



# The way forward

bicentenary of the abolition  
of the Slave Trade Act 1807 – 2007

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## A message from the Prime Minister



The bicentenary of the abolition of the Slave Trade Act has been a remarkable and moving occasion. People of all backgrounds have come together to acknowledge the shameful place of slavery in our shared history. There have been events across the country, in schools, museums and town halls, reflecting on the appalling suffering of the millions of people who were enslaved Africans and paying tribute to the courage and conviction of all those – men and women, Black and White, people from around the world – who campaigned for abolition.

As the bicentenary draws to a close, the work to keep alive the lessons of the past does not. The International Slavery Museum is now open in Liverpool as a permanent testament and the new history curriculum includes compulsory study of the transatlantic slave trade and its legacies.

Equally, the bicentenary has inspired a renewed focus in work to tackle injustice in the world today.

The Government is stepping up efforts to put an end to the criminal and inhuman industry of people trafficking and continues to work with developing nations to help them fight the poverty that is often a root cause of exploitation.

We also remain resolute in our commitment to stand up against inequality, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to rise as far as their talents will take them. That is why the Government has welcomed this year's REACH report, on raising the attainment and aspirations of Black boys and young Black men.

Though we confront different challenges today, the example of all those who campaigned for abolition 200 years ago remains an inspiration. With commitment like theirs, we can have every confidence in our ability to build a better future.

Gordon Brown



# Reflecting on the past looking to the future

## **2007 marked a key event in British history, the bicentenary of a landmark law passed by Parliament in 1807: the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act.**

For nearly 400 years, from the early 16th century, Europeans enslaved millions of Africans through the transatlantic slave trade. It is estimated that well over 12 million Africans were loaded onto slave ships and that some two million died.

The Act outlawed British ships from carrying enslaved people throughout the British empire. Although the practice of slavery itself was not abolished for another 26 years, with the Emancipation Act, the 1807 law marked the beginning of the end for the slave trade.

In 2007, the bicentenary presented a real opportunity to begin to tell the often untold story of a key period in Britain's history. This booklet looks back at the way that communities, towns and cities, churches and the Government worked together to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade, and to pay tribute to the Africans and the Britons who resisted the brutal traffic in humans and who started a campaign

against a practice that swept up men, women and children in their tens of thousands.

### **Action to address today's issues**

In 2007 we stepped up our efforts on some of the key issues that still face us in Britain and the world today: tackling inequality for people from Black British communities; the enormous challenges facing the developing countries of Africa and the continuing inhumanity of modern-day forms of slavery such as people trafficking and child labour.

But the booklet doesn't only look back – it also looks forward to the work that needs to be done. The bicentenary was an opportunity for us to recognise the huge contribution of Black African and Caribbean communities to all aspects of British life, and to renew our commitment to social justice, equality and freedom for all.

This booklet outlines some of the action we are taking to tackle these issues today; work that will continue long after the bicentenary year has ended.

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## Commemorating a landmark law

2007 was a fascinating and also a challenging year, as events in towns, cities and regions all over the country sparked the beginnings of a new understanding about the slave trade, and a new perspective about our past and our present. In the first section of this booklet, we look at the way the major port cities, which led events, commemorated the bicentenary. But the commemorations went beyond London, Liverpool, Bristol and Hull: people right across Britain enthusiastically contributed ideas and leapt at the chance to mark the year and reflect on historic links between the slave trade, the abolition movement and our lives today.

The bicentenary was a chance for all of us to develop a greater understanding of our shared past, and to highlight an emotive period of history that has special significance for African and Caribbean people. We provided funding for a major new permanent museum, the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool, and we have made the study of the slave trade a compulsory part of the National Curriculum.

This booklet looks at work to make sure our understanding of the slave trade continues and spreads. In the bicentenary year, people all over the country began a journey of discovery about Britain's past, about their own past and so about their very identity. For example, people of all ages in Britain have taken the opportunity to investigate their family links to West Africa, the Caribbean and elsewhere.

For the young people who joined the Amistad Freedom Tour on the replica schooner, the voyage of discovery was a literal one - an epic adventure retracing a large part of the transatlantic slave trade's triangular route, including the notorious 'middle passage', where so many enslaved Africans suffered and died.

So far, the Heritage Lottery Fund has granted £14 million for bicentenary projects across the country. That funding will continue in 2008 and so, too, we hope, will Britain's journey of discovery.

## Future national commemoration

The Government wants to ensure that we continue to mark this important part of our history beyond 2007. We will adopt 23rd August - UNESCO day for the International Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition - as the focal date for future national commemorations. We hope that people across the country will mark the day. Community groups will be able to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund for support for heritage projects; they will also be able to apply to the Big Lottery Fund and Arts Council England.



# National bicentenary commemorations – the highlights

- The launch of Royal Mint's commemorative £2 coin in December 2006. The reverse of this special coin featured the date of the act, 1807, intertwined with a broken chain to symbolise a break in the chains of oppression.
- The issue of commemorative stamps by the Royal Mail in March 2007. These featured key abolition campaigners, such as Olaudah Equiano, Thomas Clarkson and William Wilberforce.
- The National Service of Commemoration organised by *Set All Free* in Westminster Abbey in March 2007. This powerful event was attended by the Queen and Tony Blair, the then Prime Minister, and included a multi ethnic orchestra and African national drummers.
- Parliamentary debates on slavery in the Commons and Lords in March, May and June 2007.
- The publication of the Government's commemorative magazine in March 2007. The magazine traced the historic story of abolition, and acknowledged the way African and British people played a key role in it.
- The International Slavery Museum opened in Liverpool on 23rd August. The museum was visited by Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

# Bristol

## A wave of energy from the community

Bristol's Bicentenary commemoration, *Abolition 200*, was driven by the community. Energy and ideas poured out from the people of the city, and the *Abolition 200* steering group led by the African Caribbean community decided on priorities for the year, and which projects and events to fund. Bristol City Council supported the year with £250,000 and a team of workers.

As a result, this significant landmark in the city's history was marked with a vibrant £2 million programme of more than 100 community-led events and projects, which reached 200,000 local residents.

The day of the bicentenary, 25th March, was marked by a service of reconciliation held at Bristol Cathedral. The event was organised by a partnership of the cathedral and the Council of Black Churches – the first time that had ever happened.

