

2017



FREEDOM SUNDAY
SEE IT, SPEAK OUT

*God's people
working together to end
human trafficking and modern slavery*

RESOURCES FOR
WORSHIP AND ACTION

WELCOME TO FREEDOM SUNDAY



This resource has grown out of an ongoing shared journey by faith communities working to end human trafficking and modern slavery. This year's theme is **See It, Speak Out**. We're asking you to open your eyes to modern slavery and human trafficking that might be happening in your community.

The steering group of Freedom Sunday has developed this practical resource to enable faith communities to build their understanding of what human trafficking is, how to spot the signs of trafficking in their communities and congregations, and how to respond.

Find out more about who is involved on our website: www.freedomsgiving.org

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WHY FREEDOM SUNDAY?

What do you think when you read that slavery is happening in your town?

We can make all kinds of cultural assumptions, fed for the most part by Hollywood's portrayal of the issue. Often, we are presented with historical stories of slavery, ones that push the very thought of it into another time or place. Other times, we are shown examples of children and women as victims of sickening abuse, which are so disturbing we distance ourselves from the harsh reality.

We silently tell ourselves, **"It isn't happening where I live."**

As a result, we fail to see what is happening right under our noses, hidden in plain sight.

But what do we see when we watch men washing our cars, sleeping in garages, and wearing clothing that barely holds up?

What do we see when we know our neighbour has 'live-in household help', yet we never see them leave the house?

Modern slavery and human trafficking are not things of the past, nor do they fit neatly into Hollywood archetypes; they are happening now and they are affecting millions of people across the world. It is thought that the buying, selling and exploitation of people is the fastest growing crime in the world today.

Long supply chains in today's globalised economy create spaces of opportunity for traffickers to exploit the most vulnerable. This is compounded by what Pope Francis has called the "globalisation of indifference", a spiritual problem where we are all so focussed on our own lives that we don't notice what is happening to the vulnerable people in our communities.

When campaigning against the Transatlantic Slave Trade was at its height, many British people decided to boycott the sugar produced by the slave trade. This resulted in a lowering of economic prosperity, but the conscience of the nation could no longer bear the weight of upholding such an oppressive trade in human lives. It was a critical step in the right direction, yet in the broader history of global slavery, it could be viewed as a drop in the ocean.

**Evil will rear its head in every generation.
We need to act now to stop the trafficking of people.**

So what can we do? How can we make a difference? And why should faith communities even get involved?

Faith communities are often seen as places of safety and refuge to vulnerable people in crisis, regardless of their faith background, when they do not know where to turn or who to trust. Where people are vulnerable and are seeking our help we must be prepared to act.

Faith communities have the capacity to love and value others. We bring energy and a mission to help those in need. We are well placed to provide care in the community and to build partnerships between statutory agencies and the voluntary sector. Our eyes and ears are important too. Community based intelligence is essential and through our networks faith communities can overcome the disconnection that lets trafficking thrive.

Christians in Derby have been helping through the Mothers Union, by providing trafficking victims with warm clothes and toiletries. A church in Manchester is teaching English to survivors of modern slavery, giving them the skills they need to build a new life. The Salvation Army is protecting victims through their network of safehouses, giving them a safe place to stay and get support.

Synagogues in the UK are holding drop in centres for refugees and asylum seekers, who are extremely vulnerable to trafficking and slavery. They are supporting more than 600 people with food, toiletries, and clothes, and offering advice to keep them safe from harm.

Freedom Sunday is an opportunity to learn from examples like these. A chance to come together as people of faith to learn about, and pray about, how we can help end this human suffering.

By acting together, we can help make our communities slavery free.

Join in with Freedom Sunday. 15.10.2017*

*A note on the date. We are suggesting you use this resource on Sunday 15th October, the closest Sunday to Anti-Trafficking Day on Wednesday 18th October. If that date doesn't work for your faith community, then don't worry! We welcome anybody spreading the word about modern slavery and human trafficking at any time of year.

LET US KNOW HOW IT GOES

We would love to hear how you and your faith community have used this resource, and how you are taking action. Use the hashtag #FreedomSundayUK or send us your stories via our website: www.freedomsundayglobal.org

THE FREEDOM PRAYER

This issue needs prayer. We invite you to pray as you feel led, and according to your faith tradition. If you only include one element of this resource in your service, we hope it is the Freedom Prayer. We are inviting all groups to join together in praying this Freedom Prayer during their service.

Voice 1: On this holy ground of worship
In this sacred place of prayer
We have heard the voice of freedom
Crying 'Let my people go.'

**All: Father/God of freedom,
Who leads us into life,
Deliver us from every evil:
And make of us
Deliverers of others.**

Voice 2: Where chains restrain God's chosen children,
Where humans trade in kin and skin,
May our words pass on your promise,
Of a land where liberty is sweet.

