Dear friends,

Forty-five million slaves. Two million children currently in the sex trade. Over £120 billion made by human traffickers every year.

These seem like overwhelming odds in the fight to end slavery. But this year, you have helped to show that ending slavery in our lifetime is possible. In fact, I believe that this is the beginning of the end of slavery in our world.

2016 saw our largest rescue ever, with 564 slaves freed in one single operation from a kiln in India. We had our very first conviction of cybersex trafficking, a devastating new form of slavery involving some of the youngest victims we have seen, forced to perform sexual acts in front of a webcam for a live audience. We have seen victory in one of our longest running legal battles: an 8-year battle for justice in a case of sexual assault. We have begun fighting a new form of slavery in Cambodia, building on the successes that have helped significantly reduce the sex trafficking of children.

We also saw thousands of people in churches across the UK participate in IJM Sunday, a movement to mobilise the church to answer God’s call to fight for justice for the oppressed.

Your support and the grace of God enables IJM to keep fighting on behalf of slaves and the abused around the world. Together, we will continue to work until we have ended slavery for good.

Gratefully,

GARY A. HAUGEN
IJM CEO

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WE ARE
INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION

WE HAVE SPENT NEARLY 20 YEARS ON THE FRONT LINES FIGHTING SOME OF THE WORST FORMS OF VIOLENCE.

We work in communities in Africa, Latin America, South Asia and Southeast Asia. Through our unique Justice System Transformation model, we help victims of violence secure justice and partner with key authorities to fix broken justice systems in the countries where we work.

RESCUE
We collaborate with local police to rescue victims from ongoing violence and bring them to safety.

RESTORE
We join with social workers to restore survivors to safety through counselling, education and skills training.

RETRAIN
We partner with police to restrain criminals, traffickers and slave owners from hurting others.

REPAIR
We identify gaps in the systems that protect the poor, and then work with police and courts to address these challenges.

5,880
VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND OPPRESSION RESCUED BY IJM AND IJM-TRAINED PARTNERS

266
CRIMINALS RESTRAINED THROUGH COURT-ORDERED DETENTION OR CONVICTIONS

3,760
SURVIVORS AND FAMILY MEMBERS CURRENTLY RECEIVING AFTERCARE

30,000+
PEOPLE TRAINED, INCLUDING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, JUDGES, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, PROSECUTORS AND SOCIAL SERVICES PROFESSIONALS
Today, we are helping to protect more than 21 million people from violence worldwide.

FIELD OFFICE CASEWORK
- Forced Labour Slavery
- Sex Trafficking
- Cybersex Trafficking
- Sexual Violence
- Property Grabbing
- Police Abuse of Power
- Citizenship Rights Abuse

OUR IMPACT

IJM UK
IJM Netherlands
IJM Germany
IJM Canada
IJM Headquarters
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Guatemala City, Guatemala
La Paz, Bolivia
Gulu, Uganda
Kampala, Uganda
Accra, Ghana
Nairobi, Kenya
Kolkata, India
Delhi, India
Bangalore, India
Mumbai, India
Chennai, India
Kolkata, India
Gulu, Uganda
Kampala, Uganda
Accra, Ghana
Nairobi, Kenya
Kolkata, India
Delhi, India
Bangalore, India
Mumbai, India
Chennai, India
Kolkatan, India
Chiang Mai, Thailand
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Manila, the Philippines
Cebu, the Philippines
IJM Australia
In Bolivia, Emilia* and Helen* were just 3 and 6 years old when they were sexually abused by their neighbour in 2008.

It has taken almost eight years to secure justice for them.

At times, their case looked helpless. Their abuser had fled, and their court case was delayed so badly that it risked being dismissed by a judge.

The suspect had been a fugitive for more than a year when an IJM investigator used voter records to track him to a small town roughly six hours outside of La Paz. In February 2016, during a Bolivian election, the investigator spotted the man standing in line at a voting station. Police arrested him just after he cast his ballot.

He was convicted in June 2016.

The case was one of the longest battles for justice IJM has ever fought in Bolivia.

“My lawyer said that IJM would forget about the case,” the perpetrator later told an IJM investigator. He was wrong. When perpetrators know that they will not get away with their crimes, violence and exploitation of the poor and vulnerable will cease.

Helen and Emilia are thriving at school and at home. Emilia loves to cook and Helen was recently chosen to represent her school at a regional maths competition.

