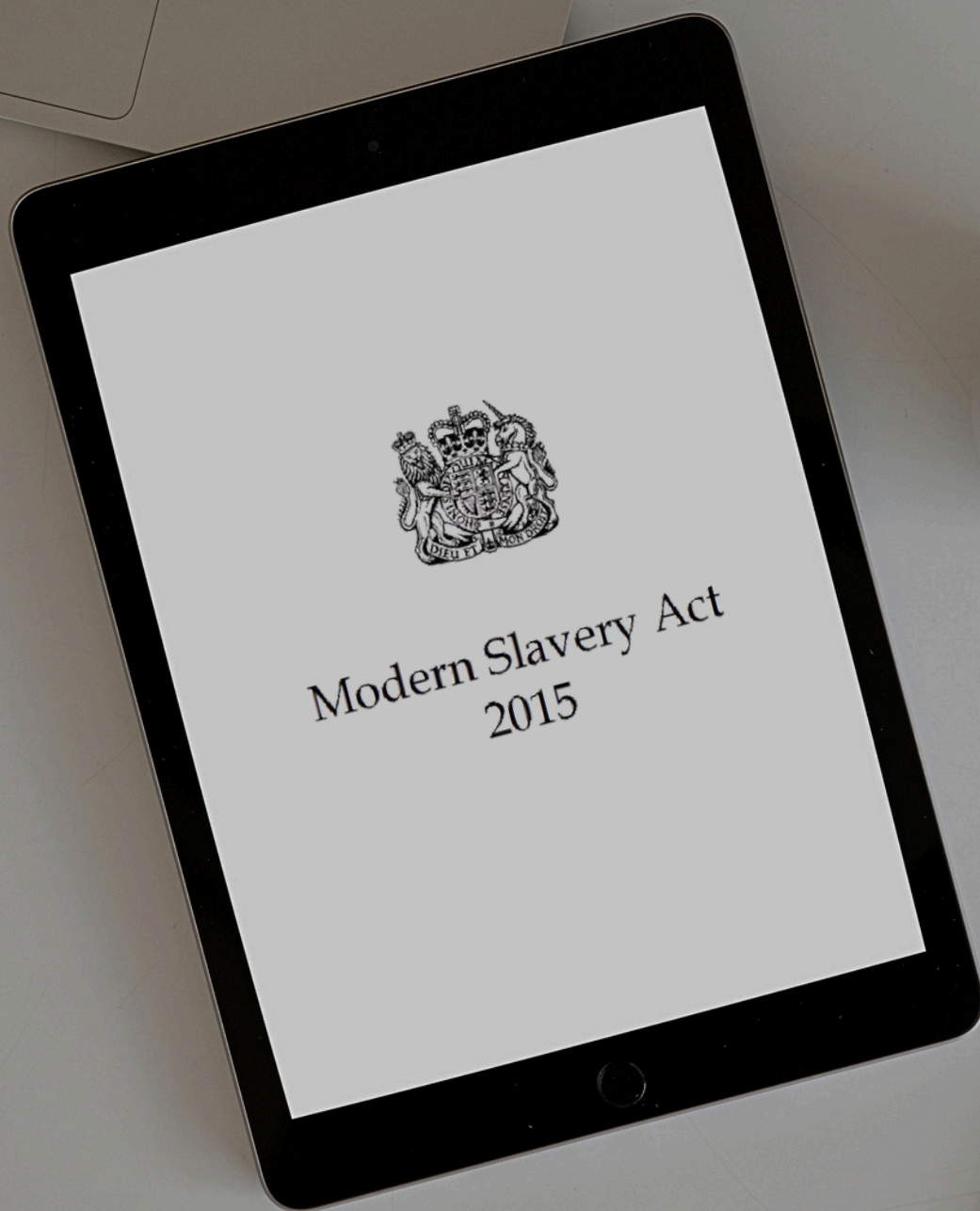


COLLECTIVE THINKING

10 year anniversary edition

MARCH 2025



THE
ANTI-SLAVERY
COLLECTIVE



FROM OUR FOUNDERS

Thirteen years ago we travelled to Kolkata in India and met a group of young women in their teens who had been trafficked and exploited. We were horrified that this could happen to women our age, and involve such terrible violence and abuse.

It was a moment that forever changed our lives.

It was Aloka Mitra who first opened our eyes to the horror and pervasiveness of modern slavery in 2012. Aloka is a social activist powerhouse who has led programmes supporting vulnerable women and children in India for over 35 years. She founded the Women's Interlink Foundation which rescues women and girls who have been trafficked.

The organisation gives them a home and teaches them simple vocational skills to support the process of rebuilding their lives.

Back in London, we met Seema through the Salvation Army and Hestia.

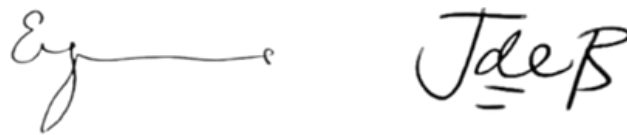
When she was 13 growing up in the UK, Seema was trafficked by her neighbour. Her courage and ambition to try and make a change to other people's lives and after what she'd been through shifted our perspectives on human resilience. It also showed us that human trafficking and modern slavery happens here in the UK.

Around the same time we were trying to educate ourselves about modern slavery and understand how it affected people in the UK, a groundbreaking piece of legislation was being developed in the UK, that would go on to shift the global landscape on modern slavery.

Last week marks the 10 year anniversary of the Modern Slavery Act - a bill sponsored by Baroness Theresa May, the then Home Secretary. This landmark piece of legislation consolidated previous offenses related to slavery and trafficking, and introduced measures to protect victims and hold businesses accountable for slavery in their operations and supply chains.

The UK Modern Slavery Act has been recognised as an international benchmark and other jurisdictions have followed. By 2018 legislation intended to reduce the impact of modern slavery on supply chains had been passed by seven of the G20 countries.

We want to celebrate the dedicated experts, activists, academics, law-makers and survivors who have worked so tirelessly over the last decade to promote justice, protect the dignity of survivors and make the world a safer place.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Eg' followed by a long horizontal line that ends in a small circle. The signature on the right is 'JdeB' with a horizontal line under the 'e'.

HRH Princess Eugenie & Julia de Boinville

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WHAT DOES THE MODERN SLAVERY ACT COVER?

The Modern Slavery Act created legal offences around slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour, and human trafficking with various penalties



The Act extended the National Referral Mechanism to all victims of modern slavery and human trafficking.



Businesses with a turnover of £36mn or more must produce a modern slavery statement every year.



Created the role of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.



Improved protection measures for victims.

3 WHAT ELSE NEEDS TO BE DONE?



The power of the Modern Slavery Act in driving business change is limited to producing statements only. There is no push for actions yet in the law, and at the same time no business has ever been punished for not providing a statement.



More people could be dedicated to work on this issue. The Modern Slavery Human Trafficking Unit has only four staff members.



Challenges remain even for the new Commissioner, Eleanor Lyons. Her budget is cut by five percent for every year that she is in office, making it difficult to build a staff team or travel for her role.



The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and could be developed to support more of those exploited in the workplace.