, ASI's two-hundred-year-old mission remains as vital as ever. Current global, national, sectoral and organisational challenges, trends and opportunities make it particularly important for ASI to clearly define how it will work with others to eradicate slavery in all its forms.

Our vision of freedom from slavery for everyone, everywhere, always, remains the same.

For the next strategic period, **Anti-Slavery International aims to drive systemic change towards eliminating all forms of slavery by working where UK or international value chains or other international forces contribute to exploitation, and where UK, EU or international leverage can contribute to structural change.**

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; and
- With others, challenging and changing law, policy and practice so everyone, everywhere can be free from slavery.

Specifically, Anti-Slavery International will:

- Use evidence (research, programme impact data, lived experience) to influence legislation, policy and practice that drive systemic change to prevent slavery and/or support survivors in the U.K., EU and where international forces or dynamics are significant.
- Concentrate where there are international value chains involving forced labour, which itself takes many forms. Behind global supply chains are workers, families and communities whose lives are shaped by exploitation and poverty, whose lived experience should inform the solutions designed to address these harms.
- Work where international forces, such as climate change, migration, trafficking, conflict, investment or digital exploitation are drivers of local vulnerability or exploitation, and where Anti-Slavery International supporting international activity can make a significant difference. This includes partnerships and movements across Africa, Asia and other regions where these pressures are most acutely experienced, ensuring that local realities continue to inform and strengthen international advocacy and policy change.
- Where we have existing partnerships, be open to continuing to work where our international advocacy linkages can meaningfully contribute to change within the countries where our partners work.
- Work in partnership with organisations better placed to prevent slavery and provide immediate services to support survivors. This is likely to be through joint programmes that maximise our shared impact and where we can use the learning to impact wider systems.

What will we do to bring about the change we seek?

We will bring about change by working to improve:

- **UK legislation, regulation and implementation**, including advocating for mandatory human rights due diligence (mHRDD) and forced labour import bans. We will also work toward improvements in the enforcement of existing domestic and

international legislation and guidance, including the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Human Trafficking (ECAT).

- Collaboration on strategic litigation will be one element of this and our EU work.
- EU regulation and implementation, with a focus on business and human rights and trade. This includes mHRDD and the forced labour ban, and the attention given to forced labour in trade agreements.
- Guidance, principles and policies of relevant international (particularly ILO) and regional organisations related to all forms of slavery.
- Tackling state-imposed forced labour in international supply chains, in collaboration with relevant coalitions and local/regional partners.
- Corporate accountability, promotion of best practice and advisory work, linked to the U.K. and/or international supply chains, including subsidiaries or platform economies.
- Collaborative research and evidence gathering with universities, businesses and other organisations to underpin action on any of the identified issues,
- The building of public awareness, mobilisation and movement building to address awareness and social norms in the U.K. and other countries in which we work, linked to any of the above areas of focus.
- Using our archives and history to be a thought leader on contemporary and historical forms of slavery and the connections between them.
- Exploring and implementing systematic approaches to the meaningful integration of lived experience.
- While we see UK/EU and international advocacy as our distinctive contribution to system change, we know that enforcement of local laws and provision of services to survivors is also essential. We will seek to work in partnership with organisations best placed to offer direct support to people who have and are experiencing modern slavery today. We will support programmes that offer such services where we can build a linkage between the service delivery and advocacy to address the underlying causes.

