

Reporter

Autumn 2023

Voices united for freedom

- Shining a light on modern slavery
- Celebrating our partners in Niger
- Unity with survivors

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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Cover image: Mariem, Mauritania. Read about our work with SOS-Esclaves on page 16.

Tell us what you want from Reporter

By reading Reporter, you're part of a movement that has its roots in the trans-Atlantic 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 [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to keep up to date with our campaigns – you can find links to our social media on our website antislavery.org.

INTRODUCTION

Voices united against slavery

Welcome to the latest edition of Anti-Slavery International's Reporter, your trusted source for news and updates on the campaign to end modern slavery.

In this edition, we share a selection of stories and developments that highlight our ongoing efforts to achieve freedom from slavery for everyone, everywhere.

Together we are using our voices to campaign for the rights of victims and survivors in the UK. In response to the UK Government's continued pursuit of harmful policies, thousands of us said 'no' to the so-called 'Illegal Migration' Bill. Sadly, despite our efforts and those of many passionate supporters like you, the Bill was passed into law. We remain deeply concerned about the potential impact of this legislation on vulnerable people, who now face increased risks of exploitation and abuse. Through rigorous advocacy and collaboration with partners, we will keep striving to make sure the rights of victims and survivors are protected and that their dignity is upheld.

We also examine the latest Global Slavery Index, which sheds light on the scale and nature of modern slavery worldwide. The Index provides invaluable insight into the progress made and the areas where urgent action is still needed to eradicate slavery.



Jasmine O'Connor OBE
Anti-Slavery International
chief executive

Working with renowned local organisation in Mauritania, SOS-Esclaves, we have been successfully supporting people escaping slavery to start new lives in freedom. I hope you are as inspired as I am by the stories of hope and justice you read in these pages.

Following several years of successful advocacy, a new draft EU law has been designed to hold companies accountable for human rights and environmental abuses in their supply chains.

Lastly, as we approach Anti-Slavery Day on 18 October, we encourage everyone to get involved in our ongoing initiatives. Whether you are raising awareness, organising events or donating, your participation is crucial to building a future where every person can live in freedom and dignity.

Thank you for your continued support and your dedication to working for freedom and justice. Together, we are making a tangible difference to the lives of people affected by slavery and shaping a world where everyone can live in freedom.



Credit: Jessica Turner for Anti-Slavery International

Shining a light on modern slavery

In 2022, Walk Free, the International Organization for Migration and the International Labour Organization released the Global Estimates of Modern Slavery. The Estimates reveal the true extent of modern slavery around the world. But one person in slavery is one too many.

Devastatingly, the Estimates showed 49.6 million people were trapped in slavery – **a staggering increase of 10 million people since the previous report in 2017.**

Building on the Estimates, Walk Free has now released the Global Slavery Index. This country and topic-specific overview delivers a clear message: “we’ve measured it, you can change it”.

The Global Slavery Index paints a damning picture of the number of

people in slavery worldwide. We’ve broken down the estimated number of people living in slavery in some of the countries where we work:

- **Bangladesh:** an estimated 1.2 million people
- **Mauritania:** an estimated 149,000 people
- **United Kingdom:** an estimated 122,000 people
- **Niger:** an estimated 112,000 people

The sharp increase in modern slavery is fuelled by a number of challenges, such as climate change and environmental degradation, gender inequality and discrimination, and harmful business practices.

Our team co-authored an article on the critical connection between climate change and slavery. Anti-Slavery International act as expert reviewers, contributing our expertise to shape

Curious to learn more about the Global Slavery Index and the links between modern slavery and climate change? Read our report and join our mission to end slavery once and for all: antislavery.org/reports/the-costs-of-the-climate-crisis

this groundbreaking report. Here’s a taster of the powerful message we share in our article:

“ We need to define specific solutions to reduce vulnerabilities [to climate change and modern slavery]. Anti-Slavery International is investigating these elements and collating evidence that can inform the design of solutions that are effective and speak to the needs of the most vulnerable... Responses must be people-focused, rights-centred, and integrated. If we act quickly in response to the linked challenges posed by climate change and modern slavery, we can make real progress toward a more just and equal society that is free of exploitation. ”

There’s no denying that we have a lot of work ahead of us. However, alongside our partners, we can harness this new data to target the root causes and achieve a world without slavery.