**All: Father/God of freedom,
Who leads us into life,
Deliver us from every evil:
And make of us
Deliverers of others.**

Voice 3: Give us faith to face the Pharaohs,
Who line their pockets from this plague.
Send us as salvation's sponsors,
Willing servants; slaves to love.

**All: Father/God of freedom,
Who leads us into life,
Deliver us from every evil:
And make of us
Deliverers of others.
Amen**

To download the Freedom Prayer in other languages, please go to our website:
www.freedomsundayglobal.org

STORIES BEHIND THE STATISTICS

These stories show the role ordinary people in communities can play in ending modern slavery. We encourage you to incorporate these stories into your service, perhaps by including one in a sermon or talk. Or you could read one aloud during a time of prayer, and ask people to reflect on what they have heard. It's completely up to you, but we would love to hear what you did. Get in touch by posting on social media with the hashtag #FreedomSundayUK, or contact us via our website www.freedomundayglobal.org.

SPOTTING THE SIGNS WITH THE SALVATION ARMY

For Salvation Army Officer Captain Lorraine Kinnear, understanding the community she lives in is key to spotting the signs of modern slavery.

"If you have good relationships with people in your community then recognising the signs of modern slavery becomes easier. The more I talk about modern slavery the more educated our local communities will be, which makes it more likely that together we can spot the signs and do something about it."

Lorraine's journey started in 2015 at an information evening The Salvation Army's Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Unit hosted in Maidstone. "I learned there are cases where victims of modern slavery are initially identified as a victim of domestic violence or a refugee or someone who is homeless."

In September 2015 Captain Lorraine's youngest daughter started nursery, and she found many of the other mothers didn't speak English. They were searching for inexpensive English lessons. Captain Lorraine drew on her friends' skills and started hosting free English classes with volunteer teachers.

"The English classes opened up a conversation with a lady called Alana*; she had been supported in a Salvation Army safe house and now has a new life. It was really good she could talk to me - other girls came into the group and she would tell them 'Lorraine will help you'."

"Alana found a girl who had literally just escaped from being trafficked. She phoned me saying Tanya* had called her pleading for help after escaping her traffickers by smashing the windows of the house. I took Tanya to my house until a volunteer driver arrived because she was in such a bad way. I found an Albanian translator who discovered that all Tanya wanted was a shower. Her skin was awful, she hadn't eaten. I drove to the safe house with her - it was nice to see her arrive safely."

Since then, Captain Lorraine has hosted her own information evenings, attended by members of the community including emergency service personnel. She also volunteers as a regional transport coordinator for the Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Unit. This role includes recruiting, training and supporting volunteers who chaperone and drive victims of modern slavery to safe houses.

Captain Lorraine finishes, "I have a real passion for helping people. When I signed my covenant as a Salvation Army Officer it said to love the unlovable, clothe the naked, feed the hungry and befriend the friendless. Each of us should be fighting against injustice. It is difficult as you can't help everyone, but if you help one person at a time then we can make a difference. Our area came even closer together as a community learning how to spot the signs of modern slavery - so can others."

*Names have been changed.

HIDING ON THE INTERNET: CYBERSEX TRAFFICKING

This story deals with child abuse. Please check beforehand if the details are appropriate for your group, for example if you have children present.

God wants to end slavery and he calls his people to help time and time again.

Slavery has evaded extinction by adaptation. As the church we must also adapt so that we can uncover new forms of slavery. The most recent manifestation is cybersex trafficking, otherwise known as the online sexual exploitation of children. Before you read on, remember: God is calling us to end slavery.

The problem of cybersex trafficking is closer to home than you may think. To date, International Justice Mission (IJM) has dealt with cases involving customers from the UK, Australia, Canada, Germany and the United States. In late 2015, a man from London was convicted for sexually abusing and exploiting children via a webcam. More than 4,000 indecent images were found on his laptop. The images traced back to a cybersex trafficking ring in the Philippines, where our team found seven-year-old Maarko*. Maarko, his two-year-old sister, and three cousins were being exploited by Maarko's mother and aunt. The British man had paid to set up a webcam in their home so he could direct the live abuse of the children, who were forced to pose and perform in front of the camera.

IJM investigators and Philippine police tracked down the house and safely removed all of the children. Maarko's mother and aunt were arrested, and court proceedings have begun against them for grooming and exploiting their children for profit. IJM will continue defending these children in the legal case to hold the perpetrators accountable. Restraining the criminals not only prevents further abuse, but also sends a strong signal to the community in the UK and the Philippines that there are real consequences for abusing young children.

