

Trafficking

Trafficking is the violation of human rights and the third largest and fastest growing criminal activity in the world.

Hundreds of children as young as six years old, like this one in the photo, are trafficked every year from Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. They are brought into the UK for sexual exploitation and to be used as "slave labour" in sweatshops, private homes and cannabis factories.

Source: ECPAT UK.



Photo: A girl entering a garden run by a Japanese NGO for street children in Kibera one of the biggest shanty towns in Africa. Copyright © Y.Kunimori / Exile Images, www.exileimages.co.uk

A Home Office study found that in 1998 up to 1,420 women were trafficked into the UK for sexual exploitation and over £1 Billion a year is generated from sex trafficking in the UK. It is estimated that dozens of women are being used as sex slaves every year across Scotland.



Why does Maria from Lithuania have to say: "I signed a contract with an agency promising me a good job. My dreams turned to dust. I was raped and abused by 100's of men in every imaginable way. Don't feel safe. I feel frightened hearing footsteps, or in the dark".

Photo: © IOM 2003, Lurie Foca, www.iom.int

Join in struggle with other Christians for a better tomorrow end slavery now!

Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy. (Proverbs 31: 8-9).



Photo: © Anti-Slavery International. In 1998 trade unions, non-governmental organisations, the general public and working children from 92 countries came together to support the Global March Against Child Labour.

Join the campaign against slavery today:
Make your voice heard, campaign and write to authorities.

For further information contact:

Anti-Slavery International

Thomas Clarkson House, The Stableyard, Broomgrove Rd, London SW9 9TL
www.antislavery.org

Churches Commission for Racial Justice

Bastille Court, 2 Paris Garden, London SE1 8ND www.ctbi.org.uk

Set all Free

Churches Together in England, 27 Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9HH
www.setallfree.net

Trafficking for sexual exploitation:

CHASTE, PO Box 983, Cambridge, CB3 8WY www.chaste.org.uk

Photo: Return of unaccompanied Cambodian children, trafficked to Thailand to beg on the street, at the Krousar Thmey compound. © William Barriga, IOM 1998, www.iom.int



About us

Action of Churches Together in Scotland

7 Forrester Lodge, Inglewood House, Alloa, FK10 2HU, www.acts-scotland.org,
Tel 01259216980, Fax 01259215964



Scotland & Slavery

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Marking 200 years from the Abolition of Slave Trade Act

"Are not slaves, as well as others, men? Have they not human souls, human faculties, and human passions? . . . I abhor the principles, upon which it [slavery] is either justified or founded".

George Wallace, *System of the Principles of the Law of Scotland* 1760. Wallace was a Scottish Jurist.



The Old Bathgate Academy was built in 1833 with money from John Newland who made his fortune in Jamaica from slave-trading and sugar-plantation. Newland's Day is still marked every June in Bathgate with a procession from the Old Academy Building. In the past when it rained during the celebration people used to say that those were 'darkies' tears'. Photo: Nelu Balaj



© Action of Churches Together in Scotland

The Slave Trade

In 1695 an African trading company was set up in Edinburgh and sent out a slave ship to Africa.

Slaves were hunted in Africa and were marched to the coast in shackles, then shipped to the Americas in dreadful conditions



Image: Gang of Captives, D & C Livingstone, Narrative of an Expedition to the Zambezi, 1865. © National Library of Scotland

After the Act of Union of England and Scotland in 1707 Glasgow drew on the slave trade to increase its wealth. The city prospered as a result of commerce with slave-produced tobacco and sugar from plantations.

Between 1540 and 1850 an estimated 15 million Africans were transported to the Americas. Special ships were built to carry the slaves across the Atlantic. Ships were overloaded to maximise the profit. The slaves were chained together and had very little room to move.

