

# COLLECTIVE THINKING

OCTOBER 2024

*NYC diary*

OUR NY  
EDITION  
UN GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY &  
CLIMATE  
WEEK

PLUS  
MIT SOLVE WINNERS  
GOALS HOUSE LUNCH

THE  
**ANTI-SLAVERY**  
COLLECTIVE

# From our CEO

**I**n September the UN General Assembly and Climate Week take over New York City. Transport systems are brought to a standstill, every restaurant is booked, and thousands of NYPD officers are out on the streets marshalling dignitaries and world leaders to meetings all over this iconic city. I spent a busy but fascinating few days in NY and met with countless decision-makers, activists and business leaders from all walks of life. Among other important and challenging meetings, TASC co-hosted a Goals House lunch with Baroness May's Global Commission and Hewlett Packard Enterprise. I attended a conference at the UN on ending slavery through economic empowerment, and I had the great privilege of announcing the winners of the MIT SOLVE challenge for survivors of modern slavery. Why are these kinds of events important? What is the impact of flying to NY and attending conferences, hosting lunches, and making new connections at receptions and dinners.



I believe that thinking about and debating complicated, knotty issues is a vital part of the process. Gathering with decision-makers and creating judgement-free space to share ideas, offer different perspectives, and tell stories helps us to reconnect with why this work is so important.

I came away from NY Climate Week with handfuls of business cards, awash with ideas for new projects and partnerships. I was deeply inspired by the commitment and passion of business leaders like John Schultz and Paul Polman, and activists like Jessica Minhas and Asmita Satyarthi.

As an eternal optimist, I truly believe that one chance conversation can be the spark for a game-changing idea ▣

*Sarah Woodcock*

## Modern slavery & Climate Change



You might be thinking, why was The Anti-Slavery Collective at Climate Week NYC? What does climate change have to do with modern slavery?

Modern slavery happens mostly because vulnerable people need work. Work that they are tricked, coerced or forced into that exploits their bodies or labour.



We know that climate change has and will increasingly drive migration. As extreme weather events become more regular, people are forced to move to look for work. And it is at this point that their vulnerability to exploitation dramatically spikes.

We are also particularly interested in working with young people. We want to learn how the climate change movement successfully mobilised young people to make noise and demand more from governments, brands, and decision-makers.

## How can data and tech help survivors?



I had the great privilege of announcing the winners of the MIT SOLVE Challenge in NY! This was the culmination of a year of planning and six months of working closely with **HPE** to co-host a data and technology challenge with **MIT SOLVE**.

With generous support from HPE, \$300,000 was up for grabs to fund data and technology solutions that better support survivors of modern slavery.

You couldn't ask for more passionate or innovative co-hosts - both deeply committed advocates of economic justice; this was a partnership made in heaven!

Jessica Minhas, the founder of StoryMobile App (one of the winners) was there in person and it was such a highlight to be able to celebrate her achievement in person.

Yesterday marked the end of a long application process, but the start of the winner's journeys.

We are delighted for the five winners: HT Fusion, Alight, Storymobile App , Golden Dreams and Everfree, and wish them every success in transforming or scaling their solutions.



# Learnings from the net-zero movement



40+ high profile thought leaders and decision-makers from the private sector, civil society and academia were brought together by HPE, The Anti-Slavery Collective, and Baroness Theresa May’s Global Commission.

During lunch in Central Park speakers and guests explored how International efforts to tackle climate can be more thoughtfully leveraged to advocate for modern slavery prevention and reduce vulnerability on-the-ground



## What does economic justice mean?



The Nomi Network hosted a session at UNHQ on accelerating economic justice. What does this mean? It means paying people fairly so that they are not forced to make risky decisions in the search for work.

Particularly interesting to listen to was Matthew McCarthy, the former CEO of Ben&Jerry's whose frankness was disarming. He made it clear that sustainable cocoa supply chains (a very important material for an ice cream maker) simply means paying people more. Paying anything less than a decent living wage is unacceptable.

