

Nine Parts a Quaker - unfinished business

If the nineteenth century abolished slavery why are more than 20 million people enslaved today? To our shame the work of Clarkson, Wilberforce and others remains unfinished: human trafficking and indentured labour are widespread. Does our lifestyle make us unwittingly complicit? Is there anything ordinary people can do to break the chains? The play asks the questions – but you must provide the answers.

This is an updated version of our 2007 play, written to mark the bi-centenary of the abolition of the slave trade. Intercut with stories of modern slavery, it tells the story of Thomas Clarkson, who devoted his life to the forty year fight to end the misery of slavery in the 19th century.

Since then the continuing abuse of human slavery in our own century has become more widely known. This is our small contribution to raising awareness of this ugly and abusive trade.

What can we do to help end modern slavery?

- Know our own history, how Britain became rich on the proceeds of slavery
- Be aware of potentially tainted goods such as chocolate, cheap cotton garments and 'conflict minerals'
- Keep ourselves informed of abuse on our doorstep, such as forced labour and the evils of sex-trafficking

"There is slavery going on right under our noses that we may not be aware of, sex-trafficking, child-slavery . . . it's hell on earth. Everybody has a responsibility to do something about it. We have to be aware of it to change it."

Anti-Slavery International

PLAIN QUAKERS is a theatrical partnership based in West Yorkshire. It was founded in 2007 by Arthur Pritchard and Mike Casey. Using simple story-telling theatre and minimal resources, the company aims to raise awareness of Quaker concerns and traditions through plays that are relevant and accessible, and that encourage an active engagement with Quaker testimonies on peace, simplicity, and ethical living, in the context of contemporary global capitalism.



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