



# BREAKING THE CHAINS

Eliminating slavery, ending poverty

**No one shall be held in slavery or servitude;  
slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited  
in all their forms...**

**Article 4, Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

# That was then, this is now

Two hundred years ago, the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act was passed – ending the slave trade in the British Empire. And while it took a further 30 years for Parliament to make slavery itself illegal, sadly, the story of slavery was still not brought to an end. Now in the 21st Century people continue to suffer from inequality and disadvantage which can be traced back to the effects of transatlantic slavery. And contemporary forms of slavery and human trafficking are just as inhuman and unjust as the slavery William Wilberforce campaigned to end in the 19th Century. Such slavery continues to trap millions of women, men and children in cruel exploitation.

## What does slavery look like today?

In 2005 the International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimated that at least 12.3 million women, men and children were bound by slavery around the world. Of this number 2.4 million will have been trafficked – many women or girls for the sex trade.

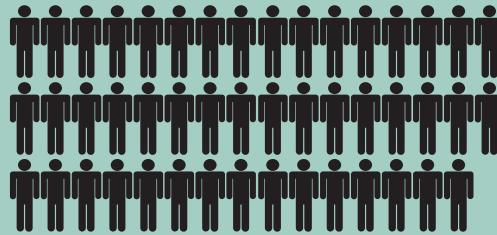
Despite international agreements and national laws banning slavery, it continues in all parts of the world in many different forms. Slavery today includes:

- **Debt bondage** or **bonded labour** – poor people, with no other source of help have to take out loans from their employer to meet their basic needs and get trapped in an unending cycle of loans and impossible repayments.
- **Human trafficking** – transporting or receiving people, who have been abducted or deceived with offers of good jobs, and then forcing them to work in exploitative conditions that they would not have chosen.
- **Descent slavery** – some people are born into slavery because they belong to a group discriminated against by their society, their rights are ignored and they are treated as property.
- **Forced domestic service** – Hidden away from public notice in private homes, domestic workers can suffer a range of abuses at the hands of their employers.
- **Worst forms of child labour** – this may include debt bondage to pay off parents' debts, commercial sexual exploitation or forced recruitment into armed forces.



## SLAVERY—THE HARD NUMBERS

Asia Pacific **9,490,000**



Latin America  
and Caribbean **1,320,000**



Sub-Saharan Africa **660,000**



Industrial countries **360,000**



Middle East  
and North Africa **260,000**



Transition countries\* **210,000**



\* Baltic States, central and eastern Europe and  
the Commonwealth of Independent States

Source: A global alliance against forced labour. Global Report under the Follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work 2005. ILO.

◀ A child prostitute in the brothel district. These and other child sex workers, 'chukris', are bonded labourers. Tangail, Bangladesh. Dan White / Panos Pictures.

Most often slavery is about exploiting others for individual economic gain. But in some instances, it is military groups or government who use forced labour. Whatever form the exploitation takes, victims suffer common experiences – lack of choice about what happens to them and a fear for their own or their family's wellbeing should they try to escape or refuse to work.

## **Chained together – slavery and poverty**

Slavery, whatever shape it takes, is almost always a sign of a deeper underlying problem – poverty. Poverty makes people an easy target for exploitation and traps families in slave-like conditions – often from one generation to the next.

Poor people end up in conditions of slavery because they do not have the economic opportunities – such as jobs or land to farm – that will enable them to earn a decent living and support their families.

Without an education, their chances of developing the skills they need for better jobs are severely limited – and this traps people in traditional patterns of exploitation. When times get especially hard – perhaps through illness or natural disasters – there is no social security to provide even basic benefits. This pushes people to take on debt they cannot repay. When the expense of a family wedding or a

“ This year marks the 200th anniversary of Britain voting to end the slave trade. There could be no better commemoration than to abolish all child labour, and ensure that all young children go to school.”

