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**Anti-Slavery International submission for the Universal Periodic Review of Niger, 24th Session**

**COVER PAGE**

**Anti-Slavery International:** Anti-Slavery International, founded in 1839, is committed to eliminating all forms of slavery throughout the world. Slavery, servitude and forced labour are violations of individual freedoms, which deny millions of people their basic dignity and fundamental human rights. Anti-Slavery International works at local, national and international levels around the world to eradicate slavery, for example by undertaking research on slavery practices; lobbying governments and intergovernmental agencies to take action to end and prevent the practice; and supporting local organisations that work to eradicate slavery through awareness-raising, advocacy and assistance to victims of slavery. Anti-Slavery International has consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). <http://www.antislavery.org/english/>

This submission focuses on the persistence of slavery in Niger and is based on information gathered by Anti-Slavery International (UK) and Association Timidria (Niger). In 2007, Anti-Slavery International and Timidria opened six primary schools in the Tchintabaraden region of Niger for children from communities emerging from slavery. This is the first time that anyone from these communities has had access to formal education. Over 400 children attend our schools, roughly 50% of whom are girls, and the children have been achieving excellent results. This not only protects them from slavery and child labour; it has also helped to erode the traditional barriers that descendants of slaves face by enabling direct contact with the authorities, who have begun to provide other basic services in the villages. We provide micro-credit to over 250 of the pupils' mothers, who have formed small businesses. Work in schools is complemented by regular awareness-raising sessions on human rights and advocacy skills with the communities. Our work in Niger also includes provision of legal support to victims of slavery and related discrimination, with many cases pending in the courts.

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