

Slave Trade Act, 1824

SLAVE TRADE ACT 1824

CHAPTER CXIII.

An Act to amend and consolidate the Laws relating to the Abolition of the Slave Trade. [24th June 1824.]

[*Preamble.*]

[*S. 1 rep. 36 & 37 Vict. c. 88. s. 30.*]

The purchase, sale, or contract for slaves declared unlawful; as also the removal, importation, or exportation of slaves; the fitting out of vessels, or making of loans or guarantees on shipping of goods for the above purposes; the serving on board ships employed for

2. It shall not be lawful for any persons to deal or trade in, purchase, sell, barter, or transfer, or to contract for the dealing or trading in, purchase, sale, barter, or transfer of slaves, or persons intended to be dealt with as slaves; or to carry away, or remove, or to contract for the carrying away or removing of slaves or other persons, as or in order to their being dealt with as slaves; or to import or bring, or to contract for the importing or bringing into any place whatsoever slaves or other persons, as or in order to their being dealt with as slaves; or to ship, tranship, embark, receive, detain, or confine on board, or to contract for the shipping, transshipping, embarking, receiving, detaining, or confining on board of any ship, vessel, or boat, slaves or other persons, for the purpose of their being carried away or removed, as or in order to their being dealt with as slaves; or to ship, tranship, embark, receive, detain, or confine on board, or to contract for the shipping, transshipping, embarking, receiving, detaining, or confining on board of any ship, vessel, or boat, slaves or other persons, for the purpose of their being imported or brought into any place whatsoever as or in order to their being dealt with as slaves; or to fit out, man, navigate, equip, despatch, use, employ, let, or take to freight or on hire, or to contract for the fitting out, manning, navigating, equipping, despatching, using, employing, letting, or taking to freight or on hire, any ship, vessel, or boat, in order to accomplish any of the objects, or the contracts in relation to the objects, which objects and contracts have herein-before been declared unlawful; or to lend or advance, or become security for the loan or advance, or to contract for the lending or advancing, or becoming security for the loan or advance of money, goods, or effects employed or to be employed in accomplishing any of the objects, or the contracts in relation to the objects, which objects and contracts have herein-before been declared unlawful; or to become guarantee or security, or to contract for the becoming guarantee or security, for agents employed or to be employed in accomplishing any of the objects, or the contracts in relation to the objects, which objects and contracts have herein-before been declared unlawful; or in any other manner to engage or to contract to

any of such purposes; or the insuring of slaves or slave adventures.

engage directly or indirectly therein as a partner, agent, or otherwise; or to ship, tranship, lade, receive, or put on board, or to contract, for the shipping, transshipping, lading, receiving, or putting on board of any ship, vessel, or boat, money, goods, or effects to be employed in accomplishing any of the objects, or the contracts in relation to the objects, which objects and contracts have herein-before been declared unlawful; or to take the charge or command, or to navigate or enter and embark on board, or to contract for the taking the charge or command, or for the navigating or entering and embarking on board of any ship, vessel, or boat, as captain, master, mate, petty officer, surgeon, supercargo, seaman, marine, or servant, or in any other capacity, knowing that such ship, vessel, or boat is actually employed, or is in the same voyage, or upon the same occasion, in respect of which they shall so take the charge or command, or navigate or enter and embark, or contract so to do as aforesaid, intended to be employed in accomplishing any of the objects, or the contracts in relation to the objects, which objects and contracts have herein-before been declared unlawful; or to insure or to contract for the insuring of any slaves, or any property, or other subject matter, engaged or employed or intended to be engaged or employed in accomplishing any of the objects, or the contracts in relation to the objects, which objects and contracts have herein-before been declared unlawful.

Penalty for dealing in slaves, or exporting or importing them, &c.

3. If any persons shall deal or trade in, purchase, sell, barter, or transfer, or contract for the dealing or trading in, purchase, sale, barter, or transfer of slaves, or persons intended to be dealt with as slaves; or shall carry away or remove or contract for the carrying away or removing of slaves or other persons, as or in order to their being dealt with as slaves; or shall import or bring or contract for the importing or bringing into any place whatsoever slaves or other persons as or in order to their being dealt with as slaves; or shall ship, tranship, embark, receive, detain, or confine on board, or contract for the shipping, transshipping, embarking, receiving, detaining, or confining on board of any ship, vessel, or boat, slaves or other persons, for the purpose of their being carried away or removed, as or in order to their being dealt with as slaves; or to ship, tranship, embark, receive, detain, or confine on board, or contract for the shipping, transshipping, embarking, receiving, detaining, or confining on board of any ship, vessel, or boat, slaves or other persons, for the purpose of their being imported or brought into any place whatsoever, as or in order to their being dealt with as slaves; then and in every such case the persons so offending, and their procurers, counsellors, aiders, and abettors, shall forfeit and pay for every such offence the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of Great Britain for each and every slave so dealt or traded in, purchased, sold, bartered, or transferred, carried away, removed, imported, brought, shipped, transhipped, embarked, received, detained, or confined on board, or so contracted for as aforesaid; the one moiety thereof to the use of his Majesty, and the other moiety to the use of any person who shall inform, sue, and prosecute for the same; and all property or pretended property in such slaves or persons as aforesaid shall also be forfeited, and the said slaves or persons shall and may be seized and prosecuted as herein-after is mentioned and provided.

