



# Annual Impact Report 2016



Our mission is to mobilise the  
knowledge, capital and will  
needed to end modern slavery.

## Letter from the CEO



Dear friends,

We are seeing ever-growing momentum in the fight against modern slavery. In July 2016, UK Prime Minister, Theresa May, labelled modern slavery the “great human rights issue of our time,” pledging to support an international mission to rid the world of “this barbaric evil.” In December, the United Nations Security Council adopted its first ever resolution on human trafficking. More organisations are joining the anti-slavery movement, and forward-looking businesses are beginning to seriously tackle the risks of slavery in their supply chains.

But so much more remains to be done, with an estimated 46 million people still enslaved and exploited around the world.

**At the Freedom Fund, our focus has been on dismantling the local and national systems that enable slavery in countries with the heaviest burden of this crime.**

We do this by bringing together clusters of frontline organisations to fight slavery in their communities and advocate powerfully on the national and international stages.

The direct impact of this work has been impressive. **In 2016 alone, our 98 partners liberated 4,225 men, women and children from slavery.** They enrolled over 10,000 at-risk children in school, and impacted on 130,568 of the world’s most vulnerable people in our six hotspots - in India, Nepal, Thailand and Ethiopia.

We are proud of this year’s achievements, but we are also keenly aware that these numbers only tell part of the story. **The human story**

**is that each person liberated is no longer subject to horrendous exploitation on a daily basis:** a girl no longer sexually exploited in a Kathmandu massage parlour; a boy not forced to labour in an Indian brick kiln; a Cambodian farmer no longer enslaved on a Thai fishing boat; an Ethiopian woman released from domestic servitude in the Middle East to return to her family. There are more than 4,000 of these stories.

But the real challenge is to tackle the systems that enable slavery. This year we’ve made real progress on that front, as documented in this impact report. In India, we’ve assisted a number of local partners to come together in support of the Human Trafficking Bill.

In Ethiopia, the government has embraced much of our thinking on the need to improve options and outcomes for Ethiopian women and girls migrating overseas. And in Nepal we saw the national government move to introduce the first ever line item in its budget for the harwa-charuwa bonded labourers, a direct result of collective advocacy on the part of our partners, and which would not have happened without engagement and encouragement on the ground. **Over time, we believe our partners can be highly influential advocates of systems change.**

As we reflect on our accomplishments this year, we are inspired by our frontline partners. We are grateful to those who invest in the Freedom Fund, without whom none of our work would be possible. We are ever more determined to break the back of modern slavery. And, working together, we can.

**Nick Grono**  
CEO

## What is modern slavery

An estimated 46 million people are enslaved in the world today. Modern slavery entraps men, women and children forced to work long days in dangerous and punishing conditions. Victims of modern slavery are controlled and exploited for commercial or personal gain. Slavery causes terrible suffering to its victims, and it also eats away at the wider health of our economies and communities. Ending slavery not only extinguishes an injustice, it allows people to freely contribute to their community, creating greater prosperity.







## Common types of modern slavery:



### Forced labour

Around the world, men, women and children are forced to work against their will under the threat of penalty or violence, whether by government authorities, private businesses or individuals.



### Bonded labour

In fields, factories and households, people are indebted, often through deception, and forced to work to repay the "loan" under unlawful and exploitative conditions, sometimes over generations.



### Sex slavery

An estimated 4.5 million women, children and men are sex slaves, imprisoned by force or deception into slavery for the purpose of sexual exploitation.



### Forced marriage

Around the world, girls and women are coerced into marriage against their will, usually for money.

Images from top down:

Alice Carfrae, © Legatum Limited 2017

Alice Carfrae, © Legatum Limited 2017

UN Photo/Kibae Park

# What we do

## Our mission is to mobilise the knowledge, capital and will needed to end modern slavery.

The Freedom Fund is a leader in the global movement to end modern slavery. We identify and invest in the most effective frontline efforts to eradicate modern slavery in the countries and sectors where it is most prevalent. Partnering with visionary investors, governments, anti-slavery organisations and those at risk of exploitation, we tackle the systems that allow slavery to persist and thrive. Working together, we protect vulnerable populations, liberate and reintegrate those enslaved and prosecute those responsible.

### To carry out its mission, the Freedom Fund:



#### Works on the frontlines:

We partner with frontline organisations to directly combat slavery in defined regions where it is highly concentrated. We do this by setting up “hotspot” projects – clusters of the most effective community-based organisations in these regions. Partnering with these organisations in some of the world’s poorest and most marginalised communities is difficult, demanding, and time intensive, but it is also one of the most effective ways to achieve large scale and sustainable impact.



#### Drives systemic change:

We tackle the underlying systems that allow slavery to persist. We do this in our hotspots, engaging the government, private sector, media, social movements and other key drivers of change. We also do it through our Global Initiatives, by catalysing action on selected issues and industries that have a direct link to our hotspots.



#### Strengthens the anti-slavery infrastructure globally:

We empower the anti-slavery movement, providing the platforms, tools and knowledge for organisations to connect and work together more effectively.



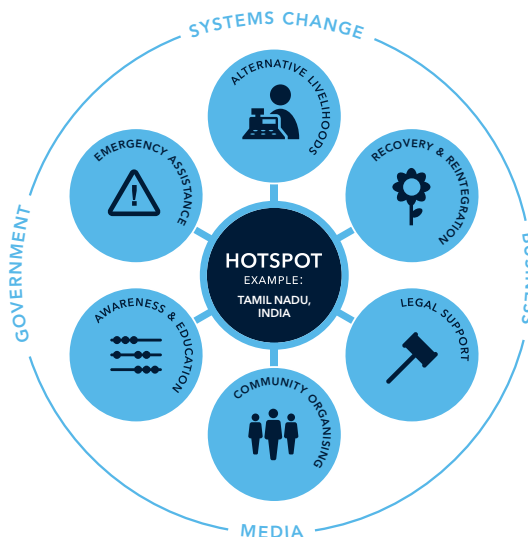
#### Raises new capital:

We bring new funding and innovative investors into the anti-slavery space, with the goal of mobilising the capital needed to work on the frontlines, drive systemic change and strengthen the anti-slavery infrastructure globally.

