



# FREEDOM SUNDAY

A HANDBOOK OF RESOURCES ON HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING FOR CHURCHES

# Welcome to Freedom Sunday

Ten years ago, on 2 December 2014, a historic event took place at the Vatican. Hosted by Pope Francis, global faith leaders united in signing a Joint Declaration to End Modern Slavery. The Archbishop of Canterbury, one of the signatories, asked the Anglican Alliance to help equip and connect churches and agencies across the Anglican Communion in tackling modern slavery and human trafficking. We have been doing so ever since.

To mark the ten-year anniversary of the joint declaration, we are releasing an updated version of the 2017 Freedom Sunday resource, which

was developed as a practical resource to help faith communities build their understanding of what human trafficking is, how to spot the signs of trafficking in their communities and congregations, and how to respond.

We invite you – along with all churches throughout the worldwide Anglican Communion - to use Freedom Sunday to pray and act to end modern slavery and human trafficking. We are asking you to open your eyes to these evils, which might be happening in your community.



World Faith leaders gathered to sign the Joint Declaration to End Modern Slavery, Vatican 2014

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# Why Freedom Sunday?

**Modern slavery and human trafficking are not things of the past, nor do they fit neatly into media 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.**

It can be easy to tell ourselves that these things are not taking place where we live, but if we look closely we will see that they are taking place in our communities, hidden in plain sight.

Freedom Sunday provides an opportunity for churches around the world to dedicate one day

for worship, prayer and action against modern slavery and human trafficking. This is usually marked between 18th October, Anti-Slavery Day and 2nd December, the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery. However, we would encourage churches to raise awareness of modern slavery on any Sunday of the year.

Freedom Sunday provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the issue with congregations and to consider how the issue is impacting both your local community and those around the world. The most important thing we can do to mark Freedom Sunday is pray.

“In the eyes of God each human being is a free person, whether girl, boy, woman or man, and is destined to exist for the good of all in equality and fraternity. Modern slavery, in terms of human trafficking, forced labour and prostitution, organ trafficking, and any relationship that fails to respect the fundamental conviction that all people are equal and have the same freedom and dignity, is a crime against humanity.”

Joint Declaration of Religious  
Leaders Against Modern Slavery



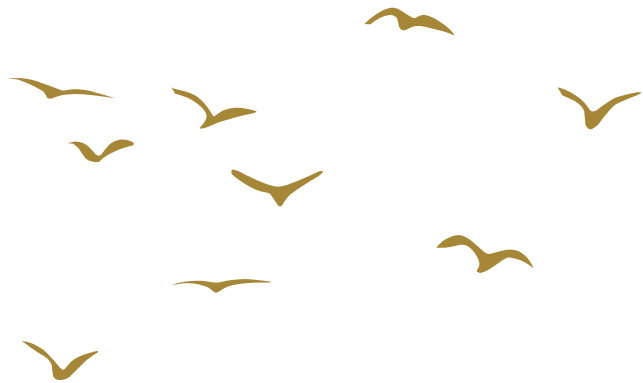


# How to Use the Resource

The following pages include information and resources to help your church mark Freedom Sunday. You might like to share some of the information at a church service, or to dedicate the whole service towards the issue of modern slavery and human trafficking. You can use as little or as much of the resources as you would like and we encourage you to tailor the resources to your local area (further information on how to do this is included in the 'stories from your local area' section on page 10).

The resource includes a range of materials to use in a service including the Freedom Prayer, case studies, Bible readings, a sermon outline and hymns.

There is also information to help inform you about the issue of modern slavery and human trafficking, with facts and figures about how they are taking place across the world today.



## 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.

Please get in touch with us at [anglicanalliance@aco.org](mailto:anglicanalliance@aco.org) and let us know. Tag us on social media @anglicanalliance and use the hashtag #FreedomSunday.

Freedom Sunday is designed as a catalyst to get churches talking about the issue and raising awareness, but it does not stop here. We have also included a section at the end to help you think about further action you might want to take and connect you with further resources and organisations who could help you.

## Join in with Freedom Sunday. Around 2 December\*

\*A note on the date: We are suggesting you use this resource on a Sunday around 2 December, the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery. If that date doesn't work for your church, then don't worry! We welcome anybody raising awareness about modern slavery and human trafficking at any time of year.

# An Introduction to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

**Modern Slavery is an umbrella term that covers the crimes of slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking.**

## Definition

The UN Protocol to Prevent Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (also known as the Palermo Protocol) provides a definition of human trafficking that includes three elements:

**Act:** “recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons.”

**Means:** the way in which a person is trafficked by “threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”

**Purpose:** the reason for which a person is trafficked: “the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”

Where human trafficking occurs, these three elements: act, means, purpose will always be

present (except for children under 18 where only the act and the purpose are needed).

