

A close-up, high-angle shot of a person's face, focusing on their smile. The person has dark skin and is wearing a blue collared shirt. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

# Year in Review

2019



2020

**We exist to bring an end to modern slavery by preventing exploitation, rescuing victims, restoring lives and reforming society.**

Names of victims and survivors have been changed throughout this document for their safety and privacy.

# Contents

Foreword	4-5
Where We Work	6-7
Key Statistics and Trends	8-9
Our Freedom Wall and Survivor Stories	10-13
Key Successes This Year - In Detail	14-25
Structural Transformation and Reforming Society	26-31
Our Year - In Pictures	32-37
Slave-Free Alliance	38-41
Closing Statement	42

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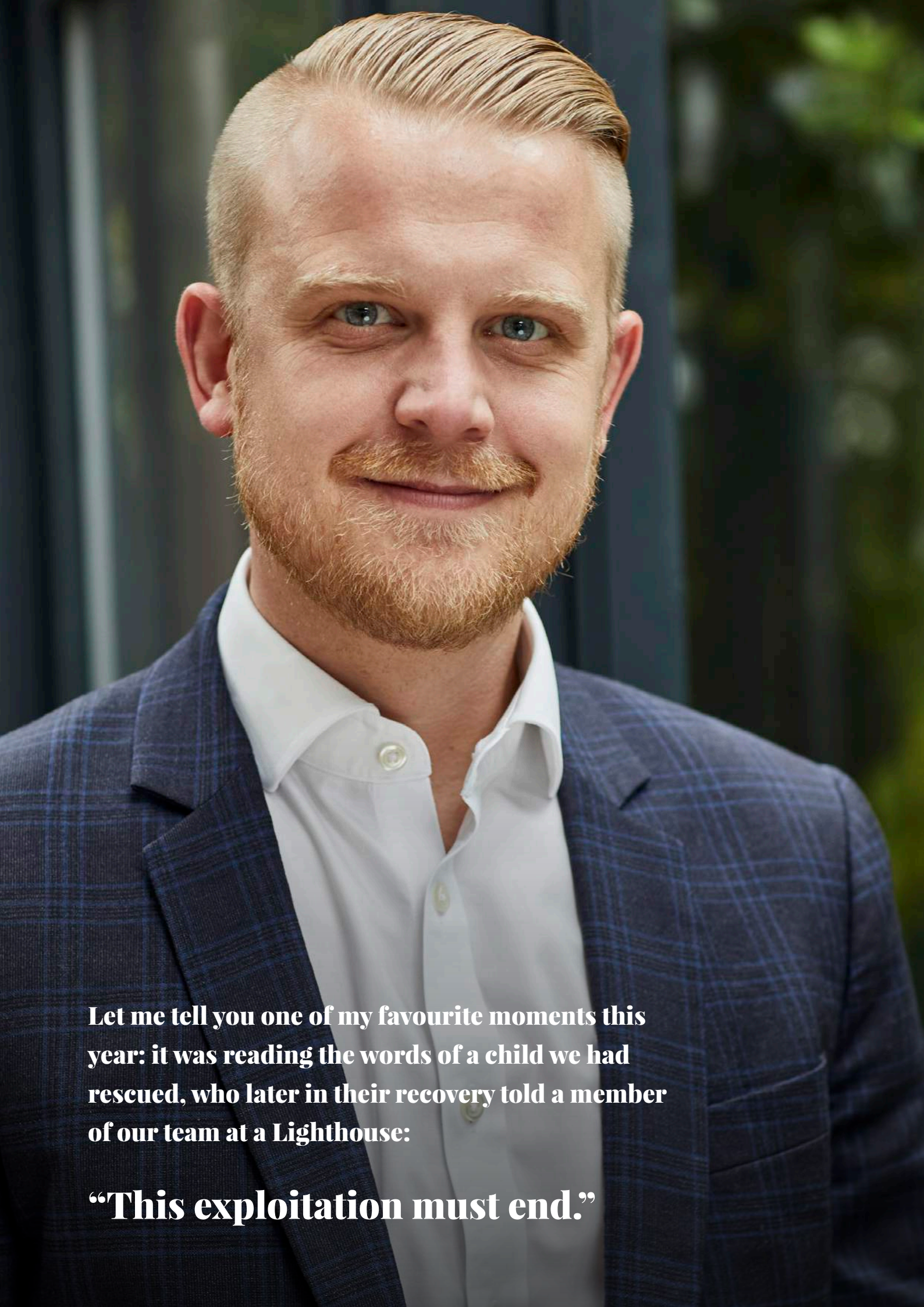
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Let me tell you one of my favourite moments this year: it was reading the words of a child we had rescued, who later in their recovery told a member of our team at a Lighthouse:

**“This exploitation must end.”**

# We believe in empowerment

This has been a milestone year for Hope for Justice in more ways than one, and I want to bring your attention to one particular milestone: 102,803. That is how many children Hope for Justice has been able to reach through our projects and programmes this year and it brings me so much pride. Being able to help more than one hundred thousand children in a single year is possible only because of an entire movement of people: supporters, donors, organisations, volunteers and incredible staff.

I have to say I love the time of year when we release our Year in Review – it’s a moment in the calendar where we can gather and reflect on what have been able to achieve, together, as an organisation but also as a movement. The final result is just a snapshot of the true depth of change we have made.

We have been busy expanding our preventative and community-based anti-trafficking work, doing everything we can to avoid and protect against family breakdown, economic desperation and other circumstances that create conditions where trafficking thrives. We LOVE being able to rescue victims of human trafficking, but for me true success comes when we prevent a boy, girl, man or woman from having to live through those dark days in the first place.

As 2019-2020 drew to a close, Hope for Justice was affected by the coronavirus and the associated lockdowns and restrictions in many countries where we work. But we were determined that our work could not and must not stop – we put in place extraordinary measures to ensure we could continue to reach the vulnerable and care for those who needed it. Training went online; meetings went virtual; team members worked from home where possible – but the core work of preventing exploitation, rescuing victims, restoring lives and reforming society went on and goes on as I write this.

Let me tell you one more of my favourite moments this year: it was reading the words of a child we had rescued, who later in their recovery told a member of our team at a Lighthouse: “This exploitation must end.”

That’s the sound of an empowered child who now knows that human rights exist, who has a heartfelt sense of what’s right and what’s wrong, who is going to go back to their family and then go out into the world and declare those truths. It’s empowerment that goes beyond changing a single life – it’s about changing nations and changing the entire world. It’s the empowerment of EVERYONE which will one day create societies that are hostile to human trafficking and which will bring about the glorious goal we strive for: the end of slavery.

At Hope for Justice, we share a celebration culture – as I often say, we Celebrate What We Want To Replicate! I hope you can celebrate with us as you read through this Year in Review for 2019-2020. Thank you so much.

**Ben Cooley**  
CEO, Hope for Justice

## Key statistics

<b>102,803</b>	Children reached through our work
<b>1,208</b>	Children reintegrated into family settings
<b>412,085</b>	Meals served at our aftercare facilities
<b>272</b>	Modern slavery cases worked by our Hubs
<b>20,686</b>	People trained to respond effectively
<b>1,867</b>	Locks added to the Freedom Wall



# Where We Work

*“Modern slavery is a global problem and we bring a global solution. We target our resources where they will have the most impact and help the most people. We want to create nations and societies hostile to human trafficking – because what you tolerate, you will never change.”*

– Elaine Jones, International Operations Director, Hope for Justice



Hope for Justice runs projects from more than 30 locations across five continents, with plans to expand further. Our areas of focus and work across the world include:

## Rescue

Many of our countries host specialist Hubs staffed by experienced investigators and multilingual outreach workers. They work with police and other agencies to identify victims of modern slavery, build bridges of trust with them and remove them from exploitation. We act as an alternative pathway out of exploitation for victims too scared to engage directly with police. Intelligence gathered about traffickers and gangs is shared with police – many perpetrators have been convicted and jailed thanks to this work.

## Advocacy

Our specialist multi-disciplinary Independent Modern Slavery Advocates (IMSAs) work with victims after rescue to help them rebuild their lives, by helping them access housing, benefits, good-quality employment opportunities, psychological support, legal advice and more. We help survivors through the criminal and civil justice processes to ensure they receive justice and restitution, which plays a key role in their restoration. The combination of legal and support advocacy is essential in providing victims with a voice to shape their own future in freedom.

## Training

Expert trainers equip frontline professionals with the knowledge, skills and tools to identify modern slavery themselves and to respond effectively. We train police, governments, local authorities, healthcare professionals, other charities, businesses and the general public. Our statistics show that more than half of referrals into us of potential victims of modern slavery come from professionals we have trained.

## Outreach

Outreach is at the heart of our work. In the developing countries where we work, our specialist teams engage with children and help keep them safe. We help children out of dangerous and vulnerable circumstances, such as living alone on the streets, and encourage them to join our Lighthouse centres, starting a journey of restoring the life of a child through safe shelter, counselling, educational opportunities, and fun activities. Our goal is to reintegrate children to their families, or to another safe family or community setting, and to work with them via continued support to bring about positive and long-term change in their lives.

## Transitional care

Our Lighthouses provide temporary care and support for vulnerable and exploited children, keeping them safe from the dangers of the streets or their previous circumstances as we work to assess their physical, mental and emotional health and their circumstances. We then work to safely transition them back to their families or to family-based care. Our Lighthouses offer individual and group counselling and are complemented by our Shine Schools, where children receive catch-up education and life skills. Older children and teenagers get help with vocational training to develop skills for employment.

## Family reintegration

We return children home to a safe family environment and support families to prevent children separating from them again. We have built an international reputation through our work on family reintegration of street children, developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), a training curriculum and toolkit. We are a core member of a group formulating global guidelines on reintegration of children.

## Community Prevention Programmes

More and more children are being trafficked, drawn into sex work and domestic servitude. Our Community Prevention Programmes, including child wellbeing clubs and Self-Help Groups, deliver strong anti-trafficking messages and help to minimise the number of children forced to live on the street.

## Self-Help Groups

Self-Help Groups use three interweaving methods to achieve change. First, economic strengthening for families to ensure they can meet their basic needs. They save money collaboratively and take out loans from their group to build sustainable businesses, giving them a reliable livelihood. Second, social engagement and empowerment: the groups provide a forum for people to support each other and to address common issues. Finally, through education and sensitisation to child protection issues, family strengthening enables greater support for those most at risk of exploitation and trafficking. The model is a long-term, sustainable solution, directed by community members' own efforts. This approach protects against family breakdown, a major risk factor in child trafficking.