# Our hotspots

A “hotspot” refers to a geographic area known to have a high incidence of modern slavery. We currently support 98 partners in six hotspots across four countries. We believe our hotspot model is the most effective way to fight slavery and provides exceptional value for money. Our model is based on six principles.

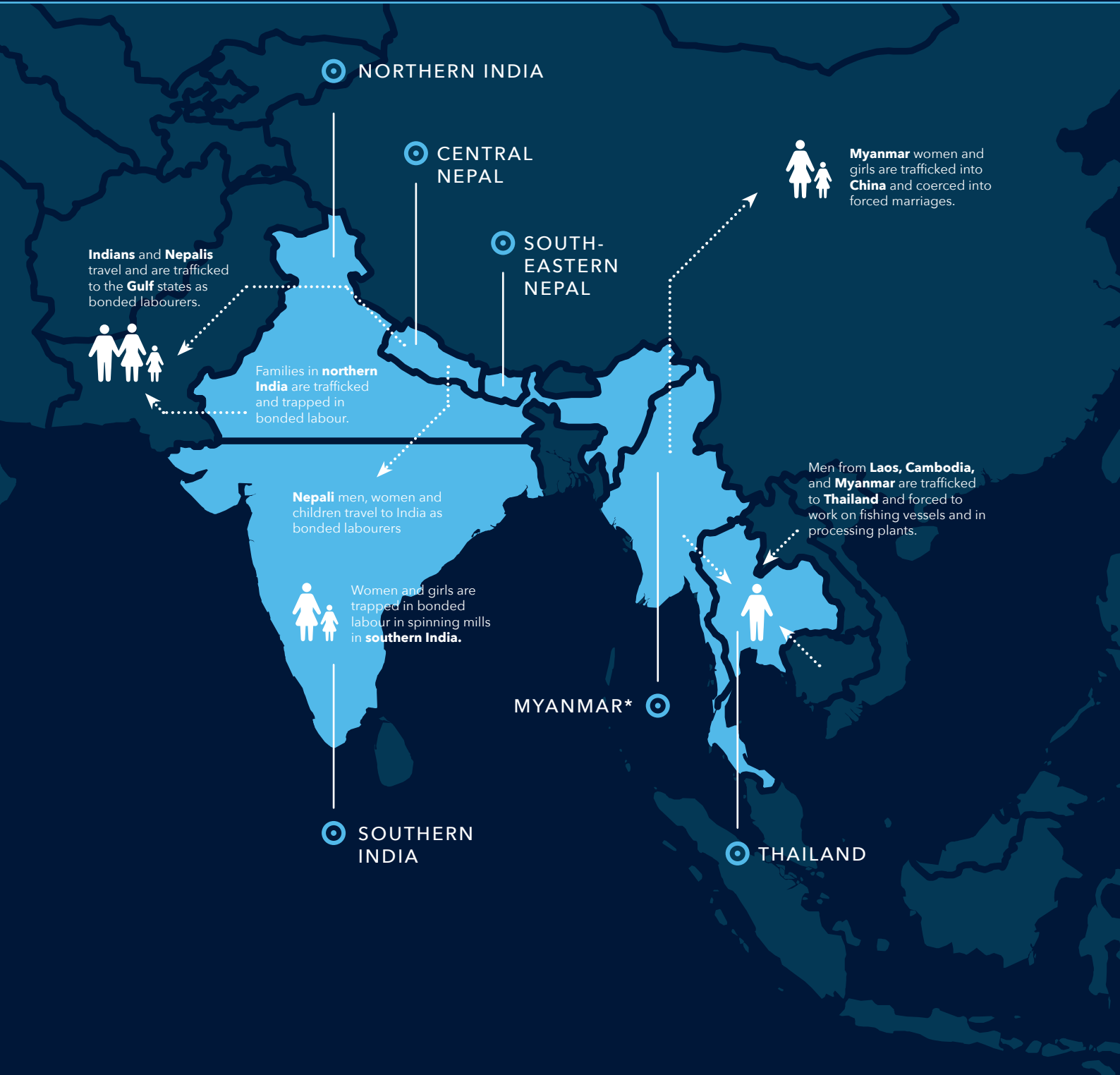
- 1 Concentrate resources:** Many attempts to solve human rights challenges fail because philanthropic resources are spread too thinly. We focus our efforts on a small number of slavery hotspots, investing in a range of interventions that reinforce each other to achieve outsized impact.
- 2 Help frontline organisations lead the fight:** Grassroots organisations know what it takes to end slavery in their communities, but too often they are overlooked by funders. We back frontline NGOs with the funding and support they need to protect the most vulnerable.
- 3 Build powerful coalitions:** No single organisation can end slavery. We support clusters of NGOs in each hotspot and help them work together, learn from each other and advocate to government and business for stronger action against slavery.
- 4 Invest in organisations, not just projects:** Frontline organisations need time and money to develop. We ring-fence a portion of our funding for this, and provide a range of training opportunities, a practice that is made cost-effective by our clustering approach.
- 5 Prioritise data and research:** The anti-slavery sector lacks good data. We place great emphasis on data collection by our partners, and bring in independent research institutions to evaluate what is working. We document how impact has been achieved so that successes can be applied on a broader scale around the world.
- 6 Amplify frontline voices on the global stage:** The voices of frontline organisations are too rarely heard on the global stage. We help our partners participate in international policy fora and represent their views in our own contributions to global debates. We connect them to other NGOs, experts and funders, and expose them to anti-slavery practices in different settings to help them improve their programs.



