Methods of Abolitionists

Books – Written by members of the Abolition movement to educate people about evils of slaver. Olaudah Equiano’s autobiography for example.

Images – Published pamphlets and books with images of the treatment of slaves because only about half the population could read.

Speeches/Meetings – Public meetings were the best way to get a point across before radio and television. Abolitionists would address members of the public about the evils of slavery.

Petitions – Abolitionists would send petitions to important people (eg King and Queen and members of Parliament). These people were the people who had the power to make change.

Lobbying MPs – Trying to convince MPs about the evils of slavery and get them on the side of the Abolitionists.

Bills – Wilberforce tried to get MPs to accepts a bill (an idea for a law) against the slave trade in Parliament.

Sugar Boycott – 400,000 people were boycotting slave produced sugar. By not buying sugar, the demand for it would drop and it would affect the slave traders profit.

Source A is taken from William Wilberforce’s diary in 1783.

Our cause is gaining momentum, seeing more and more people joining us each week. Men and women alike are beginning to see the sense in our campaign and it is evident we are making progress throughout the country. A vast number of enlightened people have stopped buying sugar produced by the poor souls in the West Indies. If it continues, we are likely to cripple those who take part in this accursed trade. There appears to be more people attending meetings as well. I have been particularly impressed with Newton’s ability to spur on those in the crowd and convince new comers that our cause is a just one. We are moving steadily towards abolition now. The road that now lies before us is still a long one, but I am beginning to see an end that will, God willing, result in victory for humanity.

Evaluate the usefulness of Source A as evidence of the methods used by Abolitionists. (6)