A groundbreaking exhibition, *Breaking the Chains*, opened in April at the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum. The entire third floor of the museum is devoted to the 18-month exhibition, where vivid displays tell the story of Britain's involvement in the transatlantic Slave Trade. It also focuses on how forms of slavery continue in the present day.

## Life-changing experiences

Young people played a major role in the city's events. In May, a group of teenagers from St Paul's opened the Adisa Project's *Afrikan Footsteps* exhibition at Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery. It told the story of their life-changing journey to Ghana to explore their African heritage and identity.

Three students from Bristol's African Caribbean community were chosen to join the crew for Amistad's Freedom Tour, an epic



British Empire and Commonwealth Museum

*A host of projects reached right out to the grassroots of the city: 100 community-led events, attended by 200,000 people.*





transatlantic voyage on a replica slave ship. The Amistad stopped at more than a dozen Atlantic ports, including Bristol, Liverpool and London before retracing the infamous triangular slave route.

For Bristol, the bicentenary was more than just a year of events. The city now plans a forward-looking, five-year legacy programme. One of its priorities will be to raise the achievement of young people in the African Caribbean community, for example by tackling the very high school exclusion rates among African Caribbean boys.

### **Positive images of achievement**

Organisers hope one positive legacy will be a higher profile for the city's many successful African Caribbean men and women in the music industry, sport, business and the law: role models to inspire a new generation and give them something to aspire to.

They also plan action to improve the lives and community participation of older people in the Black community.

# Hull

## Home of Abolition remembers – and looks to the future

*“I wonder whether there is something special in the Hull air or water that has inspired so many of its sons and daughters to be so concerned with slavery and its abolition.”*

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Hull was the home of key abolitionist William Wilberforce, and his birthplace, Wilberforce House, is Britain's oldest slavery museum. The city is proud of its association with the Abolitionists, and hosted some of the UK's most exciting and informative events during the bicentenary year.

The programme of more than 100 events was created after consultation with over 300 community groups. It provided a mix of the inspirational, the educational and the thought provoking and attracted a total of more than 150,000 people.

The city worked with DFID, the Department for International Development, and others, to develop cultural and supportive projects in Freetown, Sierra Leone, which has been twinned with Hull for more than 25 years.

Events such as the visit of Sakoba Dance Theatre, the London Gospel Choir, and *Sankofa Sunsplash* offered a lively celebration of diversity. Meanwhile a series of talks and lectures, including Jane Elliot's *Anatomy of Prejudice* seminars, and a debate on *Freedom and Fairtrade*, gave an insight into contemporary issues of fairness and equality.

## VIP visitors

Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Reverend Jessie Jackson were among the VIP visitors to Hull during 2007, and the Prime Minister of Barbados came to the city to reopen Wilberforce House



*20,000 people in Hull signed the Fight for Freedom petition calling for an end to modern-day slavery.*



Museum following a £1.6m redevelopment. In the seven months after the reopening, the museum had more than 40,000 visitors.

In addition, the Wilberforce Lecture Trust invited prominent thinkers – including Islamic specialist Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, and John Sentamu, Archbishop of York – to the city to debate freedom and democracy.

### **Petition**

Bringing the fight against slavery right up to date, by the end of the bicentenary year, more than 20,000 people in Hull had signed the *Fight for*

*Freedom* petition, undertaken in partnership with Anti-Slavery International, calling for the abolition of modern forms of slavery. The figure nationally was more than 50,000.

Finally – and perhaps most importantly for future understanding of the issues – nearly 4,500 Hull schoolchildren took part in learning activities to find out about slavery and its legacy.

For the future, work is underway to develop an annual *Freedom Festival*, to improve teaching and research materials for students in years to come and to develop the city's international links still further.

# Liverpool

## Memories and reflection on the waterfront

As a major historical contributor to and beneficiary of the slave trade, Liverpool was well aware of the significance of the bicentenary to the city's Black communities.


The year was an opportunity to reflect on the past, but also to look to the future and instigate change through a new campaigning forum linking Liverpool with other major cities experiencing inequality and discrimination.

Raising awareness and challenging inequalities was a key focus of the city's bicentenary:

- The *Roscoe Lecture Series* featured contributions on different aspects of slavery and race from the President of Ghana, Professor Adam Hochschild, Paul Robeson Jr, and many other contributors.
- An international twinning project set up links between schools in Liverpool and in Sierra Leone, Brazil, Haiti and Senegal: relationships that will inform and illuminate the lives of children for many years to come.
- Other young Liverpoolians were given the opportunity to meet government ministers and discuss their views about the bicentenary and the legacy still experienced by African Caribbean people in Liverpool today.

## Thought-provoking

The city now has a major new museum, the International Slavery Museum, located in Liverpool's Albert Dock. The museum highlights the international impact of slavery, both historically and today, and works with other institutions to provide greater awareness and understanding.



*Liverpool celebrated the African diaspora, but also focused on the serious challenges of inequality and discrimination faced by the city's Black communities today.*



The museum is a leader in its field: one of the new thought-provoking galleries that will make a key contribution to future education and awareness raising.

The museum was opened on International Slavery Remembrance Day, 23rd August, commemorated by the city since 1999. The day was also marked by a multi-faith act of worship at Liverpool's Parish Church of St Nicholas. A traditional African libation ceremony, calling on the ancestors to bless the event, took place on the city's waterfront. Afterwards an afternoon of music and drama offered a showcase of Black culture and heritage around the themes

of Life in Africa, the Middle Passage, and Legacies.

A major arts and culture programme helped bring communities across the city together and provided an effective medium both to recognise those who suffered under slavery and to celebrate the huge contribution of the African diaspora. Highlights of the programme included a mass participation reading of Andrea Levy's book *Small Island*, about the experience of coming to England from the Caribbean, and the *Writing on the Wall* festival, which included contributions from poets Levi Tafari, Benjamin Zephaniah and Jean Binta Breeze.



*The theme of the Notting Hill Carnival was Set all Free, remembering that slavery still exists all over the world today.*

# London

## Charting the capital's links to slavery

Historically London profited most from the slave trade - some of its most famous banks and institutions were founded on the proceeds - and the city is also home to the country's largest Black communities. So it is not surprising that some of the year's most heartfelt and emotional commemorative events took place in the capital.