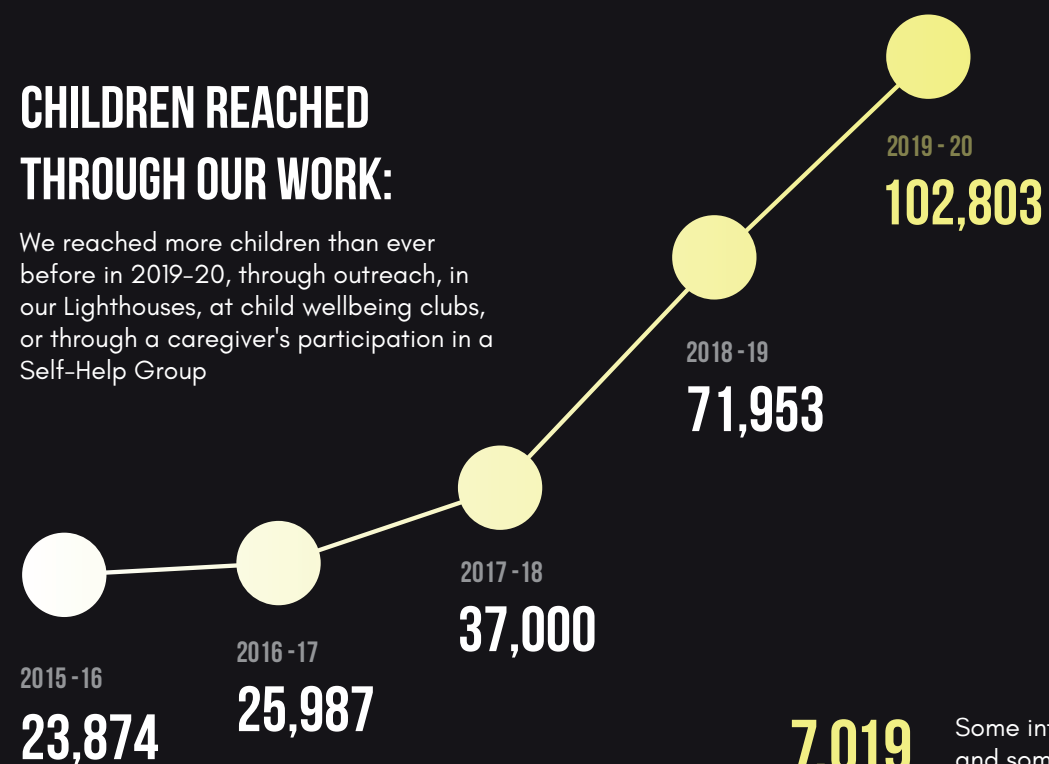
# Key statistics and trends

Statistics refer to the period April 1st, 2019 to March 31st, 2020

Remember as you reflect on these incredible statistics and successes that behind every number is a REAL life, a real person with their own story. At Hope for Justice, we remind ourselves of this fact every day by looking at our Freedom Walls, which are a powerful visual illustration of the real life behind each statistic. You can see our Freedom Wall at our head office on the next page.

## CHILDREN REACHED THROUGH OUR WORK:

We reached more children than ever before in 2019-20, through outreach, in our Lighthouses, at child wellbeing clubs, or through a caregiver's participation in a Self-Help Group



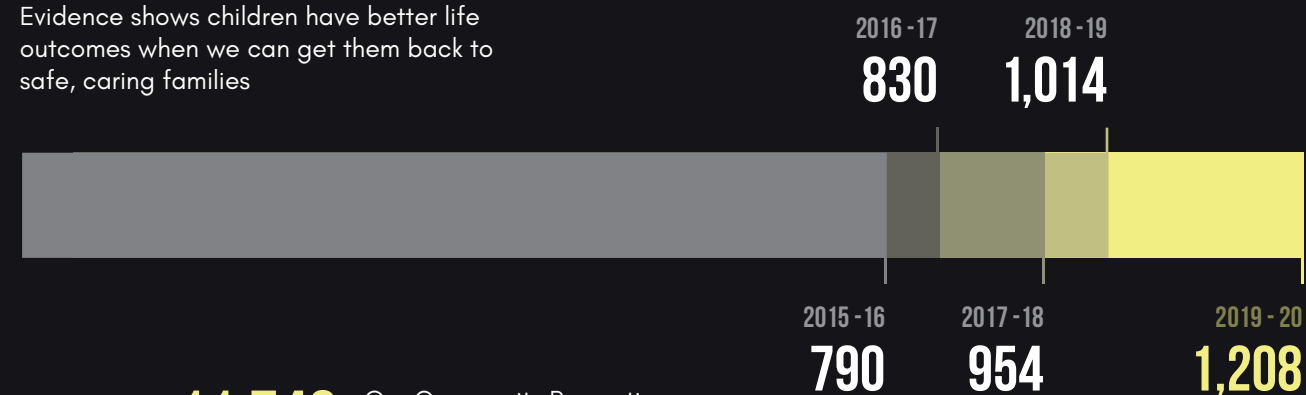
7,019

UNIQUE INTERVENTIONS MADE BY OUR UK ADVOCACY TEAM

Some interventions are big and some are small, but each one has a profound impact on the future opportunities of a survivor of modern slavery

## CHILDREN REINTEGRATED INTO FAMILY SETTINGS:

Evidence shows children have better life outcomes when we can get them back to safe, caring families

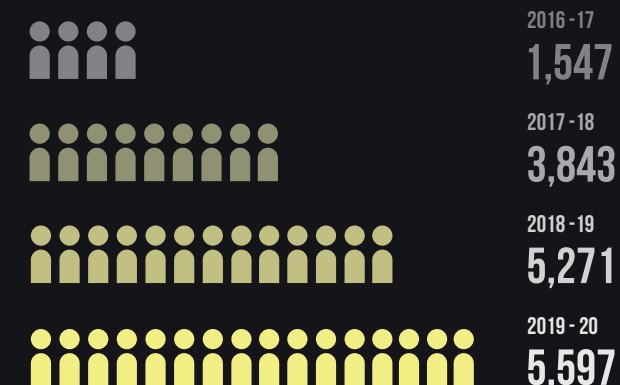


11,742

CHILDREN WHOSE CAREGIVER BENEFITTED FROM OUR PROGRAMMES

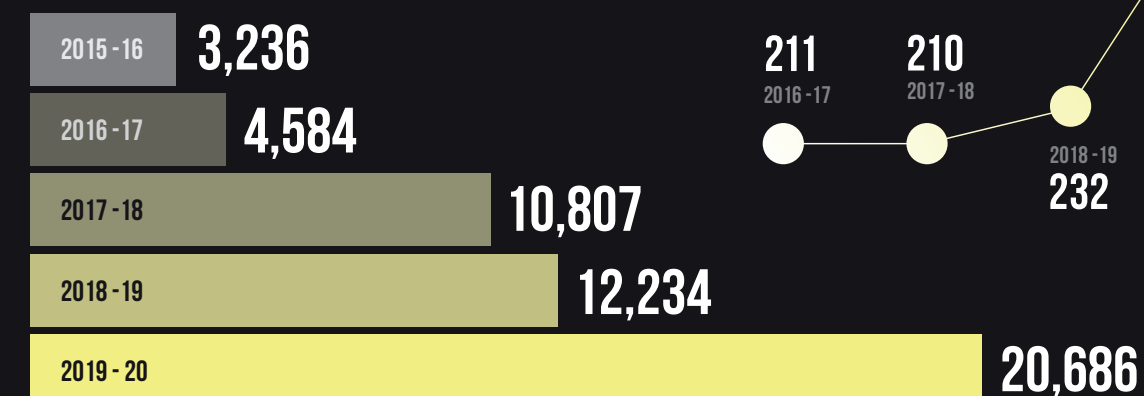
Our Community Prevention Programmes, including Self-Help Groups, empower women in the poorest communities and also their entire families

## CHILDREN HELPED THROUGH OUTREACH SERVICES:

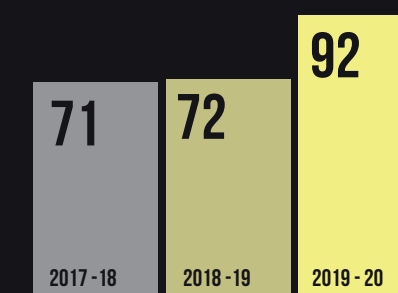


## PEOPLE TRAINED:

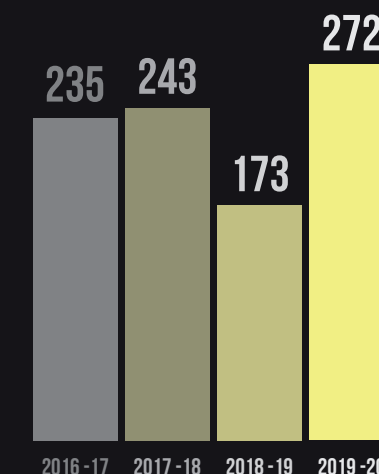
Every person able to spot the signs of modern slavery and trained to respond effectively brings us a step closer to ending this crime



## TRAFFICKING PREVENTION INITIATIVES RUN BY OUR HUBS:

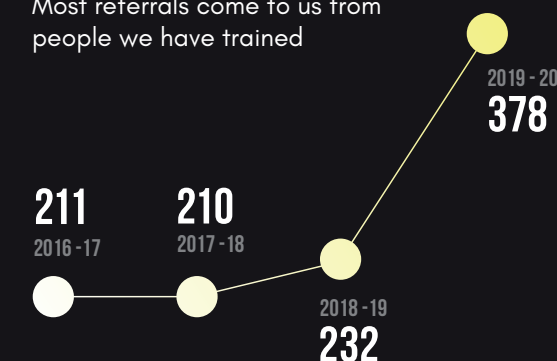


## MODERN SLAVERY CASES WORKED BY OUR HUBS:



## POTENTIAL CASES REFERRED TO US:

Most referrals come to us from people we have trained



## WOMEN PARTICIPATING IN OUR SELF-HELP GROUPS:

5,490

1,776

CHILDREN SERVED AT A LIGHTHOUSE

The global network of Hope for Justice Lighthouses grew to 11 this year, each one a beacon of light, love and world-class aftercare for vulnerable and exploited children and victims of trafficking





HOPE FOR JUSTICE

Change lives. End slavery.

# FREEDOM WALL

1,867

Locks added to the  
Freedom Wall,  
April 2019 - March 2020

Every unlocked  
padlock represents a  
real life changed by  
our work!





Names and pictures changed to protect the identities of survivors

## Anita's Story



**10-year-old rescued from sexual slavery**

A 10-year-old schoolgirl was rescued from a terrifying cycle of sexual abuse after people living nearby were trained to spot the signs of slavery by Hope for Justice.

