

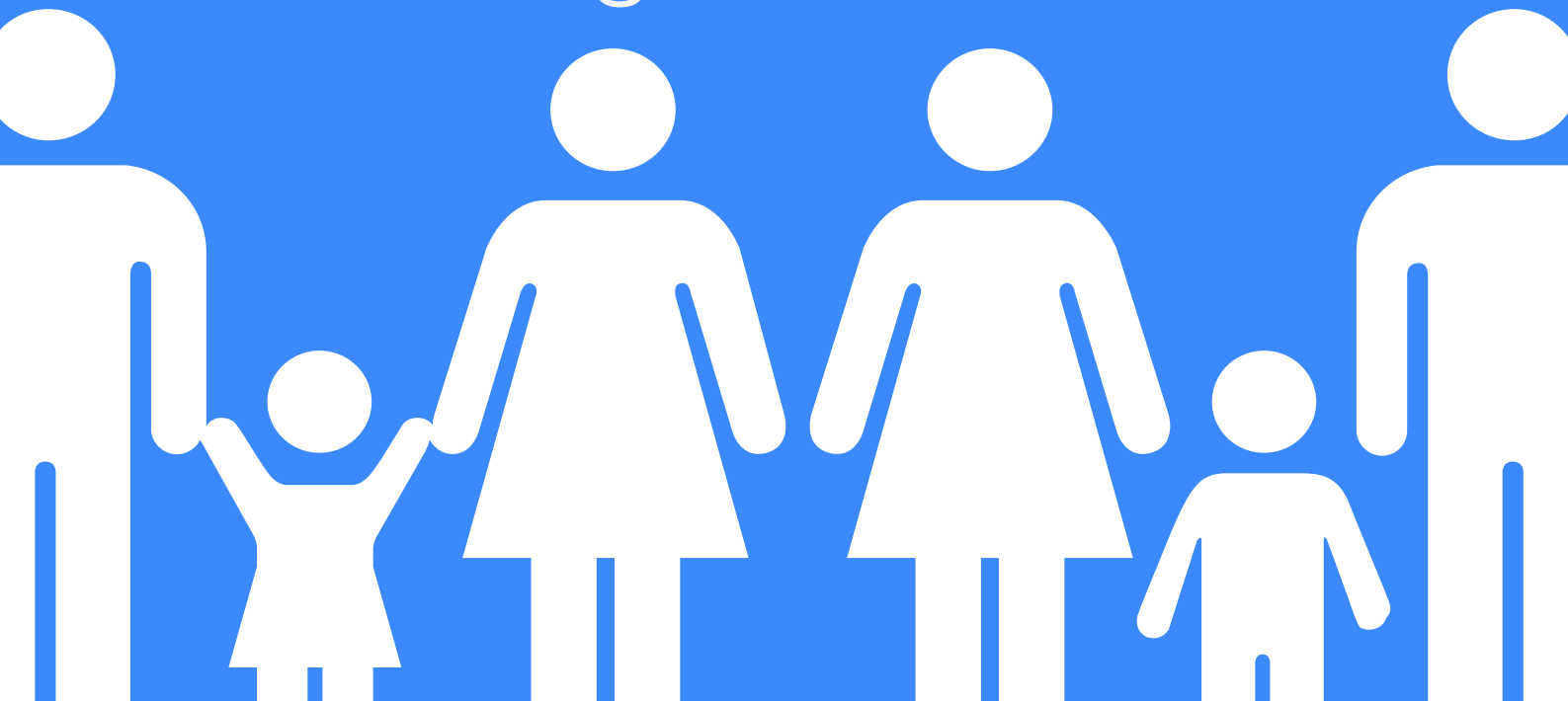


ANTI-SLAVERY
AUSTRALIA

2023

ANTI-SLAVERY Australia:

20 years of legal
services to survivors of
trafficking



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This publication was written and developed by Cate Sumner & Leisha Lister in consultation with Jennifer Burn (Director) & Ruth McLelland (Centre Coordinator) of Anti-Slavery Australia.

Disclaimer: the images used in this report are stock images and illustrate some of the types of labour undertaken in sectors where exploitation is known to occur. It is not suggested that any person pictured is a victim of modern slavery.