London's first permanent gallery acknowledging the city's links to slavery opened in November. *London, Sugar and Slavery* at the Museum in Docklands challenges what people think they know about the transatlantic slave trade and shows how this terrible traffic in humans made London, once the fourth largest slaving port in the world, the thriving city we know today.

With a collection that encompasses exquisite craftsmanship that demonstrate the height of West African culture and art before slavery, and the grim apparatus of discipline and restraint, such as punishment collars and manacles, the gallery reveals the complexity of the issues behind slavery, resistance and abolition and the legacy of the enduring relationship between London and the Caribbean.

## How the Act came to be passed

Westminster Hall was the venue for Parliament's major exhibition on the story of how the Act of Parliament abolishing the slave trade actually came to be passed. Highlights of the exhibition included the 1807 Act itself, and a six-metre long petition from the people of Manchester demanding abolition.

One of the key events which raised awareness of the horrors of the slave trade in Parliament was the trial over the slave ship the Zong.



On 29th March, a replica of this notorious slave ship sailed up the Thames, escorted by a Royal Navy frigate. The *Zong* is linked to one of the most infamous crimes in the history of the transatlantic slave trade, when in 1781 the ship's captain ordered 132 enslaved people to be thrown overboard to their deaths, so that he could claim compensation from the ship's insurers for lost 'cargo'. The replica moored at Tower Pier for two weeks, and included the on-board *Free at Last?* exhibition.

### **Images of humanity and inhumanity**

In the *Slave Britain* exhibition at St Paul's Cathedral (which went on to visit Hull and

Edinburgh), Panos Pictures commissioned photographers Karen Robinson and David Rose to document some of the lives caught up in human trafficking: a bitter reality for thousands of men, women and children in the UK today. A gallery of 'modern-day abolitionists' portrayed the men and women who have stood up in different ways against human trafficking.

The theme for the Notting Hill Carnival - the most prominent showcase of African Caribbean culture in the country - was *Set All Free*, commemorating the bicentenary and remembering that slavery continues in many forms across the world.

# Tackling today's issues

// *I knew two of my great grandmothers, both of whom were born in the third quarter of the nineteenth century.*

*They knew and spoke to us about their grandparents.*

*They were born as slaves. //*

Owen Arthur, Prime Minister of Barbados, in a speech given in Hull to commemorate the bicentenary, 25th March 2007.







Only six or seven generations separate us from the people who lived through - and made - the history of the transatlantic slave trade. This history is a shared past that shaped our economy, society and culture and left a legacy that continues to have an impact on all of us in Britain and other parts of the world today. The bicentenary year was an opportunity to look at the inequality, disadvantage, discrimination and racism that has its roots in slavery, and to ensure that action to tackle today's issues continues beyond 2007. This section sets out what the Government is doing in relation to:

- Discovering the past
- Tackling inequality in the UK
- Tackling poverty and inequality in Africa and the Caribbean
- Tackling modern-day slavery



# Discovering the past

**Today, the extraordinary story of Britain's part in the transatlantic slave trade and its abolition is beginning to be told. One of the most important legacies of the bicentenary has spread a greater awareness of a period that helped shape Britain and many other parts of the world, and that has enormous significance to African and African Caribbean communities in Britain.**

A new understanding is being built on education, research and community projects that are uncovering previously unknown histories and links to slavery, reinterpreting the past, challenging accepted beliefs and helping people to understand contemporary issues by discovering our past. Scotland is developing its own national legacy project as a permanent reminder of Scotland's role in the slave trade and abolition.

Major new museums are now telling the story of how Britain first came to dominate the slave trade and then help lead the fight against it.

- The International Slavery Museum in Liverpool is dedicated entirely to the history and the legacy of slavery. It received more than 100,000 visitors in its first three months of opening.
- Bristol's Empire and Commonwealth Museum has given over an entire floor to an 18-month

exhibition, *Breaking the Chains*, which reveals the brutalities of the trade in human beings, pays tribute to their courage and resilience and also the tireless campaigning of ordinary people in ending the official sanctioning of slavery.

- London's Museum in Docklands has opened the capital's first permanent gallery devoted to the history of its involvement. In the setting of an historic sugar warehouse, the gallery challenges long-held beliefs that abolition was initiated by politicians and reveals the untold stories of London's links to the trade.
- Wilberforce House in Hull, Britain oldest slavery museum, has been reopened after a £1.6 million redevelopment that brings its displays up to date with modern discovery about the past and the present.

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# Untold stories

Eight museums and galleries across Greater Manchester are looking at their collections and even their buildings in a new light, revealing untold stories about their connections to the slave trade.

Manchester and the surrounding towns were closely connected to slavery through the textile industry, which was dependent on slave-grown cotton and which, in turn, traded huge amounts of textiles for enslaved Africans. But there are other stories, too, including the region's influential abolitionist movement: in 1787, 10,000 people signed the huge Manchester petition calling for abolition.

Curators have started investigating the origins of objects in their collections and realised that almost everything in the galleries is touched by

the slave trade. They include brass 'manilla rings' in Manchester Museum that were exchanged for enslaved Africans, the industrial collections of the Museum of Science and Industry and anti-slavery emblems among the political collections of the People's History Museum. Even the fine and decorative arts of the Whitworth and Manchester Art Galleries, when looked at from a different perspective, have revealed intimate connections with slavery through the influential elite of rich families who governed the sugar colonies and were patrons of the arts.

*The Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded over £14 million to more than 180 projects related to the slave trade. Funding will continue in 2008.*

Museums and other organisations have learned from the experience of marking the bicentenary. Building on what we have learned in order to reach out to all parts of the community and attract more diverse groups, will be a very important part of the legacy of the bicentenary.

### **Spreading awareness**

The slave trade is a previously under-represented aspect of our shared past. But now, activities across the country continue to spread awareness of slavery, and show there is a wealth of evidence to examine its legacy in Britain and the world. Events across English regions, cities and towns are revealing the way the history of slavery surrounds us; woven into people's lives, and built into the very fabric of the buildings around us. *(continued on next page)*

## Hidden Histories

The hidden histories of some of the country's best-known historic houses are being revealed.