Anita became increasingly withdrawn and was in pain because of the abuse. Her plight was uncovered by neighbours in her rural Ugandan village who had been part of one of our community prevention programmes that taught them how to recognise the indicators of exploitation. Police raided the house and brought Anita to a Hope for Justice Lighthouse – a safe haven for children who have been abused and exploited.

A police chief at the Ugandan Children & Family Protection Unit said: "We have no facilities to shelter these vulnerable children and so Hope for Justice is the organisation we depend on for their care and protection. We are incredibly thankful for everything that they are doing."

Thanks to trauma-informed care and psychotherapy, medical care for the injuries she sustained during the abuse, counselling, schooling, life skills and play with her new friends, life is so different for Anita now. She told our team: "I hope to become a doctor when I am older. I am glad I will never go back to that home."



Names and pictures changed to protect the identities of survivors

## Mathias's Story



**One step, one life, closer to a world free from slavery**

We rescued Mathias after 18 brutal months of exploitation and control by traffickers.

Mathias came to a city in central Norway with the promise of a job that was too good to refuse. But from May 2018, he was made a victim of systematic forced labour and controlled through threats and manipulation. He was made to live in overcrowded and filthy conditions.

He told us: "I was fearful of going to the police, afraid that I would get into trouble. So I continued working long hours for little or no pay. But things only got worse."

Our investigators, working with partners, were able to intervene and rescue him this year.

One investigator said: "Mathias expressed so much gratitude for getting the help he needed. This is one step, one life, closer to a world free from slavery."



Names and pictures changed to protect the identities of survivors

## David's Story



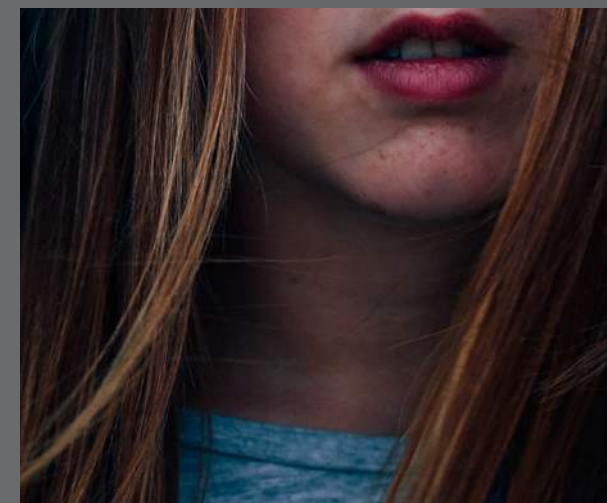
**A place to call his own, for the first time**

A survivor of modern slavery has his own place to live for the first time, after spending most of his life fending for himself on the streets and then trapped in the house of a human trafficker.

As a child, David was forced to steal food to survive after he and his siblings were orphaned. He was brought to the UK after believing lies that were told to him, then coerced into forced labour for more than six years to pay back false 'debts' to his trafficker.

Now David, in his 20s, has his own place to live because of Hope for Justice's expert case workers who spent a year fighting on his behalf. They had to deal with identity theft and other complex legal issues that would otherwise have prevented him making a fresh start.

"He was in absolute shock when he was given his own place to live," a member of our Advocacy team said. "He could not believe he had a front door to open, let alone a home to go to. He kept pressing the doorbell, crossing the threshold, and then going back outside so he could come in and press the doorbell again. He just could not believe he was even worthy of a house."



Names and pictures changed to protect the identities of survivors

## Dee's Story



**A life saved from human trafficking**

17-year-old Dee had managed to escape her trafficker and get into a rehab programme and off the drugs he had used to control her. But he tracked her down there and made her leave with him.

Hope for Justice was quickly brought in and our investigative efforts determined that she was driven south from Tennessee across state lines to Huntsville, Alabama.

Through careful work, our team (with decades' worth of FBI, NCIS and local law enforcement expertise) found the motel she had been driven to. We managed to intervene to get her away from danger. Dee is now safe.





OUR KEY SUCCESSES THIS YEAR – IN DETAIL

# Meals served at our aftercare facilities **412,085**

Globally, Hope for Justice served a huge number of children and young people at our Lighthouses and our Dream Home in 2019-20. For many of them, it is the first time in their lives they have had safe shelter and good-quality food.

## About our Lighthouses

Hope for Justice has 11 Lighthouses, in Cambodia, Ethiopia and Uganda. Each serves anywhere from scores to hundreds of children a year, rescued from trafficking, from brothels, from forced child marriages or from the worst vulnerability to trafficking on the streets

When it is safe to do so, we get children back to their families or safe family-based care

Lighthouses are staffed by Hope for Justice's world-class teachers, medics, counsellors, guards, nurses, therapists, drivers, social workers and cooks to give these precious children everything they need to recover from their experiences in a place of safety and to build a brighter future for them.

## Our Lighthouses provide:

- Safe shelter
- Trauma-informed care and counselling
- Good food
- Medical care
- Life skills, education and a space to learn and play in freedom
- Help for children to give evidence against their abusers to police and in court, to see justice done
- A place to make friends and enjoy arts, crafts and games
- Good clothing
- A place to share their story and be believed



## 8-year-old girl is living testimony of a life changed and set free from slavery

A brave eight-year-old girl is embracing her new life after being freed from sexual exploitation.

In May 2020, our latest intake into our Cambodia Lighthouse was Chaya. Here, our Lighthouse case manager shares the experience of meeting Chaya for the first time:

"Hello. I'm eight years old. Is there school here?"

Bright little eyes peer up enquiringly at me. I ask myself, how does this precious child remain so engaged and active after all she's been through? The resilience of some children is mind-blowing.

The timeframes are still a bit sketchy but we believe this little girl has been exploited and supervised into regular sexual exploitation by her own mother for possibly a year or more. It is hard to imagine how a mother can do this – but that is what the desperation and grip of drug addiction can do... especially once you lose everything and end up living on the street with a young child.

Rescued out of this hideous nightmare, Chaya is our latest intake into our Lighthouse here in Cambodia. Chaya means 'Life' and you can see her hand in the photo. She's relishing being somewhere safe with regular food, clean clothes, a shower and a dry bed... but best of all, the chance to do some school lessons and be a 'normal kid' and play and learn with the other children. As our therapists and case managers work with her, we know she has only just begun her journey out of exploitation. But her enthusiasm to engage with all that is on offer at our Lighthouse gives us hope she has taken that first huge step and is already a living testimony to a life changed and the end of slavery in this young and precious girl.

## Safety, shelter and good food

As part of International Day for Street Children 2020, some of the children that we look after made drawings showing where they feel safe. This child put down EVERY room in the Lighthouse where they are living – we are so proud that children feel safe and are safe in our care.



We provide trauma-informed counselling, shelter, play, good food, education and so much more at our Lighthouses – but our number one priority is safety.





OUR KEY SUCCESSES THIS YEAR – IN DETAIL

# Children reintegrated into family settings 1,208

Evidence shows children have better life outcomes when we can get them back to safe, caring families. Here are just a handful of the real lives represented by the above statistic.

## Emotional reunion of 10-year-old girl with parents after horrifying experience in domestic slavery

When she was aged six, Selam\* moved to Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, to live with a wealthy relative who had promised her parents to provide for her every need. Being poor, and believing that this family member was offering their daughter the chance of a better life, they arranged for Selam to leave their rural village for the city.

But when Selam arrived, she was actually forced into domestic servitude. This tiny child, who should have been going to school and making friends, was instead forced to cook, clean and care for a baby. She was given scraps to eat, beaten for no reason and banned from leaving the house.

Her childhood was taken away from her.

After several years of enduring this, Selam saw an opportunity to escape and took it. But alone in a big city she did not know, she was so vulnerable on the streets. She was found wandering the alleys in fear

by a police officer, who knew about Hope for Justice and brought her to one of our Lighthouses, where she received friendship, support, medical treatment, schooling and counselling.

She was shy at first, but when she realised she was finally safe and that adults could be trusted, she started opening up and participating in group activities.

While this was going on, our specialists were working to trace her parents in the village where she was born. Once everyone was satisfied that it was safe, Selam was taken home.

One member of our team who saw the reunion said: “Her mother couldn’t believe her eyes. She didn’t know her little girl had gone missing and couldn’t believe the relative would do something like this. Her parents were very emotional and relieved to have their daughter back with them. They said they were incredibly thankful for everything that Hope for Justice is doing.”

Thanks to help from Hope for Justice, Selam is now able to start school.



## ‘I thought he was dead’ – Mother reunited with 13-year-old son

A young scholar is able to live out his potential after being reunited with his family.

Kaleb\* was found by an Outreach team at Hope for Justice who were searching the streets of Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa. A kind-hearted passerby had taken 13-year-old Kaleb in for a night after finding him “terrified and anxious” at a bus terminal. He was brought to Canaan Lighthouse, where he received one-to-one counselling and attended school classes while our team worked to trace his family members with the view of reintegrating him.

After just two weeks at the Lighthouse, Kaleb was able to return to his family. When they saw him, they began crying and praising God that he was safe. Kaleb’s mother said: “I thought my boy was dead. I have not been able to sleep, I have been so worried about him. We were doing everything we could to find him. Even now, Kaleb’s older brother is in Addis Ababa trying to find him. Thank you so much Hope for Justice for bringing him home.”

Our team worked with local officials to give the family parenting skills advice and training to lower the risk of family breakdown. Since he has been back at school, Kaleb is now the second highest achieving student in his class.

## Why we believe in reintegration over institutionalisation

When looking after incredibly vulnerable and often traumatised children, there are ups and downs, hurdles and setbacks, but ultimately we keep working with those we support until they are ready for reintegration. That usually means the child being returned home (sometimes hundreds of miles from where they were found on the streets or a situation of modern slavery), to a safe foster family, or (if the beneficiary is older and where appropriate), to begin good-quality work with new skills and reduced vulnerability.

Some of those we support need intensive long-term therapy, residential aftercare, and education.

Immediate needs are assessed at our Lighthouses, which can provide crisis intervention, medical checks, trauma support and everything a young person needs in their first weeks after rescue or off the streets. We call them ‘Lighthouses’ because they provide a light in the darkness; a guiding beacon from danger to safety.

Reintegration is probably the most difficult form of aftercare to achieve successfully. The realities of migration and globalisation mean that returning children to their own families can be complex or impossible:

- We help children who have walked for weeks
- People who do not know where they are from and have no address
- No identity documents
- They come from places which lack the kind of infrastructure which would help us investigate
- Sometimes they may have crossed borders, and there are also language issues

There is extensive evidence, including from our own programmes, showing that reintegration achieves better long-term outcomes compared to institutionalisation. Sometimes it is not possible – in cases of particularly complex needs, or when the child’s own parents were complicit in the trafficking and presenting an ongoing danger to their safety, for example. But whenever we can, we invest in family-based care, and projects that successfully settle someone back into their community.