Ships fitted out for slave trade to be forfeited. **4.** If any persons shall fit out, man, navigate, equip, despatch, use, employ, let or take to freight or on hire, or contract for the fitting out, manning, navigating, equipping, despatching, using, employing, letting or taking to freight or on hire, any ship, vessel, or boat, in order to accomplish any of the objects, or the contracts in relation to the objects, which objects and contracts have herein-before been declared unlawful, such ship, vessel, or boat, together with all her boats, guns, tackle, apparel, and furniture, and together likewise with all property, goods, or effects found on board belonging to the owner or owners, part owner or part owners of any such ship, vessel, or boat, shall become forfeited, and may and shall be seized and prosecuted as herein-after is mentioned and provided.

Penalty for embarking capital in the slave trade, &c. **5.** If any persons shall knowingly and wilfully lend or advance, or become security for the loan or advance, or shall contract for the lending or advancing, or becoming security for the loan or advance of money, goods, or effects employed or to be employed in accomplishing any of the objects, or the contracts in relation to the objects, which objects and contracts have herein-before been declared unlawful, then and in every such case the persons so offending, and their procurers, counsellors, aiders, and abettors, shall forfeit and pay for every such offence double the value of all the money, goods, and effects so lent, advanced, or secured or so contracted for as aforesaid, to be recovered and applied as is herein-after mentioned and provided.

Penalty for guaranteeing slave adventures. **6.** If any persons shall knowingly and wilfully become guarantee or security, or contract for the becoming guarantee or security, for agents employed or to be employed in accomplishing any of the objects, or the contracts in relation to the objects, which objects and contracts have herein-before been declared unlawful, or shall in any other manner engage or contract to engage directly or indirectly therein as a partner, agent, or otherwise, then and in every such case the persons so offending, and their procurers, counsellors, aiders, and abettors, shall forfeit and pay for every such offence double the value of all the money, goods, and effects so by them secured or contracted so to be as aforesaid, to be recovered and applied as is herein-after mentioned and provided.

Penalty for shipping goods, &c. to be employed in the slave trade. **7.** If any person shall knowingly and wilfully ship, tranship, lade, receive, or put on board, or contract for the shipping, transhipping, lading, receiving, or putting on board of any ship, vessel, or boat, any money, goods, or effects to be employed in accomplishing any of the objects, or the contracts in relation to the objects, which objects and contracts have herein-before been declared unlawful, then and in every such case the persons so offending, and their procurers, counsellors, aiders, and abettors, shall forfeit and pay for every such offence double the value of all the money, goods, and effects so shipped, transhipped, laden, received, or put on board, or contracted so to be as aforesaid, to be recovered and applied as is herein-after mentioned and provided.

Penalty for insuring slaves or slave adventures. **8.** If any person shall knowingly and wilfully insure or contract for the insuring of any slaves, or any property or other subject matter engaged or employed, or intended to be engaged or employed in accomplishing any of the objects, or the contracts in relation to the objects, which objects and contracts have herein-before been declared unlawful, then and in every such case the person so offending, and their procurers, counsellors, aiders, and abettors, shall forfeit and pay for every such offence the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of Great Britain for every such insurance or contract for the same, and also treble the amount of the premium of any such insurance or contract for the same, the one moiety thereof to the use of his Majesty, and the other moiety to the use of any person who shall inform, sue, and prosecute for the same, and every such insurance shall be absolutely null and void.