Visitors to Kenwood House in Hampstead may have often walked around the stately home without realising that Dido Elizabeth Belle, the daughter of an enslaved African woman and British Navy captain Sir John Lindsay, was brought up in the aristocratic surroundings by her great-uncle, the childless Lord Mansfield. The history of this house and others was highlighted in the English Heritage publication *Sites of Memory: The Slave Trade and Abolition* produced with the Historic Houses Association.

English Heritage is also researching the hidden pasts of listed buildings and monuments across the country through its *Designating History* project, revealing little-known links to the slave trade. As a result, official records will be changed: some 'listed' buildings will have their descriptions changed and some will be newly listed or have their listings regraded to reflect their special significance.

## Educating future generations

For the first time, school children aged 11-14 will learn about Britain's involvement in the slave trade and its abolition as a compulsory part of history lessons in secondary schools.

From September 2008, the transatlantic slave trade and the British Empire will join the Holocaust and the two world wars as compulsory subjects in the school curriculum for Key Stage 3 pupils.

It will be a fascinating opportunity for schoolchildren to learn, not only the horrifying nature and effects of the trade, but also the victories of the abolitionist movement, driven by resistance in the plantations and, in Britain, not only by its remarkable leaders, but huge numbers of ordinary men, women and children, foreshadowing 20th century civil rights movements.

## Effective teaching

The *Understanding Slavery Initiative* (USI) is helping to equip teachers with the knowledge and skills to cover what can be a controversial and highly charged subject in school lessons. This £925,000 joint initiative between the National Maritime Museum, museums in Hull and Bristol and National Museums Liverpool has developed training, and high-quality materials for teachers to use in classrooms and in museum galleries.

The Government recognises the importance for all pupils of teaching the subject sensitively, and with appropriate materials. Teachers now have new resources to meet the challenges of teaching multi-ethnic history and support from The Historical Association to engage pupils with the challenging and emotive issues that arise from the topic of slavery.

USI was also chosen to run *The Big Conversation* competition, an inspiring and engaging opportunity for pupils aged 11-14 to explore the complex issues of the slave trade in the bicentenary. To find out more, visit [www.understandingslavery.com](http://www.understandingslavery.com)



*Future generations of schoolchildren will learn about the slave trade and abolition as part of the National Curriculum. Teaching of the topic is being carefully planned so as not to stigmatise or alienate any groups.*

# Transforming people's knowledge

The largest Heritage Lottery Fund award for a community project was £408,000 to Leeds West Indian Centre Charitable Trust to help transform the knowledge and experiences of the people and institutions of Leeds.

This major community project is involving people all over Leeds to discover the impact of the slave trade and the abolition campaign on their city. Schoolchildren are working with writers, whilst young people and community elders are together choosing artefacts for a mobile exhibition; this will feed into a new permanent *Out of Africa*

gallery in the redeveloped Leeds Museum, due to open in 2008.

The Leeds Carnival theme this year was *History and African Caribbean Survival and Transformation*; the project provided history and costume design workshops for two troupes of young people. Members of the community are researching the role played by their churches in abolition and young and old are exploring the impact of enslavement on African Caribbean communities in the UK today.

## School lessons brought to life

School children are having history lessons on slavery brought to life with a project to bring artefacts out of museums and into the classroom.

Secondary schools in Bristol can borrow three slavery handling boxes from the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum. Filled with objects and images from the museums collections, the boxes tell the story of Africa pre-slavery, life for enslaved Africans on the plantations and the abolition campaign.

Pupils can handle and discuss original and replica artefacts that help them understand the brutal

realities of the slave trade, the resilience of those who were enslaved and the campaigning of ordinary people.

For example, they see stunning examples of African craftsmanship, including cloths, sculpture and bracelets in the pre-slavery box, and shackles, chains and a silver lady's whip in the plantation life box.

The project is part of an educational programme supporting the museum's *Breaking the Chains* exhibition.

**//** *This report is about a country that is better than the one we now live in: more at ease with its diversity, more equal, more just and above all fairer. //*

Trevor Phillips, who chaired the independent Equalities Review into the causes of persistent discrimination and inequality in British society, in its 2007 report *Fairness and Freedom*.

Trevor Phillips is chair of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission. The Government has created this commission to be a new independent and influential body, championing equal and fair treatment for all.





# Tackling inequality in the UK

**People from minority ethnic groups, including Black communities, are thriving all over Britain, and increasingly prominent in many walks of British life. Yet inequality persists.**

Wherever inequality, underachievement or discrimination still exists, we want to tackle it and work towards creating a society where everyone can get the most from public services to realise his or her potential whatever their background. We are taking action in five main areas:

- Education
- Jobs
- Housing
- Health
- The criminal justice system.

## **REACH**

The Government has been running a major project to invest in the future of the next generation. REACH aims to make sure Black boys and young Black men aspire to more and achieve more.

REACH was driven by a group of 25 key stakeholders who have direct experience of the realities of young people's lives. They made five key recommendations.

In response to the report the Government is committed to:

- 1. Improve the visibility of positive Black male role models.** We will create the first ever Black Boys' National Role Model programme, and provide support for local Black role modelling and mentoring organisations.
- 2. Create better links between Black families and schools.** We will improve the way schools engage with Black parents and pilot home/school partnership agreements with an explicit focus on Black families.
- 3. Improve the way that Ofsted reports on race equality in schools.** We will continue to develop inspection practice to ensure formal monitoring of progress against schools' Race Equality Action Plans.
- 4. Ensure strong ministerial oversight of action to support young Black men.** We will establish a ministerial board to oversee all efforts to raise the aspirations of Black boys.

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## 5. Encourage small third sector organisations working to support young Black men to share resources and expertise.

We will also ensure that a share of the £6 million Strategic Partner programme will focus on race equality.

### Education

The school performance of Black pupils showed the biggest improvement of any group from 2003-07 - 18.5% more achieving the equivalent of five or more A\*-C grade GCSE's to reach 52.5% compared to the average for all children of 59%. However, although we are making progress there is still a lot more to be done.

Our strategy to tackle under-achievement among African Caribbean pupils is two-pronged. We aim to ensure that mainstream education is supporting all minority ethnic groups, while programmes like The Minority Ethnic Achievement Project and the Black Pupils' Achievement Programme focus targeted help on particular groups.