OUR KEY SUCCESSES THIS YEAR – IN DETAIL

# Children reached through our work **102,803**

Through Outreach activities, Community Prevention programmes and through direct provision at our Lighthouses, this year we reached and helped more beneficiaries than ever before.

## Twelve children rescued from slum after being enslaved as acrobats

A 12-year-old boy was one of a dozen children forced to work as travelling acrobats, made to work long hours, dancing in bars and performing open-air shows, often going without food.

George\* grew up in extreme poverty with his grandmother – who was the sole carer for a further seven grandchildren – on an island on Lake Victoria in Uganda. When a stranger offered to educate George and train him to dance, his grandmother said yes in the hope of securing a better life for him.

But George was transported to Kampala, forced to perform to earn money for his trafficker, and denied the education that had been promised. The group of boys and girls, aged four to 16, had to live together in one small room in horrendous conditions.

A member of the community who had been trained by Hope for Justice to spot the signs of human trafficking saw what was going on and alerted police. The trafficker was caught and arrested.

All 12 children were rescued and brought to a Hope for Justice Lighthouse, where they got medical care, counselling, catch-up education and life skills.

After a short time in hospital because of previously undiagnosed anaemia, George was reunited with his grandmother. Hope for Justice is continuing to support George's enrolment at school, and helping to develop his grandmother's capacity to care for the other children in her household. A nurse at the Lighthouse is monitoring George's condition through regular phone calls with the family.

George hopes to one day become a teacher. He said to a member of our team: "Thank you so much for bringing me back home. I am happy to be with my grandmother again."

## Case study: the value of Child Wellbeing Clubs

Bayana is 14 and has seen so many other children and teenagers leave their families to look for work based on promises made by brokers – many of them actually human traffickers. He also knows children who have run away from home to try to find a better life, because of poverty or abuse at home, or family breakdown for other reasons.

Once, he was tempted to leave himself, thinking life in the city would be better. But fortunately he became part of a Child Wellbeing Club set up within his school by Hope for Justice. "It was then that my knowledge about my rights increased so much," Bayana remembers. The club meets weekly, educating the whole school community on child rights, the benefits of education, the dangers they would face trying to live on the streets, and how to protect themselves from trafficking.

*Bayana said: "I believe I have to be a good example to others. Now, not only am I no longer thinking about migrating to the city, I am preventing others from doing it. Because of the Club's activity, we are now helping each other to stay in school and with our families. Now we understand that education is a better way to have a better life in the future."*



## Case study: how Self-Help Groups empower families and protect children

One way we help children at Hope for Justice is by empowering their parents or caregivers, educating them about trafficking and increasing their economic security to prevent family breakdown.

One of the thousands of women empowered through our Self-Help Groups in 2019–20 was Nehimia Kebede, a mother-of-two who says she "could not have survived" without the group.

The 29-year-old, whose husband is in prison, was trying to provide for their children alone.

When one of our Community Development Workers invited her to join a new Self-Help Group we had set up in her Ethiopian village, she was hesitant. But with encouragement, hopeful of an improvement in her circumstances, she joined in and participated in the collaborative savings model.

She began contributing herself and she applied for two loans, which had to be approved by other members. These loans gave her the opportunity to buy a cow, to develop a small business, and to improve her house. The money from the business meant she was able to repay the money to the group with no problems. With more money coming in, the household is less likely to be a target for traffickers.

Nehimia said: "How could I survive, and even thrive as I am now, unless this Self-Help Group had been started in my area? I am very grateful for the key lessons that I have learned, for the training I have been given and for the discussions with other members of my community."



OUR KEY SUCCESSES THIS YEAR – IN DETAIL

# Modern slavery cases worked by our Hubs **272**

In the UK, USA and Norway, our highly trained investigators worked on a record number of modern slavery cases this year. Some cases resulted in the rescue of many people and valuable intelligence being shared with law enforcement and prosecutors to ensure those responsible are brought to justice. A few of our notable investigations and rescues are detailed on this page.

## Six women rescued from illegal brothels

In one of our biggest rescues during the year, we succeeded in freeing six women from two brothels that were disguised as massage parlours.

Our team identified via surveillance that the businesses were operating illegally during the COVID-19 pandemic, advertising commercial sex through social media sites and websites. The two brothels in Tennessee were raided and shut down, with six women in their 20s and 30s rescued and a series of arrests made.

Our lead investigator on the case said: "We spent countless days conducting surveillance of these two premises and searching through trash to collect evidence which could then be handed over to law enforcement. We are very pleased the six women are now safe."

## Two victims rescued and two people arrested in raid

Two potential victims of modern slavery got vital support from Hope for Justice after being rescued during a police raid in Huddersfield, UK, which was part of a co-ordinated series of operations across Europe, with other people rescued in Austria and Romania.

We provided language support and independent advice for the victims as they were safeguarded at a Victim Reception Centre. Two people were arrested under the Modern Slavery Act.

Steve Howard, Hubs Manager at Hope for Justice, said: "We are privileged to have been involved in this operation, and ultimately, in the rescue of these two women. We will be working to ensure their ongoing care and safety in the days, weeks and months ahead."



## Baby born into freedom

Heavily pregnant Mary and her husband James were trapped in a desperate situation of forced labour and debt bondage after being trafficked.

Mary, who is in her 30s, and James, in his 40s, were tricked into leaving their home country with the promise of well-paid employment, accommodation, food and medical care. But when they arrived, they were told that they owed substantially more than they had agreed to. Their traffickers continued to raise the amount for no reason, threatening the couple and insisting they work for next-to-nothing to "pay off their debt".

Our Hub team in Norway were able to rescue the couple from exploitation and we have since been involved in their aftercare and practical support.

Now they have welcomed their beautiful baby boy into the world – born into freedom and safety.

James and Mary told our team: "We did not know what to do or where to turn. We are incredibly thankful for the help we have received."

*It was a joy for us to see this baby boy born into freedom, not slavery.*

## Twelve potential victims of sexual exploitation identified

One of our major ongoing cases began when someone we had trained to spot the signs of modern slavery shared vital information with us, when they realised the significance of something they had seen.

Four children – all under 18 – were interviewed by forensic psychologists working with Hope for Justice. Each gave evidence claiming they had been victims of sexual abuse.

*Hope for Justice has since identified a further eight potential victims, and our US Hub is now working alongside law enforcement and counsel to further investigate.*

## Case study: Lisa's Story

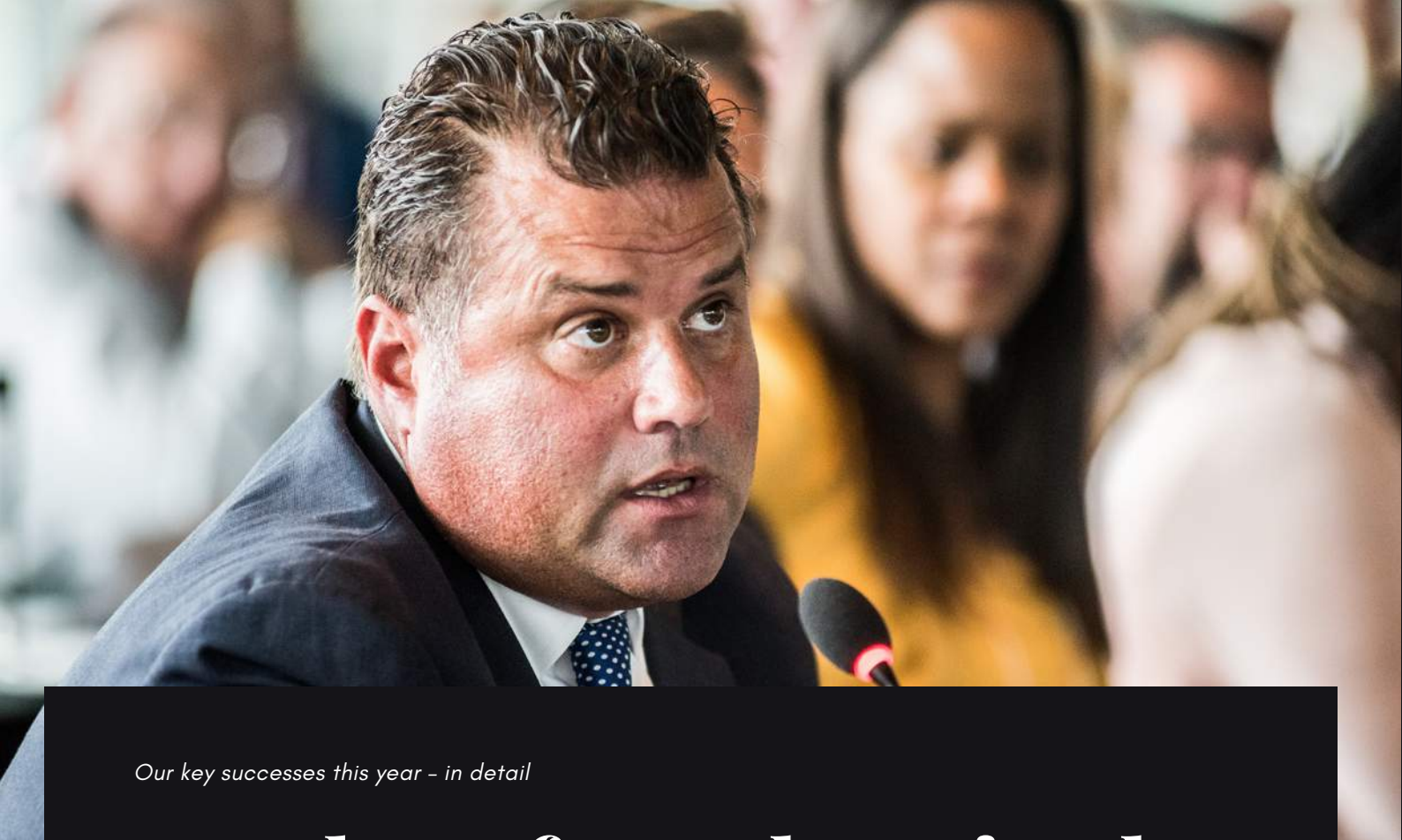
A woman whose trafficker plied her with drugs to keep her under his control as he sold her body is now safe, thanks to Hope for Justice.

The man preyed on Lisa's desperation because she had nowhere to live, saying she could live with him if she did the housework. But he began making her serve customers who were coming round to collect drugs.

