



# SPOTLIGHT: MAURITANIA

## THE HARATIN

In 1981, post-colonial Mauritania became the last country in the world to abolish slavery. Despite this, the Haratin people (or Black Moors) are automatically assigned to the 'slave-caste' at birth in Mauritania.

Casteism and racism are deeply entwined concepts. The Haratin, despite being the indigenous population, were enslaved by lighter skinned, 'white moors'.

The Haratin are often not allowed to marry and account for about 85% of the illiterate population. In caste-based slavery, they are denied employment, education and often face violence and rape. Anti-slavery activists are regularly tortured and imprisoned.

## OVERVIEW

**MARGINALISED GROUP:  
THE HARATIN**

**POPULATION SIZE:  
300,000 (40%-60% OF  
TOTAL POPULATION)**

**OFTEN RANKED AS WORST  
COUNTRY FOR SLAVERY**

**MAIN RELIGION:  
SUNNI ISLAM**

**DISCRIMINATION:  
STIGMA, SLAVERY, LIMITED  
ACCESS TO HOUSING,  
EDUCATION, WATER AND  
HEALTHCARE,  
IMPRISONMENT OF ANTI-  
SLAVERY ACTIVISTS**

## THE CHRISTIAN NETWORK AGAINST CASTE DISCRIMINATION

CNACD exists to challenge the entrenched, antiquated beliefs of caste systems and to help foster positive change.