*Aiming High*, the strategy launched in 2003 to tackle minority ethnic underachievement is collecting powerful, accurate evidence on how well different ethnic groups are achieving at school. This is a fundamental starting point from which to deliver improvements.

The £178 million Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant funds schools and local authorities to take action to raise the attainment levels of minority ethnic pupils.

### Jobs

We are focusing on four priority areas where we believe we can make a difference:

- **The City Strategy** – We are funding 15 local pathfinders to raise employment rates in some of our most disadvantaged communities. They have been set specific targets to help get people from minority ethnic communities into work. The local pathfinders understand the barriers local Black communities face and can find innovative ways to tackle them.

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*// Raising aspirations and attainment among Black boys and young Black men will create a more skilled workforce, reduce crime...and provide a boost to the British economy. The entire country will benefit. //*

Clive Lewis,  
Chair, REACH





## Positive Black male role models

Black boys who attend a group session run by mentoring project *boys2MEN* may be surprised to find the food is sometimes served by male workers. It's a deliberate attempt to portray different models of masculinity, and to help Black boys develop positive attitudes towards them.

The project introduces mentors as a positive Black male role model into the lives of vulnerable Black boys and young Black men. Many lack a father figure, and as a consistent male, a mentor can help them develop a strong sense of identity and emotional resilience.

Many of the young men who attend are fathers themselves. A mentor supports them to improve the contact they have with their children and develop a good understanding of how they can play an important role in their children's lives and development.

The project aims to have a positive influence on all aspects of the boys' and young men's lives, working with them at home, with their parents and, for the boys, at school. The Government highlighted this valuable work in the REACH report.

- **Engaging Employers** – We will encourage employers to contribute their considerable resources and skills to overcome discrimination and other barriers to employment, as well as encouraging enterprise in minority ethnic communities;
- **Equality in procurement** – We are working with public procurement departments, which are in a position to influence and improve the equality policies and practices of government suppliers;
- **The 2012 Games** – We are developing plans for procurement, skills and volunteering to make sure more local people, including minority ethnic communities, benefit from the 2012 London Olympic and Para-Olympic Games.

## Health

We are working to discover and tackle the causes behind the higher admission to psychiatric hospital of people from minority ethnic communities, particularly compulsory admission under the 1983 Mental Health Act.

The *Count me in* census of psychiatric inpatients has taken place annually for the last three years. Results show that:

- Admission rates for Black and White/Black mixed ethnic groups were three times higher than average.
- Black and White/Black Mixed groups are more likely to enter mental health care through the criminal justice system.

As a result of these findings, we are taking action to improve race equality in mental health care. We are recruiting 500 community development workers to ensure the views of communities are included in the planning and delivery of services, and we have launched a new website to spread good practice in minority ethnic health care.

[www.nimhe.csip.org.uk/our-work/black-minority-ethnic-mental-health.html](http://www.nimhe.csip.org.uk/our-work/black-minority-ethnic-mental-health.html)

The *Race for Health* project supports Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to make the health services they deliver fairer for minority ethnic communities. It works with 15 PCTs around the country and in partnership with ethnic minority groups in those areas to improve health, modernise services, increase choice for patients and create greater diversity in the NHS workforce.

## Criminal Justice

Young Black people are far more likely than their peers to become involved in the criminal justice system. We are committed to tackling this over-representation, creating change by working with Black communities themselves, schools, families and voluntary groups.

In June 2007, the Home Affairs Committee published the report *Young Black People and the Criminal Justice System (CJS)*. It identified three key factors in explaining young Black people's over-representation in the CJS. They were:

- Social exclusion – both historic and current – the key primary cause.

## Housing

The £3 million Ethnic Minorities Innovation Fund supports 23 innovative projects across the country to prevent homelessness among minority ethnic groups:

- Helping victims of domestic violence
- Supporting 11-25 year olds to avoid homelessness
- Resettling Muslim prisoner

- Factors specific to the Black community – such as family patterns, fuelled by deprivation.
- The operation of the CJS, including the reality and perception of discrimination.

In October, we welcomed the report and accepted almost all of its 67 recommendations. We are committed to improving outcomes for young Black people with an overarching strategy that will include: more mentoring schemes for young Black people; more parenting support for Black families; tailored teaching programmes; action to reduce permanent school exclusions; steps to tackle guns and gangs; better community engagement by the police and improved sport and cultural facilities for young people in deprived areas.