Gordon Brown MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer.  
*The Guardian*, 4 January 2007

funeral comes along, there aren't even basic banking services to help them spread the cost. Paying these debts can push people into bonded labour.

When people are in desperate straits they can be taken in by the lies of the traffickers. In many cases ineffective or corrupt governments are unwilling, or unable, to protect their poor citizens from the exploitation of human trafficking and from others who profit from the misery of their victims.

A close-up photograph of a young girl with a serious expression, wearing a red shirt and a headscarf. She is carrying a stack of bricks on her head. The background is a blurred brick factory setting.

# THE POVERTY PICTURE

**1** in **5** people live  
in extreme poverty  
- mostly in Africa  
and Asia

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**Half** these people  
live in countries  
without effective  
governments

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**77 million**  
primary aged  
children are  
not enrolled  
in school

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There are at least  
**218 million**  
child labourers

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◀ Child carrying bricks on her head in a brick factory. Dhaka, Bangladesh.  
G.M.B Akash / Panos Pictures

## Slavery and poverty are part of the same problem

To fight against slavery is to join the struggle to end global poverty.

That's why, in 2005, the G8 Summit of the wealthiest countries nations pledged to increase international aid by \$50 billion a year by 2010. They promised to double aid to Africa and to cancel the debts of the poorest countries worth another \$50 billion.

## What the UK is doing to fight poverty and modern day slavery

The UK is playing a leading role in the fight against poverty and in tackling the underlying causes of slavery. We spend £5.9 billion a year on development programmes and this will increase as we reach the UN target of 0.7% of national income by 2013. This is part of our commitment to a global promise that forms the United Nations eight Millennium Development Goals to:



Grandmother and child, Piani state, Brazil. Pietro Cenini / Panos Pictures

- Halve the number of people living in extreme poverty and hunger.
- Ensure that all children receive primary education.
- Promote sexual equality and give women a stronger voice.
- Reduce child death rates.
- Improve the health of mothers.
- Combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
- Make sure the environment is protected.
- Build global partnership for those working in development.

The international community aims to achieve these goals by 2015.



## EDUCATION – THE KEY TO ESCAPE

Education is the key which gives children the chance to escape poverty and exploitation. The UK has made a commitment to spend over £8.5 billion to support Education for All over the next 10 years.

DFID's Global School Partnership promotes links between schools in the UK and schools in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America with funding of £7.5 million over three years.

◀ Student standing next to a blackboard in front of a poster for the 'Every child needs a teacher' campaign, which aims to urge political leaders to provide education for all children in developing countries. Maputo, Mozambique. David Rose / Panos Pictures





## UNDOING THE CURSE OF BONDED LABOUR

### WHAT IS BONDED LABOUR?

In debt forever

Many people who end up in forced labour today do so because of debt. Poor workers who have no assets, such as land, take out loans to pay for their basic survival needs and become indebted to their landlords or employers. The whole family may be required to work in an attempt to pay off the loan. And unpaid debts can pass from parents to children, or the debt may even be sold from one employer to another. Those who get trapped in debt bondage are often from communities who are already discriminated against for their caste, ethnic origins or because they are migrant workers.

## Free at last

Murugesan comes from the Tiruvallur District of Tamil Nadu, India. He was 12 years old when his father fell ill, and was no longer able to work at the rice mill. His family was in debt to the mill owner and so Murugesan was obliged to replace his father. But because of low wages, interest rates and the need to keep taking additional loans to cover his family's needs, he could not repay the debt. Murugesan carried on working at the mill well into his 30s. The days spent filling rice sacks were long, from 1 o'clock in the morning till 5 in the afternoon. After 2001 the conditions got even worse – the hours increased, but the wages didn't.