This escalated into forced sexual exploitation in the house, with the man collecting money from clients. Lisa told us she felt she had no choice, because of what she saw as her debts to this man for drugs, accommodation and food – even as he called her a "useless prostitute" and a "waste of a life".

Fortunately her circumstances were spotted by someone we had trained. Hope for Justice heard Lisa's story and managed to get her away from this toxic and horrific situation and into a safe house, far away. Just two weeks later, her Hope for Justice case worker said: "Lisa is doing really well – she has totally turned her life around, adapted to her newfound freedom and is settling into a new area. She is embracing the fresh start we have been able to facilitate for her."





Our key successes this year – in detail

# Number of people trained to respond effectively **20,686**

In 2019-20 we brought our world-class training to more people than ever before. We trained law enforcement personnel, health workers, businesses, other NGOs, government officials and more. This is a key part of reforming society, because we believe in structural transformation – entire sectors, industries and nations trained to spot the signs of modern slavery, to protect themselves against it and to know how to respond in a victim-centred way.

## Tennessee police receive anti-trafficking training

In one of the biggest training events of the year, three hundred law enforcement officials were trained in how to spot the signs of human trafficking and how to respond.

Staff at Hope for Justice's US hub in Nashville, Tennessee, provided training for 250 Tennessee law enforcement leaders from more than 95 counties, as well as 50 Illinois state law enforcement leaders.

In addition, 63 educators and 10 members of staff from another non-profit that helps female victims of sexual assault benefited from the coaching.

Richard Schoeberl, our US Team Leader for investigations and training, said: "It was brilliant to see so many people taking on board this practical guidance, which is ultimately designed to increase the number of victims who are identified and to improve the response, so that we rescue more of these vulnerable people sooner."

Since the training, the charity's US hub has received a number of referrals for investigative assistance in cases involving potential victims of modern-day slavery, as well as requests to deliver further training throughout Tennessee.

Training has also accelerated across the wider region and entire United States. Compared to 2018-19, we trained four times as many people this year.



## 'The training delivered is second-to-none' says Waitrose

Among the huge number of organisations to receive training from Hope for Justice and our wholly-owned social enterprise Slave-Free Alliance during 2019-2020 was major British supermarket chain, Waitrose. We created a package for on-site training and resources for more than 40 distribution centre managers working across 11 of the centres, which often make use of temporary and agency workers.

Sam Ludlow Taylor, Ethical Trade Manager at Waitrose & Partners, said: "The training delivered by Slave-Free Alliance is second to none, and we're hoping to work together to extend these learnings across more of our sites in the near future."

She said that by working with us, Waitrose is "able to benefit from access to experts in combatting organised crime, with practical experience of protecting organisations like ours against modern slavery and working to eradicate it from society".

One survey of business leaders has shown that 77% of them believe modern slavery is happening within their own supply chains, showing the need for training and other support.

## New law requires anti-trafficking training for hotels

Months of hard work during 2019-2020 paid off shortly after the end of the financial year when the state of Iowa passed a Bill into law that will ensure more hotels and motels provide their employees with human trafficking prevention training. The law means that from January 2022, hotels and motels that fail to provide this training cannot accept public funds for stays, events, or state-related functions.

Hope for Justice's Rocky Vest said: "I am extremely excited about the newly signed law that prioritizes human trafficking prevention training for hotels and motels statewide."

"This is a big win in the fight to end human trafficking in Iowa. Over 70% of trafficking happens in hotels and motels. The newly trained 'eyes' in Iowa's hotels will lead to referrals for investigation, which will lead to recovering victims of modern slavery."

The legislative effort to get House File 2259 passed was spearheaded by Break the Cycle 200, now part of the Hope for Justice family.

## Hope for Justice invited to give anti-slavery advice to Norwegian government

A highlight of 2019-20 for our 'reforming society' objective was when Norway's Minister of International Development invited Hope for Justice to input on the country's national strategy for tackling modern-day slavery.


Our CEO Ben Cooley and Norway Director, Sondre Høysæter, joined the minister, Dag Inge Ulstein, in March 2020 to discuss how businesses can play their part in identifying and preventing exploitation, and protecting their supply chains against trafficking.

The minister tweeted: "Excellent meeting with Ben Cooley, brother in arms in the fight to end modern slavery. Norway is a committed partner, setting up a development programme. Important with support for research, digital ID, legislation and targeted interventions at country level."

Sondre Høysæter, Hope for Justice's Norway Director, said: "A big part of Hope for Justice's work involves collaborating with governments to create strategies and legislation that are needed to tackle the issue of modern day slavery around the world."

In May 2019, the minister visited one of Hope for Justice's projects in Uganda, where he met with children and staff at a Lighthouse.





# Victim support ‘instrumental’ in destroying UK’s largest modern slavery network

Hope for Justice’s provision of victim support was “instrumental” in tearing down the UK’s largest human trafficking network, police have said in a new report that was made publicly available in spring 2020.

*Detective Superintendent Sheon Sturland, Unit Commander of the National Police Chiefs’ Council Modern Slavery & Organised Immigration Crime Unit, said: “The victim support provided by Hope for Justice was instrumental in taking apart this organised crime network. The perseverance shown by Hope for Justice, to get the best outcome for all of the victims they supported, is testament to the outstanding work they do.”*

Hope for Justice worked alongside West Midlands Police on the multi-year investigation, dubbed Operation Fort. Two trials that concluded in July 2019 saw eight gang members jailed, with a third trial expected in late 2020 or in 2021.

The organised crime group lured vulnerable people from Poland to the UK with the promise of employment, money and accommodation.

The Modern Slavery Police Transformation Unit’s new report, ‘Operation Fort: Safeguarding and Multi-Agency Working’, identifies the strengths of our joint operation with police.

Steve Howard, Hope for Justice’s Hubs Team Manager, said: “This organised crime gang exploited some of the most vulnerable people in society and profited from their misery. For some of the survivors, their recovery is still ongoing.”

Police and Hope for Justice identified 92 victims in this investigation but believe there could have been as many as 400 people targeted.

We supported more than 50 of those survivors as they bravely gave evidence during two trials, and many of these individuals are still being supported by Hope for Justice today.

The police report reads: “In early 2015, it was one of Hope for Justice’s staff, working alongside a support worker – an advisor from a church group who had received training from the charity on spotting the signs of modern slavery – who first recognised there were victims in his area within the Polish community. They supported victims and attended the police station with them to speak with officers. Their support then continued throughout the operation, with more than 30 new victims coming forward during the busiest week.”

Many of the victims were forced to work long hours and given as little as 20 pounds a week by the traffickers, who pocketed the bulk of their salaries. If they objected, they were beaten or threatened with violence. The trafficked workers were forced to live in cramped and rat-infested properties, while the gang members drove around in luxury cars and had control of 174 bank accounts in the names of some of those they exploited.

*The debrief report states: “Hope for Justice identified there were extreme anxieties and misunderstandings for victims around reporting based on a mistrust of authority figures they were asked to engage with.”*

Traffickers may manipulate their victims by creating fear of others; there have been instances of traffickers dressing as police officers before raping a victim. Acts like this falsely convince a victim that the police cannot be trusted and should be feared.

Hope for Justice supported victims on a court visit to familiarise them with the surroundings and help to reassure them ahead of giving evidence. The charity also advocated on behalf of victims to ensure that they could access the support they needed, particularly where there were language barriers. The report describes these interventions as “key” to keeping victims aware and informed.

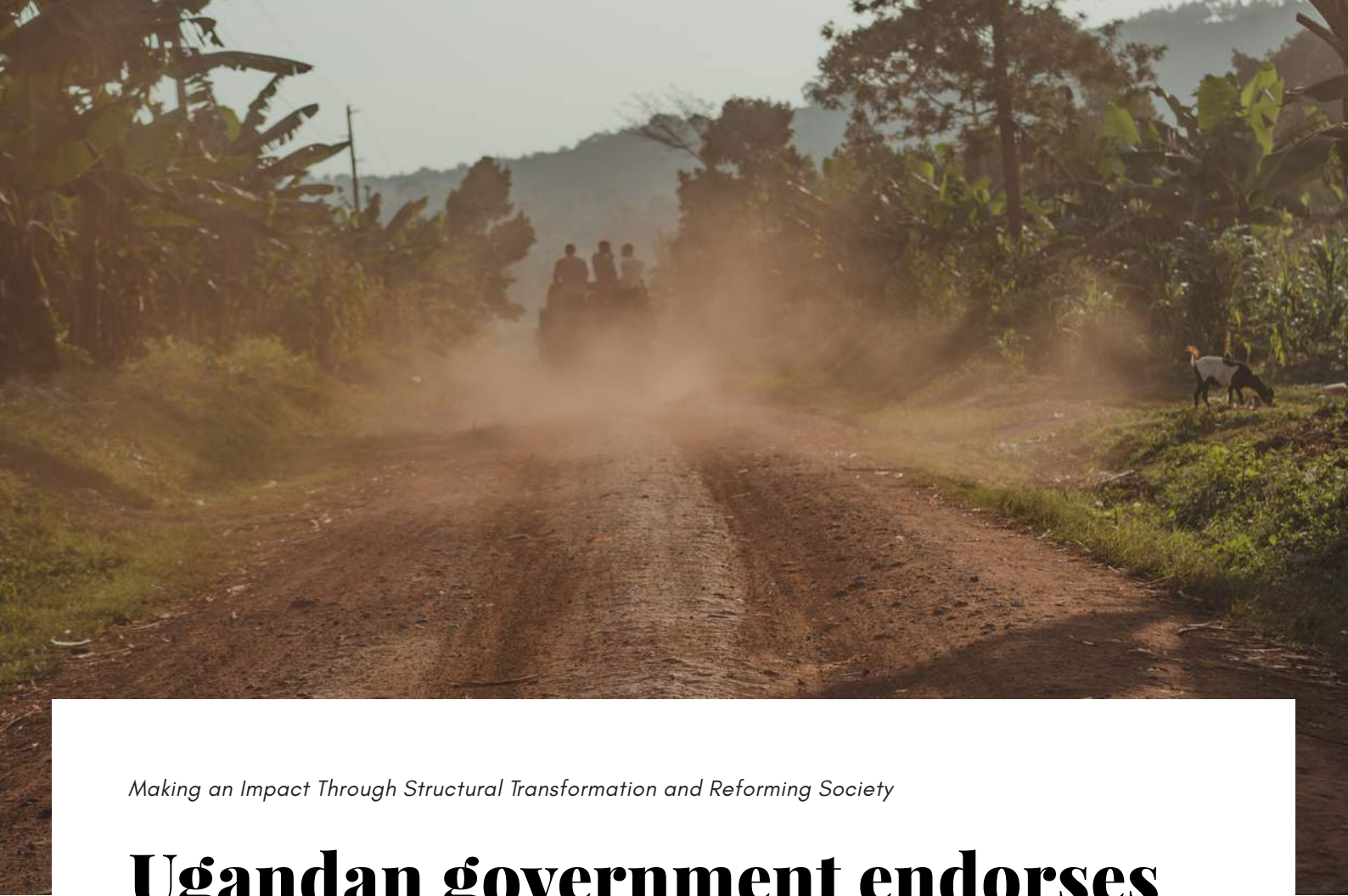
Superintendent Nick Dale, senior investigating officer on Operation Fort for West Midlands Police, said at the time of the second trial: “Operation Fort was the largest prosecution of its type in the UK. We were able to dismantle a large criminal network and prevent the exploitation of hundreds of victims.