# Where we work







Indians and Nepalis travel and are trafficked to the Gulf states as bonded labourers.



Families in northern India are trafficked and trapped in bonded labour.

Nepali men, women and children travel to India as bonded labourers



Women and girls are trapped in bonded labour in spinning mills in southern India.

Myanmar women and girls are trafficked into China and coerced into forced marriages.



Men from Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar are trafficked to Thailand and forced to work on fishing vessels and in processing plants.



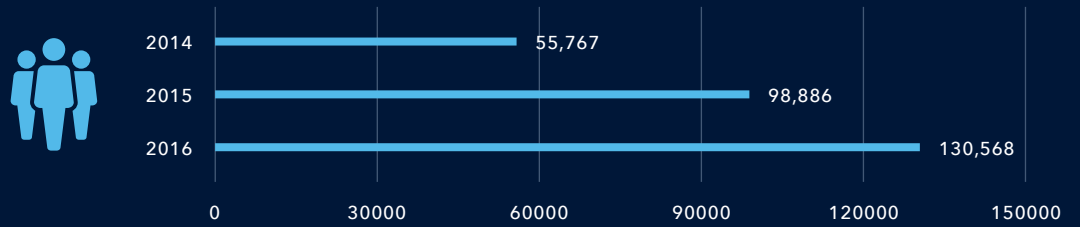
\*For hotspots in Brazil and Myanmar, operations have not yet begun.

# The Freedom Fund's Impact

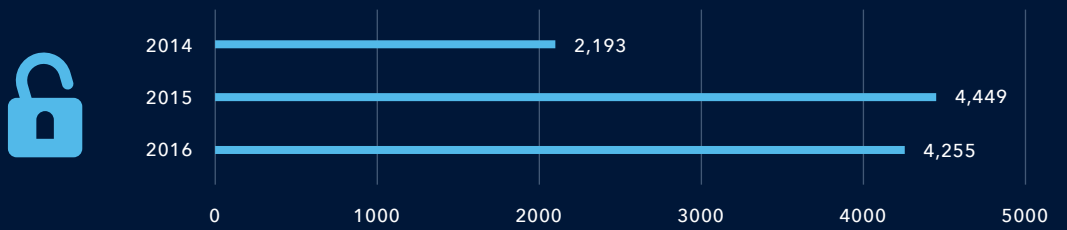
1 January 2014 - 31 December 2016

<p>TOTAL INVESTED</p> <p><b>\$17 million</b></p> 	<p>LIVES IMPACTED</p> <p><b>282,221</b></p> 	<p>COST PER PERSON</p> <p><b>\$49</b></p> 
<p>VICTIMS LIBERATED</p> <p><b>10,897</b></p> 	<p>SURVIVORS ACCESSING RECOVERY SERVICES</p> <p><b>8,030</b></p> 	<p>NUMBER OF AT-RISK CHILDREN IN SCHOOL</p> <p><b>28,028</b></p> 
<p>LEGAL CASES ASSISTED</p> <p><b>1,907</b></p> 	<p>COMMUNITY FREEDOM GROUPS STARTED</p> <p><b>4,073</b></p> 	<p>MICRO-ENTERPRISES STARTED</p> <p><b>8,408</b></p> 

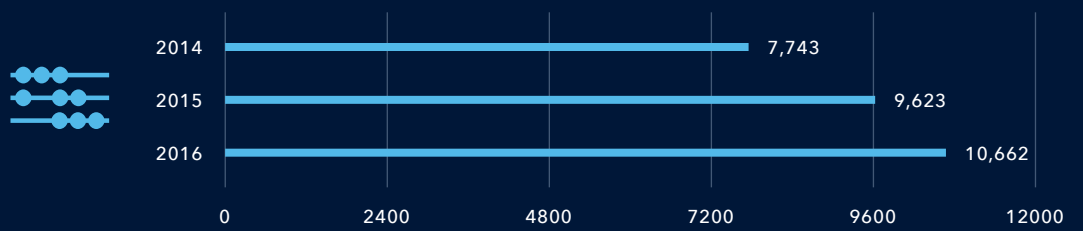
LIVES IMPACTED ACROSS ALL HOTSPOTS (NEW INDIVIDUALS, PER ANNUM)



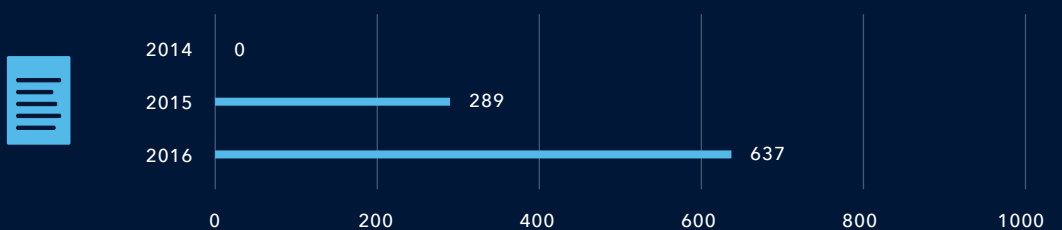
PEOPLE LIBERATED ACROSS ALL HOTSPOTS (NEW CASES, PER ANNUM)



AT-RISK CHILDREN IN SCHOOL ACROSS ALL HOTSPOTS (NEW ENROLMENTS, PER ANNUM)



MEDIA STORIES GENERATED ACROSS ALL HOTSPOTS (NEW STORIES, PER ANNUM)