Subjects of his Majesty, &c. dealing in slaves on the high seas, &c. to be deemed guilty of piracy. **9.** If any subject or subjects of his Majesty, or any person or persons residing or being within any of the dominions, forts, settlements, factories, or territories now or hereafter belonging to his Majesty, or being in his Majesty's occupation or possession or under the government of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies, shall, upon the high seas, or in any haven, river, creek, or place where the admiral has jurisdiction, knowingly and wilfully carry away, convey, or remove or aid, or assist in carrying away, conveying, or removing, any person or persons as a slave or slaves, or for the purpose of his, her, or their being imported or brought as a slave or slaves into any island, colony, country, territory, or place whatsoever, or for the purpose of his, her, or their being sold, transferred, used, or dealt with as a slave or slaves, or shall upon the high seas, or within the jurisdiction aforesaid, knowingly and wilfully ship, embark, receive, detain, or confine, or assist in shipping, embarking, receiving, detaining, or confining, on board any ship, vessel, or boat, any person or persons for the purpose of his, her, or their being carried away, conveyed, or removed as a slave or slaves, or for the purpose of his, her, or their being imported or brought as a slave or slaves into any island, colony, country, territory, or place whatsoever, or for the purpose of his, her, or their being sold, transferred, used, or dealt with as a slave or slaves, then and in every such case the person or persons so offending shall be deemed and adjudged guilty of piracy, felony, and robbery, . . .

Persons dealing in slaves or removing or exporting or importing slaves; or fitting out slave ships; **10.** If any persons shall deal or trade in, purchase, sell, barter, or transfer, or contract for the dealing or trading in, purchase, sale, barter, or transfer of slaves, or persons intended to be dealt with as slaves, or shall carry away or remove, or contract for the carrying away or removing of slaves or other persons, as or in order to their being dealt with as slaves, or shall import or bring, or contract for the importing or bringing into any place whatsoever slaves or other persons, as or in order to their being dealt with as slaves, or shall ship, tranship, embark, receive, detain, or confine on board, or contract for the shipping, transhipping, embarking, receiving, detaining, or confining on board of any ship, vessel, or boat, slaves or other persons, for the purpose of their being carried away or removed, as or in order to their being dealt with as slaves; or shall ship, tranship, embark, receive, detain, or confine on board, or contract for the shipping, transhipping, embarking, receiving, detaining, or confining on board of any ship,

or embarking vessel, or boat, slaves or other persons, for the purpose of their being imported or brought into capital, &c. in any place whatsoever, as or in order to their being dealt with as slaves; or shall fit out, man, the slave navigate, equip, despatch, use, employ, let or take to freight or on hire, or contract for the fitting trade; out, manning, navigating, equipping, despatching, using, employing, letting, or taking to freight or on hire any ship, vessel, or boat, in order to accomplish any of the objects, or the contracts in relation to the objects, which objects and contracts have herein-before been declared unlawful; or shall knowingly and wilfully lend or advance, or become security for the loan or advance, or contract for the lending or advancing, or becoming security for the loan or advance, of money, goods, or effects employed or to be employed in accomplishing any of the objects, or the contracts in relation to the objects, which objects and contracts have herein-before been declared unlawful; or shall knowingly and wilfully become guarantee or security, or contract for the becoming guarantee or security, for agents employed or to be employed in accomplishing any of the objects, or the contracts in relation to the objects, which objects and contracts have herein-before been declared unlawful, or in any other manner to engage or to contract to engage directly or indirectly therein as a partner, agent, or otherwise; or shall knowingly and wilfully ship, tranship, lade, receive, or put on board, or contract for the shipping, transhipping, lading, receiving, or putting on board of any ship, vessel, or boat, money, goods, or effects to be employed in accomplishing any of the objects, or the contracts in relation to the objects, which objects and contracts have herein-before been declared unlawful; or shall take the charge or command, or navigate, or enter and embark on board, or contract for the taking the charge or command, or for the navigating or entering and embarking on board of any ship, vessel, or boat, as captain, master, mate, surgeon, or supercargo, knowing that such ship, vessel, or boat is actually employed or is, in the same voyage or upon the same occasion in respect of which they shall so take the charge or command, or navigate or enter and embark, or contract so to do as aforesaid, intended to be employed in accomplishing any of the objects, or the contracts in relation to the objects, which objects and contracts have herein-before been declared unlawful; or shall knowingly and wilfully insure or contract for the insuring of any slaves, or any property or other subject matter engaged or employed in accomplishing any of the objects, or the contracts in relation to the objects, which objects and contracts have herein-before been declared unlawful; or shall wilfully and fraudulently forge or counterfeit and certificate, certificate of valuation, sentence or decree of condemnation or restitution, copy of sentence or decree of condemnation or restitution, or any receipt (such receipts being require by this Act), or any part of such certificate, certificate of valuation, sentence or decree of condemnation or restitution, copy of sentence or decree of condemnation or restitution, or receipt as aforesaid; or shall knowingly and wilfully utter or publish the same, knowing it to be forged or counterfeited, with intent to defraud his Majesty, or any other person or persons whatsoever, or any body politic or corporate; then and in every such case the person or persons so offending, and their procurers, counsellors, aiders, and abettors, shall be and are hereby declared to be felons, and shall be transported beyond seas for a term not exceeding fourteen years, or shall

be confined and kept to hard labour for a term not exceeding five years, nor less than three years, at the discretion of the court before whom such offender or offenders shall be tried and convicted.