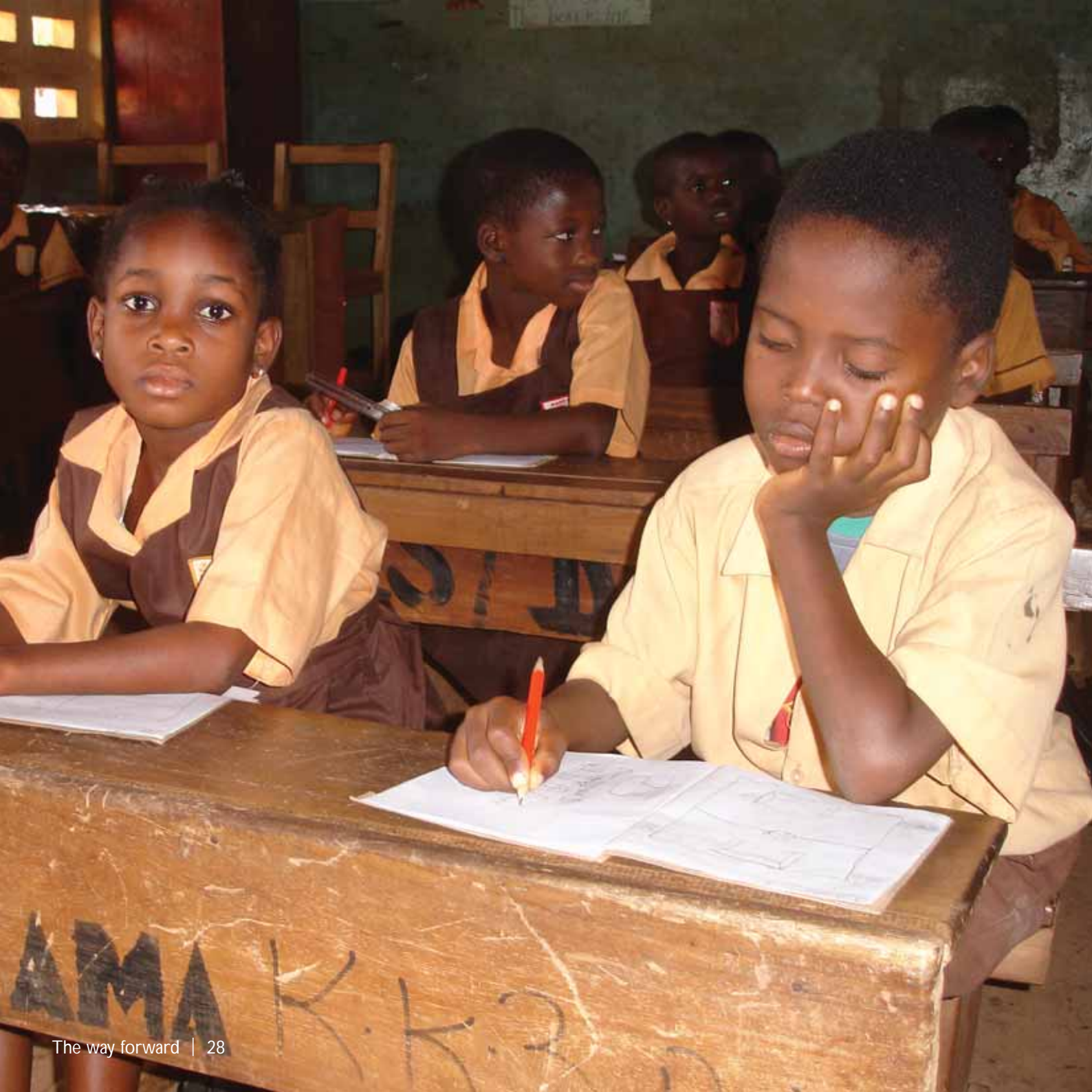
Black and minority ethnic communities are far more likely to be stopped in the street by police officers using stop and search powers. The Home Office is encouraging police forces to examine their local policies and practice that lead to this happening and either take action to reduce it or, if the practice is found to be fair, to explain the reasons behind it.

Three *Detecting Racism* pilots started in September 2006 in Belmarsh, Holloway and Wandsworth prisons. The projects are training staff to detect and deal with racism.

### Scotland – action to address discrimination and inequality

Scottish Government will be publishing a national statement and action plan on race equality in the coming months. Scottish Government will be developing its One Scotland anti-racism campaign. [www.infoscotland.com/noplace/](http://www.infoscotland.com/noplace/)





# Tackling poverty

## and inequality in Africa and the Caribbean

**One in five people in the world today live in poverty, on less than one dollar a day. The UK Government is committed to focusing our development budget on the poorest countries, many of which are in sub-Saharan Africa. We also support several countries in the Caribbean, where we have historic links.**

Last year, we provided more than £1 billion to tackle poverty in Africa. Next year this will rise to £1.25 billion.

The vast majority of this, 90%, goes to our 16 priority countries. They are: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

### **Making sure aid is effective**

We work alongside African governments to support their own national strategies to reduce poverty.

We believe one of the best ways to tackle poverty in a country is to fund a government directly, so they build up the experience and expertise of providing effective programmes and core services such as health and education.

We do this in Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana, Mozambique, Zambia, Ethiopia and Malawi, through

the Department for International Development (DFID). This approach gives our partner governments more money to pay doctors and teachers and build schools; in other words, to get help directly to their people.

Of course we want to be sure this money is getting to those who need it. We only provide aid in this way when we are satisfied that the government makes reducing poverty one of its priorities, has open and transparent financial systems, and respects human rights and other international obligations.

But when the circumstances are right, we believe this is the best way to build a government's own long term ability to deliver services to their people, and to strengthen accountability between the state and its citizens.

In our other priority countries, we work through existing projects, programmes, and non government organisations.

*(continued on page 31)*



Alice Machege, who owns a small textile business in Dar es Salaam

## Small loans for **bright business ideas**

Anna Lupanga is one of around 5,000 Tanzanians who save and borrow at a savings and credit cooperative in order to make a success of their businesses. Her shop in the capital Dar es Salaam, sells clothes, handbags and accessories from around the world.

Many small entrepreneurs in Tanzania like Anna face problems accessing money to invest in a good business idea. In 2003 she was introduced to the cooperative,

which encouraged her to save regularly, putting her in a position to secure her first loan within eight months. Her business went from strength to strength and in the summer of 2007 she took out her fourth loan to develop the clothing company.

DfID is supporting the development of savings and credit cooperatives, which play a key role in providing financial services to low income earners, with £7million from 2005 to 2010.



*£43 million is helping the Kenyan government implement its national HIV/Aids strategy, so everyone has access to prevention, treatment and care.*

*We are also funding the promotion of condoms in Kenya to prevent new infections.*

### **Education, a route out of poverty**

Education is the key to giving children the chance to escape poverty and exploitation. We have committed £8.5 billion over ten years to support *Education for All*, an international campaign to make sure all young children go to school.

We have committed £150 million for education in Mozambique up to 2015, which should lead to a million more children completing their primary education by 2009, and train up to 10,000 new teachers per year. £105 million for Ghana over ten years will help make sure all girls and boys benefit from a full course of primary education.

In Malawi, enrolment rates have increased massively, by about 60%, since primary education was made free in 1994. As many girls as boys enrolled and literacy rates improved from 63% to 76%. We have committed \$110 million to education in Malawi from 1999 to 2008, while the Malawi Government committed nearly a sixth of its national budget for 2006/07 to education. A new curriculum, funded by DFID, is putting the needs of pupils first and making learning active and fun.

### **Health and HIV Aids**

In Africa, where 70% of the population work in agriculture, illness or infirmity can have a devastating effect on a family's ability to work their way out of poverty or even survive.

In Ethiopia we fund the salaries of over 16,000 doctors and nurses. In addition, £15 million will help the Ministry of Health buy and distribute 6.5m insecticide-treated bed nets, two million doses of malaria treatment and contraceptives for three million women.

In Zimbabwe we have provided over £35 million to tackle HIV/Aids and other health priorities since 2002 and we will provide a further £47 million over the next three years. This has helped Zimbabwe reduce HIV infection rates from 24% to 19% by 2005.