## Northern India

21

HOTSPOT PARTNERS

\$5.8m

TOTAL INVESTED

\$40

COST PER PERSON

128,643

LIVES IMPACTED

8,961

PEOPLE LIBERATED

In 2016, the northern India hotspot program helped improve government actions against trafficking and bonded labour. At the same time, 1,329 community-based freedom groups across 27 districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar strengthened their resilience to forms of modern slavery. Our partners work to eradicate forced and bonded labour in agriculture, brick kilns, stone quarries, the commercial sex industry and domestic work. They support communities to develop economic alternatives and access basic rights, including the right for children to go to school. They liberate and reintegrate victims, and they use trained lawyers in criminal prosecutions of traffickers. With all our local partners meeting regularly as the “Human Liberty Network,” they not only set shared standards and learn new skills for their community-level work, but they also speak with a united voice to the state governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

### Rajesh's story

When Rajesh's family members couldn't feed themselves, they sent their 15-year-old son with a trafficker to Kerala, a state in southern India. He was put to work in a garment factory. Not only was he not paid, but Rajesh was forced to work 12 hours a day and live in a one-room hut with eight other workers. He developed serious health issues due to lack of good food, and he wasn't allowed to leave the property. He wasn't even permitted to talk to his family. When one of the Freedom Fund's NGO partners, FSS, started work in Rajesh's home village in 2015, his parents quickly became involved, learning about the dangers of children migrating for work.

Rajesh's desperate parents as well as NGO staff and members of the FSS-supported community vigilance group put pressure on the trafficker until he brought Rajesh home in May 2015. Back home, Rajesh joined a training course in mobile phone repairs, and FSS assisted him to find a job. He was also recently admitted to a Bachelor of Arts program.

Rajesh, now 18, began to notice that many children in his village were not attending school and those who did attend were not receiving a quality education. He shared his concern with a friend, and they decided to open a tutoring centre for local children to supplement their education. FSS and the community group agreed that a tutoring centre should be opened, and 56 students enrolled. Rajesh has become a leader and an inspiration to his community.

### Hotspot achievements in 2016

2,895 individuals were liberated with ongoing support for their recovery, including 1,843 children.

In 2016, 78 communities with 9,931 residents became slavery-free, completing the process of ending slavery and trafficking.

Our partners' combined efforts contributed strongly to a range of government policy improvements, including decisions to increase compensation for child labourers, set up a working group to proceed with a state action plan against trafficking and create several new government-funded shelter homes for returning children.

14 convictions were achieved against traffickers and slaveholders, with several of these requiring several years of persistent efforts by the survivors and the supporting NGOs.





Images from top left:  
The Freedom Fund  
Danny Burns / IDS  
The Freedom Fund



## Southern India

15

HOTSPOT PARTNERS

\$2.4m

TOTAL INVESTED

\$47

COST PER PERSON

45,689

LIVES IMPACTED

666

PEOPLE LIBERATED

With the support of C&A Foundation, this hotspot in Tamil Nadu rapidly expanded its reach during 2016, with the aim of reducing bonded labour that particularly affects girls and young women who work in spinning mills. Through the program, 13 partners now operate in 400 villages. They have enabled adults and adolescents to form 1,616 local groups that prevent adolescents from going to work in exploitative conditions. They help adolescent returnees go back to school and help their families gain new sources of income. In addition to education or vocational training, they are ensuring that survivors of bonded labour have access to legal aid. Partners are also working with local government towards greater protection for workers within the industry.

### Shanthi's story

Shanthi is an 18-year old living in a village in Tamil Nadu. Despite her father's work in agriculture and her mother's job at a textile mill, Shanthi had to drop out of school and work at the mill to help support her family. She had to work 10 - 12 hours a day, receiving 150 rupees (\$2.25) per shift. Shanthi was not allowed to sit or rest during the whole work day, which caused severe leg pains and health problems.

Shanthi decided to join the adolescent girls' group run in her village by Freedom Fund NGO partner Vaan Muhil, and she was quickly elected as the group secretary. Shanthi explained that she wanted to continue her studies or pursue an alternative livelihood, so Vaan Muhil helped her complete a tailoring course and provided a sewing machine. Now she earns an income as an independent seamstress providing services to the surrounding villages. Shanthi has become financially independent, making around 5,500 rupees per month (\$82).



"I was an adolescent girl in the mill for more than two years, but now I am living as a changed person. I have gained confidence and hope and I am able to stand on my own two feet. I have also been appointed as the community facilitator for my village. I have the confidence needed to make the community resource centre more effective."

Shanthi

### Hotspot achievements in 2016

- The hotspot produced a film, "Call Me Priya," about gender discrimination and workplace rights, to help community groups think critically about bonded labour. The film will be used by 479 trained community facilitators, many of whom were former mill employees, to empower collective actions.
- 3,955 adult workers in spinning mills joined workplace improvement groups at 10 spinning mills, set up in collaboration with the Ethical Trading Initiative. The program teaches workers about legal rights, positive communication skills, and basic health and safety.
- One partner helped create Internal Complaints Committees at seven mills, and partners collectively persuaded local government in two districts to hold events to register mill hostels, so that they can be inspected.
- Northern and southern India partners came together to give feedback on the government's new Trafficking in Persons Bill. Partners are now part of a network including community-based NGOs from other states to bring their ground-level experiences to the attention of policymakers.







## South-Eastern Nepal

14

HOTSPOT PARTNERS

\$2.4m

TOTAL INVESTED

\$69

COST PER PERSON

30,895

LIVES IMPACTED

595

PEOPLE LIBERATED

The south-eastern Nepal hotspot supports 14 partners aiming to eradicate agricultural bonded labour, known as “harwa-charuwa”. We established 276 community-based groups in targeted areas where a high proportion of the population are in debt bondage. These groups help bonded labourers become aware of their human rights and set priorities together; create saving and income-generating groups so they can develop independent livelihoods; enable individuals to register for citizenship and land rights; remove children from forced labour and help them access education; and build district networks to pressure government to provide vital services to bonded labourers.