“Without the tireless and dedicated work of Hope for Justice, we quite simply would not have been able to gain the trust of the victims, fully understand the criminal network, and achieve the result we did.”

You can find out much more about Hope for Justice’s key role in this important case on our website – click News and search Operation Fort.







*Making an Impact Through Structural Transformation and Reforming Society*

## Ugandan government endorses our pioneering study of children living on streets

A major piece of research on the experiences of children living and working on the streets of Uganda, carried out by Hope for Justice, has been endorsed by the country's government.

The findings have been published in a report which brings together the children's perspectives on their experiences and insights into their characteristics, as well as data.

The report, entitled 'Enumeration of Children on the Streets in Uganda across Four Locations: Iganga, Jinja, Mbale and Kampala', will be officially launched by the government post-lockdown.

Florence Soyekwo, Uganda Country Director at Hope for Justice, said: "The publication and endorsement of this report is a milestone achievement. This is the first study of its kind to be conducted in Uganda using this methodology.

"The endorsement from the Ugandan government on this work is significant because it adds authenticity to the findings and allows for a coordinated effort to combat child exploitation."

The study, which can be read in full on the Hope for Justice website, was funded by a private foundation and The Red Nose Day Fund.

*Making an Impact Through Structural Transformation and Reforming Society*

## United Nations launch of Hope for Justice partner project



Hope for Justice is a key partner for a major initiative that was launched at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, aimed at making financial services more accessible for those who have been victims of modern slavery.

Survivors of slavery and human trafficking often find traffickers have hijacked their financial identity for money laundering or other criminal purposes, spoiling their credit record and increasing their risk of re-victimization.

The Survivor Inclusion Initiative, part of the Finance Against Slavery & Trafficking (FAST) project, helps match survivors to basic financial services, such as current accounts and debit cards. This framework is for financial institutions, regulators, governmental actors and other key stakeholders, including – crucially – survivor support providers, such as Hope for Justice.

Our UK Programme Director attended the launch event in New York in September 2019.

We strongly welcome this Initiative and the principle of eliminating the barriers that stand in the way of survivors of trafficking being able to reintegrate back into a normal life and to do the things that the

rest of us take for granted. If financial institutions are able to work with support providers like Hope for Justice to recognise and accommodate the unique circumstances faced by survivors of this crime, it will help clear a path for them towards a brighter future in mainstream work and society.

In January 2020, experts from Hope for Justice addressed a large audience of banking professionals at an event all about the Survivor Inclusion Initiative. The event at Barclays' offices in Canary Wharf, London, was to inform and educate Barclays staff and to make recommendations for improvements in policies and practices around how banks treat survivors of modern slavery.

Laura Gautrey, one of Hope for Justice's team of Independent Modern Slavery Advocates, who spoke at the panel session, said: "We were really pleased to share our frontline experiences working with survivors and their experiences in trying to access financial services that most of us take for granted.

"Survivors of modern slavery often have complex needs and vulnerabilities as well as complicated financial histories because of their trafficking experience and linked issues such as debt, identity fraud and lack of paperwork. In the past, this has been very challenging and time-consuming, and held survivors back. Thanks to the Survivor Inclusion Initiative and the positive steps being taken by banks like Barclays, we are hopeful that recent progress continues to accelerate."

FAST members include Barclays, Bank of America, Bank of the West, BB&T, BMO Financial Group, Citi, Erste Bank, HSBC, LCNB National Bank, Scotiabank, US Bank and Wells Fargo. Hope for Justice was selected to participate because of our long experience as a survivor service provider organisation.





Making an Impact Through Structural Transformation and Reforming Society

# Cambodian Government welcomes Hope for Justice’s work helping children

In February 2020, Country Director for Hope for Justice Cambodia, Maggie Crewes, signed an official agreement for another three years as an official partner of the Cambodian Government as we work to change lives and end slavery.

*Touch Channy, director-general of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation technical department, said: “The ministry has always welcomed NGOs who want to help those in need, especially children, to improve their lives.”*

Making an Impact Through Structural Transformation and Reforming Society

# Our major report on trafficking impacts of COVID-19



Hope for Justice has published an important new examination of the worldwide impacts caused by the coronavirus pandemic and associated lockdown for victims of modern slavery and the fight to end it.

The report, called ‘COVID-19 and potential implications on human trafficking and other forms of modern slavery internationally’, was released shortly after the reporting period covered in this Year in Review, but before we went to press.

It was shared with key stakeholders in the fight against trafficking, including in government, law enforcement, the NGO sector, academics and researchers, and major businesses.

The 18-page report explores the increased threat

and vulnerability of individuals and communities, including access to state and non-state support structures and safeguarding mechanisms; the potential impact on the methods used by exploiters; the potential impact on the rule of law and law enforcement activities; and the potential risks for businesses.

Hope for Justice Director of Legal Policy, Phillipa Roberts, said: “Now is the time to forward-plan and innovate – so we can continue to work to make the UK and all countries a hostile environment for those who exploit vulnerable people through modern slavery, while also addressing the health crisis.”

The report also examines the specific vulnerabilities faced by children during the pandemic, as well as child protection issues such as separation of children from caregivers, sexual violence (including sex trafficking), physical violence, child labour, social exclusion, and neglect and abandonment.

# Work of Hope for Justice shared as ‘best practice’ by councils

We were honoured that the Local Government Association, representing councils across England and Wales, chose to include four separate examples of council collaboration with Hope for Justice in its modern slavery guidance.

The guidance was released in September 2019, and provided in-depth case studies demonstrating how our specialists have worked with Bradford,

Nottinghamshire, Sandwell and Kirklees councils to improve the local response to modern slavery.

As part of our constant work for structural transformation – reforming society to end this crime forever – it is gratifying to see public sector organisations taking their responsibilities so seriously. We plan to expand our work with partner organisation in the coming year.





*Making an Impact Through Structural Transformation and Reforming Society*

## Life-changing support towards sustainable future for family of girl trafficked for sex at age of 13

A deprived family received hands-on support from Hope for Justice which will ensure the long-term security of their child who was rescued from trafficking.

The Chhour\* family have been desperately trying to make ends meet through their family-run 'recycling' business. This involves collecting garbage by pushing a handcart through the dirty streets, going from house to house, and sorting it – bottles, tins, unsalvageable rubbish and anything re-saleable – as they go.

Maggie Crewes, Hope for Justice's Cambodia Country Director, said: "With no education and no other prospects, Mr and Mrs Chhour have had to turn to recycling as their main source of income but this work has been unstable. Desperation led to them making a horrible mistake."

A broker offered the couple's eldest daughter, Da, employment as a waitress at a restaurant in the capital, Phnom Penh, as well as covering her travel costs. But the 'restaurant' was a brothel – the family had been tricked. Da was trafficked and sexually abused and trapped in this nightmare for 18 months until she was identified as a victim and rescued. She was brought to Hope for Justice's Lighthouse in Phnom Penh, where she received shelter, care, protection, counselling and other

support, as well as the opportunity to learn, play and make friends. She even began a placement at a beauty salon.

However, at a pre-visit to her home in early 2020, prior to reintegrating Da with her family, Hope for Justice identified that her parents' poverty would leave her vulnerable to re-trafficking. Her father's pushcart had a broken axle. His income had dropped to almost nothing. His wife was also no longer able to supplement their income by using the petty cash earnings to buy and sell vegetables in the local villages. Their situation was grim and case managers were concerned that Da's younger sister might be at risk.

Hope for Justice's specialist Client Empowerment Manager implemented a plan to purchase a new pushcart for Da's father and a bicycle for her mother, allowing her to get between villages to sell produce. These two very simple modes of transport will transform this family's earning capacity. Now they will be able to pay rent, buy food, afford medical bills, keep their youngest daughter in school and provide for their whole family. Da will be able to live at home and continue her salon training. They are not well-off but they will at least be able to make ends meet, keep their daughters safe and look to the future with hope.

*Making an Impact Through Structural Transformation and Reforming Society*

## IMSA model praised in United Nations Sustainable Development Goals update

The unique work of Hope for Justice's team of Independent Modern Slavery Advocates has been highlighted in the UK Government's summary of progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In a case study, the Government says: "Hope for Justice's Independent Modern Slavery Advocates (IMSA) programme provides frontline specialist advocacy to victims of Modern Slavery enabling them to understand their rights and choices; access services; and ensure their voice is heard. This enhances the ability of victims to engage in criminal and civil justice processes, both of which are essential to securing justice for victims and creating a hostile environment for exploiters. Where victims accessed advocacy services, 100% were able to attend [court] and give evidence when requested."

Hope for Justice has been a long-term supporter of the Global Goals, with a particular focus on the following three:

**5.2** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

**8.7** Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

**16.2** End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

## Factory shut down after 15 suspected modern slavery victims discovered

Hope for Justice investigators and outreach workers supported a police operation in April 2019 in which 15 potential victims were discovered, including a child found working on-site.

The factory, in Smethwick near Birmingham, was shut down immediately after the raid, during which roughly 60 workers were interviewed and had their identities checked alongside other interventions to establish if they were being exploited and needed help.

Inspector Colin Gallier, from West Midlands Police's Sandwell neighbourhood team, said: "As a result of the hard work and ultimately the important information that has come from members of the public, we have successfully shut the business down indefinitely."

Hope for Justice's specialists form a vital 'alternative pathway' for victims to seek help if they are unable or unwilling to speak directly with the authorities.