(c) Anti-Slavery Australia, October 2023

Our 20-Year History

For 20 years Anti-Slavery Australia (ASA) has provided free legal services to support survivors of trafficking and working toward ending modern slavery in Australia.

ASA started in 2003 when Jennifer Burn, an Australian academic, solicitor and migration agent, working with a team of law students at the UTS Community Law Centre to research and understand the Australian dimension of the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol, was contacted by women trafficked to Australia. Through her work representing these women, Jennifer saw the need not only to support survivors of human trafficking, but also importantly to advocate for law reform.

Since then, ASA, based at the Faculty of Law at the University of Technology Sydney has provided high-quality free legal advice and representation to victims of modern slavery in Australia. ASA has expanded to include research, advocacy and training programs.

This is the story of how ASA established the first specialist legal service for survivors of slavery and human trafficking and how they have guided significant policy developments in the field of trafficking in Australia.

Our Impact



Since 2003 ASA has provided free and confidential legal advice to thousands of clients and staff of support services.



In the last 20 years ASA has submitted 60 submissions to the Australian Government on trafficking in persons and modern slavery.



ASA's clients come from over 40 countries and speak 23 different languages.



Since 2003 ASA has secured over \$1.6 million in victim compensation.



ASA has secured visa protection for hundreds of clients.

Anti-Slavery Australia Timeline

Anti-Slavery Australia began with only 0.5 of a person in 2003 and now has 13.5 staff funded by the University of Technology Sydney; external research grants; and philanthropic and corporate grants. Lawyers also contribute their time to ASA on a pro bono basis.

2003

HALF A FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STAFF MEMBER

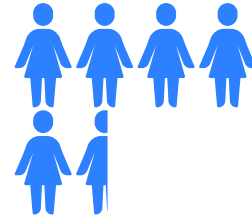
- Staff member provided by the University of Technology Law Faculty



2013

5.7 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STAFF MEMBERS

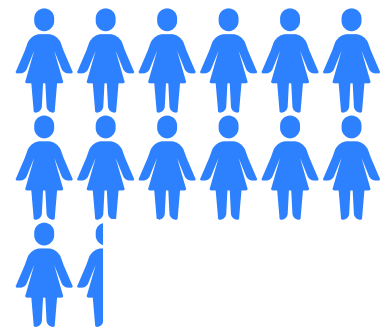
- Staff member from the University of Technology Law Faculty
- Lawyer
- Project and research staff
- Volunteers for legal services & project/research/advocacy



2023

13.5 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STAFF MEMBERS

- Staff member from the University of Technology Law Faculty
- Lawyer
- Project and research staff
- Volunteers for legal services & project/research/advocacy
- Legal secondees provided by law firms



Our Focus



Legal Services to survivors of human trafficking and modern slavery in Australia or Australians trafficked overseas.



Projects, Research and Advocacy to support survivors and influence laws and policy.



Develop and deliver training (in-person and online) to community groups, business and government.

Legal Assistance

ASA provides free legal services to survivors of human trafficking and modern slavery in Australia and Australians trafficked overseas.

Anti-Slavery Australia:

- Uses a trauma informed approach
- Supports clients in a culturally sensitive manner
- Gains trust
- Protects privacy
- Explains that ASA acts for the survivor
- Obtains instructions and informed consent
- Hears from the survivor in their own words about what has happened to them
- Informs survivors of their legal options as well as other possible health, housing or social support that may be available.

All legal services are free and most legal services are delivered using technology.

Anti-Slavery Australia communicates with survivors by:

- Phone
- Hotline – Monday to Friday 9am-5pm
- Text
- Email
- Chatbox
- Social media, and
- In person
- And through a secure message room launched on the [My Blue Sky website](#)



An auto-translation feature was added to the My Blue Sky website in 2023, which allows users to translate each of the key informational pages through a dropdown selection of 26 languages.

Impact of Our Legal Assistance

The following four stories provide some examples of where Anti-Slavery has supported survivors.



Modern Slavery Maria's Story

A story about how everyone can play a part in combatting modern slavery.



Exit trafficking Zara's Story

Modern slavery comes in many forms and includes human trafficking. People can be trafficked into, out of, and within in Australia. Zara's story is an example of how someone can be trafficked out of Australia.



Forced Labour Tom's Story

Tom's story is an example of what forced labour can look like in Australia.