Together, we have the power to make a lasting impact.



Celebrating our inspirational partners

We are constantly inspired by the unwavering dedication of our partners and their relentless pursuit of freedom for all. With recent news from Niger in West Africa, we wanted to shine a light on a remarkable organisation we have had the privilege of working with: Timidria, a human rights and development association based in Niger.

Founded by the fearless anti-slavery campaigner Iguilas Weila, **Timidria has become a beacon of hope in the fight against slavery**. The association's team works tirelessly to tackle the various forms of slavery in Niger, focusing on the deeply entrenched issue of **descent-based slavery**, whereby people are still born into ownership by masters, and are treated and traded as commodities. Timidria's expertise and steadfast commitment has made a significant impact on the lives of countless people.

An estimated 112,000 people are trapped in slavery in Niger. In this context, descent-based slavery and the practice of 'wahaya' loom large.

Descent-based slavery is when an individual is born into slavery. This is usually because their ancestors were captured into slavery, and their families have 'belonged' to the slave-owning families ever since. The slavery status is passed down the maternal line.

Wahaya is when a girl is sold as a so-called 'fifth wife' into domestic and sexual servitude. Despite legal reforms, this practice is prevalent in Niger.

But, together with Timidria and your support, we are working relentlessly to put an end to this injustice. Here's how:

- Providing legal support to survivors of slavery: When survivors have access to legal advice, they can reclaim their lives and seek the justice they deserve.
- Supporting survivors to obtain vital identity documents: Identity documents allow individuals to integrate into society, access social services and find a job. With our partners, we help survivors obtain these documents, opening the doors to a brighter future.
- Awareness raising with communities: Education is key to



A shop supported by Anti-Slavery International and Timidria. It offers newly freed people a way to earn an income.

breaking the cycle of slavery. Together, we raise awareness about the rights of individuals, fostering a culture of empowerment and freedom.

- Supporting communities of formerly enslaved people: True liberation goes beyond individual freedom, so we support communities to build sustainable livelihoods through income-generating activities, making sure they have a path towards independence.
- Advocating for victims with local authorities: We amplify the voices of survivors and advocate for their rights alongside community representatives, urging local authorities to make sure that people are supported and protected.

Our work in Niger doesn't stop there. We are excited to announce that we are collaborating with two new partners: the Association Nigérienne pour le Traitement de la Délinquance et la prévention du crime (Nigerien Association for the Prevention of Delinquency and Crime – ANTD) and Ecole, Parrainage et Actions de

We continue to support our partners in Niger and look forward to working together over the coming years. Our thoughts are with them during this period of unrest. We remain in regular contact with partners who remain safe and well at this time.

Développement (School, Support and Development Activities – EPAD).

Together with these partners, we are tackling forced child begging, a common practice among young boys attending Qur'anic schools in Niger. Because these boys are forced to spend hours each day begging, they are deprived of an education and exposed to many other abuses. With our partners, we are determined to end this injustice and create a brighter future for these children.

We are immensely proud of the progress that we and our partners have made in Niger, but there is still much work to be done. For more information and to get involved visit antislavery.org

If you want to learn more about descent-based slavery, listen to our Head of Programme Quality and Impact, Emma Cain, on the Fascinating People Fascinating Places podcast.

Her expertise and passion are sure to inspire you.

spoti.fi/3YK8Pkw



Unity and Compassion: Our campaign to support survivors of slavery

We know you share our vision that everywhere – including the UK – should provide safety for survivors to thrive in freedom. Together we've been making our voices heard.

However, the current government's policies continue to erode vital support for victims of modern slavery. From the alarming Rwanda policy to the Nationality and Borders Act and the 'Illegal Migration' Act, the UK Government has been rolling back fundamental protections.

These harmful policies make it harder for victims to be recognised, believed and to access support. This puts them at greater risk of exploitation and could potentially force them back into the hands of their traffickers.

Thanks to your support, we have been pushing back. With friends and allies across the UK, we've been countering hostile language and demanding that this Government exercises compassion. Through acts of resistance, both large and small, we have been making it clear that this Government's

language and policies conflict with a commitment to human rights. We have been challenging misinformation, working with allies and making our expert opinion on these policies known.

