FREEING SLAVES ENDING SLAVERY

Our Formula for Freedom

PROBLEM

Tens of millions are trapped in modern-day slavery.

- They toil at mines, quarries, farms and factories, on fishing boats, in brothels and in private homes.
- They are forced to work, without pay, under threat of violence, and they cannot walk away.
- Slavery isn't legal anywhere, but it happens nearly everywhere.
- About 25 percent of today's slaves are children.

VICTIMS

Slavery is the result of vulnerability.

- The poor, the marginalized and the uneducated are easy prey.
- People migrating for work get tricked and trapped by traffickers.
- People borrowing money in an emergency are cheated by thugs who force their entire family to work as slaves and never admit the debt has been repaid.

SOLUTION

Uplift victims and the vulnerable.

- We educate people about their rights and organize communities to take action.
- We help communities prompt police to conduct raids and rescues.
- We help provide schooling, vocational training, micro-credit, legal and psychological support, health care and economic development to slavery-proof entire communities.
- Those who break free, stay free—and nobody takes their place in slavery.

1320 19th Street NW, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20036, USA | Tel: 202.775.7480 | info@freetheslaves.net **Learn more:** www.freetheslaves.net

PIONEERS & INNOVATORS

HISTORY

Founded in 2000, Free the Slaves is widely regarded as a leader in the modern abolition movement. Our history is one of groundbreaking research, successful advocacy to change government policy and business practices, award-winning documentaries and books to spread awareness, and innovative field programs that free slaves.

STAFF & OPERATIONS

Our staff confronts slavery in strategically-selected hot spots—operating in partnership with locally-based organizations. Our operating budget is approximately $3 million, with more than 75 percent going directly to programs and services.

DONORS & SUPPORTERS

More than 1,000 people donate each year. A wide range of artists, authors, actors, musicians and thought leaders have helped: including Desmond Tutu, Forest Whitaker, Esperanza Spalding, Jason Mraz, Paul Simon, Demi Moore, Ashton Kutcher, Jillian Anderson, Tom Shadyac, Sir Ken Robinson and Isabel Allende.

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Community Based Model For Fighting Slavery

Modern Slavery

Slavery is any situation in which a person is exploited for the profit of another by force, fraud or coercion; receives no compensation other than the barest subsistence; and is unable to leave. Slavery is concentrated in sectors with high levels of manual labor, such as agriculture, mining and fishing. Slavery is most common among communities of poor people burdened by specific forms of vulnerability.

Key Vulnerabilities Leading to Slavery	
Lack of Awareness of Rights	Many people do not know their basic rights, accepting forced labor. People in debt bondage accept that the moneylender may hold them as servants until the debt is paid. They do not know that the moneylender is committing a crime.
Lack of Awareness of Risks	For people without access to information about working conditions, the promise of a job is alluring. The blandishments of traffickers sound attractive and plausible. This can lead to people placing themselves at risk of trafficking.
Absence or Weakness of Protective Organizations	Poor communities often lack effective local organizations to serve as buffers and protectors against those perpetrating enslavement. Disorganized communities are especially vulnerable.
Household Insecurity	Critical deficiencies in income, assets, access to schooling and health, and inadequate shelter lead to exploitation by those promising to fill the void. People turn to usurious moneylenders in the absence of a legitimate source of credit.
Inadequate Legal Protection	Poor and marginalized communities are least likely to be protected by the law. Weak laws and lack of enforcement reduce the risk to slaveholders and traffickers. The number of prosecutions is a tiny fraction of the number of crimes committed. Restitution to victims is rare. There are few penalties to companies that tolerate slavery in supply chains. There is a huge incentive for slavery since the profits are high and risks are low.
Survivor Vulnerability	Survivors are especially vulnerable. They are usually traumatized by physical, psychological and sexual abuse. They may have developed a perceived or real dependence on their traffickers. Survivors are impoverished, sometimes without marketable skills. Families and communities frequently stigmatize them. Survivors are at high risk of becoming re-enslaved.