This chimed with something Sharon Prince, the CEO and founder of Grace Farms Foundation, said earlier in the week. She talked so persuasively about 'the slavery discount'.



This is the benefit that companies all around the world get when they use cheap, deeply exploitative, or forced labour. I loved the framing of this issue and her position that without companies giving up their slavery discount, real change can't happen.

A similar discussion went on at Deloitte Climate Week HQ. Paul was the former CEO of Unilever and remarked 'there is nothing wrong with making money, but just not at the expense of the planet or other people'.

The Net Positivity movement (which Paul spoke passionately about) has huge relevance to all the issues we've been talking about this week - carbon emissions, pollution, labour rights, and human rights abuses, including modern slavery.



GOALS HOUSE  
UNGA | NEW YORK  
CLIMATE WEEK  
Modern slavery in a net-zero world



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# Q&A 2



**KNOW MORE**

**We talk to TASC co-founder Princess Eugenie about how her understanding of child labour has changed since becoming a parent.**



**1. You and Julia set up TASC in 2017. Over the last seven years you have met many survivors of modern slavery. Is there a story of a child survivor that particularly sticks in your mind?**

Every story is harrowing when it comes to children. In 2012 Jules [co-founder of TASC] and I met a group of young women in their teens in India who had been trafficked and exploited.

We were horrified that this could happen to women our age, and involve such terrible violence and abuse.

Back in London, we met Seema through the Salvation Army and Hestia. When she was 13 growing up in the UK, she 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 blew me away.

**2. What was it about that story that affected you?**

I have never forgotten Seema's story. Seeing her stand in front of us and tell her story with such strength was remarkable. We couldn't believe that trafficking of any kind was taking place in the UK, and by a neighbour. Meeting Seema and having the privilege of hearing her story led us to set up The Anti-Slavery Collective. As an organisation, we always try to honour survivors like Seema, who have overcome the most difficult challenges to be the wonderful, inspiring leaders they are.

**3. Do you think becoming a parent has changed how you think about modern slavery?**

Becoming a parent is the most special, mind-blowing experience of a person's life. My children make my world go around. It's made me hungrier to do the work. I want to educate my children and all young people about being vulnerable, sensitive, and empathetic towards each other. I don't want anyone to reach the age of 21 having not heard about modern slavery, like I did.



# Survivor story

*Harriet became one of the thousands of British children exploited through County Lines drug trafficking*

Harriet was approached by a member of a local gang. She was offered money and free drugs and alcohol in return for picking up drugs and dropping them off. It wasn't long before Harriet's addiction grew. She was forced into prostitution alongside drug-running, none of which she was paid for.

As a child growing up in Newcastle, Harriet suffered domestic violence at the hands of her brother. She started spending as much time as possible away from home and missed a lot of school. She developed friendships with older teens and was exposed to alcohol and drugs, which eventually led to the start of an addiction.



She became one of the thousands of British children in this country exploited through County Lines drug trafficking. This abuse continued for a number of years until she was eventually arrested, recognised as a victim, and referred to the Unseen Women's Safehouse.

***She was forced into prostitution alongside drug-running, none of which she was paid for.***

Caseworkers at the safehouse quickly took care of her immediate health needs and ensured she had access to medical care, sexual health clinic and drug and alcohol services. She also received support to get counselling to help her start to come to terms with what she had been through.

Harriet has her whole life ahead of her and is determined to rebuild it.

# JUST DO ONE THING



Talk to your children. Tell them about modern slavery and human trafficking. It is amazing what children can absorb and understand, no matter how challenging the topic.



Download the [Sweat & Toil app](#). The app is a guide to give you knowledge about child labour and forced labour around the world.



If you think any child is a victim of modern slavery call 999 or the modern slavery helpline on 08000 121 700

**It's difficult to know what to do. The problem can seem too big and intractable. But you can make a difference and it can start with one small conversation. Just do one thing.**

*Together we can stamp out everyday slavery*