

# An Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade [25<sup>th</sup> March 1807]

¶ Whereas the Two Houses of Parliament did, by their Resolutions of the tenth and Twenty-fourth days of June One Thousand eight hundred and six, severally resolve, upon certain Grounds therein mentioned, that they would, with all practicable Expedition, take effectual Measures for the Abolition of the African Slave Trade in such Manner, and at such Period as might be deemed advisable And whereas it is fit upon all and each of the Grounds mentioned in the said Resolutions, that the same should be forthwith abolished and prohibited, and declared to be unlawful; be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the First Day of May One thousand eight hundred and seven, the African Slave Trade, and all and all manner of dealing and trading in the Purchase, Sale, Barter, or Transfer of Slaves, or of Persons intended to be sold, transferred, used, or dealt with as Slaves,

practiced or carried on, in, at, to or from any Part of the Coast or Countries of Africa, shall be, and the same is hereby utterly abolished, prohibited, and declared to be unlawful; and also that all and all manner of dealing, either by way of Purchase, Sale, Barter, or Transfer, or by means of any other Contract or Agreement whatever, relating to any Slaves, or to any Persons being removed or transported either immediately or by Trans-shipment at Sea or otherwise, directly or indirectly from Africa or from any island, Country, Territory, or Place

whatever, in the West Indies, or in any part of America, not being in the Dominion, Possession, or Occupation of His Majesty, to any other island, Country, Territory, or place whatever, in like Manner utterly abolished, prohibited, and declared to be unlawful; and if any of His Majesties Subjects, or any Person or persons resident within this United Kingdom, or any of the Islands, Colonies, Dominions, or Territories thereto belonging, or in His Majesties Occupation or Possession, shall, from and after the Day aforesaid, by him or themselves, or by his or their Factors or Agents or otherwise howsoever, deal or trade in, purchase, sell, barter, or transfer, or contract or agree for the dealing or trading in, purchasing, selling, bartering, or transferring of any Slave or Slaves, or any Person or persons intended to be sold, transferred, used, or dealt with as a Slave or Slaves contrary to the Prohibitions of this Act, he or they so offending shall forfeit and pay for every such Offence the Sum of One hundred Pounds of lawful Money of Great Britain for each and every Slave so purchased,

sold, bartered, or transferred, or contracted or agreed for as aforesaid, the One Moiety thereof to the Use of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and the other Moiety to the Use of any Person who shall inform, sue, and prosecute for the same.

This act was passed during the reign of King George III.

With thanks to the Parliament Archive, London, UK.



Revd. Thomas Clarkson



William Wilberforce MP

From May 1, 1807,  
the Slave trade shall  
be abolished.

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Full text of UK Parliament's Act of Abolition of Slavery, 25th March 1807. Copyright acknowledged.  
Photography Frewine Solomon ([frewinesolomon@hotmail.com](mailto:frewinesolomon@hotmail.com))

# Adinkra & Agama



SANKOFA

"return and get it"

Symbol of the importance of learning  
from the past



MPATAPO

"knot of pacification/reconciliation"

Symbol of peacemaking after strife

NEA ONNIM NO SUA, OHU

"he who does not know can know from learning"

Symbol of knowledge, life-long education and  
continued quest for knowledge



EPA

"handcuffs"

Symbol of law, justice, slavery and captivity

ABLODE

"one does not buy a slave with his heart"

Symbol of emancipation



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Adinkra and Agama symbols. African symbols for non-verbal communication.  
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Slaves working on sugarcane plantation. Copyright acknowledged.  
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"Am I not a woman  
and a sister"



"Am I not a man and  
a brother"



by Janice Gurnea.

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