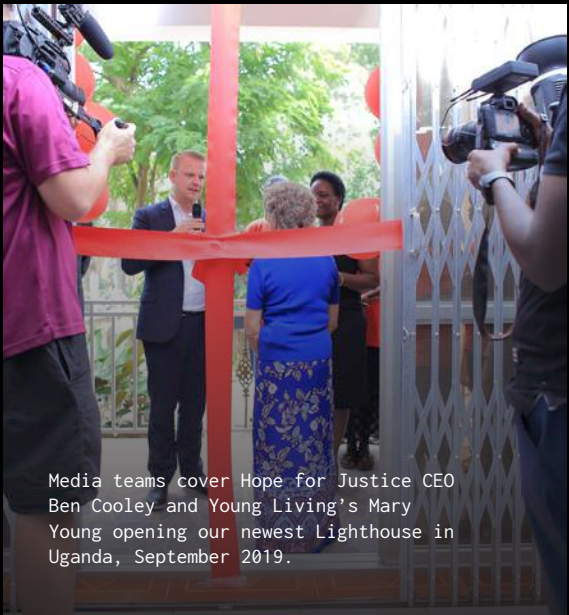
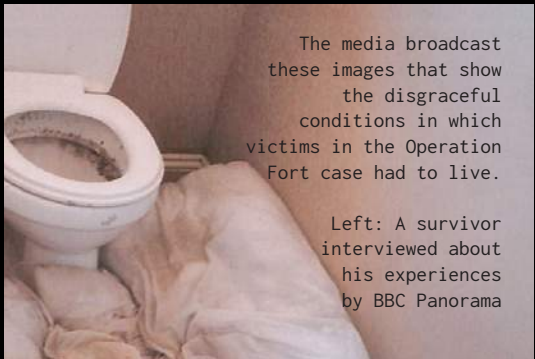
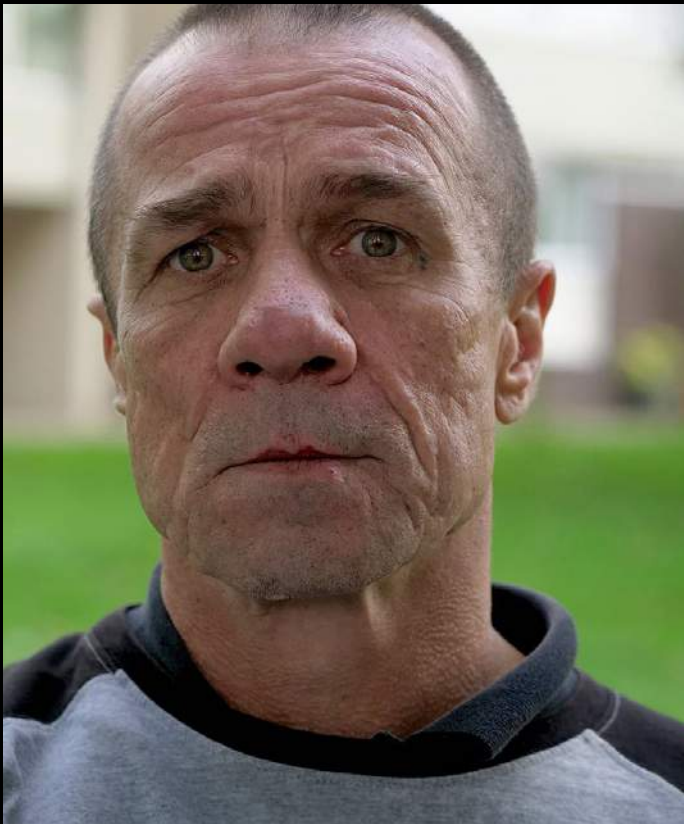


# In the Media

Hope for Justice made more impact in the media this year than ever before. Our role in the smashing of the organised criminal gang at the centre of the UK’s largest-ever trafficking case (see page 24-25) made global news headlines. The story was covered in every national UK newspaper and news programme, with interviews on the BBC, Channel 4 News, Sky News, CNN, and more, as well as international coverage in the New York Times, Sydney Morning Herald and many other global papers.

That was just one story that hit the headlines. Hope for Justice Co-Founder Natalie Grant (bottom left) and her husband Bernie Herms attracted a huge amount of attention to the anti-trafficking cause with their free online concert at the Ryman Auditorium, streamed more than a million times.

Top left: Hope for Justice’s Adam Hewitt speaks with television reporters about spotting the signs of human trafficking





# Movement

Hope for Justice supporters went all out in the name of freedom this year, putting on a gigantic number of events, fundraisers, challenges and races during 2019-2020. One of the biggest was the Team Freedom run in Florida (opposite page, bottom left) in February 2020, with The JOY FM, which raised considerable funds for our life-changing work.

In October 2019, a group of brave climbers scaled Kilimanjaro as part of our latest Extreme Challenge (below), putting their bodies through an intense seven-day hike to the top of the world's highest freestanding mountain, to raise money for the least, the last and the lost.

We were proud to speak at a growing number of conferences, churches, workplaces, schools, community events and much more, educating the public about this crime and growing the anti-trafficking movement. Businesses too got involved, with some now choosing to open their own Freedom Walls to mark their support for our charity, including Experian (see opposite page, middle left, showing Hope for Justice's Tim Nelson at the opening of one of the company's Freedom Walls).





# Programme

As you have read in this Year in Review, our Programmes teams around the world have achieved so much this year – including reaching more than 100,000 children, by far the most beneficiaries we have ever served.

We were proud to provide world-class services for our beneficiaries, both through residential aftercare and through outreach (see below and lower half of opposite page)

We were invited to brief governments, ambassadors, law enforcement, business conferences and a wide variety of influential people, as part of one of our key aims: reforming society to bring an end to modern slavery forever.

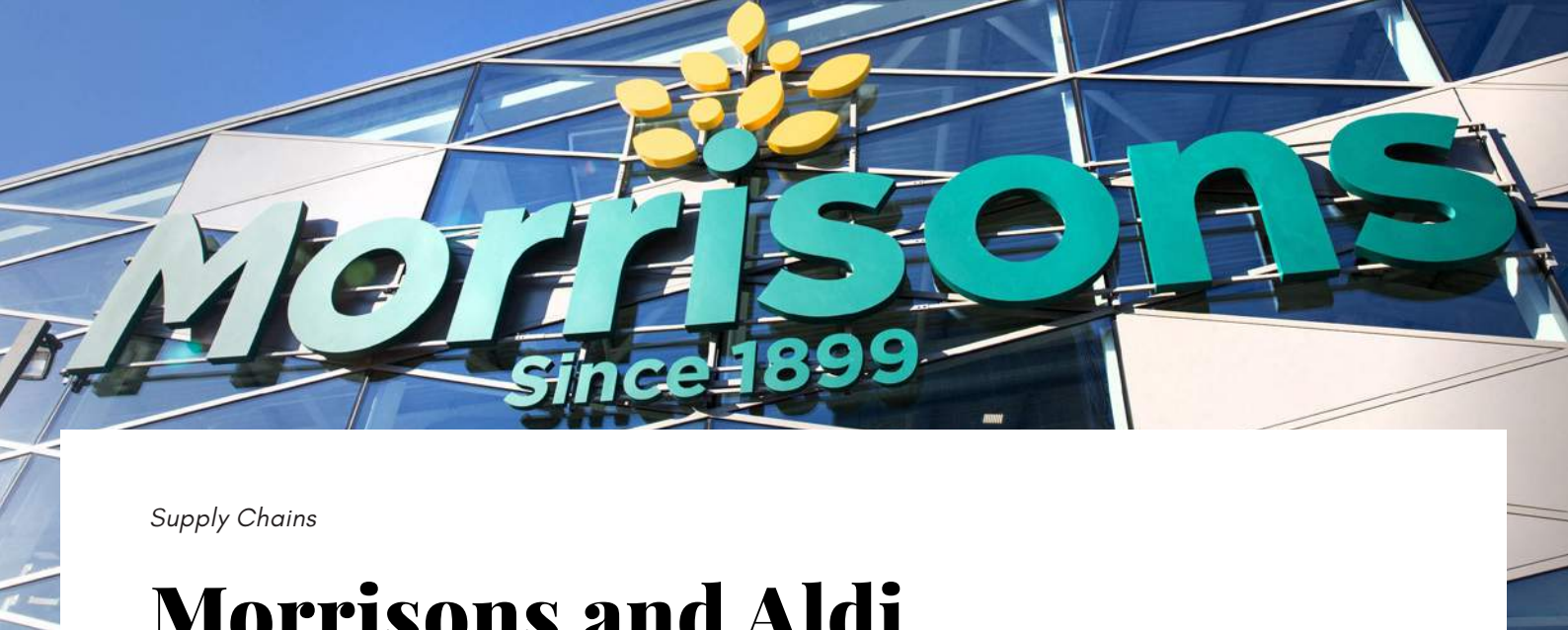
We have been influencing legislation, policy, national guidelines and business practice through our work, aiming to leave a legacy of structural transformation, creating nations hostile to modern slavery.



Hope for Justice's Neil Wain with US Ambassador to the UK, Woody Johnson, at an event in London in January 2020. We shared our expertise in preventative anti-trafficking work with the US Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor & Combat Trafficking in Persons, John Cotton Richmond, and other leaders in the anti-slavery sector.







Supply Chains

# Morrisons and Aldi among newest members of Slave-Free Alliance

Supermarket giants Morrisons and Aldi UK & Ireland have joined Slave-Free Alliance – Hope for Justice’s wholly owned business membership social enterprise that helps protect supply chains against modern slavery.

Slave-Free Alliance now has more than 77 members, including eight FTSE 100 companies. Some of the best-known names include Experian, Severn Trent, Aviva, AstraZeneca, Dixons Carphone, Richer Sounds and The University of Manchester.

In some industry sectors, many of the most influential companies have signed up with Slave-Free Alliance. This includes utilities and waste management, with our members now including Biffa, Suez, Viridor, Wales & West Utilities, Scottish Power, Electricity North West, and Severn Trent.

It is a similar story in the aviation sector, with members now including the companies that own and/or operate Aberdeen, East Midlands, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool John Lennon, London Stansted, Manchester and Southampton airports.

Yodel and Hermes, two of the biggest players in home delivery and logistics, are members of Slave-Free Alliance.

Slave-Free Alliance membership is open to companies of any size – some organisations have just a handful of employees or are effectively start-ups.

Members benefit from expert advice on modern slavery prevention, training, gap analysis, site assessments, risk management resources, and crisis response and investigations where concerns already exist.

Because Slave-Free Alliance is a not-for-profit social enterprise, all profits from membership fees and services are reinvested into Hope for Justice’s work to prevent exploitation, rescue victims, restore lives and reform society, with the goal of ending slavery for good.

