



# WALK FREE FOUNDATION

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## HEADWAY MADE ON 2014 EDITION OF GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX

Today the [Walk Free Foundation](#) has published new information from a number of governments on specific actions they are taking to fight modern slavery.

Walk Free Foundation has engaged with 167 governments worldwide, seeking data on their measures to tackle all forms of modern slavery, including trafficking, forced labour and forced marriage.

The majority of respondents are working hard to eradicate slavery within their borders. Nearly all governments who responded ran public awareness campaigns, provided support services for victims, and had effective legislation in place. Regulation of business practices was less common, with less than 50% of government respondents indicating they regulated investors or had policies to encourage businesses to regulate supply chains.

This information will feed into the 2014 [Global Slavery Index](#), which this year will introduce an assessment of government responses.

The information provided by governments is critical in assessing the effectiveness of government responses to the issue, detailing key anti-slavery initiatives and activities, such as national coordinating bodies, victim support services, specialised police units, and national action plans.

“Modern slavery is a hidden crime and difficult to measure. By engaging directly with governments, we are able to ascertain exactly what they are doing to combat the problem, which will more accurately inform our overall positioning of countries in Index,” said Fiona David, Executive Director of Global Research at the Walk Free Foundation.

Of the 167 countries, 30 provided responses and Walk Free Foundation strongly encourages those governments that have not yet responded to do so, as what they do to tackle slavery will directly impact the rankings of the 2014 Global Slavery Index. The government assessment forms one part of the many methodological updates to be incorporated in the second edition of the Index. The Walk Free Foundation has also commissioned population surveys in seven countries to identify the number of people enslaved. This doubles the number of similar surveys completed in the past decade.

These updates are the result of extensive consultation with international modern slavery experts and government representatives from Ethiopia and Nepal. An expert working group has met every six months to consult and provide feedback on the methodology, with the next convening scheduled for July, 2014.

The progress report of the 2014 Global Slavery Index, featuring detailed surveys from governments on their responses to modern slavery, can be viewed at [globalslaveryindex.org/update](http://globalslaveryindex.org/update).

The 2014 Global Slavery Index is due to be released in October 2014.



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## Notes to Editors

### About The Index

The inaugural edition of the Global Slavery Index 2013 provided a ranking of 162 countries around the world, based on a combined measure of three factors: estimated prevalence of modern slavery by population, a measure of child marriage, and a measure of human trafficking in and out of a country. The Index provided a quantitative ranking of 162 countries around the world according to the estimated *prevalence* of slavery, that is, the estimated percentage of enslaved people in the national population at a point in time. The Index also provided an estimate of the size of the modern slavery problem, country by country.

The Global Slavery Index was created in consultation with an international panel of experts from international organizations, think tanks and academic institutions. It was endorsed by individuals including Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Former Prime Ministers Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and Julia Gillard; and leading philanthropists, Bill Gates, Sir Richard Branson and Mo Ibrahim, as well as academics, business leaders, and policy makers.

The Global Slavery Index report can be found at [www.globalslaveryindex.org](http://www.globalslaveryindex.org)

### About the Walk Free Foundation

The Walk Free Foundation is a global organisation with a mission to end modern slavery in our generation by mobilising a global activist movement, generating the highest quality research, enlisting business and raising unprecedented levels of capital to drive change in those countries and industries bearing the greatest responsibility for modern slavery today.

The Walk Free Foundation will do this by:

- Identifying countries and industries most responsible for modern slavery;
- Identify and implement with partners the interventions in those countries and industries that will have the greatest impact on modern slavery; and
- Critically assess our impact.

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