Forced Marriage

Lina's story is an example of what forced marriage can look like in Australia.

Case Studies

Exit Trafficking

Rita's husband used threats, coercion and deception to force her and her child to return overseas. She feared for her life and was threatened with murder if she did not comply, and was physically forced to board the plane with her child and a one-way ticket. Her husband then contacted Australian immigration authorities and provided false information to try and prevent Rita and her daughter from ever returning to Australia.

Rita managed to return to Australia and contacted ASA, who provided legal assistance to Rita and referred the matter to the AFP for investigation. The perpetrator was eventually convicted for exit trafficking and sentenced to 21 months' imprisonment. ASA assisted Rita to obtain a grant of statutory victims compensation.



Forced Labour

ASA assisted Mary and her husband with her visa after she was subjected to forced labour by an employer, the owner of a restaurant, who was also her sponsor for her visa. Mary and her husband were not paid during the course of more than a year's work. The employer made the couple work long hours, live in a storeroom above the restaurant, and threatened sponsorship

withdrawal and violence if they did not obey. After her matter was investigated by the AFP, Mary's employer pleaded guilty to causing a person to remain in forced labour and was sentenced. ASA was able to assist Mary and her husband by obtaining permanent visas for them to live in Australia.



Forced Marriage

ASA was contacted by Nina via a friend through My Blue Sky. Nina explained that she had been deceived into travelling to her home country from Australia where she then discovered that she was being forced to marry by her family. Her phone and passport were taken from her upon arrival, and she was beaten by family members until she agreed to proceed with the marriage. As Nina was at imminent risk of a forced marriage, ASA entered into complex negotiations with multiple

government departments and organisations to organise her repatriation to Australia. After months of intense engagement with Nina and the other agencies involved, Nina safely returned to Australia and was able to avoid the marriage. ASA obtained a grant of victims compensation for Nina and continues to assist Nina as she rebuilds her life in Australia.

Case studies continued...



Trafficking

D was recruited in his home country to work in a restaurant in Sydney. D was married in his home country and lived there with his wife and two children. He was promised a place to live and a reasonable wage and he accepted an offer of employment. On arrival in Australia his passport was taken by his employer and he was taken to the restaurant where he commenced work the day after his arrival. D was told by the employer that he could not leave Australia unless he repaid the cost of bringing him to Australia. D told the Australian Federal Police that for over a year he worked seven days a week, 12 hours a day as a cook in the restaurant but he was paid very little for that work. D told the police that the employer opened up a bank account in D's

name but that the employer completely controlled the account. D told the police that he lived in a store room in the restaurant, he had to bath in the kitchen using buckets of water. D received multiple threats during his time at the restaurant. After 16 months working in the restaurant he was helped by a co-worker to make a complaint to the police who referred him to the Australian Federal Police. The employer was charged with trafficking offences. ASA provided legal and migration representation for D throughout the period of his engagement with the Australian Federal Police. Eventually D was granted a visa entitling him, his wife and children to remain in Australian permanently.



Projects, Research & Advocacy

ASA conducts research which is grounded on a combination of practical, firsthand experience with survivors, coupled with academic rigour as part of the UTS Faculty of Law. Research areas include trafficking, forced marriage, dowry abuse, online sexual exploitation of children, asylum seeker exploitation, survivors' perspectives and modern slavery reporting requirements. ASA is the only specialist legal organisation which works directly with victims of trafficking and modern slavery as well as a range of community, government and industry partners. A timeline of our work follows:

2005

- Establishment of the 'Sydney Community Response Network to Assist Trafficked and Enslaved Persons' (later the Trafficking Response Network)



2006

- Rewarding witnesses, ignoring victims: an evaluation of the new trafficking visa framework 2005 Immigration Review
- Combating Human Trafficking: Australia's Response to Modern Day Slavery 2005 - The Australian Law Journal



2009

- Grant from the The City of Sydney Project "Trafficking and Slavery Outreach Program in the City of Sydney"



2010

- Research Grant from the Australian Attorney Generals Department – Proceeds of Crime Act Funding
- Research Grant from Good Shepherd Australia and New Zealand - "Labour Rights for Women and Girls"