Incredible supporters like you have added your voices to the chorus. A resounding nearly 17,000 of you spoke out with an emphatic 'NO' to the cruel and inhumane 'Illegal Migration' Act. Over 600 of you reached out to your MPs, making sure your concerns are heard loud and clear. Buoyed by your emails in support of our campaign, we have spoken with a number of individual MPs.



Illustration: Faltrego for Anti Slavery International



Our UK and Europe Advocacy Manager, Jamie Fookes, giving evidence to a Parliamentary Committee hearing on Human Trafficking on behalf of the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group.

We have provided decisive evidence to Parliamentary Committees about the detrimental impact of rolling back support for survivors, briefed Lords and Bishops speaking out against cruel laws that will harm victims, and made noise on social media, spreading awareness and rallying support.

Disappointingly, the bill passed and became law in July 2023. Despite this, we will continue to challenge these policies and fight for a system that supports victims and survivors, which is founded on compassion, and managed competently. The passing of this law is a rallying cry to us all.

During this campaign, many new members have joined our movement. A warm welcome, if this is your first time reading the Reporter. We are

thrilled that you have chosen to join us on the path to ending slavery – a cause we have been championing since 1839.

However, this campaign can only thrive with the power of our collective voice. We need your continued support. Together, we can make sure that the UK provides safety and support to survivors.

Join our **email mailing list** to stay up to date on this and other ongoing campaigns. Either scan the QR code or email supporter@antislavery.org. Let's use our voices to resist modern slavery and pave the way for a brighter, more compassionate future.



Combatting state-imposed forced labour

State-imposed forced labour is a serious violation of human rights that is designed, led or sponsored by a country's government – the very institution duty-bound to protect its citizens. We employ a range of tools and strategies to tackle this complex issue and make sure that all individuals can live in dignity and freedom.

We combat state-imposed forced labour by applying economic and political pressure on governments involved in forced labour systems. And by leveraging our influence and mobilising supporters like you, we send a resounding message that such practices cannot be tolerated.

What does this look like in practice?

- **Engaging with international organisations:** We work closely with major organisations, including the United Nations and the International Labour Organization. We urge them to use their influence to demand an immediate end to state-imposed forced labour.
- **Calling for strong laws:** Robust legislation needs to explicitly ban the trade in products manufactured using state-imposed forced labour, and stop companies sourcing these products. By strengthening legal frameworks worldwide, we aim to halt the economic incentive that perpetuates these human rights abuses.
- **Pressuring companies to cut ties:** We put pressure on companies to clean up their supply chains and make sure their products are not tainted with state-imposed forced labour. Through public awareness campaigns, strategic partnerships and direct dialogue, we hold corporations accountable for their supply chains and demand they adopt ethical sourcing practices.

Turkmenistan cotton harvest

As part of the global Cotton Campaign coalition, we actively monitor the cotton harvest in Turkmenistan. The Cotton Campaign's annual report sheds light on the dire conditions endured by individuals forced to pick cotton. The recent report on the 2022 cotton harvest in Turkmenistan, spearheaded by Turkmen.news and the Turkmen Initiative for Human Rights, revealed widespread and systematic forced

labour, as well as the use of child labour and the presence of abusive and hazardous conditions.

To learn more about the issue, we invite you to read the report, *Time for Change: Forced Labor in Turkmenistan Cotton 2022* shorturl.at/bchiM



EU moves closer to stronger corporate accountability

In June, we celebrated another win: the EU has taken a crucial step towards introducing stronger laws to safeguard human rights and protect the environment. If adopted, this law has the potential to transform the lives of workers around the world.

On 1 June 2023, after months of intense negotiations, the European Parliament approved its official position on the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive.

Our advocacy on this law dates back to 2017. Over the years, we have held many meetings with policymakers, influenced businesses to prioritise this issue, and amplified the voices of our partners from around the world. This development brings us one step closer to a comprehensive due diligence law – one that could have a significant impact on the lives of workers across the globe. An achievement worth celebrating!

Together we are campaigning for two laws in the EU – one that compels companies to safeguard human rights and protect the environment and another that stops the import of goods made with forced labour. The latter is further behind, but we are getting creative – **see page 14** for more information!



As the final discussions between the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of the European Union (the trilogue) continue, we are working with our civil society partners to carry out ongoing advocacy to make sure the best and strongest version of this law passes.

