



FREE THE SLAVES eUPDATE

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



FAMILY RESCUED FROM SLAVERY



THE FTS FORMULA FOR FREEDOM



PIONEERING NEW FRONTIERS



HONORING ANTI-SLAVERY HEROES



EXPANDING ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENT



WHY I DONATE



Jaswant (far right) and his family | MSEMVS photo

Entire Family Rescued from Brick Kiln Slavery in India

It started with a simple loan to pay for a wedding. It turned into brutal enslavement for an entire family. It wound up as a triumphant victory over bondage, thanks to Free the Slaves and our frontline partner group in India, MSEMVS.

Five years ago, Jaswant borrowed \$167 from a farm and factory owner to finance the wedding of his eldest daughter. The interest rate was outrageous – and illegal – and it quickly became impossible for Jaswant to repay the debt. It's clear the lender was after something more when he lent the money: slave laborers for his brick factory. Even though debt-bondage slavery is illegal in India, Jaswant and his entire family were forced onto trucks and taken to a sweltering brick kiln 35 miles away.

Family members were forced to work 14-hour days, including the children, and they were locked-up at night to prevent escape. Jaswant was beaten when he asked to be paid.

Fortunately, MSEMVS had been working to organize and liberate enslaved villagers in the nearby community of Garai. After a particularly severe beating this May, Jaswant managed to escape and make it to Garai to seek help. Thanks to their training, villagers knew just what to do. They got Jaswant to a local hospital and notified MSEMVS.

Soon a police rescue team headed to the kiln. A news crew captured the dramatic scene for Indian television.

"I lost my hope to be freed because there was not a single person who could listen to us or see our terrible situation," Jaswant said. "It is MSEMVS and its commitment by which I am free now and enjoying life with my family."

A legal case has been opened against the slaveholder. Jaswant's family has been relocated to a safe location, and his children are now in school.

You can learn more about how our India partner groups organize communities on our [India webpage](#), and see video of an actual rescue on our [YouTube channel](#).



Reporter interviews Jaswant's family during raid | MSEMVS photo



The Free the Slaves Formula for Freedom

Have you ever wondered just how Free the Slaves helps thousands of people escape bondage each year? Well, now you can read the step-by-step procedures we follow for leading communities from slavery to freedom. Our **[“Community Based Model for Fighting Slavery”](#)** is available online.

The model details the four-phase approach Free the Slaves uses to free slaves and change the conditions that allow slavery to persist. We focus on identifying and supporting at-risk communities so they acquire intellectual, organizational, legal, political and physical assets that reduce their vulnerability to human trafficking and liberate those in slavery.

Our basic approach is to create these assets to offset the vulnerabilities that make people easy prey for traffickers. We educate about rights and risks, organize community groups against slavery, strengthen household security, liberate those in slavery and increase the costs and risks to perpetrators. The model also explains how we monitor our activities to gauge their effect.

The anti-slavery movement is at an important crossroads, where detailed action plans and rigorous assessments of impact are vital to showing the world that slavery can be overcome. Free the Slaves is helping lead the way.



Free the Slaves Pioneers New Frontiers

“Forging freedom demands the courage to renew and transform.” That’s how the **[Free the Slaves 2013 Annual Report](#)** begins. The report demonstrates that Free the Slaves is thriving as an organization, while embracing the need for change.

The report, now **[available online](#)**, showcases remarkable results in 2013: more than 3,000 slaves freed, more than 18,000 villagers educated on ways to prevent slavery, more than 100 traffickers facing legal action.

But the report also examines how Free the Slaves is maturing as an organization. Our frontline country programs, which serve communities menaced by slavery, are more clearly positioned now as the heart

and soul of Free the Slaves. Our newly clarified model for change is bringing scientific scrutiny to the way we operate.

“It is wonderful to see that the movement toward ending modern-day slavery is gaining momentum,” writes Board Chair Jane Covey, “and to know that Free the Slaves continues to occupy an important place in this cause.”