Four Step Model for Fighting Slavery

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CONTEXTUAL RESEARCH

STEP ONE: Using community participatory methodology and working in partnership with in-country organizations, we define the vulnerabilities and pathways leading to human trafficking and modern forms of slavery at the individual community level. We identify needed interventions and chart a path forward.

CAPACITY BUILDING

STEP TWO: We provide training, technical assistance and grants to strengthen non-governmental organizations that serve at-risk communities, government agencies responsible for essential services and/or legal protection, news organizations that report about slavery, advocacy coalitions that seek better laws and enforcement, and international organizations working in the region.

COMMUNITY RESISTANCE AND RESILIENCE

STEP THREE: Programs reduce vulnerability. Education and participatory exercises change knowledge, attitudes and practices to protect against slavery. Village committees are created to mobilize action to educate neighbors, look out for traffickers, recover victims and advocate for better services. Household security improves through better access to credit, schools, health care and employment. Freed slaves receive shelter, counseling, medical care, and remedial education or vocational training. Legal and police protection are strengthened through training, legal service for survivors, media reporting on police, and political advocacy.

SUSTAINED SLAVERY REDUCTION

STEP FOUR: Enhanced community resistance and resilience lead to long-term reductions in slavery. Slaves are liberated through direct action by newly empowered individuals and communities or through rescues and raids undertaken by NGOs and police. Freed slaves are reintegrated through survivor services and acquire the wherewithal to reclaim life in freedom. The number of people newly entering slavery decreases, as does the prevalence of slavery in formerly vulnerable communities.

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From Slavery to Freedom:
Inspiring Stories of Slaves Now Living Free

Dodzi | Ghana

Orphaned as a baby, Dodzi was adopted by an impoverished local woman who trafficked her into fishing slavery on Lake Volta. She spent years as a labor and sexual slave. Today she is learning new skills to support her daughter in freedom.

Kukdaha Village | India

The mistreatment of residents from Kukdaha was typical of Indian "brick belt" slavery. You might think that once freed, they would never want to make bricks again. But these survivors decided to do in freedom what they did in slavery. Except this time, they'd get paid and use the earnings to build new lives in freedom.

Seema & Kamala | Nepal

Seema and Kamala sought jobs overseas—and were trafficked into slavery. They worked backbreaking hours for no pay and suffered dehumanizing abuse. Finally freed, these courageous women now help save others in Nepal from the same awful fate.

Read their in-depth stories: www.freetheslaves.net/survivors

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FREE THE SLAVES

Richard | Ghana

Poverty and ignorance forced Richard's grandmother to traffic him into slavery. He spent seven years as a child slave on Lake Volta. At her funeral he saw a chance to be free—and was courageous enough to take it.

The "Cookie Raid" Teens | India

In rural India it's a familiar sad story. Children are taken or tricked; families are left frantic to help but powerless to act. The Cookie Raid boys were lured from their homes in rural India and trapped at a bakery in a faraway city. They were finally rescued thanks to the power of Free the Slaves community organizing.

Elias & Nerisvan | Brazil

Their living and working conditions were dangerous and dreadful. They endured frequent exposure to toxic chemicals. But now, the two are free. They've received critical medical care and thousands of dollars in compensation from the Brazilian cattle rancher who enslaved them.

Sakdouri Village | India

It's called the "brick belt" of India, a notorious region where debt bondage slavery is rampant and devastating. Enslaved villagers are threatened, degraded, shamed and sometimes beaten to death. It sounds like an impossible challenge for human rights activists. But it isn't. The villagers of Sakdouri are proof.

Francis | Ghana

Francis' father was a slavery collaborator. He sold many vulnerable children to traffickers, even his own son. For his crimes, Francis' father was paid $10 a month. Trapped on Lake Volta, Francis was beaten and abused—he still has a scar on his chin. His mother saved him by taking a stand.

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