

# We need to be aware. Abuse morphs. Its reality does not...

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Dr Cassandra Gooptar makes an excellent point [in the video](#) on the Guardian's involvement in slavery that [I have already linked](#) today.

She made the point that whenever she arrives in a major city or other place she asks herself the question 'where did the money come from to make this place?' She's right to do so. History has clearly taught her that, too often, the answer is slavery.

The question she asks resonates with me. I often ask a variant on that question, and I am aware that it reveals my different perspective. I often ask where the money comes from now. Dr Gooptar looks at history. I admit, I look at the present. In both cases I think the question is relevant.

Cassandra Gooptar is looking for past abuse, and rightly so. I am looking for the financial flows that keep places going now.

This habit started in tax havens, I think. I saw abuse of a different sort there. Now I ask the question of anywhere. And too often I see current abuse.

Partly that is of workers. Many are abused, and that systemic abuse is growing as government and central bankers work in unison to crush their well-being.

Partly it is of the environment. Too often places make their living by destroying the world on which we are all dependent.

One of the lessons we need to learn from past abuses is that our capacity to create new forms of abuse in pursuit of profit appears untamed.

We need to be aware. Abuse morphs. Its reality does not. Nor, by and large, do its victims. They are always those the rich and powerful think they can exploit for their gain.

To loop back to my [first post of this morning](#), this is why we need a state that will stand up for and protect people rather than see its role as the enabler of markets. We need a

Courageous State, to quote the title of my 2011 book.