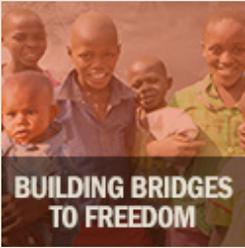




# FREE THE SLAVES eUPDATE

A quarterly progress report to supporters about Free the Slaves activities and impact



**BUILDING BRIDGES TO FREEDOM**



**RIGHTS TRAINING RESCUES GHANAIAN**



**BRAZIL LEADER FIGHTS SLAVERY**



**DANCE TROUPE FREES SLAVES**



**TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH**



## BUILDING BRIDGES TO FREEDOM

### Your Support is Building Bridges from Slavery to Freedom

Freeing slaves is about community. It's about strengthening community resistance in slavery hot spots so that traffickers cannot prey on vulnerable children, women and men. And it's about building a community of supporters among those of us who live with the blessing of liberty, and then building a bridge between those who need help and those who can provide it.

That sense of connecting communities is the key to Executive Director Maurice Middleberg's end-of-year [video message](#) to Free the Slaves supporters.

Maurice likens the bridge building done by Free the Slaves today to the successes of the Underground Railroad that helped slaves escape in the 1800s.

"It is our privilege to help build today's bridges to freedom," Maurice says, "to link those resisting slavery with their supporters is inspiring and joyful work. We enter 2015, our 15th year as an organization, confident that with your continued help, more and more people will cross into freedom."



### Our Child Rights Training Rescues Ghanaian Boy from Domestic Slavery

It's a familiar situation in West Africa: a child sent to live with a relative and made to take care of all household chores. It happened to Seth Boateng. His father left the 16-year-old with an aunt, with no promise of return.

Seth had to wake up at 4 a.m. for fetching water, sweeping, washing dishes and cooking meals for the entire family. He was rarely allowed to eat the food he cooked.

Fortunately, this case of child domestic servitude caught the attention of Mary Kusi, a member of a child rights learning group. The group formed after the introduction of a child rights curriculum in the community by Free the Slaves and our front-line partner organization, [Participatory Development Associates](#). The awareness-raising program educates residents about child exploitation and encourages them to take action.

Mary confronted Seth's aunt and eventually took Seth into her own home and reported his case to authorities. Mary's intervention demonstrates that child rights education can produce tangible change.

Seth's aunt did not send him to school while he worked as a servant in her home. But his desire to get an education was not fully extinguished. He continued to take on additional work outside of his household tasks by shining shoes to pay for books and student fees and to feed himself while at school. Now, thanks to Mary's initiative, Seth no longer has to wake-up early and is given all he needs to focus on his studies.

You can read more about our child rights project on our [Ghana webpage](#), including the [detailed report](#) on our child rights in mining pilot project.



## Commitment to Fight Slavery Helps Brazil's President Win Re-election

Political candidates are often asked to take pledges to win votes. In the U.S., many candidates pledge to never raise taxes. In Brazil, our front-line partner organization, [Repórter Brasil](#), has been asking politicians to promise that they'll fight modern-day slavery.

For Dilma Rousseff, taking the pledge was a winning commitment. Rousseff will be sworn-in to a second term as president on New Year's Day, underscoring the desire of Brazilians for a political agenda that focuses on social programs for the poor.

Brazilians went to the polls in October. Repórter Brasil has sought to raise public awareness by making the issue of combatting slave labor a mandatory part of all political campaigns and official political agendas.

For the past five election cycles, Repórter Brasil has collaborated with the National Commission for the Eradication of Slave Labor to write the "Protocol Against Slave Labor."

The purpose is to urge political candidates to make anti-slave labor initiatives a priority once elected. The protocol is meant to serve as a tool for the media, civil society, and ordinary citizens to monitor the degree to which elected officials incorporate slave labor eradication into public policy after they are elected.

This year, 12 candidates signed the protocol, including President Rousseff. Her opponent, Aécio Neves, did not. Repórter Brasil and the National Commission for the Eradication of Slave Labor will closely monitor the candidates after they take office to ensure they remain committed to their pledge.

Learn more about our work in Brazil on our [Brazil webpage](#). Watch police [liberate slaves](#) and hear reflections from the woman who helped create [Brazil's groundbreaking anti-slavery program](#) on our [Vimeo page](#).



## Dance Troupe Helps Free Slaves

Sowji Kilaru of [Dancing For A Difference](#) dropped by the Free the Slaves office recently to drop off a remarkable \$1,000 donation. She's president of an organization to harness the creative potential of New Yorkers to make a difference in the world.

"Our vision is to create an outlet for people to express themselves and foster a community of dancers, performers, and activists who use the arts to heal both themselves and the world," she says. "We picked Free the Slaves because we feel that the South Asian community often ignores issues that are difficult to talk about, including women's rights, sexual assault, slavery and more. When we decided to organize a fundraiser we felt that we should support an organization that

successfully addresses these issues. With this fundraiser we were able to increase awareness for both slavery around the world and an organization that is doing amazing things to eradicate slavery: Free the Slaves."

Our thanks to Sowji (on the left in the photo) and her fellow dancers for demonstrating how artists can take a stand in the fight against trafficking and slavery.



## Send a Freedom E-Card as a New Year's Present

This year's holiday season isn't over yet. You can still take a stand for freedom while honoring a friend, colleague, neighbor or relative. Send them a **Free the Slaves Freedom E-Card** as a New Year's present.

We have four cards to choose from. Just pick the one you like, tell us who to send it to, and we will deliver it to their inbox on New Year's Day. The recipient will begin 2015 knowing that a gift in their honor is helping to spread freedom around the globe.

---

# DONATE TO FREE THE SLAVES

FIND OUT MORE:

[FREETHESLAVES.NET](http://FREETHESLAVES.NET) | [FTSBLOG.NET](http://FTSBLOG.NET) | [TWITTER](https://TWITTER) | [FACEBOOK](https://FACEBOOK)

**Free the Slaves**

1320 19th Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20036 USA (202) 775-7480 [info@freetheslaves.net](mailto:info@freetheslaves.net)  
Content Copyright ©2014 Free the Slaves. All rights reserved.

---