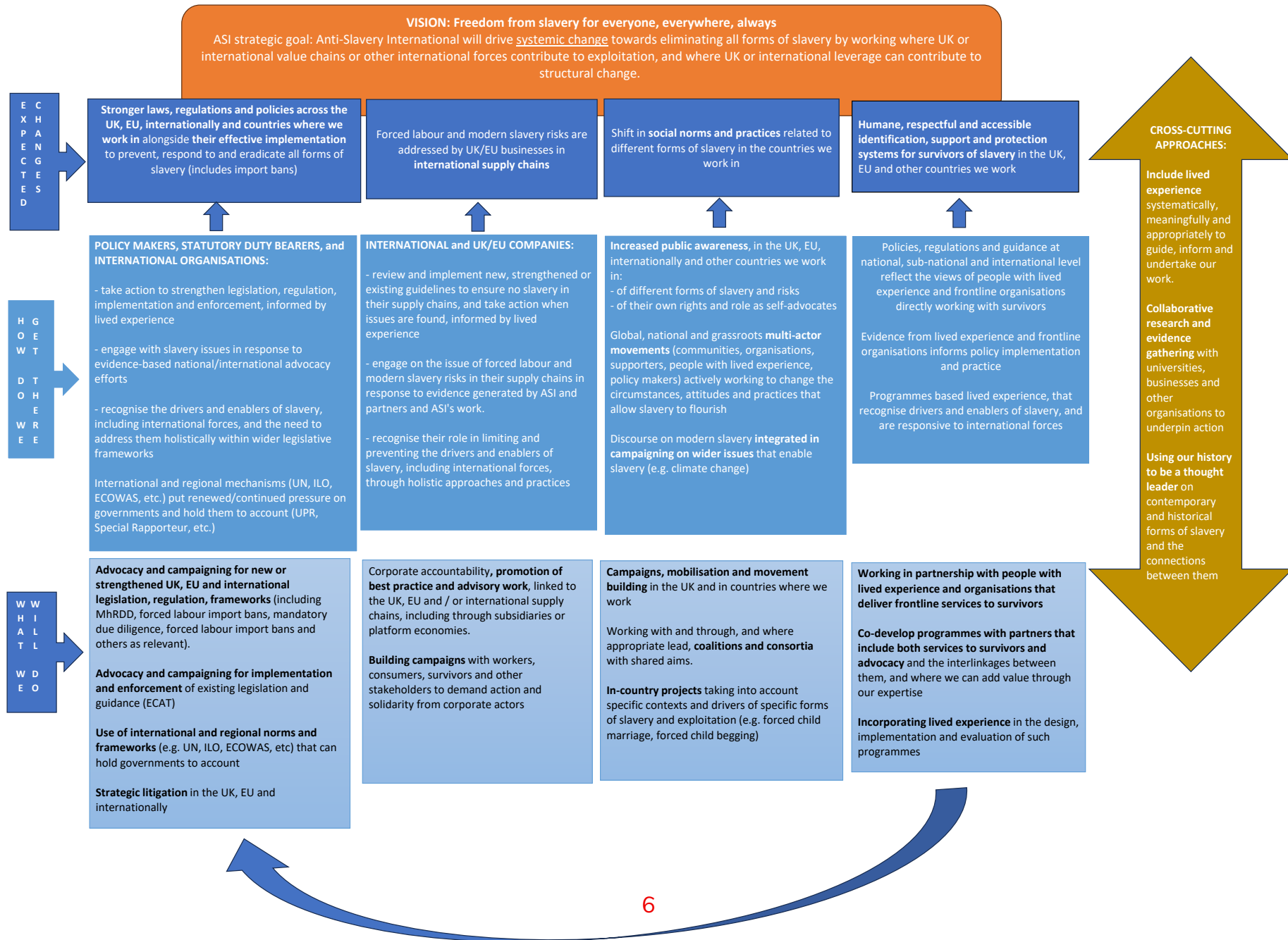
How will we work?

- We will value and use evidence from a range of sources, but will try and prioritise lived experience in all that we do
- We will proactively design and build bodies of work with linked activities where we can seek multiple sources of funding and sustain partnerships and activity over time.
- We will work with national partners in ways where we can add value to in- country efforts, usually by strengthening links with international networks, sharing learning and helping them access UK or international fora to advocate for themselves
- We will work with and through, and where appropriate lead, coalitions and consortia with shared aims. These will include but not be limited to the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group (ATMG) and NForce, an international network convened by Anti-Slavery International.
- In terms of working with businesses, we will prioritise strategic engagement that has the potential for broad-based sector-wide improvements. We will continue to explore whether there is an appropriate fee-for-service advisory role for Anti-Slavery International.
- We will collaborate with trade unions and other partners from different sectors with shared interests in eradicating slavery.
- We will explore how we can better communicate with which part of the public to better promote our cause, including amplifying survivors' voices, to build public support for action and raise our organisation's profile.
- We will adapt our specific focus as global/national circumstances and opportunities change.
- We will seek to develop blended finance models that use funds from a range of sources to maximise scale and impact over time.

What change do we expect to see as a result of our work?

Most fundamentally, we seek systemic change that reduces the number of people living in slavery and offers better support for survivors to rebuild their lives. To contribute to this, we expect to see:

- Stronger laws, regulations and policies that fully align with international human rights legal standards, alongside their effective enforcement across the UK, EU, and other national contexts where we operate. This will include import bans where there is state-imposed forced labour.
- International and UK/EU national companies taking a proactive approach to forced labour and modern slavery risks in their supply chains, including by addressing harmful business models and purchasing practices that can drive these harms, improving how they identify and remedy issues when they occur, and continuously strengthening their practices over time.
- Policymakers, local movements and organisations actively working to change the circumstances- global and local- and the attitudes that allow slavery to flourish.
- Humane, respectful and accessible support systems for survivors in the UK/EU and other countries in which we work.
- A stronger voice for people with lived experience in our organisation and sector.
- A financially stable and influential Anti-Slavery International, with strong partnerships, people and culture.



Next steps

In the next months, we will seek to clarify our focus in more practical ways. This will involve clearer prioritisation within this framework and developing the outlines of bodies of linked work for which we will be seeking funding from multiple sources over time. These need to relate realistically to possible funding streams, especially as we have some major programmes and sources of funds ending.

We will also clarify how current staffing and skills fit what we most need and will begin a programme to ensure that managers have the necessary skills to lead and that we have the right expertise, culture, behaviours and support to be a healthy, effective organisation that can deliver the strategy.