Maarko, his sister and his cousins are now safe in an aftercare home. The eldest children have been enrolled in a school where they can have a fresh start and resume their studies. IJM social workers visit the children weekly and have shared that "the children have a glow of playfulness. They love to tease; they smile and laugh constantly."

Since being rescued, a few of the children have shared that they knew of other victims. Thanks to their courage and information, two more boys were rescued.

Maarko's story illustrates the devastating reality of cybersex trafficking. Thousands of young girls and boys today have no one to protect them from this abuse, unless we fight to protect them. That's why IJM is on the ground working day and night searching for each individual in need of rescue. Please pray with us and consider getting involved in our campaign #NotOnMyScreen. We pray the church will bring this new form of trafficking into the light.

You can find a video version of this story here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iIML8kKHsOM>

A NEIGHBOUR OFFERS A CHANCE OF ESCAPE

Sara*, an Indian national, was bought to the UK from Kuwait as a domestic worker.

Living in London, Sara* was treated appallingly by her employers. She was not allowed to contact her family, was often locked in the house, was not allowed out to go to church and was expected to be constantly on call, looking after their baby 24 hours a day. With no contacts in the UK, no money, and her passport in the hands of her employers, Sara did not have anyone to turn to for help. She received no pay for five months. She was trapped in modern slavery.

A neighbour noticed that Sara seemed distressed whenever he saw her. He had also heard rumours of her treatment and was concerned that she was not being paid and was being treated badly. He contacted Kalayaan, a charity that provides advice and support to migrant domestic workers in the UK, to see how he could help. They told him it was important to know what kind of visa she had, as that would determine whether she would get deported immediately if she left her employers.

The neighbour managed to speak with Sara and get basic information from her which could be used to determine what her options might be.

Sara was worried that if she went to the police she would be deported, so she decided to leave her employer and to try and find another job. But her visa was expiring so she needed to find a new job very quickly.

Her only problem was that she was in constant sole care of a baby and was not able to leave the baby on its own. Even if there was someone else in the house Sara was usually not allowed out. However, Sara grabbed her chance when her employer let her out to do the shopping. She caught a taxi which she paid for with some money given to her by her neighbour and went straight to Kalayaan.

Sara's main priority was to find another job as she would need one in order to renew her visa. With one week before her visa was due to expire Sara managed to secure a job. She is currently working in the UK as a nanny. Her work allows her employers to go to work knowing their child is well cared for and Sara is able to send money home to support her family.

*Names have been changed.

STORIES FROM YOUR AREA

If you have time, why not try and find a story of modern slavery or human trafficking from your own area?

Try searching the website of your local paper, or google your town or county's name along with 'modern slavery' or 'human trafficking'. You could include the story in your church's newsletter, use it in a sermon, or post it on your social media.

People may be surprised to read that modern slavery and human trafficking are not crimes that happen far away, instead they are right at the heart of our communities, and often happening under our noses. We hope these stories will show people the power of their eyes and voices. **See It, Speak Out.**

SERMON / TALK OUTLINE

INTRODUCING MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Begin by introducing the topic of modern slavery and human trafficking. Don't assume that your congregation will have heard about it before; some people might be surprised to hear that these issues are prevalent in the UK, as well as across the world.

Resources you could use:

- [Introduction to modern slavery](#)
- Video: '[What do you see?](#)' by Unchosen, available from their website
- Explore modern slavery and human trafficking in your local area. Search online for news stories from your local newspaper. You could share a story you read about in your sermon.

HOW HAS THIS ISSUE BECOME SUCH A BIG PROBLEM?

There are many reasons why modern slavery and human trafficking have taken such a foothold in our world. Bishop Alastair Redfern, the Bishop of Derby, describes it as a 'perfect storm' of four different factors:

1. A competitive economy which prizes profits over people, and often relies on agencies to recruit workers, creating a bigger gap between the employer and the employees.
2. The huge numbers of vulnerable people across the world, including millions of refugees who have been forced to leave their homes and seek shelter elsewhere.
3. A black market business model which is flexible, and takes advantage of new opportunities to exploit people.
4. The globalisation of indifference – the biggest challenge for Christians.

WHAT IS 'THE GLOBALISATION OF INDIFFERENCE'?

The 'Globalisation of Indifference' is a phrase used by Pope Francis in his 2013 Apostolic Exhortation '[Evangelii Gaudium](#)'. This document is a call to mission for the Church, and it also has a lot to say about the way we live in our modern world. Paragraphs 53 and 54 decry our focus on money and material goods when all around us inequality is rising.

"How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points? This is a case of exclusion. Can we continue to stand by when food is thrown away while people are starving? This is a case of inequality."