“We are filled with optimism,” writes Executive Director Maurice Middleberg, “knowing that we are moving closer to a world without slavery.”

Honoring Anti-Slavery Heroes

Freeing people from slavery requires courage and resourcefulness, as well as boundless energy and dedication. Three heroes of the modern abolition movement have been recognized recently for their vital contributions in the global fight to eradicate slavery forever.



Bhanuja Sharan Lal

The director of our partner organization MSEMVS in India, Bhanuja Sharan Lal, was honored in June at the U.S. State Department as one of this year's anti-slavery heroes in the [2014 Trafficking in Persons report](#). His team of more than 75 front line anti-slavery activists has been progressively dismantling entrenched systems of slavery at brick kilns, farms and quarries. They have transformed hundreds of communities into no-go zones for traffickers, fully eradicating slavery in more than 130 villages. You can read about his transformative leadership "to bring human dignity" to those in slavery, on the [FTS blog](#).



Timea Nagy

Timea Nagy is a sex slavery survivor in Canada who escaped and founded Walk With Me, a group that rescues sex trafficking victims, provides immediate support to survivors, and trains Canadian cops to recognize and respond to sex slavery. She knows firsthand the physical and psychological toll that sex slavery can take.

Timea received a [Free the Slaves Freedom Award](#) at a ceremony in May at Quinnipiac University. You can see her harrowing story of overcoming slavery on the [FTS Vimeo channel](#).



Ruth Vilela

Ruth Vilela was Brazil's secretary of labor inspection, and created the world's most innovative anti-slavery SWAT squad. The unit raids farms and sweatshops, freeing thousands of slaves each year. She also created Brazil's Dirty List, which quarantines businesses where slavery is found. And she created the National Pact, prompting major companies to pledge that they will root-out slavery in their product supply chains. Ruth is also a recipient of a [Free the Slaves Freedom Award](#). She recounts her contributions to the anti-slavery movement in a video that premiered in June on the [FTS Vimeo channel](#).



Free the Slaves Working to Expand the Anti-Slavery Movement

Free the Slaves can't end slavery on its own. So one of our key goals is to get activists who work on causes such as women's rights, children's education, micro-enterprise development and rural health to recognize that they should also join the fight against modern-day slavery. That's why we've recently joined InterAction, a "united voice for global change." It's an association of more than 180 organizations working toward a "peaceful, just and prosperous world." InterAction fosters partnerships, thought leadership and high standards. FTS was carefully vetted by InterAction's evaluation team before being accepted for membership

earlier this year. The Free the Slaves message at this year's InterAction conference in June was that modern-day slavery and other international development causes are interrelated. Additionally, many people don't benefit from international development investments such as new schools and medical clinics because they are trapped in slavery. When organizations that are promoting education and health also target slavery, more people will be able to participate in development programs. You can read more about mainstreaming anti-trafficking work into international development projects in this [FTS article](#) in InterAction's monthly magazine.)



Why I Donate to Free the Slaves Every Month

Filmmaker Amna Al Nowais decided she had to take action after seeing a [TED talk](#) about human trafficking and Free the Slaves. “The suffering of an individual not only being stripped of their bodily freedom but also subdued, starved and psychologically altered day after endless day is unimaginable,” she thought.

So Amna joined the growing ranks donors who contribute to Free the Slaves monthly. You can read her post about embracing the “Power of 12” on the [FTS blog](#).

“We might feel overwhelmed by the spectrum of eradicating slavery, but Free the Slaves is already freeing thousands of people as well as preventing further enslavement,” she wrote. “All that is left for us as individuals who want to help is to support it.”

You can join Amna in taking a stand against slavery throughout the year by selecting the “[monthly donation](#)” option on the Free the Slaves website.

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1320 19th Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20036 USA (202) 775-7480 info@freetheslaves.net
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