To all those who have supported this campaign and written to their MEPs, we thank you. **Your contributions and dedication have been instrumental in reaching this critical juncture. As we move forward, we will continue to rely on your unwavering support.**

We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of this legislation. If you would like to learn more, we invite you to read our latest blog post:

bit.ly/45DOorO





The Nforce delegation in Brussels

Uniting voices for change: the Global Network Against Forced Labour

In March 2023, we brought a delegation of partners from around the world to Brussels. Their mission? To meet with members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and advocate for stronger EU laws to combat forced labour worldwide. It was an extraordinary opportunity not only to engage policymakers, but also to amplify the voices and perspectives of workers from around the world, something rarely done in Brussels.

Meeting in person for the first time, the Global Network Against Forced Labour (NForce) mobilised for a week packed with lively and invigorating discussions, planned moments for collaboration and brought together the perspectives of people around the world in forced labour.

Read their reflections on the delegation and their advocacy at the EU here in the Reporter. They offer invaluable insight into the importance of this gathering and the impact of their work.

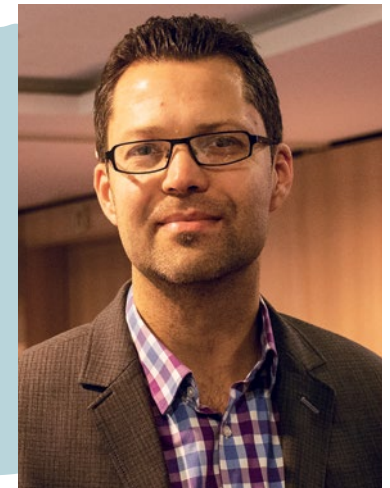


Carolina Rudnick
Fundacion Libera, Chile

“ We are so grateful and happy to have this experience [the delegation]. We learn from each other. It's important to know we are not alone. The collective effort strengthens our power. It opens our imagination of what is possible. It's good to hear both the good and the bad experiences from other organisations. This gives us good examples to try with our own countries. Coming together helps us realise that it is a matter of will and not resources. ”

Ruslan Myatiev
Turkmen.News

“ The proposed laws in the EU, no matter how strong, will not be enough. It's important to understand the context in Turkmenistan – it is so controlled, there is no free civil society. We need strong political pressure. The issue of forced labour should always be brought up. Governments are well aware of what is going on in Turkmenistan, but they need to act. ”



Ruslan works to end state-imposed forced labour in Turkmenistan, read more about our work together on [page 10](#).

Together, we will continue to push for stronger laws and policies to end forced labour everywhere. Your support made this delegation possible and we are immensely grateful to you.

Stay tuned for more updates and inspiring stories from our global

network as we forge ahead with our campaign for a world free from slavery and exploitation.

Click the QR code to see our partners in action on Instagram: bit.ly/44I8WUI



Unleashing Creativity: Fashion, activism and a historic show

Ending forced labour in global supply chains is a mighty challenge that will require action by almost all industries. That's why fashion designer Louise Xin has been using her vibrant couture designs to advocate for sustainable fashion and an end to Uyghur forced labour in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in China.

She recently took on a never-before-attempted challenge – staging a fashion show inside the European Parliament. With her stunning dresses moving through the corridors of Parliament, Louise captured the attention of parliamentarians and staffers to push for strong new legislation that could ban products made by people forced to work in slavery by their Governments.

Louise's designs featured traditional Uyghur prints and styles to draw

attention to the widespread use of Uyghur forced labour in cotton supply chains and the fashion industry at large.

The event brought together decision-makers, non-governmental organisations and the press, who heard the testimony of Nasreen Sheikh, a survivor of child slavery, and Jewher Ilham, whose father is imprisoned in the Uyghur Region. Their powerful stories echoed across the room, encouraging the decision makers to take action.

The United States recently introduced the 'Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act' which stops the import of goods made with Uyghur forced labour. We are calling for a similar law in the EU as strong laws have the power to make a tremendous difference.



Are you inspired to get creative about ending slavery? We want to hear about it. Share your thoughts and inspiration with us:
supporter@antislavery.org

How much do you know about the links between modern slavery and climate change?

The climate crisis affects us all. But people in low-income countries bear the brunt of its devastating effects. They experience some of the most severe climate impacts, and yet have the least capacity to adapt.