### Sunita's story

Sunita and her husband worked as harwa-charuwa labourers for a local landlord. They were expected to carry out all the work on the land for 12 hours every day. Despite her hard labour, only Sunita's husband received wages and, even then, it was only 15kg of rice per month. Sunita recalls, “We never had enough to eat, the children grew up with their stomachs half-filled.” Neither Sunita or her husband were allowed to work elsewhere to supplement their income. It was especially challenging for Sunita when the children were small, and she was expected to carry her baby as she worked in the landlord's fields. If her baby cried, Sunita would be scolded for taking time to comfort her.

With the help of DSAM, one of the Freedom Fund's local partners, Sunita and other landless women started a group farming business by saving Rs. 100 (\$1) per month. Sunita and 11 other women have successfully leased land to begin vegetable farming. As a result of their hard work, and DSAM's support, Sunita and other women in her community have enough income to feed their families and have been able to leave their work as harwa-charuwa labourers. These women have been highly motivated by their success and are committed to achieving even greater income for their families so they will no longer need to take loans from landlords.

### Hotspot achievements in 2016

Despite political turbulence throughout the year, Freedom Fund partner organisations brought greater visibility to bonded labourers by securing local media, government, police and political party support for the liberation of the harwa-charuwa community.

- Through the collective advocacy efforts of our partners and the harwa-charuwa community, in 2016 the Ministry of Finance announced new government funding to lay the groundwork for a harwa-charuwa rehabilitation program. This is first time the harwa-charuwa community have been officially recognised by the Nepali government through budgetary commitments.
- The Freedom Fund commissioned a clinical assessment of the psychosocial and mental health needs of bonded labourers in south-eastern Nepal. The results will contribute to developing a psychosocial intervention in a context where mental health services are extremely scarce.
- 194 people were liberated with support for recovery, and 419 people earned a new income or started a micro-enterprise.
- 1,556 land inhabitant certificates were issued to harwa-charuwa families. These families now have residential rights to land, eliminating local landowners' ability to force harwa-charuwa to work by using threats of eviction.





“We never had enough to eat, the children grew up with their stomachs half-filled.”

Sunita



Images, above:  
The Freedom Fund

Image, top:  
Geneva Global/Jenna Mulhall-Breerton



## Central Nepal

18

HOTSPOT PARTNERS

\$1.8m

TOTAL INVESTED

\$80

COST PER PERSON

21,448

LIVES IMPACTED

354

PEOPLE LIBERATED

The central Nepal hotspot brings together 18 partners in Kathmandu and nearby districts to radically reduce the number of children at risk of commercial sexual exploitation in the adult entertainment industry. The program has a threefold approach: prevent children from entering the sex industry, remove them from situations of exploitation and end the recruitment and use of children by employers and customers. Our partners use outreach and drop-in centres to reach adolescents, offering shelter, counselling, vocational training, legal aid and other assistance so that children can escape the adult entertainment sector. In source areas for child trafficking, our partners help communities address the root causes of exploitation and employ the law to put coordinated pressure on officials.

### Banjara's story

SathSath, a Freedom Fund partner, provides comprehensive support for the withdrawal of boys engaged in commercial sexual exploitation. Through peer outreach and drop-in centres, they provide life skills training, male reproductive health and hygiene support, and vocational training. SathSath also engages in advocacy to address the gaps in the laws related to commercial sexual exploitation of children, especially regarding the sexual abuse of boys, online exploitation, sex tourism and paedophilia.

At the age of 18, Banjara took on the responsibility of supporting his family due to the unexpected death of his father. As a result, he dropped out of school and moved to Kathmandu to look for work. However, unable to find a stable job, a few friends engaged in sex work convinced him to get involved in the industry to earn money.

At cruising sites, SathSath's outreach team began interacting with Banjara and encouraged him to visit their drop-in-centre. Following health and legal orientation classes, as well as psychosocial counselling, Banjara shared his dream of operating a small clothing business. With SathSath's support, Banjara was able to start his street clothing business and successfully leave his work in the commercial sex industry.

"SathSath approached me at the right time to get me out of a vulnerable situation," Banjara said. "Otherwise, I would be in the same place. Thank you for all the help."

### Hotspot achievements in 2016

- 3,760 beneficiaries provided with social and/or legal services, primarily through drop-in centres and shelters. Partner organisations provided psychosocial support, medical care, legal aid and shelter.
- 270 community freedom groups supported with a total of 8,187 group members, including adolescent groups, youth clubs, self-help groups and community vigilance committees. These groups provide communities with information about individual rights, unsafe migration and ways of preventing minors from entering or being recruited into the adult entertainment industry.
- 86 legal cases assisted, including the conviction of 10 perpetrators.



“SathSath approached me at the right time to get me out of a vulnerable situation.”

Banjara



Image, above: iStock.com/Traveller1186  
Image, right: Legatum





## Ethiopia

14

HOTSPOT PARTNERS

\$2.1m

TOTAL INVESTED

\$56

COST PER PERSON

21,138

LIVES IMPACTED

489

MICRO-ENTERPRISES  
STARTED

In 2016, the Freedom Fund continued to work with the Ethiopian government and civil society to make women's migration to the Middle East for domestic work safer, and to prevent those women from ending up in domestic servitude. Initially launched in Addis Ababa, the hotspot was expanded this year to the northern region of Amhara, a key source area for women and girls migrating abroad for domestic work. Our 13 civil society partners work with local and national governments, community leaders and traditional structures to bring practical tools to potential migrants and returnees, helping them stay safe whether they choose to migrate or stay in Ethiopia.

### Zebo's story

Zebo, 23, grew up in a rural village in Ethiopia's Amhara region. When she was 14, she was forced to drop out of school and get married. Feeling pressure from her peers and husband, she planned to migrate to the Middle East to find work. As she prepared to migrate, she was approached by an illegal broker. "I had my passport at hand and I had no information whether it is legal or not," she recalls.