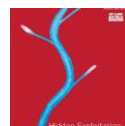
2011

- Anti-Slavery Project became Anti-Slavery Australia, a Centre based at the Faculty of Law at UTS.
- Hosted Lecture by UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons Professor Ezeilo began her mission to Australia with this lecture at UTS, co-convened by Anti-Slavery Australia and the Australian Human Rights Commission.
- Anti-Slavery Australia convened the inaugural Freedom Awards, held at Parliament House in Canberra, recognising personal and organisational achievements in anti-trafficking efforts.
- 2 submissions to the Australian Government



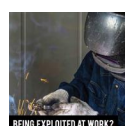
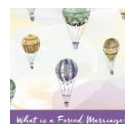
2012

- Publication - 'Hidden Exploitation: Women in forced labour, marriage and migration'
- Launch of UTS course: 'The Law of Human Trafficking and Slavery' (taught within the Law Faculty)
- 4 submissions to government inquiries.



2013

- Impact of ASA Policy Advocacy: Crimes Legislation Amendment (Slavery, Slavery-like practices and People Trafficking) Act 2013 This Act came into effect on International Women's Day 2013.
- Publication Launch of ASA's [Multilingual Trafficking Resource Kit](#) (funded by grant from The City Of Sydney)
- Publication [Without Consent: Forced Marriage in Australia](#), MULR 2013 (1).
- 3 submissions to government inquiries



2014

- Training: Launch of Australia's first e-learning course of modern slavery (funded by a grant from the Australian Government).
- Network: Launched NSW Forced Marriage Network, in a joint initiative with the Australian Red Cross.
- Publication: 'Giving voice to asylum seekers'.
- Publication: 'Just Married, Just a Child: Child Marriage in the Indo-Pacific Region with Plan International Australia.'
- Policy Advocacy: Proposal for a national compensation scheme for trafficked people tabled at National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery, Senior Officials' Meeting.
- 3 submissions to government inquiries.



2015

- Launch of [My Blue Sky - My Future](#), Australia's first specialist website on forced marriage, (funded by grant from the Australian government).
- 4 submissions to government inquiries.



2016

- Report on [Establishing a National Compensation Scheme for Victims of Commonwealth Crime](#) by ASA and Law Council of Australia.
- 2 submissions to government inquiries.



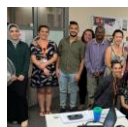
2017

- Publication launch of '[Behind the Screen: Online Child Exploitation in Australia](#)' research report.
- 16 submissions to government inquiries.
- Publication - '[Legal Narratives, Human Trafficking and Slavery in Australia](#)'. History Compass Vol 15, Jennifer Burn



2018

- ASA convened Australia's Inaugural [Forced Marriage Conference 'Protection & Prevention'](#) at UTS over two days, with international speakers and over 150 participants from 50 organisations, representing all States and Territories in Australia. (funded by fifth grant of funding from the Australian Government).
- [Connecting Communities: A project to prevent modern slavery](#). Engaging with communities in diverse sectors and localities to increase awareness of modern slavery, including how to identify, support and refer at risk groups.
- 8 submissions to government inquiries.



2019

- Launch of [Project Skywarp](#) – pilot project in partnership with AFP to raise awareness of forced marriage at Sydney Airport.
- [2019 Freedom Awards](#)
- 3 submissions to government.



2020

- Over 80,000 learners participated in learning activities, through ASA's online courses - "[Modern Slavery](#)" & "[A Practical Guide to the Modern Slavery Act](#)" as well as webinars, speaking engagements and bespoke training activities.
- ASA re-launched the free online [Modern Slavery](#) taster course on UTS Open.
- 3 submissions to government.



2021

- Human Mart exhibition.
- Inaugural [Modern Slavery Conference](#).
- Launch of [National Partnership Against Modern Slavery](#), an online community of practice.
- Publication: 'Modern Slavery - The Case for Remedy and Reparation', UNSW Law Journal, Frances Simmons, Jennifer Burn and Fiona McLeod.
- Publication: 'Learning From Lived Experience: Australia's Legal Response To Forced Marriage', UNSW Law Journal, Frances Simmons and Grace Wong.
- 4 submissions to government.



2022

- Publication about [survivor-informed responses to modern slavery in Australia](#).
- Publication Launch of 'Speak Now' – [resources for frontline workers](#), (funded by grant from Australian government).
- Seeking freedom child's rights initiative.
- Launch of My Blue Sky chat bot.
- Justice for All: Exploring a National Compensation Scheme for Survivors of Modern Slavery.
- Publication: [Modern Slavery and Material Justice: The Case for Remedy and Reparation](#), UNSW Law Journal 148
- 3 submissions to government.