## Forms of Human Trafficking

**Human trafficking can take many different forms. Some of the most prevalent are:**

- Labour exploitation
- Domestic servitude
- Sexual exploitation
- Early and forced marriage
- Organ trafficking

## What Can We Do?

**So, what can we do? How can we make a difference? And why should churches and other faith communities 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.

Churches and other 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.

Freedom Sunday is an opportunity to learn, 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.

The Global Slavery Index estimates that 50 million people are living in modern slavery across the world. A regional breakdown of estimates is available on their website:

<https://www.walkfree.org/global-slavery-index/>

# 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 churches 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**



# Case Studies

The case studies below show the role ordinary people in communities can play in ending modern slavery and how churches and dioceses are using their resources to respond. 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.

## In Tanzania

### Passing on new skills to vulnerable women

A team from The Clewer Initiative visited Tanzania in 2023 to see what anti-slavery work was taking place at the grassroots. In the Diocese of Western Tanganyika (DWT), there is an issue with women and girls being trafficked to the city and trapped in sexual exploitation and domestic servitude. The women are not paid properly for their work and are often raped and abused, unable to contact family and friends or leave the situation.

The Mothers' Union in the area has been very concerned about the issue so has set up a sewing project based at the Cathedral in Kasulu. The project provides sewing classes for vulnerable women (those without education, single parents, orphans, living in poverty) and as part of the course the women are provided with a sewing machine to keep. This enables the women to be economically independent and reduces their vulnerability to exploitation.

This example was included with permission from The Clewer Initiative, an organisation based in the UK that mobilises churches to respond to modern slavery. The example is included in their Lent resource True Freedom which can be downloaded below:

<https://theclewerinitiative.org/resources/true-freedom>.



## In the Solomon Islands

**Anglican members of the Community of the Sisters of the Church reach out to victims of trafficking in the Solomon Islands and help them reintegrate with their families and communities.**

Anna\* was 15 years old when her parents gave her away to a foreign logger in exchange for some cartons of dry groceries, iron roofing sheets and a few thousand dollars. Her parents claimed that they were very poor and could not afford to look after her as well as her six other siblings. Anna was the eldest and had dropped out of school at the young age of 12, when she was barely at grade 3.

Anna was taken to the logging camp where the foreigner lived. She started off as a domestic servant for her master and was forced into sexual servitude. Unfortunately, her master also benefitted from her serving other foreigners who also worked in the same logging camp.

Nine months later, she gave birth to a son. By then she had been thrown out by the master as he claimed that the child was not his. The other men did not want to have anything to do with her.

Anna's family denounced her and refused to take her back, claiming that she had been with other men. Anna had nowhere to go with a young son to care for. She was a shame to her family.

People would say nasty things about her being with too many foreigners and having a child out of wedlock.

Upon hearing of her ordeal, Anglican members of the Community of the Sisters of the Church took Anna and her child in and looked after them. They provided counselling and empowerment skills. Anna slowly and steadily grew in confidence.

The Sisters then started the whole process of re-integrating her and her son back into her family and community. It took a while, but after fulfilling various cultural obligations, Anna was integrated back into her family and community.

\*Names have been changed.

## In the United Kingdom

### A safe house for victims

Chris Elliott, the Modern Slavery Advisor for Southwark Diocese in the UK, became aware that there was no local safe house for victims of modern slavery.

He was shocked by this revelation and wondered if the diocese could provide something as, like other dioceses in the UK, it has a lot of properties and sometimes these are vacant between incumbencies.

He spoke to the diocesan secretary who agreed that this could be a wonderful opportunity for the diocese to provide a place of refuge and safety for victims of modern slavery. They reviewed their portfolio and identified a property that was not in regular use.



The diocese liaised with the local police and the charity Justice and Care and agreed to provide a short-term place of safety for victims of modern slavery who are rescued and waiting to enter the National Referral Mechanism. In the last year, the Place of Safety has had 9 overnight guests and 6 daytime guests.

Chris concludes: "The first guest was a Vietnamese sex worker. The police explained that they would normally house a victim such as this in a local hotel. Unfortunately, the criminal gangs often know where victims will be and they simply find them, beat them up and re-exploit them. Because of the interim accommodation provided by Southwark Diocese, the police were able to get the sex worker to safety, where she stayed the night before moving to a different area where she will be looked after properly and not found by the same criminal gang. The diocesan house literally saved her life."

"All we did, as Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus, was talk to the right person in the diocese and highlight how we could make a tangible difference to vulnerable people by sharing the resources that were right under our nose. This is something all dioceses could do and I would urge anyone in a leadership position to take up the challenge and keep flagging up the need until a solution is found!"

This is a wonderful example of a diocese providing victim care and support. It is also a good demonstration of the effectiveness of a local partnership approach.