While Murugesan struggled to keep pace at the mill, his village became involved with an International Labour Organisation supported programme to tackle the problem of bonded labour in 2003. A local organisation, the Integrated Rural Community Development Society (IRCDS), was given help to undertake a wide variety of activities aimed at both preventing families from becoming bonded and, where possible, securing the release of those already trapped in bondage. Committees were established to help identify and rehabilitate bonded labourers, and educational programmes let local communities know about their legal rights as workers. A women's self-help group in the village decided to take action, securing a resolution by the village council calling for the release of the bonded labourers.



Released bonded labourer fishing in Lake Poondi. Tiruvallur District of Tamil Nadu, India. ILO

On 14 October 2004, Murugesan and 18 other rice mill workers were released by their employer. Murugesan, along with other released workers, is now a proud member of a new association that, with a government grant, is setting up its own rice mill in the village. He has received a government license to fish in nearby Lake Poondi and to grow crops on common property near the village. He also received a small loan so he could put up a hut to live in and to buy livestock. His wife Devayani took training in embroidery – a skill which now brings income into the family. His family will soon get a free proper house from the government: “Now I am able to live thanks to fishing and agriculture,” says Murugesan, adding, “I can send my children to school.”

“Now I am able to live... I can send my children to school.”



## Dirty tricks

For five days now, Jorge has been waiting for work he's been told will pay well, and each day costs him money. It's the same story for the 20 other men waiting for jobs in this small dusty town in Piauí State, in Brazil. Because with each passing day, they are building a debt that will illegally bind them to backbreaking work.

In Brazil's northeast, where most forced labourers are recruited, 49% of the population is poor. In their desperate search for work, many people will take whatever's on offer in the hope of escaping poverty, starvation and idleness. Recruiters visit small towns and villages looking for victims. They are almost always poor and uneducated, and easily seduced by the promise of stable employment at good rates of pay.

The workers then travel to a collection point, normally hundreds of miles away from their homes. From there they are taken to a farm, but only after waiting several days or even weeks. And while they hang around in ramshackle dormitories, they are constantly building a debt. When the bill for room, food and drink comes to be paid, the worker finds he is bound to a lengthy term of labour.

Somehow, they can never quite pay their debt. In such remote places, landowners run the stores selling food, drink and other items at inflated prices. Workers are told not to worry about the price and the store manager has the only record of their purchases. When the work is completed, the landowner hands them an exorbitant bill.



A freed forced labourer in Piauí State, Brazil. K. Cassidy / ILO

“When the bill for room, food and drink comes to be paid, the worker finds he is bound to a lengthy term of labour.”

In Brazil, the Government with the support of the ILO is trying to stamp out forced labour. A national plan has increased raids by inspectors on ranches, logging operations and mines which lure people into servitude. Thousands have been rescued. The Government is also planning to increase fines and criminal penalties for offenders, as well as to pass legislation which allows the seizure of businesses and properties where forced labour is used.

The UK supports the Brazilian Government's programmes for combating institutional racism which prevents certain groups from gaining access to Government services and makes them more vulnerable to the recruitment agents.



Charcoal producers in the Amazon region of Brazil. ILO



## PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFIC

### FALSE PRETENCES

Trafficking often involves recruitment agents who offer vulnerable people help in providing transport and finding jobs. On arrival in the distant region or country the workers find the attractive jobs they were promised turn out to be prostitution or some other activity outside the law. Threatened with physical and psychological violence, isolated, without information, and with no legal documentation or money, they are in the power of the trafficker.

## Close call

Standing in the doorway of an ILO-supported vocational classroom, in Hau Giang Province, Vietnam, with sewing machines humming behind her, Do Thi Tien laughs nervously as she remembers the close encounter she had with a woman who she is now convinced was a human trafficker.

“I was sitting in a tearoom when a young woman I didn’t know started talking to me,” Tien recalls. “I remember her so clearly – she was Vietnamese but had this dyed blonde hair.”

The young woman told Tien she lived and worked in Ho Chi Minh City and said there was lots of work. “She told me she could find me a job too,” said Tien.

At 20 years of age, and with no real skills, Tien is like many other young women in Hau Giang Province, where job opportunities for young people are scarce.

