



FREE THE SLAVES eUPDATE

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



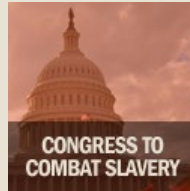
A RECORD-SETTING YEAR



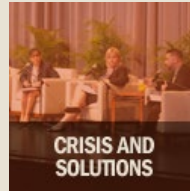
COMBAT SLAVERY AT GOLD MINES



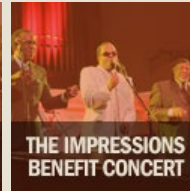
WHAT SLAVERY LOOKS LIKE TODAY



CONGRESS TO COMBAT SLAVERY



CRISIS AND SOLUTIONS



THE IMPRESSIONS BENEFIT CONCERT



FAITH CAN HELP END SLAVERY



Record-Setting Year for Freeing People From Slavery

We've just completed our 2013 year-end review, and the results are both impressive and inspiring. In partnership with local organizations around the globe, we helped free more people from slavery last year than ever before. Here are the numbers from our frontline work in six trafficking hot spot countries:

- **3,127** people freed from slavery
- **18,465** villagers educated on how to protect their families from traffickers
- **1,157** village and neighborhood groups supported to protect their communities from slavery
- **1,518** government officials trained on how to more effectively stop slavery
- **105** traffickers and slaveholders now facing legal action

Beneath these statistics are the stories of lives that you helped change through your support of Free the Slaves: a mother reunited with her

trafficked daughter in Nepal, young girls returning to normalcy in a sex slavery survivor shelter in India, young boys in Ghana rescued off rickety fishing boats, and the transformation of a village in Haiti, where one resident said, "We were in obscurity, now we are in the light."

Free the Slaves was also very active in 2013 advocating for government and business policies that help defeat slavery. One remarkable achievement: reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection and Recovery Act, which governs the U.S. response to human trafficking. Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee Senator Patrick Leahy commended Free the Slaves Programs Director Karen Stauss for her personal contribution to the reauthorization.

As a supporter of Free the Slaves, these are your accomplishments, too. With your help, we will make an even bigger difference in 2014.



New Report: How to Combat Child Slavery at Gold Mines

All too often, the price of gold includes a human toll. In Ghana, gold mining is one of the country's major industries, and gold exports provide the nation's economy with one of its top sources of export income. However, at many mining sites children are brutally exploited.

A new report by Free the Slaves, [Child Rights in Mining](#), exposes the problem of child slavery and child labor at informal gold mines. The report details how our pilot project improved community attitudes toward protecting children from harmful work.

The project produced remarkable results. The percentage of participants who could identify suitable work for children rose from 5 percent at the beginning to 93 percent at pilot project completion. And 71 percent of parents in the project took action to protect their kids from harm.

As community members began learning more about child rights, they were motivated to take action and learn how to advocate for greater child protection. As a result, communities are now better able to hold government institutions accountable for guaranteeing child rights. You can learn more about our work in Ghana on our [Ghana webpage](#).

See What Slavery Looks Like Today

Modern-day slavery looks different than the sailing ships and shackles we learned about in high school history class. Now it's hidden from sight. People today are trapped by different forces, less visible but just as powerful. For this year's Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January, Free the Slaves produced a gripping new video, now online on [YouTube](#) or [Vimeo](#). It's an important primer that reveals the magnitude of the problem and our strategies to end it.



In the film, Free the Slaves country directors from India, Nepal, Haiti, Congo and Ghana explain how slavery affects their nations. South Asia Director Supriya Awasthi also notes in the video that the Free the Slaves model for change is working. "Wherever we have approached," she says, "after a few years we see that area has become slavery-free."

Free the Slaves videos have been valuable tools at awareness-raising and fundraising events organized by our supporters. See for yourself on our [YouTube](#) or [Vimeo](#) channels.



Congress Increases Funding to Combat Slavery

There's plenty of partisan gridlock in Washington, but not when it comes to fighting slavery. The 2014 federal budget passed in January with important support for anti-trafficking programs in three key departments.

The Department of Health and Human Services received a 40 percent budget increase to support U.S. citizens and foreign nationals who are victims of human trafficking in the U.S. The Justice Department received a 6 percent hike for trafficking work in its Office of Justice Programs. And Congress maintained funding for the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP). J/TIP produces the annual Trafficking in Persons Report and provides grants that support several Free the Slaves projects overseas.

The 2014 federal budget is proof that combatting slavery transcends partisanship. But the struggle isn't over. Free the Slaves and our partners in the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking will continue to advocate to the Obama administration and Congress for added resources and smarter programs so that we can make a much bigger dent in attacking this problem.



Florida Conference: Exposing the Crisis, Strategizing Solutions

Free the Slaves helped bring political, academic, business and law enforcement leaders together with anti-slavery activists for a daylong gathering at Broward College in January. “We are pleased to be partnering with Free the Slaves in an effort to put an end to human trafficking,” said FTS board member Gregory A. Haile, who is general counsel and vice president for public policy and government affairs for the college.

U.S. Senator Marco Rubio made headlines as the kickoff speaker with a videotaped call to action. He wants the public to pressure Congress to pass the Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Human Trafficking Act (H.R. 1732). The bill focuses on identifying and assisting children in foster care and welfare programs that may be trafficking victims. Adoptions and foster care can be a “lifeline to a better life, not a path to being a trafficked victim,” Rubio said.

Free the Slaves Executive Director Maurice Middleberg was a keynote speaker. “Modern-day slavery is one of the greatest human rights challenges of our time, but it is an evil we can overcome if governments, corporations, academic institutions and members of the public all get involved,” he said.



The Impressions Headline Benefit Concert for Free the Slaves

Plymouth Church in Brooklyn has been a sanctuary for the ideals of freedom. The congregation and its renowned minister, Henry Ward Beecher, were champions of the abolition movement in the 1800s. Their building was known as the “Grand Central Depot” of New York City’s Underground Railroad.

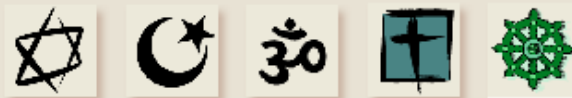
This January it became a place of action to benefit Free the Slaves. The Impressions headlined an extraordinary weekend of reflection, song and prayer. The truly incredible line-up of performers included The Inspirational Voices of the

Abyssinian Baptist Church, Naomi Shelton and the Gospel Queens. The people who braved a stormy night to attend the concert received a rare treat. So did those who attended a policy roundtable event the night before at the Brooklyn Historical Society.

Free the Slaves thanks the performers, Plymouth Church and the Brooklyn Historical Society for their support, and for an unforgettable experience.

Faith In Action Can Help End Slavery

For those looking to take action against slavery through the lens of your faith, Free the Slaves has launched a new engagement campaign: [Faith in Action to End Slavery](#).



Our Faith in Action webpages provide resources and activities for faith leaders, congregants and individuals looking to serve as representatives for the mission of Free the Slaves. You can download our two new toolkits, The [Jewish Legacy for Freedom](#) and [Sundays Against Slavery](#). Be on the lookout for more coming soon. These resources provide tangible and simple ways to make an impact by becoming part of the global anti-slavery movement.

People of faith were instrumental in building the moral consensus that led to slavery being outlawed worldwide. The job now is to eradicate modern forms of this crime against humanity. “If there is one abuse that offends our conscience in every way, it is the enslavement of a human being,” says Anglican Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu. “No child should be born without hope; no person should live without freedom.”

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Free the Slaves

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