*(continued on next page)*

## Trade matters

For many people in Africa, poverty is rooted in their inability to trade, and trade is a vital route out of poverty. The UK Government is actively working in the European Union and the World Trade Organisation, and alongside African governments, to make sure trade benefits those who need it most.

At the 2006 World Economic Forum in Cape Town we committed £16.3 million to strengthen the Africa business environment and helped to secure a further £97.8 million in corporate and donor pledges.

For trade to benefit the poorest countries, everyone must have a fair chance to compete. In Mozambique we are helping to create a trading environment that helps poor people to participate in markets. We are also supporting the governments of Malawi and South Africa to encourage regional trade by opening of a one-stop border post between the two countries.

## Humanitarian assistance

Humanitarian assistance is essential to tackle the effects of climate change, to help victims of disasters and to feed people in times of emergencies.

In northern Uganda we provided over £17 million in humanitarian assistance in 2006/2007. This helped to provide monthly food rations, malaria treatment and bed nets, basic essential medicines and measles and polio vaccines.

We have provided over £30 million of humanitarian support to the victims of natural and man-made disasters in Kenya since 2004. In the longer term, poverty reduction efforts, including drought schemes should make Kenya more resilient and less likely to need humanitarian aid.



*300 children have been put on antiretroviral drugs in eastern Caribbean states, and the private sector is active in promoting awareness, care and support; and tackling stigma and discrimination.*

## Tackling poverty and inequality in the Caribbean

Many Caribbean countries are facing serious challenges that hinder their development:

- Significant levels of poverty.
- Social exclusion and inequality.
- High unemployment and crime.
- The breakdown of social cohesion.

We work directly with the governments of Guyana and Jamaica to reduce poverty and tackle exclusion, and we work through existing regional programmes and organisations in other Caribbean countries to support their governments own strategies for improvements.

While poverty in the Caribbean is not so extreme as sub-Saharan Africa, there are still four million people who live on one dollar a day, mainly in Haiti. Poorer people are especially vulnerable to natural disasters, climate change, crime and insecurity, HIV infection and economic shocks.

We are:

- Working to strengthen regional institutions that promote poverty reduction, and social integration; and in Jamaica and Guyana we are focusing on better governance, and social and economic inclusion.
- Helping Caribbean economies diversify out of their dependence on agriculture, and promote their competitiveness in the global economy.
- Taking action to improve people's safety, security and access to justice. These programmes are

helping to address the security needs of poor and marginalised people, especially sexual, gender-based and domestic violence.

- Working to reduce the stigma and discrimination around HIV/Aids.

## Progress and success

Our programmes are having a positive impact in several key areas:

**Trade:** We have successfully supported Caribbean negotiations within Europe in order to establish important Economic Partnership Agreements with the EC.

**Debt Relief:** Through DFID, we provided £67m debt relief from 2000-2005, releasing more money for governments to spend on reducing poverty.

**Education:** 2,940 new school places have been provided in Guyana under a project supported by DFID.

**Crime and policing:** A National Security Strategy in Jamaica has been developed to reduce crime and violence, and community-police relations have been improved as a result of the Community Security Initiative. In Guyana we have helped secure agreement for Parliament to oversee security reform, including the police service.

**Disaster relief and climate change:** We provided emergency financial aid to Grenada after Hurricane Ivan; to Jamaica, Belize, Dominica and St Lucia after Hurricane Dean, including supporting the fair trade farmers in Dominica and St Lucia who were severely affected; and we coordinated relief efforts after the 2005 floods in Guyana.

// Slavery cannot be relegated to the annals of history so long as men, women and children are still being coerced, drugged, tricked and sold to do dangerous and degrading work against their will. //

Kofi Annan



# Tackling modern-day slavery

**It is estimated that there are more than 12 million\* enslaved people in the world today. Of this number, 2.4 million have been trafficked, mainly women and girls for the sex trade.** \*International Labour Organisation estimate, 2005

The Government has renewed its efforts to tackle modern day slavery in the bicentenary year. We are taking action both in the UK and on the international scene to tackle contemporary slavery in all its forms:

**Bonded labour** – people trapped in debt that they have to repay with forced labour.

**Human trafficking** – people transported and forced to work against their will.

**Descent-based slavery** – people who are born into a group that society discriminates against and treats as property.

**Forced domestic servitude** – often hidden and forced to work in private homes.

**Worst forms of child labour** – including prostitution and ‘child soldiers’.

Human trafficking is happening within the UK today. We have invested to make sure we have the

experience, expertise and training to tackle this appalling crime, and we are placing support for the victims of trafficking at the heart of our approach.

Other forms of slavery exist all over the world, but particularly in the Asia Pacific region, where three quarters of the world’s enslaved people live. We take action internationally, through diplomatic channels and through our network of embassies throughout the world, to uphold human rights and to help protect very vulnerable groups that are at risk of trafficking, forced labour and other forms of slavery.

## **Slavery – the facts**

Asia Pacific: 9,490,000

Latin America and the 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

*(continued on page 37)*



# Caring for **trafficking victims**

When Anna, a young Lithuanian, walked into a Sheffield police station in September 2004, having escaped a ruthless gang who had forced her into prostitution, she spoke no English, had no shoes on her feet and only the clothes she stood in. Once they escape, women and girls like Anna are often desperate for help.

The Poppy Project in London offers women over 18 shelter and a safe place to stay while police deal with the investigation of their case. More than 250 women have been helped since 2003, and the Home Office are providing the project with

£2.4 million over two years to continue the work.

The UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) has made the sympathetic treatment of victims a central core of its approach. Women who are treated with understanding and who feel protected are more able to cooperate with the police investigation, increasing the chances of a successful prosecution of this brutal crime.

The Poppy Project is one of a number of safe houses and counseling services that the UKHTC is building into a network of support services they can work with around the country.

*Police crackdown  
2006 Operation  
Pentameter 1*

*88 victims freed,  
12 of whom were children  
232 suspects arrested  
134 charged  
515 suspect premises  
visited by police*



## Action against human trafficking into the UK

It is estimated that 4,000 women and teenage girls may have been trafficked into the UK and forced into prostitution, worryingly the true figure could be many more. Beaten and brutalised, they are often too terrified to run away or seek help.