LATIN AMERICA

ONE OF IJM’S LONGEST-RUNNING CASES ENDS IN JUSTICE

In June, IJM experienced an event we hoped would never come to pass. One of our investigators in Kenya, Willie Kimani, was declared missing along with IJM client Josephat Mwenda and driver Joseph Muiruri. Eight days later, they were found dead in a river.

Willie, a lawyer, had been working on a police abuse of power case with Josephat when they, along with Joseph, were kidnapped and killed. They were killed whilst doing exactly what IJM exists to do in Kenya: seek justice for those who have suffered at the hands of the authorities who should protect them.

Their deaths have sparked an outcry that has reverberated beyond the work of IJM and beyond Kenya to the rest of the world. Thousands marched in Nairobi to protest against police abuse of power and tens of thousands signed an online petition to bring the killers to justice. In December, Willie was named the Jurist of the Year by the Kenyan section of the International Commission of Jurists, in “recognition for the ultimate price he paid in performing his work as human rights defender.”

Together with friends from around the world, we stood and will continue to stand against police abuse of power.

The trial began in record time on 7th November 2016 and will continue throughout 2017.
**First Conviction for Cybersex Trafficking**

A new and brutal form of modern-day slavery is on the rise: cybersex trafficking of children.

In this crime, paedophiles and predators search online and pay to sexually abuse children as young as 2 years old from anywhere in the world via webcam. In the Philippines alone, authorities receive thousands of cybersex trafficking referrals a month.

We’re working closely with the Philippines government to shut this crime down. In August 2016, we secured our first-ever conviction in a case of live-streaming cybersex trafficking. A Filipino couple were sentenced to 15 years in prison for sexually abusing their own children. The children - 3, 9 and 11 years old - were rescued from their home and have since been living together at an aftercare shelter where they continue to work through the emotions of having been exploited by their parents.

Thousands more children are trapped in this form of slavery. But as we’ve seen in the aftermath of rescues, children are resilient; they quickly remember how to play and laugh even after abuse. Our aftercare staff help them process their pain and heal. Though legal battles may take time, we won’t stop until cybersex trafficking is shut down and freedom and justice secured for every child that has been abused.

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**Southeast Asia**

**Research to Help End Sex Trafficking**

To fight effectively, you have to know all there is to know about your opponent; for us, that’s slavery. That’s why we are committed to finding and collecting data, and undertaking on-the-ground research in every place we work.

Over the last year, IJM teams in Mumbai and Kolkata completed the most extensive and longest-running prevalence studies we’ve ever conducted to fully understand the nature and violence involved in sex trafficking in these cities. For example, our studies found that 15% of Mumbai sex establishments studied had minors available.

In addition, interviewed survivors reported seeing from 7 to 11 customers per day in Mumbai, and up to 18 in Kolkata.

Although devastating, this and other data will help us improve our rescue operations, particularly with respect to infiltrating hard-to-find private apartments and secret networks where sex trafficking thrives. With insights from the studies, our teams will be able to better train and support local authorities for the fight ahead.

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**Southeast Asia**

**A New Casework: Labour Trafficking**

Fishing. Cleaning homes. Bride trafficking. These are just a few of industries we’re focusing on to bring an end to labour trafficking in Cambodia.

This year we began fighting cross-border trafficking (Cambodians exploited in other countries, like fishing in the Gulf of Thailand) and forced labour slavery inside Cambodia, by equipping authorities to rescue victims and hold traffickers accountable for their crimes.

Cambodia is a source, transit and destination country for forced labour slavery. Poor migrant workers are particularly vulnerable in a variety of cross-border industries, including fishing and domestic service. Within Cambodia, forced labour slavery cases have been reported in construction, manufacturing, agriculture and other sectors.

We launched our efforts in early 2016 and together with you, are determined to see an end to labour trafficking in Cambodia.

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Photo by Esther Havens

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**South Asia**

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The fight to end slavery scored a momentous victory in March 2016 when, with local authorities, we executed our largest anti-slavery operation ever. As a result, 564 children, women and men were freed from a brick kiln. Many labourers couldn’t believe it was real. When a government officer asked the crowd “Who wants to go free?” he was met with a stunned silence. Slowly, one man raised his hand, then another. Soon dozens of tired hands shot into the air, ready to finally exit into safety.