Marc Stanton, Director of Slave-Free Alliance, said: “We’re delighted that Aldi and Morrisons are among those who have partnered with us this year to reinforce and further their modern slavery prevention efforts. We are particularly glad to see entire sector seeking to join up, because when it comes to preventing modern slavery and ensuring exploitative forced labour is stamped out, businesses should be co-operating, not competing. We’re dedicated to assisting every business we can in the wider global fight against trafficking.”

The team behind Slave-Free Alliance has expertise in organised crime prevention, including staff with backgrounds in high-level policing, social work, law, and supply chain management.

To find out more, or sign up to Slave-Free Alliance, call 0300 008 0044. To book a phone consultation, email [info@slavefreealliance.org](mailto:info@slavefreealliance.org).

Supply Chains

# What members say about Slave-Free Alliance

“At Aldi, we are committed to operating with honesty and integrity, and making a positive impact on society. We are proud to be a member of Slave-Free Alliance, and look forward to strengthening and evolving our modern slavery strategy with their expert input.”

– Fritz Walleczeck, Managing Director of Corporate Responsibility, Aldi UK & Ireland

“Slave-Free Alliance has been excellent since day one. They understand the challenges that large corporates face, tailoring their approach accordingly. Their expertise has been evidenced through their support with supplier threat assessments, employee training, and critical reviews of our policies and procedures. Access to expertise and resources available through membership is key in supporting our commitment to respecting human rights, and in particular to preventing modern slavery from taking place in our business and supply chain.”

– Victor Riega, former Group CR Manager, Aviva

“We were keen to join Slave-Free Alliance in order to work with other like-minded companies to protect our local communities and those further afield that form part of our supply chain, playing our part in helping to eradicate slavery.”

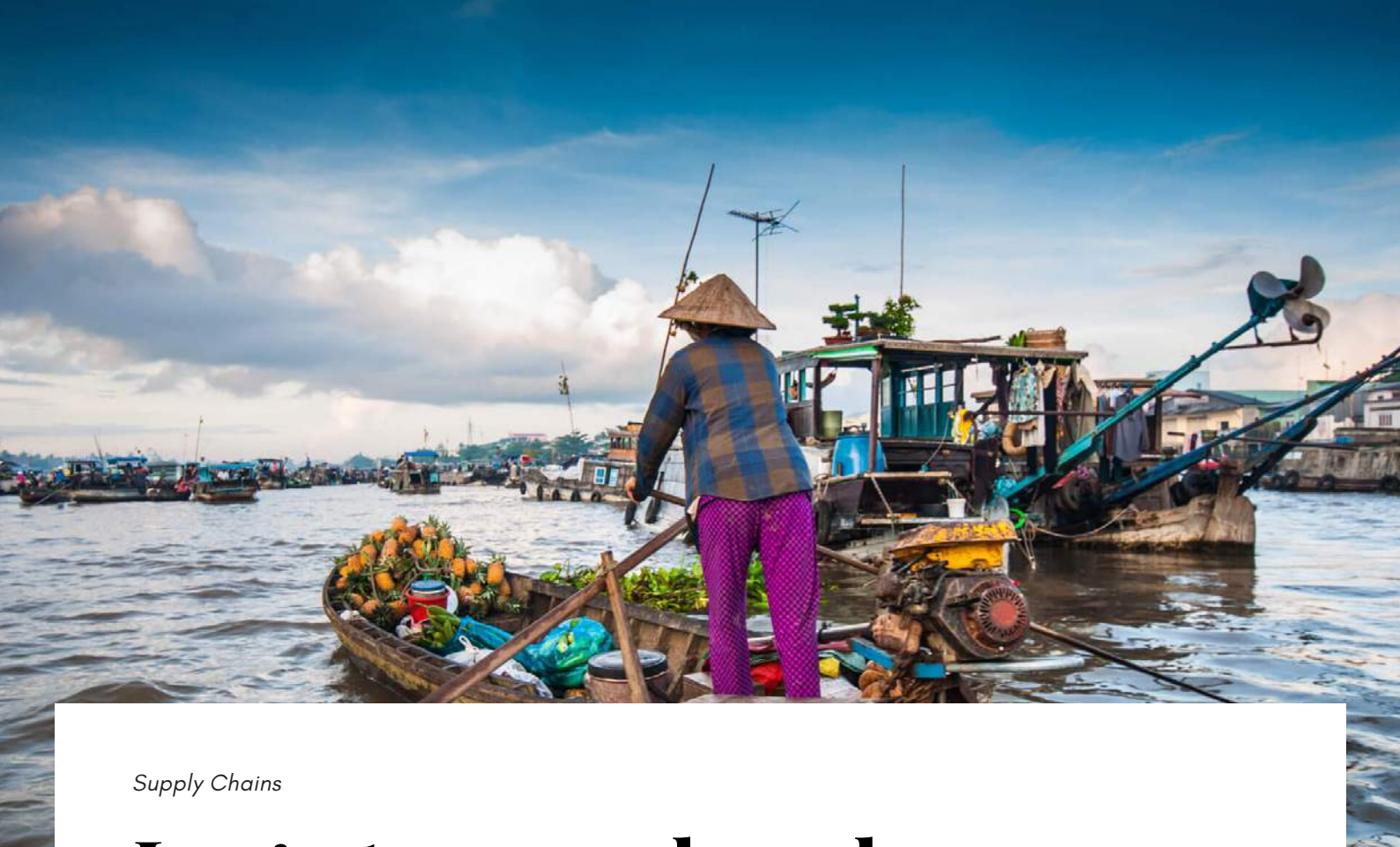
– Richard Bean, Head of Risk, Control & Assurance, Electricity North West

“AstraZeneca is very pleased to be the first life sciences member of Slave-Free Alliance. We chose you for the hands-on experience in working with victims globally, for actively engaging with companies to assess their risk management frameworks and to advise on improvements. We see a great gain for our business to tap into the first hand, true global experience and knowledge that Slave-Free Alliance has as part of the bigger Hope for Justice umbrella. We’re looking forward to a great partnership and a very active dialogue.”

– Jim Massey, VP Sustainability Strategy and Engagement, AstraZeneca







Supply Chains

# Largest ever modern slavery case shows ‘any of us’ could own products made by victims

A review prompted by the dismantling of the largest modern slavery gang in UK history – a joint operation by Hope for Justice and West Midlands Police – has found that “any of us” could have purchased goods produced by victims of slavery and that there is “no room for complacency.”

Hope for Justice and West Midlands Police identified 92 victims as part of the investigation, dubbed Operation Fort, but believe there were as many as 400 in total (more on page 24-25).

We continue to support many of the victims who bravely gave evidence during two trials, which culminated in July 2019 when eight members of the gang were sentenced to a combined 55 years for slavery, trafficking and money laundering offences. A further four people fled the UK in 2019 and are awaiting extradition to face trial.

The victims, many of them with existing vulnerabilities, were recruited in Poland, and

brought to the UK with the promise of work and accommodation. But they were instead forced to live in squalid conditions, in rat-infested properties, often with no heating or hot water, no bed, and only scraps of out-of-date food for sustenance. They were put to work in factories, on farms and at recycling centres, to name a few.

The West Midlands-based gang routinely supplied exploited victims to chains that supply goods to some of the UK’s biggest food retailers and home improvement stores.

Some of the companies that were targeted have been supported by Hope for Justice’s not-for-profit social enterprise Slave-Free Alliance.

The landmark case prompted a review by Dame Sara Thornton, the UK’s Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, who said “slavery and trafficking are not confined to global supply chains. They are occurring in plain sight in the United Kingdom.”



Dame Sara has met with retail businesses to find out how the sector has been responding to Operation Fort. Following the case, she wrote to the CEOs of 15 large UK retailers who carried products made by suppliers

where victims of modern slavery were forced to work, including Asda, B&Q, Homebase, M&S, Sainsbury’s, Tesco, Aldi and Morrisons. She informed them that they had a key role to play in “identifying and preventing exploitation” and asking what they were doing to ensure suppliers were not using slave labour. All of them responded.

The review, ‘What businesses should learn from the UK’s largest anti-slavery prosecution’, sets out her findings. It stresses the importance of suppliers “working together in a shared endeavour” to respond to the issue of modern-day slavery.

It states: “The eradication of labour exploitation should be integrated into long term strategy, be led from the top of an organisation, and inform the day-to-day activities of every department. Similarly,

those organisations at the top of supply chains bear a responsibility for supporting their suppliers into sustainable improvements.”

Other recommendations include rewarding those who challenge wrongdoing; asking procurement teams to show evidence that the true costs of labour have been factored into goods and services; ensuring recruitment agencies carry out “more effective checks”; and for businesses to carry out unannounced audits.

Dame Sara said in the review: “Modern slavery and human trafficking are egregious criminal offences and it is important that the perpetrators are brought to justice and that victims are supported. Cases such as Operation Fort send a strong message of the state’s resolve to pursue wrongdoing, however complex the investigation and prosecution.”

More than one year on, Hope for Justice continues to support many of the victims with ongoing aftercare and advocacy, ensuring that they have continued access to accommodation, benefits and entitlements and helping them to secure settled status in the UK.

There is a link to the full review on the Hope for Justice website.





# Making the most efficient impact



As Chair of Hope for Justice globally, it's a tremendous privilege and pleasure for me to commend the achievements showcased in this 2019-2020 Year in Review. And what a milestone year it has been.

Whether through regular giving or a one-off contribution, it is the generosity of our supporters that empowers the work we do. The successes, results and, above all, the lives changed that you are reading about in this report have only been made possible and happened because of you. So, to each one of our many supporters, I'd like to convey our deepest, heartfelt thanks.

I also want to take this opportunity to assure you that as a Board exercising strategic oversight and governance, we remain determined that Hope for Justice makes the greatest possible impact with every generous donation we receive. We want our supporters, donors and prospective donors to know that we do not take their gifts lightly, nor take them for granted – we are committed to running our Programmes efficiently and sustainably. We demand all of our frontline projects and support functions make best possible use of our finances, so donors can be confident their generosity is underpinned by rigorous stewardship and full accountability.

This year, we further strengthened the Board of Hope for Justice with a number of carefully selected new members. I am delighted to welcome them. We are already seeing the benefit of their extensive experience, representing a complementary range of skillsets from a variety of successful backgrounds, each of which brings valuable insight and strategic direction to the Board.

Fortunately, we as a Board know that the day-to-day running of Hope for Justice is in the hands of a top-quality Executive team, with not only passion and dedication to our shared cause, but also world-class leadership and management rigour. They create and maintain a culture that strives for excellence in themselves and others.

Thank you to the Executive team, to the entire staff of this organisation and to the volunteers around the world who are doing such an admirable job in the face of a truly horrendous crime and dark circumstances. Together, we are changing lives and ending slavery.

**Peter Elson,**  
**Chair, Hope for Justice**

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