We are taking action to free the victims and to bring to justice the ruthless gangs who profit from the trade in humans.

This year has seen a great deal of progress in our fight against human trafficking.

We have introduced comprehensive anti-trafficking laws resulting in successful convictions. We have established the Serious Organised Crime Agency, which has tackling organised immigration crime, including human trafficking, as one of its top priorities. We have also set up the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) the first of its kind in Europe, as a centre of expertise, training and advice to police forces and law enforcement agencies in the UK.

Operation Pentameter 1, in 2006, was the first police operation against human trafficking to simultaneously involve all 55 forces in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. It revealed that women were being tricked to come into the UK, where they were sold for £500-£8,000, with their 'price' dropping each time they were sold on. Pentameter 1 took action against the criminal gangs behind this trade and began to uncover the extent of the problem in the UK. As a result of this success, Pentameter 2 was launched in October 2007, with a further £100,000 for victim support.

The experience of these police operations has been invaluable in building up our ability to fight this crime, and developing our understanding of the crucial need to work with housing, health and other organisations to give victims all the support they need to recover from their ordeal and to work with police.

*(continued on next page)*

We have also made progress against human trafficking on other key fronts. On March 23rd, the UK signed the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, and we are taking forward the work to ratify the convention.

This guarantees minimum rights and protection of trafficking victims, including medical help, counseling and accommodation.

The UK Action Plan was published on the same day:

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/human-traffick-action-plan](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/human-traffick-action-plan)

It applies to all forms of human trafficking, including trafficking for prostitution, forced labour and child trafficking.

### **Tackling the root causes of slavery**

Whatever form it takes, slavery is almost always a sign of a deeper problem – poverty and social injustice. The poorest people are vulnerable to exploitation and forms of slavery because they do not have the means, such as jobs or land, to support their families.

The UK is playing a leading role in the fight against poverty and to tackle the underlying causes of slavery. Through DFID, the Department for International Development, we work to end the conditions that trap people, sometimes for generations, in patterns of exploitation. DFID works in 150 countries, and in 2006 spent £5.9 billion on development programmes.

This figure will increase until we meet 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.

These include halving the number of people living in extreme poverty and hunger, and ensuring all children receive a primary education.

*The UK supports the International Labour Organisation to tackle slavery and forced labour, including the worst forms of child labour.*







# Action to end child labour

In a bid to help her poverty-stricken family, 13-year-old Thuy left her village in Vietnam to find work. She followed a friend who said she knew a relative who ran a small business and suggested they worked there together to earn money for their families at home.

The small 'business' turned out to be a brick factory. The friend abandoned her and Thuy had to endure the hard labour – completely unsuitable for a young girl – alone with no money. Eventually, she was rescued by some cousins and returned home.

The UK is helping to beat trafficking in South East Asia by providing £6 million to an programme to reduce child and female labour. The Mekong Sub-regional Project to Combat Trafficking in Children and Women works to raise awareness and provide opportunities to learn vocational skills.

Part of the International Labour Organisation's programme to eliminate child labour, it operates in five countries: Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, China's Yunnan Province and Cambodia.

# More information

## UK Government departments

Department for Communities and Local Government

[www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

[www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk)

Department for Children, School and Families

[www.dcsf.gov.uk](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk)

Home Office

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

[www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk)

Department for International Development

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

Scotland

[www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

Bicentenary website

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

## Introduction

Churches Together in England

[www.setallfree.net](http://www.setallfree.net)

Commemorative coin

[www.royalmint.com](http://www.royalmint.com)

Commemorative stamps

[www.royalmailgroup.com](http://www.royalmailgroup.com)

Amistad Atlantic Freedom Tour

[www.amistadamerica.org](http://www.amistadamerica.org)

## Bristol

Abolition 200 programme

[www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/content/Leisure-Culture/Local-History-Heritage/abolition-200.en](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/content/Leisure-Culture/Local-History-Heritage/abolition-200.en)

Empire and Commonwealth Museum

[www.empiremuseum.co.uk](http://www.empiremuseum.co.uk)

Bristol Cathedral

[www.bristol-cathedral.co.uk](http://www.bristol-cathedral.co.uk)

## Hull

Wilberforce 2007 programme

[www.wilberforce2007.com](http://www.wilberforce2007.com)

Fight for Freedom petition/Anti Slavery International

[www.antislavery.org](http://www.antislavery.org)

Wilberforce Lecture Trust

[www.wilberforcelecturetrust.co.uk](http://www.wilberforcelecturetrust.co.uk)

Fairtrade

[www.fairtradehull.org](http://www.fairtradehull.org)

Freetown Society (twinning project)

[www.freetownsociety.org](http://www.freetownsociety.org)

Wilberforce Institute for the study

of Slavery and Emancipation

[www.hull.ac.uk/wise](http://www.hull.ac.uk/wise)

## **Liverpool**

Liverpool Culture Company  
Writing on the Wall festival  
International Slavery Museum

[www.liverpool08.com](http://www.liverpool08.com)  
[www.writingonthewall.org.uk](http://www.writingonthewall.org.uk)  
[www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk)

## **London**

London, Sugar and Slavery  
Parliament's exhibition  
Slave Britain

[www.museumindocklands.org.uk](http://www.museumindocklands.org.uk)  
[www.parliament.uk/slavetrade](http://www.parliament.uk/slavetrade)  
[www.slavebritain.org.uk](http://www.slavebritain.org.uk)

## **Discovering the past**

Heritage Lottery Fund  
English Heritage  
Revealing Histories project, Manchester  
Understanding Slavery Initiative

[www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/abolition](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/abolition)  
[www.revealinghistories.org.uk](http://www.revealinghistories.org.uk)  
[www.understandingslavery.com](http://www.understandingslavery.com)

## **Tackling inequality in the UK**

Equality and Human Rights Commission

[www.equalityhumanrights.com](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com)

## **Tackling poverty and inequality in Africa and the Caribbean**

United Nations Millennium Development Goals

[www.dfid.gov.uk/tradematters](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/tradematters)  
[www.un.org/millenniumgoals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals)

## **Tackling modern-day slavery**

UK Human Trafficking Centre  
International Labour Organisation

[www.ukhtc.org](http://www.ukhtc.org)  
[www.ilo.org/forcedlabour](http://www.ilo.org/forcedlabour)



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