It was a tempting offer. But Tien became suspicious after her friends told her she shouldn’t trust the woman. It was around that same time that Tien first heard about the ILO-supported skills training and trafficking awareness-raising programme offered through the local partner the Vietnam Women’s Union.

This reduces vulnerability to trafficking by reducing the likeliness of exposure to labour and sexual exploitation. Tien, like hundreds of other young women across the Greater Mekong Sub-region, is



Young Vietnamese women learning vocational skills. ILO

taking advantage of the programmes on offer and is now learning sewing skills that she hopes will give her the confidence to work one day, independently, in a garment factory.

Thinking back about the close call in the tearoom Tien says “I was lucky.”

“Tien is now learning sewing skills that she hopes will give her the confidence to work one day, independently, in a garment factory.”

## Hard labour



Peasant children working at a rural brick kiln. Hue Province, Vietnam. Mark Henley / Panos Pictures

At the age of 13, Thuy left school to help her poverty-stricken family. A female school friend from the same village suggested she accompany her to another commune where a relative ran a small business. She said they could stay there together and work to earn money for their families back home.

But when they arrived, the friend abandoned Thuy. The small 'business' turned out to be a brick factory. The work was long and hard and clearly inappropriate for a young girl. But alone and frightened, with no money, and unsure of her location, Thuy had no way to contact her mother and was forced to endure the hard labour.

Eventually, Thuy explains, some of her cousins found her at the brick factory and she was able to return home to her mother. While Thuy was away, her mother had learned of the vocational skills programme run by the Vietnam Women's Union. And, on her return home, she also became a beneficiary of the programme. She has learned to cut cloth and one day will be able to get a job as a tailor.

“The work was long and hard and clearly inappropriate for a young girl.”





### BEATING THE TRAFFIC IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

The UK is supporting the Mekong Sub-regional Project to Combat Trafficking in Children and Women, part of the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour. It supports awareness raising and vocational activities across five countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region – in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, China's Yunnan Province and Cambodia. It is also sponsored by the Japanese Government.

# Betrayed

**Sheila, 20, is from Uganda. This is her story in her words:**

"I was 15 when I saw soldiers from the military kill my mother and father. With my younger brother we escaped and met a friend of my father's who told us that he'd take us somewhere safe. He dressed me up as a boy and took me to England on a plane, pretending I was his son. He said my brother would come too, but I have not seen him since.

When I arrived in the UK I was totally lost, thinking about what I had witnessed in Uganda. A man was waiting for us in the airport and we travelled by car to a place called Seven Sisters. We arrived in a flat where there were two other men. We all stayed there, four of us, for a week or so. Then one day my father's friend told me he was going out to buy food and that he would be back soon. But he never returned.

The other men said he would be back soon; that he would come tomorrow. But after a week they told me he had gone and now I would have to live with them and have sex with them. I said "No". One tried to force himself on me. I fought back. I left the house and found myself in Seven Sisters on the streets.

I was scared to go to the police. I thought they were like the police in Uganda and that they would take me back there or kill me. I ended up sleeping on the streets and met boys and girls taking drugs and drinking. I did not do drugs but I did drink. If I needed money I would sleep with men, but as a last resort. I was just 15 years old. The money could buy food, sweaters or blankets.



Sheila. Karen Robinson / Panos Pictures

That April I began to feel really sick. I was pregnant. I met a white man when I was feeling sick and looking ill and asked him for tea or coffee or some money. He gave me £20 and directed me to the Home Office in Croydon. It was only from then I started getting some help. The Home Office gave me details of the Refugee Council and they got me a solicitor and I was referred to the NSPCC. They have helped me so much. I had no friends or family. Now I feel like I have a family. My daughter is four now and I am pregnant again. If I have a problem or if I want to kill myself or something or if I am depressed I know I can go to my key worker. It has made me feel like a human again. Before, I used to feel like a monster; now I am a human."