This indifference means we are ignorant to the many people around us who are suffering. The victims of modern slavery and human trafficking are hidden in plain sight, they are in our communities, perhaps even in our churches, but we are blind to their situation. **They need us to see them, and speak out.** We would encourage you to read the document in full, or you could also read Pope Francis' [Lenten Message of 2015](#), which again explores the idea of 'the globalisation of indifference'. He refers to both **Luke 16:19-31** and **1 Corinthians 12:26**, either of which you could use as inspiration for your own talk.

WHAT CAN THE CHURCH DO? SEE IT, SPEAK OUT.

In his [Lenten message of 2015](#), Pope Francis prays that churches would “become islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference”. Bishop Alastair Redfern encourages churches to be catalysts for change, to use their networks and gifts to highlight the modern slavery and human trafficking happening in their community.

What would it mean for your church to be an ‘island of mercy’? What is your church already doing as part of that mission? Where are you looking outward, and what opportunities are you missing to engage with people who could be victims of this injustice? You could encourage people to think about where your church is in touch with vulnerable people, and see if you could get the word out about modern slavery and human trafficking to them.

Read about Christian organisations tackling modern slavery and human trafficking here:

- [The Salvation Army](#)
- [The Clewer Initiative](#)
- [International Justice Mission](#)

WHAT CAN I DO? SEE IT, SPEAK OUT.

Open your eyes! Our communities need us to be more aware of what is going on. Encourage people to learn how to spot the signs of modern slavery and human trafficking and then report their suspicions to the police, or to the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700. Don’t encourage people to rush to the ‘rescue’, as they are likely to put themselves, and the victim, in more danger.

Resources you could use:

- [Spot the signs video](#) from Unseen
- [Spot the signs poster and cards](#) from The Clewer Initiative
- [Stop App](#) from Stop the Traffik

FURTHER THEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- Acts 12:1-11
- Matthew 16:13-19
- [A Theology of Modern Slavery](#) by the Ecumenical Mission Theology Advisory Group, available from The Clewer Initiative website
- All of the resources from Freedom Sunday 2016 are still available, and can be found on our website: www.freedomsundayglobal.org

WHAT’S NEXT?

HOLD AN INFORMATION EVENING TO LEARN ABOUT MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

1. DO YOUR RESEARCH

Find out what modern slavery and human trafficking is happening in your community. You can search local and national press online and talk to people in your area about what they have heard.

2. ASK THE EXPERTS

Find people and organisations working to end modern slavery and human trafficking in your area. Organisations like The Salvation Army work nationwide, but there might be other local organisations near you working against modern slavery and trafficking. They might work with victims and survivors, or be raising awareness of the issue. You could also speak to your local police about the situation in your area.

3. INVITE THE COMMUNITY

An information evening is a great way for communities to learn more about modern slavery and human trafficking. You can spread the word to those outside your faith community by putting posters in local shops, and reaching out through any networks of volunteers you have. Those who help with foodbanks, helpers from night shelters, and anyone working with refugees are all people who would learn a lot from the evening. Charities are often happy to come and speak, and you could invite your local police to share their experiences.

4. SPREAD THE WORD

Share what you have done with us and with your friends and neighbours by posting about your event on social media with the hashtag #FreedomSundayUK. You can also contact us through our website: www.freedomsgiving.org

ONE CHURCH'S STORY

Two years ago some members of a church in Canterbury heard about modern slavery. They heard that there were now more slaves in the world than at any other time in human history and they felt convicted. They had two options: to be overwhelmed by the scale of the problem or to take one small step to be part of the solution.

So they took that first step. They knew that the first thing to do was to pray. To pray for clarity and discernment so they knew how to move forward. Then they did what every other abolitionist who came before them has done: they talked to others. Gradually they were put in contact with other people in the police, and with anti-trafficking and modern slavery charities. They started to gather other activists around them.

From there they set up a Stop the Traffik group and started to run awareness events. They worked alongside the police to help spot the signs of modern slavery and human trafficking in their local community. They don't know what the end of their journey looks like, but they've taken their first steps. Meanwhile, the conviction rate of traffickers in Kent has dramatically increased over the past year. Maybe it's the prayer, or the awareness raising, or maybe it's the encouragement they offered to the police. Whatever the reason, Kent has started to respond more effectively because a few courageous and faithful people took their first step.

Why not hold your own information evening and see what happens?

We can't tell you how your journey as an abolitionist will unfold, all we can do is point you to your first steps. In the 19th Century we saw slavery made illegal. Now let's work together to make it extinct.

THANK YOU

to everyone who has
contributed to the
Freedom Sunday resource.

We would love to hear how you and your
faith community have used this resource,
and how you are taking action. Use the
hashtag **#FreedomSundayUK** or send us
your stories via our website:

www.freedomundayglobal.org