2023

- Speak Now National Tour
- My Blue Sky website updated
- [Pilot project on Forced Marriage prevention](#)
- 2023 Freedom Awards
- Publication: 'Ending Disability Segregated Employment: 'Modern Slavery' Law and Disabled People's Human Right to Work'. International Journal of Law in Context
- 4 submissions to government.



Training

ASA reaches thousands of learners each year through their trafficking and modern slavery education and training activities. In 2020 over 80,000 learners participated in activities through ASA online courses - “Modern Slavery” and “A Practical Guide to the Modern Slavery Act” - through webinars, attending speaking engagements and bespoke training activities.



Modern Slavery 'Taster' Course

In December 2020, ASA re-launched the free online Modern Slavery taster course on UTS Open. The self-paced course covers all types of modern slavery through examples and real-life stories. The course is targeted toward students, educators, community workers, frontline responders and community members who want to learn more about modern slavery and human rights issues.



Practical Guide to the Modern Slavery Act

ASA's 'Practical Guide to the Modern Slavery Act' online course is focussed on modern slavery reporting requirements providing practical guidance on the supply chain reporting requirements in Australia's Modern Slavery Act. It is a nationally leading resource for businesses and organisations addressing modern slavery in their operations and supply chains.



Bespoke Training

Group bookings by businesses, and interest from commercial, academic and other entities has led to a greater focus on producing bespoke training for integration in existing corporate Learning Management Systems, as well as mixed methods such as online webinars or face to face presentations for staff.



Modern Slavery in the Home

In 2022, ASA launched a new free online course, 'Modern Slavery in the Home' as part of the Speak Now project (funded by Australian government), which explores how modern slavery occurs in the domestic setting. The course aims to assist frontline workers to respond effectively to forced marriage, domestic servitude and human trafficking by setting out the common indicators and showing how to provide support and make appropriate referrals.

ASA Submissions to Government

ASA has made more than 60 submissions to the Australian Government over the past 20 years on issues relating to trafficking in persons and modern day slavery. The following is a summary of those submissions. A copy of each submission is available at antislavery.org.au/resources/ and can be accessed by clicking the links below.

Year	Submission
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forced and Servile Marriage: Anti-Slavery Project Submission in response to the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department Discussion Paper• The Criminal Justice Response to Slavery and People Trafficking; Reparation; and Vulnerable Witness Protection. Anti-Slavery Project Submission.
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Inquiry into the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Slavery, Slavery-like Conditions and People Trafficking) Bill 2012.• Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Inquiry into Slavery, Slavery-like Conditions and People Trafficking.• Submission to the Community Relations Commission for the Multicultural NSW Inquiry into the Exploitation of Women through Trafficking.• Written input into Joint NGO submission to the UN Human Rights Committee periodic reporting process on the issue of trafficking and severe exploitation.
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reconsideration of visas intended to provide protection and support to people who have experienced human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices. Discussion paper for Fourth National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery Senior Officials Meeting.• Submission to Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Inquiry into Crimes Legislation Amendment (Law Enforcement Integrity, Vulnerable Witness Protection and Other Measures) Bill 2013.

ASA Submissions Cont...

Year	Submission
2013 cont..	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supplementary submission to Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade's Inquiry into Slavery, Slavery-like Conditions and People Trafficking.
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Inquiry into Migration Amendment (Regaining Control over Australia's Protection Obligations) Bill.• Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee Inquiry into the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Psychoactive Substances and Other Measures) Bill 2014.• Proposal for a national compensation scheme for trafficked people tabled at National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery, SOM.
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submission on the Statutes Amendment (Child Marriage) Bill 2015.• Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Migration Amendment (Charging for a Migration Outcome) Bill 2015.• Regulation of Brothels Committee Legislative Assembly Inquiry into the Regulation of Brothels.• Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Inquiry into Crimes Legislation Amendment (Powers, Offences and Other Measures) Bill 2015.
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submission to the Joint Committee on Law Enforcement Inquiry into Human Trafficking.• Submission to US State Department on Australia's Response to Human Trafficking for 2016 TIP Report.
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supplementary Submission to the Inquiry into Human Trafficking.• Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Inquiry into the Crimes Legislation Amendment (International Crime Cooperation and Other Measures) Bill 2016.