The story is from the photography exhibition 'Slave Britain: the 21st century trade in human lives', produced by Panos Pictures in partnership with Amnesty International, Anti-Slavery, Eaves, UNICEF and St Paul's Cathedral.

**"The Home Office gave me details of the Refugee Council and they got me a solicitor and I was referred to the NSPCC. They have helped me so much..."**



## ATTACKING THE TRADITION OF SLAVERY

### KEPT OUT IN THE COLD

Certain groups in society are systematically excluded from opportunities that are open to others because they are discriminated against on the basis of their race, religion, gender, caste, age, disability or other social identity. Their chances to escape from poverty are limited and they have no voice in society in order to claim their rights.

The UK is committed to fight poverty for the benefit of all groups in society.

## Given away

Tamazeret is 35 years old, but, she's so thin and tired, she looks much older. Sitting in front of a makeshift hut on the outskirts of Niamey, the capital of Niger, she tells her story of how she lived in slavery in the Touareg village of Inatès.

“Every morning, I had to wake up very early, perform domestic chores, and then I had to go and get water with the donkeys. Three times a day. When I came back in the evening, I had to prepare the master's tent, and later I continued with the domestic chores. I was never paid any wages. I was just given food and a little space to sleep on the side of the tent. When the master was unhappy with me, he pulled my hair and beat me. I lost almost all my hair.

My parents were also slaves, but when I was very small, their master gave me away. My new master never sent me to school. Later, he allowed me to see a boyfriend but he refused to let me get married. Nevertheless, I became pregnant and over the years, the master used my children as his slaves.

Four years ago, after my fourth child was born, I felt very weak. The master said we needed to pack and move with the animals to Mali. But I was exhausted and had no more energy to work and travel over long distances. So, one morning, I grabbed my children and ran away. I did not know where to go, so I sought refuge in a military base. The master came after me, but the soldiers protected me.



Tamazeret reflects on her life before freedom. Inatès, Niger. ILO

Later they drove me to an organisation which picked me up, helped me and gave me some money. Now I am married and I have had a child with my husband. But I am too tired to work.”

“ My parents were also slaves, but when I was very small, their master gave me away.”

Slavery is against the law in Niger but it is hard to break traditions which enable stories like those of Tamazeret to take place. But progress is being made. Civil society organisations have campaigned actively for the rights of current and former slaves to be respected. A law passed in 2003 imposes severe penalties on any person convicted of imposing slavery on someone else. With the support of the ILO, the Government of Niger established an inter-Ministerial National Commission to draw up and oversee the implementation of a national plan of action against forced labour and

discrimination, as part of its overall poverty reduction strategy. The UK, in partnership with the French Development Agency and other donors, is supporting Niger's basic education policy, with particular emphasis on getting more girls into school.



## PROTECTING DOMESTIC WORKERS FROM EXPLOITATION

### HIDDEN HARDSHIP

The exploitation of domestic workers – usually women and children – is often overlooked. Poor children may be sent to richer families in the hope that they will work for their keep while getting educated. This easily descends into something very close to slavery. Arrangements are often informal. With the workers hidden within the home abuse can go unseen. Many domestic workers are migrants and may not speak the language which can make them more vulnerable. They may also be uncertain about their rights in the new country, be indebted to their employer for travel costs or have had their identity papers taken away from them. Working in private homes they are difficult to reach for organisations such as trade unions.

## Life change

Dewi is a 25-year old Indonesian woman who migrated to work in Malaysia. She left her family and friends in the Jember region of East Java five years ago due to high unemployment in her village. There, an agency recruited her to work as a domestic worker abroad. To begin with, she was enthusiastic about the prospect of supporting her family back home with her better pay, but her zeal for work turned sour soon after she reached Kuala Lumpur.

Like many Indonesian migrant workers, Dewi was paid less than half of what she was originally told she would earn. She was verbally and emotionally abused by her employer, and she worked 14-hour days – some weeks without even a day of rest. Though she wanted to complain, she was afraid of losing her job. Returning to her village was not an option because they depended on the extra money she sent home.