While Zebo was still making preparations to leave, she heard that one of the Freedom Fund's partners, NRHSDO, provided migration training within the local community. She met the facilitator and attended peer leader training for five days, where she learned about legal migration and safe travel. The training convinced her to wait until Ethiopia's migration ban was lifted before traveling to the Middle East. Zebo proudly notes, "I am now a peer educator in my community. I teach my peers to follow legal channels and wait until the ban is lifted to migrate". She is thankful that the training gave her the space to think and plan for her future.







**“I am now a peer educator in my community. I teach my peers to follow legal channels and wait until the ban is lifted to migrate.”**

Zebo

### Hotspot achievements in 2016

- Worked with 130 iddirs, traditional Ethiopian social structures, to promote awareness of safe migration and have them adopt safe migration messages in their bylaws.
- Supported 11,849 community freedom groups that share information on safe migration; preventing human trafficking; and developing government services for women who choose to migrate.
- Brought together academics, practitioners, government representatives and international organisations for the first ever roundtable addressing the mental health needs of migration survivors and returnees.
- Sponsored a learning trip to the Philippines in November 2016 for a delegation of six Ethiopian government representatives and four community leaders, which provided a comprehensive introduction to the Philippine overseas employment program and the wide-ranging efforts to better protect Filipino migrant workers.



## Thailand

16

HOTSPOT PARTNERS

\$3.0m

TOTAL INVESTED

\$40

COST PER PERSON

23,408

LIVES IMPACTED

321

PEOPLE LIBERATED

In 2016, the Freedom Fund intensified efforts to support exploited migrant workers in the Thai seafood industry. Although the Thai government introduced sweeping new regulations aimed at reforming abuses, to date such laws have had little impact on the ground. Countless migrant workers still rely on vital services provided by our partners, which range from rescue and shelter to legal services and reintegration. Community leaders in key ports, factories and processing areas have been trained to help migrants claim their rights and share information about how to protect themselves from abuse. Through litigation, research and advocacy, we and our partners have supported government reforms of the seafood industry and engaged the private sector to adopt more transparent practices in their supply chains.

### Lin's story

For ten years Lin worked as a fisherman without ever receiving a salary. When he lost his fingers in an accident aboard a fishing vessel while working in Indonesia, he received no compensation or help from his employer. He contacted LPN, one of the Freedom Fund's partners, who helped him file a claim for his compensation. Initially, his employer agreed to give Lin only 50,000 baht (\$1,400), but with help from LPN, he was finally awarded 320,000 baht (\$9,200).

Following his ordeal, Lin decided to work with LPN as a volunteer because he didn't want anybody else to ever have to face a situation like the one he went through. In his experience as a fisherman, he constantly saw migrant workers being detained, abused and prevented from contacting their families. He now volunteers as a translator, and assists migrants who have been unlawfully detained. He also teaches new migrants about adapting to life in Thailand. He has been able to help many migrant workers in his position at LPN, which makes him proud to be a volunteer.

### Hotspot achievements in 2016

- One of our partners led a successful strategic litigation case on behalf of 15 Myanmar fishing workers against a high profile business owner, leading to the legal recognition of debt as a constitutive element of forced labour.
- 6,260 workers were supported to access compensation and redress in cases of non-payment of wages, work accidents and abusive dismissals.
- 326 survivors of forced labour were provided with legal and social services either directly or through referral.



## Planning for the future



### Syrian refugee crisis

Every fifth person in Lebanon is a refugee from Syria. Humanitarian agencies and international donors are concentrating on ensuring that refugees' immediate food and shelter needs are met. However, evidence is also emerging that like in other conflict situations, slavery, trafficking and forced labour is increasing. In 2015, the Freedom Fund commissioned a team of researchers to conduct an assessment of the vulnerability of Syrian refugees to slavery and exploitation. The report, published in April 2016, found that slavery of Syrian refugees in Lebanon is a rapidly growing concern, which manifests itself through child labour, early marriage, sexual exploitation as well as forced labour. The report offers a more comprehensive understanding of the needs and vulnerabilities of Syrian refugees, and brings new knowledge to inform humanitarian interventions and priorities. We are preparing a strategy to improve the capacity of Lebanese organisations to tackle forced labour of Syrian refugees and more effectively advocate to the Lebanese government and international donor governments.



### Rajasthan

With support from the Children's Investment Fund Foundation and the British Asian Trust, we commissioned Praxis/Partners in Change to complete a feasibility study for a hotspot in the state of Rajasthan in India. The study uncovered extremely harmful conditions of over 50,000 child labourers in urban workshops producing bangles, embroidery and other traditional crafts, especially in the capital, Jaipur. The study also highlighted systemic causes of bonded and child labour in brick kilns, in cobblestone production for the international market, and in commercial sexual exploitation. The Freedom Fund is engaging with the state government to design a hotspot program that will enable Rajasthan, already an innovative state on issues of child rights, to become

a champion against child trafficking, beginning with work to create a child labour-free Jaipur.



### Brazil

During 2016, we worked with the consultancy FSG to carry out an assessment of the potential for a hotspot in Brazil to be launched using a "collective impact" approach, bringing together local groups, funders, environmental and indigenous groups and government bodies toward common targets. The study found strong interest within Brazil for such an approach. It recommended a focused hotspot engagement on the illegal precious woods industry as a unifying concern against slave labour and environmental degradation within the Brazilian Amazon. The Freedom Fund is currently fundraising to be able to launch this hotspot.



### Myanmar

We are currently raising funds to launch a new hotspot focused on reducing the number of Myanmar women and girls trafficked into China for forced marriage and childbearing. China's one-child policy and the corresponding shortage of Chinese women of reproductive age has led to a "marriage squeeze". By 2025-2030, an estimated 22 to 30 million Chinese men will be unable to find women to marry. One consequence of the marriage squeeze is that girls and women from Myanmar have been forced to marry Chinese men, forced to bear children and pushed into domestic servitude. The Freedom Fund will support local groups working on the issue to intensify and scale up their efforts. We will also work with the Myanmar government - and through it, the Chinese government - to improve interventions and promote better policies.

