The Organised Campaign in Britain

Introduction:

Sharpe knew that it would take more than one man to fight against the slave trade that was so well organized and brought such huge profits to both Europe and the New World. In 1787, he spearheaded the formation of The Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade.



Poster, Birmingham Anti-Slavery Society, 12 September 1836

They decided to make the public aware of the horrible experiences of the slave on their journey from West Africa to the New World (Middle Passage). They were convinced that if the many humanitarians and Christians in England knew of the atrocities of the trade they would pressure the government to end it. They were right!

A number of religious groups were already actively campaigning against slavery and the slave trade. The **Quakers or Society of Friends** of which Granville Sharpe was a member and **The Clapham Sects** of which Ramsay, Wilberforce and Macaulay were members and the Non-Conformist

Churches: **Baptists, Methodists, Moravians etc.**, were engaged in the struggle long before the ruling of 1772. In Barbados and Pennsylvania the Quakers urged their members to set their slaves free.

Strategies used:

- Public campaigns
- Public lectures
- Public readings of essays and pamphlets on slavery
- Distribution of leaflets and fliers
- Debates in the House of Parliament
- Religious leaders preached anti-slavery sermons