As the climate crisis unfolds, the destruction of livelihoods and homes is becoming an all-too-common reality for millions of people. It has already made people more vulnerable – including due to exploitation, forced labour and trafficking.

Do you know?

1. How many people are likely to be internally displaced by the effects of climate change by 2050?

- a. 2 million
- b. 90 million
- c. 140 million
- d. 216 million

2. How does climate change displace people?

- a. More frequent extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and cyclones
- b. Depletion of natural resources that communities depend on for food and work, for example through soil degradation, water pollution and biodiversity loss
- c. More extreme weather patterns such as severe droughts, floods or temperatures above 40C
- d. Loss of ancestral land to mining companies, oil companies or agroindustry
- e. All of the above

3. What percentage of the world's poorest people depend on natural resources for food and work?

- a. 50%
- b. 75%
- c. 90%

Put your knowledge to the test. Take the full quiz and find out more about the answers at: bit.ly/3E65keJ



This quiz gives you a taste of the scale of the problem. Understanding the connections between the climate crisis and modern slavery is an ongoing challenge for us and researchers worldwide. Together, we are unravelling this complex relationship and striving to prevent the climate crisis from driving more people into slavery. Watch this space for updates and more groundbreaking research.



Credit: Daouda Coreira for Anti-Slavery International

Khadeija, a mentor to recently freed women in Mauritania

Empowering women to thrive through community mentoring

At Anti-Slavery International, we are working towards a world where everyone lives in freedom. Yet, in Mauritania, people are still born into slavery, trapped in a life without basic freedoms. This inhumane practice is called descent-based slavery and affects thousands of people across West Africa.

In response to this injustice, our partner SOS-Esclaves works to support people born into slavery in Mauritania to secure their freedom. These individuals may have only ever known life in slavery and their journey towards thriving in freedom is filled with challenges. They might need to acquire essential skills, such as how to read, manage their finances and

integrate into society. It is also critical to meet their mental health needs and address the loneliness that can go hand in hand with transitioning to a new life.

To aid this transition, local women collaborate with SOS-Esclaves to mentor women who have recently escaped slavery.

The mentors visit the survivors regularly, providing a safe space for conversation. They talk to the survivors about the challenges they face and offer much-needed support. SOS-Esclaves organises training courses for the mentors, to equip them with the necessary tools to help survivors adapt to their newfound freedom.

As part of their role, these women mentors organise awareness-raising activities in the community, visit survivors and provide pastoral and social support. They accompany survivors to medical appointments and help them to integrate into society. All these women mentors are descendants of enslaved people themselves, enabling them to empathise with and understand the women they support.

Khadeija (pictured) is a mentor in Mauritania. Her father was a member of the 'slave liberation movement'. Encouraged by her father and his friends, she joined the movement at a young age because of her deep-rooted interest in the cause. She understands that women survivors often face problems at home, but struggle to express or resolve them. Thanks to awareness-raising activities led by SOS-Esclaves, survivors now know where to seek help and overcome the longstanding taboo that once silenced them.

Deeply moved by the organisation's support for survivors of descent-based slavery, Fatimetou joined SOS-Esclaves in 2013. She became a mentor in 2014 and has been supporting women in the community ever since, including as part of the current Anti-Slavery International project.

Since becoming a mentor with SOS-Esclaves, Fatimetou has witnessed a significant shift in attitudes. People are increasingly denouncing slavery as an



Credit: Daouda Coreira for Anti-Slavery International

Fatimetou, a mentor pictured in her home

illegal practice – a remarkable cultural milestone on the path to eradicating descent-based slavery across West Africa. While introducing laws to ban slavery is often a first step, to achieve genuine lasting change, societies must want to end slavery for good.

Together, we are creating a world where women like Khadeija and Fatimetou can serve as beacons of hope, guiding survivors towards a future filled with dignity, opportunity and freedom.

*names changed

To learn more about descent-based slavery and discover the inspiring story of Saidou, a survivor who found freedom, scan the QR code and follow the link bit.ly/47Hs071



Ignite change on Anti-Slavery Day: Take action for freedom!

