



The page you requested does not exist. A search for *modern slavery 150 years emancipation proclamation* resulted in this page.

Combating Modern Slavery 150 Years After the Emancipation Proclamation

POSTED BY LUIS CDEBACA
SEPTEMBER 22, 2012



Child Laborers Carry Stones

On September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, announcing his intention to emancipate all the slaves in the Confederate states that did not return to the Union within 100 days. On January 1, 1863, he declared free the 3.1 million slaves in those states.

Today, we celebrate the 150th anniversary of that date in 1862, which heralded the victory of freedom and justice, and our country's ongoing commitment to those values. Yet, at the same time, as many as 27 million men, women, and children around the world live in a state of modern slavery -- what we also refer to as trafficking in persons. So as we mark this occasion, we reflect not just on the tragedy of the past, but on the ongoing responsibility to fight for freedom. To honor the memories of those who lived and died in bondage, and those who fought and died so that others might be free, we dedicate ourselves to combating involuntary servitude wherever it may occur in the modern era.

That's why around the world, American embassies are commemorating this important anniversary with receptions, panel discussions, film screenings, and radio broadcasts for national anti-trafficking activists, NGO leaders, government officials, students, and academics. In partnership with the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office), the Cincinnati-based [National Underground Railroad Freedom Center](#) has produced a film that features the 2012 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report Heroes and shows how the exploitation that takes place today in sweatshops and brothels, on farms and fishing boats relates to the chattel slavery of the American past. Just as abolitionists of the

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

Top stories delivered to your inbox.

Subscribe



DOMESTIC

VIEW MORE STORIES IN THIS AREA

RELATED STORIES

Commemorating International Day Against Homophobia

Building Consensus in Support of a Global, Inclusive, Free, and Open Internet

Labor in Focus: Advancing Workplace Safety

STORY TAGS

Democracy and Human Rights 255

Human Trafficking 28

1800s fought to free slaves forced to work on the plantations of the South, the [2012 TIP Report Heroes](#) have devoted their lives to fight human trafficking and protect victims of modern slavery.

Carrying forward America's commitment to freedom for all people, the TIP Office works with other U.S. government agencies to coordinate government-wide anti-trafficking efforts and uses the annual TIP Report to encourage governments around the world to take a stand in the fight against trafficking. Freeing victims, preventing trafficking, and bringing traffickers to justice are the ultimate goals of the report and of the U.S government's anti-trafficking policy.

The United States is not alone in bearing the responsibility to meet this challenge. All governments are responsible for punishing traffickers, protecting victims, and working to prevent this crime from occurring. And NGOs are raising awareness and linking communities and businesses to bring new energy to this fight.

As the film notes, the 2012 TIP Heroes show how passionate and dedicated individuals can make such a big difference in the lives of so many. As we commemorate this important date in history, let us echo Secretary Clinton's call to each do our part to end modern slavery once and for all. Join us. Take a stand for freedom.

For more information, visit www.state.gov/j/tip or www.freedomcenter.org.

Related Content: [One Million Footprints on the Path to Freedom](#) | [White House Blog](#) -- [The Emancipation Proclamation Is 150 Years Old](#)



COMMENTS

Janell B. | California, USA
DECEMBER 20, 2012

Janell in Los Angeles writes:

Changes are taking place and artists around the world are taking their stance too. Performing artist Gbenga Yusuf is doing his part in Nigerian through his stage performance "Batonga" which premiered in Lagos and is in the process of being scheduled to tour throughout West Africa and other parts of the world. As an American choreographer, I am committed to doing my part in helping "Batonga" educate people this global issue. As artists we are here working and ready to fight for humanity.

LATEST STORIES





MAY 27, 2013

PEPFAR: Ten Years of Saving Millions of Lives

Ten years ago today, the United States Congress, in a remarkable display of compassion and bipartisanship, passed overwhelmingly legislation that... more

0



MAY 27, 2013

Remembering Our Fallen Heroes on Memorial Day

On Memorial Day, we remember the men and women who gave their lives in service to our country. "They are... more

0



MAY 26, 2013

Changing the Narrative: Youth in Africa

For far too long, the continent of Africa has been perceived by many in the West as a place of... more

1

HOME / STORIES / REGIONS / SOCIALS

ABOUT | SUBSCRIBE | STATE.GOV



Blogroll

- THE WHITE HOUSE BLOG
- DOD LIVE
- USAID IMPACT BLOG
- U.S. EMBASSIES & POSTS