One Sunday, however, Dewi's life changed. At her community centre in Kuala Lumpur, she saw a vivid poster. It showed an illustration sketch of three Indonesian workers who looked strong and determined. Above the sketch read the text, "Women Refuse to be Oppressed." The following week, she attended the meeting it advertised, and learned about unionisation and her rights as a migrant worker abroad. Thanks to Fatayat NU, one of the world's largest Islamic organisations, Dewi's work situation – and life – improved dramatically.



Indonesian migrant toils in domestic work. Malaysia. ILO

The ILO project, Mobilizing Action for the Protection of Domestic Workers from Forced Labour and Trafficking, funded by the UK, supports projects with organisations such as Fatayat NU to distribute information and raise awareness among Indonesian migrant workers. Fatayat NU is just one of many such organisations that cooperate with the project to implement outreach programs for vulnerable Indonesian migrant workers like Dewi.

**“ Dewi's life changed when she learned about unionisation and her rights as a migrant worker abroad. ”**



## RELEASING CHILDREN FROM SLAVERY

### THE WORST DONE TO THE LEAST

In 2002 the ILO estimated that 8.4 million children were working in slavery – in forced or bonded labour, armed conflict, prostitution and pornography, and other illicit activities – including more than 1 million who had been trafficked.

300,000 children are thought to be involved in armed conflict around the world. The UK is very active within UN bodies in supporting international efforts to end the practice of using children in conflict situations. The Government provides direct support to UN agencies and NGOs to disarm, demobilise and reintegrate children in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Uganda, Liberia and Rwanda.



## Demobilising child soldiers

There has been conflict in northern Uganda for the last 20 years between the Government of Uganda and the rebel Lords Resistance Army (LRA). The LRA have abducted and kept captive over 20,000 boys, girls and women during this period. The boys are made to fight and the girls are frequently forced to become the 'wives' of LRA commanders. Not surprisingly, when they do escape or are released, they often need help to recover from their ordeal and reintegrate into their communities. The UK is supporting a number of programmes in northern Uganda helping those that have suffered.



◀ Boys who had been abductees of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) play cards with a UNICEF worker. Giacomo Pirozzi / Panos Pictures

▶ William Otoa (10), a former LRA (Lord's Resistance Army) abductee, holding his 2 year old brother Innocent in the feeding centre run by MSF (Medecins Sans Frontieres). They are orphans. Lira, UGANDA.  
Chris de Bode / Panos Pictures

## Radio makes waves

Oryema was an LRA child soldier who returned home with no idea of what to expect of life after the 'bush'. He talks about life before his abduction by the rebels:

"Before abduction, we lived in a village called Otong in Gaya Parish. We lived with my parents, we were altogether. Life was fine, we would go to school, I used to have many friends, we had enough space and we never heard about anything like war. We were still young. It was only after I was abducted, that I realized that there was something called war. It was the first time in my life I ever saw soldiers."

Oryema was promoted to rank of Sergeant. Life in the bush became the only life he knew and his best friend was his radio.

"I did not feel bad about killing. Not until I started listening to Radio Mega. They were having programmes, music, and people sent greetings... about peace: come back home... I actually heard over the radio, how we used to operate: we burnt homes..."



A traumatised former child soldier is reunited with his mother and sisters after almost two years fighting in the bush with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Gulu, Uganda. Stuart Freedman / Panos Pictures

"And I started to think: are we really fighting a normal war? That is when I started to realise that maybe there is something better than being here in the bush. And that is when I started learning that oh, so this feeling is bad. I started feeling that some of these orders are not right. I am trying to fight for liberty, for the people. But now if you are killing the same people, whom are we going to rule?"

"Promoted to rank of Sergeant, life in the bush became the only life he knew and his best friend was his radio."