Police arrested the kiln owner and five other accomplices operating in an organised trafficking network. He had been arrested on similar charges before but was not convicted. Now, he and the others will face charges under India’s anti-trafficking laws and Bonded Labour Abolition Act.

Their arrest underscores the central belief in our goal to end slavery: If criminals remain free, the violence will continue. But if laws are enforced and traffickers go to jail, we can end slavery for good.

In June 2016, hundreds of people across the UK participated in IJM Sunday. Church leaders, volunteers and students introduced their church communities to the work of IJM and encouraged them to join in the fight to end slavery for good.

IJM believes that God has called his people, the church, to be at the forefront of the fight to end slavery. IJM Sunday was therefore an opportunity for churches across the nation to unite and answer that biblical call.

We are thankful to all our supporters who took up arms to join the fight in 2016. With an army of passionate supporters behind us, we can keep fighting on behalf of those in slavery and abuse around the world. So that together we can end slavery for good.

On 31st July 2016, Theresa May announced the creation of a new government taskforce to combat the issue of modern slavery. Following on from the former Home Secretary’s work on the Modern Slavery Act, this is a welcome sign of the UK’s continued commitment to fighting slavery and human trafficking. The new Prime Minister also announced a five-year International Modern Slavery Fund focusing on source countries trafficking to the UK.

Commenting on the announcement, Steve Webster, COO of International Justice Mission UK said, “IJM is delighted at this evidence of the Prime Minister’s continued commitment to combating this issue. The passing of the Modern Slavery Act was a landmark achievement and we applaud her ongoing dedication.”

As the largest anti-slavery organisation in the world, IJM knows from experience that strong legislation is essential to winning the fight. Only when laws are enforced will the violence stop. That’s why we are transforming justice systems, so that violence never happens in the first place.

To eradicate this evil from the world, we must all work together – governments, NGOs, businesses and the general public.

STEVE WEBSTER COO of IJM UK
LIVES TRANSFORMED IN GHANA

In March 2015, 10 boys were rescued from slavery in the fishing industry on Lake Volta, Ghana. Their hands bled from untangling nets. Their skin cracked from constant exposure to wind and water. Their childhoods had been stolen by ruthless boat masters who exploited them for profit.

Not now. Today, these boys hold pencils and toys. Their skin is brighter from nutritious food and proper shelter. Their childhoods have slowly but surely been regained through love and care. Their futures are bright because of supporters like you, who sent us to rescue and restore them. These boys, once enslaved on Lake Volta in Ghana, are now recovering and even thriving.

GODSON
Godson was enslaved when he was 7. For ten years, he was forced to work, often injured and starved, and even saw his best friend die on the lake. He was rescued and reunited with his godmother, and stayed in an aftercare home to receive counselling and healing.

Today, at 18 years old, Godson is unrecognisable. Last summer, Godson completed an apprenticeship in electrical engineering and came top in his class. He remembers his life on the lake, but Godson has bigger hopes now.

AGBENYO*
Agbenyo was taken to work on fishing boats by a relative when his grandparents fell ill. Agbenyo’s days would start at 1 am, setting out fishing nets, and would finish 19 hours later. His grandparents suspected something was wrong and found Agbenyo, but were powerless against the boat master to free him. A week later, IJM rescued Agbenyo and reunited him with his grandparents.

Agbenyo returned to school and is thriving. IJM still support the family and last year rented a tractor so the family could expand their land to grow crops to sell.

ISAAC
Fear is still etched onto 10-year-old Isaac’s face when he talks about being a slave. He started fishing when he was seven, terrified of water and storms. Isaac was taken in by an uncle when his grandparents’ health failed, and from there was sold to a boat master. After being rescued by IJM, Isaac smiled for the first time when he was reunited with his grandparents a few months later.

In late 2016, social workers signed Isaac’s discharge papers, as he graduated from IJM’s aftercare programme. He continues to live with his grandparents and is rediscovering his childhood one day at a time.
INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION is a global organisation that protects the poor from violence throughout the developing world. IJM partners with local authorities to rescue victims of violence, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors and strengthen justice systems.

Highlighted as one of 10 non-profits “making a difference” by U.S. News and World Report, IJM’s innovative work has been featured by the BBC, The Guardian, The Economist, The Financial Times, Forbes, The Oprah Winfrey Show, The Today Show, National Public Radio, CNN and many other outlets.

*A pseudonym. All text and images © 2017 International Justice Mission.