## Academic Partnerships

Research and evaluation is integral to the work of the Freedom Fund. We invest in the most effective interventions, share knowledge and support the anti-slavery movement with the overall aim of reducing the prevalence of slavery. It is therefore critical that we understand the nature and scale of the problem, as well as what works for whom in what context, so that anti-slavery efforts can be more efficiently targeted.

The Freedom Fund is currently collaborating with five research institutions to advance our understanding of modern slavery and evaluate the effectiveness of our interventions.



### **Institute of Development Studies**

The Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex is leading the evaluation of the Freedom Fund's hotspots in northern and southern India, and south-eastern Nepal.

IDS is trialling an innovative participatory approach to measuring the prevalence of bonded labour in our hotspot areas. Early results across the three hotspots show that half of the households in our program areas are in bonded labour, meaning that our activities are correctly targeting high-risk communities. These studies will be repeated in 2019 to measure the extent to which bonded labour has been reduced.



### **London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine**

Since 2015 we have been working with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to inform and evaluate our Ethiopia hotspot program, which promotes safer migration for women and girls.

The first report in February 2016 reviewed the state of evidence on 'safer migration' interventions and recommended future policy, programming and research priorities to address this growing form of labour exploitation.

The second report in May 2016 investigated the dynamics of young Ethiopian women's migration to countries in the Middle East. In particular, the research explored returning migrants' advice on how to influence the safety and success of overseas migration - lessons that have since been integrated into our Ethiopia hotspot program.



SAN DIEGO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

### **San Diego State University**

The Freedom Fund has partnered with San Diego State University to embark on a high-definition slavery prevalence study, focusing on the Indian state of Bihar, with a population of 104 million people.

This study will measure the statewide prevalence of bonded labour, forced labour, sex trafficking and the worst forms of child labour. This is part of a three year study to track change in prevalence over time, including a comparison between the Freedom Fund's program and non-program areas in order to estimate the effects of our anti-slavery efforts in Bihar.





### University of Hong Kong and Griffith University

As part of our central Nepal hotspot focusing on ending the commercial sexual exploitation of children, we are working with the University of Hong Kong and Griffith University on a study based on the experiences of 110 former child workers in Kathmandu's adult entertainment sector. The study is due to be published in Q2 2017 and will highlight the services and systems that are most needed for children to safely and permanently exit from sexually exploitative work.



### University of York

We are collaborating with the University of York to adapt a mental health social intervention as part of our south-eastern Nepal hotspot to eradicate agricultural bonded labour. An earlier study of this same population found that 61 percent of bonded labourers reported clinically significant depression symptoms and 47 percent reported suicidal intentions. The follow-up study is to pilot and assess the effectiveness of an intervention which mobilises community-based resources to provide mental health support. Results are due in early 2018.

All of our reports can be found at:  
[freedomfund.org/newsroom/our-reports/](http://freedomfund.org/newsroom/our-reports/)



## Global Initiatives

The Freedom Fund's Global Initiatives are not geographically bound, but rather aim to catalyse action worldwide around a slavery-specific issue, industry or approach. Through these initiatives, we provide a channel through which those with knowledge, influence or funds can impact international organisations, governments, media and the corporate sector. The initiatives draw on the expertise of our hotspot partners to design and test potential solutions, and facilitate collaboration between multiple organisations to encourage a greater combined impact.

### **Safer migration**

Globally, labour migration is on the rise. The terms "high risk" and "safe" or "fair" migration have recently emerged to describe interventions aimed at preventing the exploitation of migrant workers. Yet there is little evidence available about which factors, such as knowledge levels, actions or routes, make migration in various contexts riskier than others.

To begin to address this gap, the Freedom Fund partnered with a team of researchers led by Dr Cathy Zimmerman of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to identify the major evidence gaps in the field of safer migration. Their report, "Safer Labour Migration and Community-Based Prevention of Exploitation: The State of the Evidence," offers one of the most robust reviews to date on the state of current evidence for donors and practitioners. In 2016, we used the findings of this work to design interventions and additional field-based research in our Ethiopia hotspot program.

### **Legal strategies**

Slavery persists despite being illegal under international law and in every country. To address this accountability gap, our legal strategies initiative focuses on identifying legal approaches that help institutionalise the norm against slavery and encourage governments, officials and businesses to live up to their responsibility to end it.

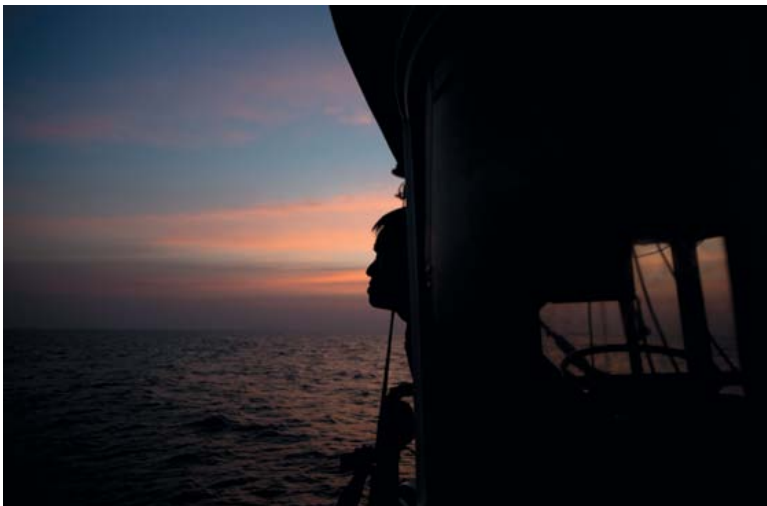
Under this initiative we have made significant progress towards identifying the ways in which the law can be used to

combat modern slavery. At the beginning of 2016 we published two reports in collaboration with Verité and Liberty Asia on corruption in international labour migration and in modern slavery more broadly. The Freedom Fund also partnered with the Washington-based Human Trafficking Pro Bono Legal Center to convene a range of donors to discuss ways to support strategic litigation. The result was a report presenting some of the most promising investment strategies available to donors.