Radio Mega is a joint initiative by the UK and the Government of Uganda that uses peaceful means to resolve the 18 year conflict in the north of the country. Focussing on areas in which the LRA rebels operate, it aims to provide people in the region with relevant and accurate information.

## Uncomfortable choices

When Milly Auma emerged in Gulu in 2002 – ten years after being abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) carrying one daughter on her back, holding another by her side and leaning on a walking stick to support her wounded leg – she was convinced her decision to escape her captors had been right. But in those first weeks and months, she did waver.

Recalling the difficulties she had in collecting water from the community well because of the insults she faced, Auma, now 26, says "People said I had joined (the LRA) willingly. They would say, 'Why do you taint us with your evil spirit?' They would call my children 'Kony's kids'." (referring to Joseph Kony, leader of the rebel group that has waged the 20-year conflict in northern Uganda).

Auma's experiences echo the testimonies of other formerly abducted children and young people, evidence of the stigma and discrimination many encounter upon coming home. Despite the hardships she had endured during her captivity, she contemplated going back voluntarily to the LRA if – in the end – she could not find the acceptance of the community. After all, she only wanted the best for her children.

But Auma's determined spirit – she was taken from the community in her final year of primary school when she was about the same as her firstborn is now – enabled her to adapt to her new surroundings as an adult. What further helped strengthen the bond between her social and economic responsibilities has been the assistance of the Youth Social Work Association (YSA).



Foibe Akelo holds the radio she took with her when she fled from the LRA (Lord's Resistance Army). Her 18 year old daughter, Josephine, on her left, was abducted for 13 months by the LRA. Amugu Camp, UGANDA. Chris de Bode / Panos Pictures

In 2005, using what she learned through YSA, Auma invested a modest amount to transport freshwater fish from the Nile River in Jinja to Gulu and began selling them in the local markets. She made an initial profit of 100,000 Ugandan shillings (approximately \$50). A second trip yielded 200,000 shillings. And so on. The fish were first brought in plastic bags, and bags soon became basins. She is now thinking about leasing a plot of land to grow vegetables to sell.

“Auma's determined spirit – she was taken from the community in her final year of primary school – enabled her to adapt to her new surroundings as an adult.”

A community-based organisation, assisted by UNICEF and partners, YSA conducts programmes for reintegrating formerly abducted children and other vulnerable adolescents into mainstream society. Projects include income-generation activities and peer-to-peer counselling, as well as training sessions in leadership and entrepreneurial skills.

# WHAT CAN YOU DO

It was not just the work of well known figures, like William Wilberforce, that led to the abolition of the Slave Trade 200 years ago. He was supported by thousands of ordinary men and women who were willing to take a stand against a practice they found morally offensive. In our own time, the spirit of the great abolitionist movement of the 19th Century is reflected in alliances such as the Make Poverty History Campaign. Over the last few years the efforts of thousand of men, women and children from all walks of life, demanding justice and equality for others, has spurred on the international community to renew its commitment to eliminate global poverty.



## How to get involved

- **Get informed** – read our publications and check aid agency websites
- **Spread the word** – get people talking, start discussions with your friends
- **Write to your MP or MEP** – tell them your ideas or let them know when you feel strongly about an issue
- **Explore school linking** – if you're at school, look into our school linking project so that you share ideas with children in developing countries
- **Buy fairly traded goods** – this helps guarantee that workers are not exploited
- **Protect the environment** – climate change presents the most serious threat to development and could potentially reverse many of the gains that have been made
- **Give money to charities** – there are many agencies working to combat poverty and fight modern forms of slavery
- **Give your time** – think about volunteering here or overseas through an organisation such as VSO
- **When disaster strikes** – give money, volunteer if you have specialist skills, or help raise funds