As Anti-Slavery Day approaches on 18 October, we invite you to drive the change you want to see in the world. Join us in resisting modern slavery and restoring freedom by taking one (or more!) of the actions below:

Engage with your workplace

Harness the power of awareness within your own workplace. Take the initiative to ask how your company or organisation is addressing modern slavery in your industry. Help us spread knowledge by displaying our educational posters in your office. Could you consider partnering with Anti-Slavery International?

bit.ly/3KN19bq



Invite a speaker

Education is a powerful catalyst for change. We offer informative and interactive talks on the prevalence of modern slavery and share actionable steps to combat it. Extend our reach by inviting us to speak at your workplace, local school, place of worship or community group.

bit.ly/47E3i2V



Fundraise for freedom

Embrace your creativity and passion for freedom by organising a fundraising event. Whether it's a thrilling skydive or a delicious cake sale, the possibilities are endless! Anti-Slavery Day provides the perfect opportunity to challenge yourself and raise vital funds to power our mission.

bit.ly/45gzoXp



Join the movement

Stand with us as a member and become part of a movement that refuses to accept slavery in any form. Together, we will expose and confront slavery wherever it is found, relentlessly resisting until everyone is free. Join us in our unwavering commitment to justice and freedom.

bit.ly/45AtQQQ



This Anti-Slavery Day, let us unite in action and empower each other to create a world where freedom triumphs over exploitation. Have more ideas or want to find out more? Speak to our friendly team supporter@antislavery.org

Insights from the recent supporter survey: You inspire us!

We want to extend a big thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our recent supporter survey. We are so excited to share the results with you. Your feedback and engagement are invaluable, shaping our work and inspiring us as we strive for a world free from slavery.

So, what did you have to say? The results were very positive across the board and showed strong support for our organisation and our work:

Urgency of our mission

90% of supporters believe in the urgent need for Anti-Slavery International's work. This makes us even more determined to dismantle abusive systems and end exploitation.

Trust and integrity

84% of supporters agree that Anti-Slavery International can be trusted to do the right thing. Your trust in our organisation fuels our determination to work towards justice and freedom.

“Every voice needs to be heard and this organisation coordinates and amplifies these voices!”

“It is a very much needed organisation for today's fast and ever-changing world.”

“I endorse Anti-Slavery International's fine work and send the update to my friends in order that they are aware of modern slavery and the efforts to combat it.”

“It's a very brave organisation with strong values in a difficult political climate. Please keep going.”

“I support fully the aims and activities of Anti-Slavery International.”

“Your work is vital, thank you all.”

We remain grateful to you, our supporters, for your commitment and your belief in Anti-Slavery International. We are delighted that you recognise the urgency of our work, trust our decision-making and believe in the impact we make.

By supporting us, you play an important role in dismantling abusive systems and ending exploitation. Without you this would not be possible. Thank you.



The Great Sister Swim: TV Journalist dives into action for Anti-Slavery International

Prepare to be inspired as ITV news correspondent and journalist, Lucy Watson, shares her experience of taking on the Great North Swim with her sister, Laura. An exhilarating journey of sisterhood, determination and making a splash for a meaningful cause!

“ My sister and I have never shied away from water, but for some reason, never learned to swim proficiently. We swim underwater one-handed, with one hand doing the strokes and the other holding our noses. We look comical, but it never occurred to us that this was unusual until our own children took to it like ducks to water (pardon the pun)! Despite these shortcomings, we love open water dipping. When Anti-Slavery International asked us to do the Great North Swim, we couldn't say no!

I have worked with Anti-Slavery International on numerous stories for ITV and spoken at several of their annual conferences. Meeting and speaking with so many victims of modern slavery cannot fail to affect you. Whether a 14-year-old girl in Romania pregnant by one of her abusers, or an 18-year-old from London targeted, enslaved and abused by an organised crime group, vulnerable children and adults are preyed upon. They suffer for other people's gain, often in plain sight. Anti-Slavery International works tirelessly to end this. Laura and I wanted to help them do that.



On Saturday, 10 June, we jumped into Lake Windermere and completed the Great North Swim. It was the most glorious of days: the sun was shining, and the atmosphere couldn't have been more encouraging. We loved it, even though we both had butterflies. We hoped our training, which we thought was minimal, would be enough and both set off with equal willpower. There was no way we were not going to complete this challenge for Anti-Slavery International. Our challenge was incomparable to that of those we were doing it for. In the end, the butterflies weren't needed. We did Anti-Slavery International and ourselves proud, swimming the mile breaststroke within an hour and finishing together.