### **Transparency in supply chains**

Many of those trapped in modern slavery are part of the vast and complex supply chains that deliver products to consumers in both developed and developing countries. Eradicating modern slavery requires much greater transparency and accountability in these supply chains. Stronger legal and regulatory frameworks are needed to help both governments and the private sector understand and fulfil their responsibilities to ensure supply chains are free from slave labour. The Freedom Fund is working to support new tools for business, government and civil society that can be used to improve information on business and government responsibilities, share good practice and address shortcomings.

With this goal, the Freedom Fund supported Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX) to expand its Labour Exploitation Accountability Hub, which delivers accessible information on accountability mechanisms in over a dozen countries. The Hub is unique in its particular focus on corporate accountability, including regulatory requirements for



preventing, detecting and reporting on modern slavery in supply chains, as well as provisions for civil and criminal corporate liability.

In 2016 the Freedom Fund partnered with World Vision to advance supply chain transparency legislation in Canada. We also supported the development and launch of a transparent, open-access Modern Slavery Registry for company statements submitted under supply chain legislation such as the UK's Modern Slavery Act.

#### **Treatment of mental trauma**

Mental health support plays a vital role in the recovery of slavery survivors, but most are not able to get help.

In 2016, the Freedom Fund completed a diagnostic study on psychosocial and mental health problems linked with bonded labour in south-eastern Nepal, alongside the Nepali NGO Centre for Community Mental Health and Counselling, the Helen Bamber Foundation and Dr Kim Murray, a psychologist and honorary researcher at King's College London. The study provided an understanding of how to develop psychosocial interventions, alongside the existing hotspot intervention, in an area with scarce counselling or mental health services.

We will extend similar support to other hotspots during 2017 as well as continuing to build the evidence of what works in order to bring better mental health support to individuals coming out of slavery around the world.

## Building the movement

### International architecture

The UN's diverse efforts against human trafficking, slavery and forced labour have evolved organically over the last four decades, resulting in a fragmented and sometimes inefficient set of arrangements that limits impact. But a new commitment in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 8.7 to end slavery by 2030, adopted by world leaders in September 2015, offers a unique opportunity to mobilise and push for a more cohesive approach.

In 2016 the Freedom Fund worked to move anti-slavery efforts up the UN agenda, circulating to member states and UN Secretary-General candidates a briefing on the role of the UN Security Council, the Office of the Secretary-General, and UN agencies in addressing modern slavery. We also published a report assessing and analysing the degree of progress made by UN agencies in combatting trafficking in conflict, ahead of a Security Council debate on the same topic. Though significant progress has been made over the last two years, the Freedom Fund will continue its work to keep modern slavery high on the agenda of the world's multinational institutions and member states.

### Knowledge sharing platforms

Across the globe, organisations are working tirelessly to eradicate slavery, doing exceptional work in difficult conditions. But these efforts are often fragmented and underfunded. The Freedom Fund aims to build a global community of activists, experts and donors by providing the platforms, knowledge, and tools for them to connect and work together more effectively. As part of these efforts the Freedom Fund made a number of investments in 2016, including to support collaboration between the Global Modern Slavery Directory, which lists over 1,800 anti-trafficking organisations, and Freedom Collaborative, an online, community-based platform connecting civil society around the world with the goal of ending human trafficking. In addition, the Freedom Fund has launched the Slavery Research Bulletin, a monthly bulletin of new research from the modern slavery field. It is sent out to over 2,000 subscribers, highlighting new research and reports from academia and practitioners alike. In 2016, the Freedom Fund also launched Slavery News Weekly, a new initiative designed to compile timely and newsworthy stories about modern slavery.



Image, right:  
The Freedom Fund



**Convening and coalition building**

The Freedom Fund aims to support and strengthen the global movement of activists by providing the platforms, knowledge and tools for them to connect and work together more effectively over a sustained period. In 2016 we supported the launch of Freedom United, an accelerator and collaborative focused on ending modern slavery.

Image:

Alice Carfrae, © Legatum Limited 2017



## Anchor Investors



## Directors

### Kevin Bales

Professor of Contemporary Slavery, University of Nottingham

### Andrew Doust

Founder and CEO, Plenitude Partners

### Molly Gochman

Artist and Human Rights Activist, Stardust Fund

### Felicity Gooding

Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer, Minderoo Foundation

### Ed Marcum

Managing Director, Humanity United

### Alan McCormick (Chair)

Managing Director, Legatum

### Lawrence Mendenhall

Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel, Humanity United

### Hisham Mundol

Executive Director, Child Protection, Children's Investment Fund Foundation

## Other Investors



## Government Funding

United Kingdom Home Office

## Council of Advocates

The Freedom Fund Council of Advocates is a select group of passionate activists and philanthropists dedicated to supporting the Freedom Fund's mission. Members play a key role in the Freedom Fund's work, contributing their intellect, passion, advocacy and financial support. The current members of the Council of Advocates include Natasha Dolby (The Ray and Dagmar Dolby Family Fund), Elliot Justin, Grace Forrest (Walk Free Foundation) and Brandee Butler (C&A Foundation). The Council is chaired by Molly Gochman, Stardust Fund.

“[Modern slavery] is the great human rights issue of our time ... I am determined that we will make it a national and international mission to rid our world of this barbaric evil.”

Theresa May, UK Prime Minister

Join the Freedom Fund in the fight to end slavery:

1. Learn: Go to our website
2. Stay in touch: Sign up for our newsletter
3. Donate: Help us liberate more people.  
[freedomfund.org/take-action/](https://freedomfund.org/take-action/)

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