## More information

- **Eliminating World Poverty: Making Governance Work for the Poor** – the UK Government's new White Paper on International Development  
[www.dfid.gov.uk/wp2006](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/wp2006)
- **The Rough Guide to a Better World**  
[www.roughguidebetterworld.com](http://www.roughguidebetterworld.com)
- **The World Classroom** – developing global partnerships in education  
[www.globaldimension.org.uk](http://www.globaldimension.org.uk)
- **Developments Magazine** – a free magazine of real life stories from developing countries  
[www.developments.org.uk](http://www.developments.org.uk)
- **Trade Matters** – to find out why trade is so important for people living in poverty  
[www.dfid.gov.uk/tradematters](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/tradematters)
- **Disasters and Emergencies Overseas: How you can help**  
[www.dfid.gov.uk/emergencies](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/emergencies)
- **DFID, the Department for International Development:**  
Call 0845 300 4100,  
email [enquiry@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:enquiry@dfid.gov.uk) or visit  
[www.dfid.gov.uk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk)

## Other resources

To find out what aid charities are doing, contact **BOND**, a network of UK-based charities at [www.bond.org.uk](http://www.bond.org.uk)

**Anti-Slavery International**  
[www.antislavery.org](http://www.antislavery.org)

**Save the Children**  
[www.savethechildren.org.uk](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk)

**End Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes**  
(ECPAT International)  
[www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net)

**Stop the Traffik**  
[www.stopthetraffik.org](http://www.stopthetraffik.org)

**International Trade Union Confederation**  
[www.ituc-csi.org](http://www.ituc-csi.org)

**UNICEF**  
[www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)



There are many events taking place across the country to mark the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act.

[www.direct.gov.uk/slavery](http://www.direct.gov.uk/slavery)

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## International Labour Organisation

ILO is the agency of the United Nations which brings together governments, employers and trade unions to set international labour standards, monitor their implementation and promote decent work across the world. It pays particular attention to the "core labour standards" concerning fundamental rights at work -freedom of association and collective bargaining, and the elimination of forced labour, child labour and discrimination in employment. The ILO also provides technical assistance to help member states respect these rights, through programmes such as the International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) and the Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour (SAP-FL).

**International Labour Organisation**  
[www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org)

**ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work**  
[www.ilo.org/declaration](http://www.ilo.org/declaration)

**ILO Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour**  
[www.ilo.org/forcedlabour](http://www.ilo.org/forcedlabour)

**ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)**  
[www.ilo.org/childlabour](http://www.ilo.org/childlabour)

**DFID, the Department for International Development: leading the British Government's fight against world poverty.**

One in five people in the world today, over 1 billion people, live in poverty on less than one dollar a day. In an increasingly interdependent world, many problems – like conflict, crime, pollution, and diseases such as HIV and AIDS – are caused or made worse by poverty.

DFID supports long-term programmes to help eliminate the underlying causes of poverty. DFID also responds to emergencies, both natural and man-made. DFID's work forms part of a global promise to:

- halve the number of people living in extreme poverty and hunger
- ensure that all children receive primary education
- promote sexual equality and give women a stronger voice
- reduce child death rates
- improve the health of mothers
- combat HIV & AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- make sure the environment is protected
- build a global partnership for those working in development.

Together, these form the United Nations' eight 'Millennium Development Goals', with a 2015 deadline. Each of these Goals has its own, measurable, targets.

DFID works in partnership with governments, civil society, the private sector and others. It also works with multilateral institutions, including the World Bank, United Nations agencies and the European Commission.

DFID works directly in over 150 countries worldwide, with a budget of some £5.9 billion in 2006.

**DFID's headquarters are located at the addresses below:**

**DFID London:**

1 Palace Street, London SW1E 5HE, UK

**DFID Glasgow:**

Abercrombie House, Eaglesham Road, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 8EA, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7023 0000 Fax: +44 (0) 20 7023 0016

Website: [www.dfid.gov.uk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk)

Email: [enquiry@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:enquiry@dfid.gov.uk)

Public Enquiry Point: 0845 300 4100 or +44 1355 84 3132 (if you are calling from abroad)

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