Thanks to everyone who supported us. We surpassed our fundraising goal and now hope to hit £4,000. It was a wonderful experience to add greater purpose to a beautiful swim in a beautiful place.

You can help Laura and Lucy reach £4,000 by donating here:

bit.ly/45ujaDo



Feeling inspired by Lucy and Laura's remarkable journey? If you're ready to challenge yourself and make a difference, we have exciting opportunities awaiting you! Visit our website at antislavery.org/take-action/challenge-events or email Lizzie at e.muir@antislavery.org to explore a range of thrilling challenges, from bungee jumps to inflatable courses and fun runs. Together, we can create change and empower survivors of slavery.



Once again, we extend our deepest gratitude to Lucy, Laura and all of you who have supported their incredible endeavour. Let's continue making waves in the fight against modern slavery and take a step closer to a world without slavery.



Our Star Supporters: Shining examples of dedication and creativity!

Every month, we have the privilege of recognising and celebrating the exceptional individuals who go above and beyond to resist slavery and restore freedom.

These Star Supporters inspire us all with their commitment and their creative approaches to raising awareness and funds. Today, we want to shine a spotlight on a few of our Star Supporters and invite you to join their extraordinary efforts!

Meet **Beverley**, a gifted artist. In her final exhibition for her degree, Beverley tackled the issue of modern slavery through the medium of print. Each piece shone a light on a different facet of the problem, from modern slavery at the 2022 Qatar World Cup to the plight of child soldiers and exploitation in the mining industry. Beverley's thought-provoking event raised awareness through creativity, sparking important conversations about modern slavery.



Beverley

Next, we applaud **James**, an advocate for change during the 2022 Qatar World Cup. When he learned about the reported mistreatment of migrant workers, it spurred him to take action. James organised a sweepstake, engaging his church, family and friends to raise both funds and awareness. He not only raised an impressive £175, but also drew attention to the appalling working conditions endured by migrant workers.



Ellen

Now, let's cheer for Ellen's resilience and determination. In the spring, **Ellen** took on the challenge of running the Bristol Half Marathon to raise money for Anti-Slavery International. Her commitment to the cause is driven by the belief that her actions can help someone live a life of freedom and fulfilment. Ellen not only achieved a personal victory, but also raised an incredible £369.

Now, it's your chance to become our next Star Supporter! Share what you're doing to raise awareness and funds to resist modern slavery and restore freedom. Whether it's a creative project, a fundraising event or a personal challenge, your contributions matter. Email us at supporter@antislavery.org and tell us how you're making a difference. Get inspired by your fellow supporters and follow us on Instagram, where we showcase the remarkable efforts of our community.

Save the date for a special evening: Our Carols for Freedom concert!

We are thrilled to invite you to our first **Carols for Freedom** concert on Wednesday 20 December, at 7pm at the beautiful St James' Church in Piccadilly, London.

Prepare to be captivated by an evening that blends traditional carols with soul-stirring songs inspired by freedom and the abolition movement. Together, we will raise our voices alongside The Spirituals Choir and other special guests, united for a world in which everyone is free from slavery.

We can't wait to celebrate the spirit of the season with you while making a powerful contribution to freedom from slavery for everyone, everywhere, always.

This is an event you won't want to miss. Book your tickets now carolsforfreedom.eventbrite.co.uk. And invite your friends and family to join us for a wonderful evening.



Calling all supporters: Join us for the Anti-Slavery International Supporter conference

It's not too late to be part of a special conference celebrating our collective achievements in the fight against modern slavery. Join us at the prestigious Wellcome Library, located at 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE.

Date: 21 September 2023

Time: 6pm – 8:30pm

We welcome all supporters to attend this inspiring event. Spread the word to friends and family who might be interested in our life-changing work. Come and hear about the progress we've made and the journey that lies ahead.

Don't miss out! Email supporter@antislavery.org to secure your tickets. Let's gather to celebrate, connect and empower each other in our mission to eradicate modern slavery. We can't wait to see you there!



Last year's Annual Supporter Conference

The hands of Leila, who was born into slavery and is now living in freedom.

Credit: Daouda Coreia for Anti-Slavery International

Gift the legacy of freedom

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.