Seamen, &c. **11.** If any persons shall enter and embark on board, or contract for the entering and serving on embarking on board of any ship, vessel, or boat, as petty officer, seaman, marine, or servant, or board such in any other capacity not herein-before specifically mentioned, knowing that such ship, vessel, ships declared or boat is actually employed or is, in the same voyage or upon the same occasion in respect of guilty of a which they shall so enter and embark on board, or contract so to do as aforesaid, intended to misdemeanor, be employed in accomplishing any of the objects, or the contracts in relation to the objects, &c. which objects and contracts have herein-before been declared unlawful, then and in every such case the persons so offending, and their procurers, counsellors, aiders, and abettors, shall be and they are hereby declared to be guilty of a misdemeanor only, and shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.

Making any **12.** Provided always, that nothing in this Act contained, making piracies, felonies, robberies, offence piracy, and misdemeanors of the several offences aforesaid, shall be construed to repeal, annul, or felony, &c. alter the provisions and enactments in this Act also contained, imposing forfeitures and shall not penalties or either of them upon the same offences, or to repeal, annul or alter the remedies affect the given for the recovery thereof; but that the said provisions and enactments imposing forfeitures provisions of and penalties shall in all respects be deemed and taken to be in full force, this Act, imposing forfeitures or penalties for any such offence.

[Ss. 13–38 *rep.* 36 & 37 *Vict. c.* 88. s. 30.]

Mortgages, &c. given for purposes hereby declared unlawful shall be void, except in case of bonâ fide purchasers of negotiable securities without notice.

39. Every mortgage, bond, bill, note, or other security, made in or to accomplish any of the objects or the contracts in relation to the objects, which objects and contracts have by this Act been declared unlawful, shall, except in the case of a bonâ fide purchaser or holder of any such of the said securities as are in their nature negotiable, who may have purchased or obtained the same without notice that the same were made or given for any such unlawful purposes, be void.

Offenders giving information against owners of vessels, &c. to be exempted from penalties.

40. Provided always, that if any person or persons offending as a petty officer, seaman, marine, or servant, against any of the provisions of this Act, shall, within two years after the offence committed, give information on oath before any competent magistrate against any owner or part owner, or any captain, master, mate, surgeon, or supercargo of any ship or vessel, who shall have committed any offence against this Act, and shall give evidence on oath against such owner or part owner, captain, master, mate, surgeon, or supercargo, before any magistrate or court before whom such offender may be tried; or if such person or persons so offending shall give information to any of his Majesty's ambassadors, ministers plenipotentiary, envoys, charges d'affaires, consuls, residents, or other agents, so that any person or persons owing such ship or vessel, or navigating or taking charge of the same, as captain, master, mate, surgeon, or supercargo, may be apprehended; such person or persons so giving information and evidence shall not be liable to any of the pains or penalties under this Act incurred in respect of his offence, and his Majesty's ambassadors, ministers plenipotentiary, envoys, chargés d'affaires, consuls, residents, or other agents, are hereby required to receive any such information as aforesaid, and to transmit the particulars thereof, without delay, to one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state, and to transmit copies of the same to the commanders of his Majesty's ships or vessels then being in the said port or place,

[Ss. 41–46 *rep.* 36 & 37 *Vict. c.* 88. s. 30.]

Limitation of suits, &c. for penalties and forfeitures. **47.** All actions, suits, bills, indictments, or informations, for the recovery of any of the penalties or forfeitures under this Act, may be commenced, had, brought, sued, exhibited, or prosecuted at any time within five years after the offence committed, by reason whereof such penalty or forfeiture shall be incurred: Provided always, that where any slave or slaves have been, or shall at any time have been illegally imported, nothing herein contained shall extend to prevent proceeding being commenced to obtain the condemnation or forfeiture thereof, but that the said slave or slaves so illegally imported shall and may be condemned and forfeited at any time after such illegal importation.

No limitation to suits for condemnation and forfeiture of slaves illegally imported.

[Residue of Act, ss. 48-82, rep. 36 & 37 Vict. c. 88. s. 30.]