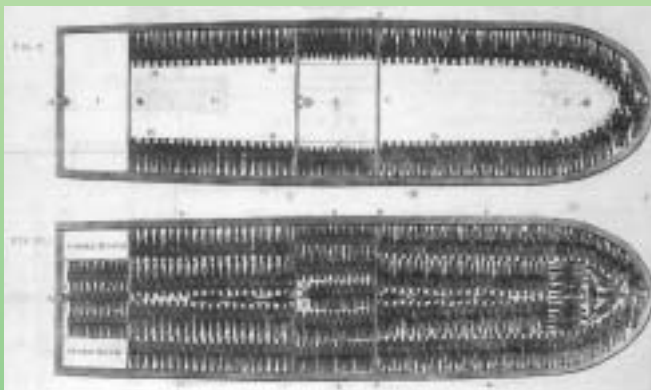


Image: Plan and section of a Slave Ship, from C B Wadstrom, An Essay on Colonization, 1795. © National Library of Scotland

Many slave masters and owners in the Caribbean were Scottish. In 1817 30% of slaves in Jamaica were owned by Scots.

Scots in the Struggle to abolish the Slave trade at home and abroad

Many Scots were at the forefront of abolition movement.



Rev Robert Walker, the skating minister in the famous portrait, persuaded the presbytery of Edinburgh in February 1788 to petition for ending of Slave Trade

Sir Henry Raeburn, Revd Dr Robert Walker (1755 - 1808) Skating on Duddingston Loch © National Gallery of Scotland

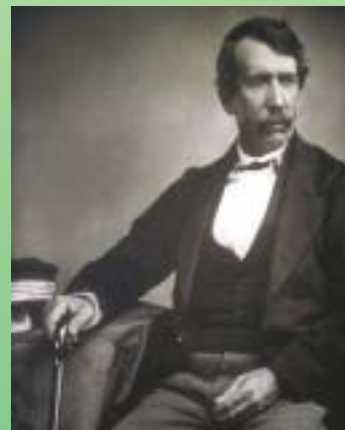
In 1772 Joseph Knight, who was a slave born in Africa and sold in Jamaica, challenged his owner John Wedderburn in Perth Sheriff Court and in 1778 a majority of judges in the Edinburgh Court of Session ruled that Knight's slavery was unlawful on the principles of freedom and natural rights.

In 1792 156 petitions, one third of the British total, came from Scotland – from Kirkwall to Kirkcudbright – calling on the British Government to end the Slave Trade.

Rev. James Ramsay (1733-1789), a naval physician and Episcopal priest from Fraserburgh who was driven out of St. Kitts by slave-owners because of his 'humane' treatment of slaves, provided William Wilberforce with some of the earliest evidence on the horrors of the Slave Trade.

David Livingstone (1813-1873), physician, explorer and missionary, informed the people in Britain about the impact of Slave Trade on people in Africa and he sought to fight slavery by seeking to take Christianity and commerce to Africa.

Portrait of David Livingstone © David Livingstone Centre



Modern Day 'Slavery'

While the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade was sanctioned by governments, millions of people around the world today are being sold and forced to live as slaves: **An estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked each year around the world (UN).**

Child forced labour: It is estimated that around 179 million children around the world are affected by the worst form of child labour.

Fishing boys drawing nets under the supervision of a "slave master" in a small fishing community in West Africa. The trafficked children, mostly boys aged between five and fourteen are forced to work from dawn to dusk, casting and drawing nets.



Photo: © Jean-Philippe Chauzy, IOM 2003, www.iom.int

Forced and bonded labour and descent based slavery: It is estimated that 20 million people around the world today are in bonded labour forced to work for their masters. In some parts of the world there are still people who become slave by being born in an ethnic group, caste or social status. (Antislavery International)

Boulboulou was taken from her parents, who were also in slavery, at the age of 4 in 1984, and sold on for a few kilos of semolina, tea and sugar. She was forced to marry and had her daughter taken away from her and given as a wedding gift to her master's daughter. She managed to run from her master and was later reunited with her daughter.

Photo: Boulboulou, former slave in Niger © Sarah Williams/ Anti-Slavery International