ASA Submissions Cont...

Year	Submission
2017 cont..	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Inquiry into establishing a Modern Slavery Act in Australia.• Submission to the Senate Standing Committees on Education and Employment on the Fair Work Amendment (Protecting Vulnerable Workers) Bill 2017.• Submission to the Parliament of Australia Joint Select Committee on Government Procurement Inquiry into the Commonwealth procurement framework.• Submission to the Parliament of New South Wales Legislative Council Select Committee on Human Trafficking In New South Wales Inquiry into Human Trafficking and Slavery in NSW.• Submission to the Western Australian 2017 review of the Children and Community Services Act 2004.• Submission to the United States Department of State, Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (US) Trafficking in Persons Report.• Submission to the Black Economy Taskforce Interim Report Consultation.• Submission to the Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs Inquiry into the Family Law System to Support and Protect Those Affected by Family Violence.• Submission on Australia's Compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.• Submission to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection's public consultation on Visa simplification: transforming Australia's visa system.• Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee on Crimes Legislation (Sexual Crimes Against Children and Community Protection Measures) Bill 2017.• Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade's Parliamentary Inquiry into Human Organ Trafficking and Organ Transplant Tourism.

ASA Submissions Cont...

Year	Submission
2017 cont..	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submission to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants on the Vulnerability of Migrants to Human Trafficking and Slavery in Australia.• Submission to Cth Attorney General's Department Modern Slavery in Supply Chains Reporting Requirement Public Consultation.
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submission to the Hon. Paul Green Member of the Legislative Council Parliament of NSW on the Modern Slavery Bill 2018.• Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade's Inquiry into the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.• Submission and Supplementary Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee's Inquiry into Provisions of the Modern Slavery Bill 2018 (Cth).• Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee's Inquiry into the practice of dowry and incidence of dowry abuse in Australia.• Australian NGO Coalition Submission - Australia's compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.• The Children's Report - Australia's NGO coalition report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.• Anti-Slavery Australia Response to 'Hidden In Plain Sight' Report.• Response to question on notice by Senator Moore at hearing of the Inquiry into Human Organ Trafficking
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submission to NSW Dept Premier & Cabinet on the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (NSW) Draft Regulation.

ASA Submissions Cont...

Year	Submission
2019 Cont...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submission to the Department of Home Affairs on Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth) Draft Guidance for Reporting Entities.• Submission to the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Social Issues Inquiry into the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (NSW) and associated matters.
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response to the Australian Border Force Public Consultation Paper: National Action Plan to Combat Modern Slavery (2020-24).• UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review of Australia.• Attorney General's Department Consultation on the Draft National Report for Australia's Third Universal Periodic Review
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submission to the Inquiry into certain aspects of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Annual Report 2019-20 – child and forced marriage.• Submission to Forced Marriage Protection Order (FMPO) Civil Society Consultation Group - Discussion Paper Two: Victim Protection Objectives.• Proposal for an Additional Referral Pathway for Survivors into the Support for Trafficked Persons Program submitted to ABF to be tabled at Ministerial Meeting of the National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery.• Submission to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission - Telco Together Foundation & Ors application for authorisation – interested party consultation.
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contribution to 8.7 Network submission to OHCHR on Forced Marriage, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), November 2022.• Specification of Family Violence Evidentiary Requirements feedback, Department of Home Affairs.

ASA Submissions Cont...

Year	Submission
2022 Cont...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submission to the statutory review of the Victims Rights and Support Act 2013 (NSW), NSW Department of Communities and Justice.
2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade in the Inquiry into the rights of women and children.• Supplementary submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade in the Inquiry into the rights of women and children.• Submission to the Targeted Review of Divisions 270 and 271 of the Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth).• Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration in the inquiry into the role of permanent migration in nation building, April 2023

To access ASA's submissions, go to www.antislavery.org.au/resources/



Get Involved

There are many ways individuals and corporates can get involved. Visit www.antislavery.org.au to see how you can make a difference.



Take Action



Be an ethical consumer



Donate



Volunteer



Corporate Sponsorship



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