Shared with permission from The Clewer Initiative [www.theclewerinitiative.org](http://www.theclewerinitiative.org)

## 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 is not a crime that happens far away, instead it is 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 in speaking out against modern slavery and human trafficking. See It, Speak Out.

We would love to hear examples of work taking place in your area. Get in touch by posting on social media with the hashtag #FreedomSunday, or contact us via our email [anglicanalliance@aco.org](mailto:anglicanalliance@aco.org)



# Sermon/Talk Outline

## Introducing Modern Slavery

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

How has modern slavery become a big problem? There are many reasons why modern slavery has taken such a foothold in our world. Bishop Alastair Redfern, the former Bishop of Derby and Chair of The Clewer Initiative 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.



## Bible Readings

You might like to use some of the bible readings below during the service.

- Psalm 10
- Isaiah 58:9-12
- Matthew 25: 35-40
- Luke 4:14-21
- Luke 16:19-31
- 1 Corinthians 12:26

## 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 are hidden in plain sight, they are in our communities, perhaps even in our churches, but we are blind to their situation. 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?

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 issue of modern slavery 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 modern slavery? 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 to those people.



### Resources You Could Use:

- Introduction to modern slavery and human trafficking (pg. 6).
- Video: ‘What do you see?’ by Unchosen:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcGRPAfuqlo>
- Explore modern slavery in your local area. Search online for news stories from your local newspaper. You could share a local story in your sermon.

### What Can I Do?

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 appropriate authorities. Don’t encourage people to rush to the ‘rescue’, as they are likely to put themselves, and the victim, in more danger. Be wise - it is important to keep you and your church safe. Report your concerns to NGOs and trusted authorities who are experienced in responding. You could search online for local NGOs responding to human trafficking in your area. There is also a list of further organisations and resources to help you respond at the end of this resource.



# Hymns

The following two hymns have been written specifically with a focus on welcoming and caring for the marginalised and those society can forget. The music and words for each hymn can be found below for use in church services.

## We Are Called to Welcome Strangers

We are called to welcome strangers, offer shelter, food and rest;  
heal the wounds of mind and body, showing love with true respect.

Those who flee from war-torn homelands or fear death for their beliefs,  
those who run from flood or famine: will we meet them in their grief?

Here we see our brothers, sisters, each the image of our God.

If we turn our faces from them, we deny his living word.

He would have us feed the hungry, free the captive, tend the weak,  
care for all who now are helpless, offer respite to the meek.

If we fail to challenge falsehood, if we bow to unjust laws,  
then the stranger's eyes will show us God's own eyes which weep for us.

Let us pray as Jesus taught us, "Father, let your kingdom come,"  
and with Christ-like loving kindness, we will welcome strangers home.

Words: Sheena Evans; Music: Simon Hancock

Sheet music:

<https://theclewerinitiative.org/uploads/img/We-are-called-to-welcome-strangers-final.pdf>

Recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdCfMiK5ZgQ>

## Care for the Hidden

Each one of us is neighbour to all of humankind,  
To friend and foe and stranger – to none can we be blind.

Our loving Father calls us to make a world that's fair

By seeking out the captives, and showing them his care.

We are all God's children, all in his image made,  
In every place we see his face, and wonder at his grace.

The signs are there around us, where people fear to speak,

With faces pale and shadowed, and bodies thin and weak.

In overcrowded shelters, in life that is no life,  
Abuse and lies deprive them of all that made them thrive.

We are all God's children, all in his image made,  
In every place we see his face, and wonder at his grace.

God mourns for these his children, now made to serve as slaves,

And we who are Christ's body must love them as they crave:

Bring light to darkest places, expose this evil trade,

And, guided by his Spirit, give hope to the betrayed.

We are all God's children, all in his image made,  
In every place we see his face, and wonder at his grace.

Words: Sheena Evans; Music: Simon Hancock

Sheet music:

<https://theclewerinitiative.org/uploads/img/Care-for-the-hidden-SATB-version.pdf>

Recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7zISCoE8q4>



# Next Steps

After the Freedom Sunday service, you might like to hold an information evening in your church for people to learn more about modern slavery. We have suggested some actions that could help you to facilitate this below.

## 1. Do your Research

Find out what modern slavery 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 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. 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 #FreedomSunday.

## FREEDOM FRAMEWORK



PREVENTION



PROTECTION



PROSECUTION



PARTNERSHIP



POLICY



PARTICIPATION



PRAYER



PROOF

# Resources

The following resources and webpages provide further information on modern slavery and human trafficking as well as resources to equip churches in responding to the issue:

## Anglican Alliance Website Anti-Human Trafficking Pages:

<https://anglicanalliance.org/development/human-trafficking-and-modern-slavery/>

There are a number of resources, reports and further information on the work of the Anglican Alliance against human trafficking on our website.

## Anglican Alliance Safe Migration into the Gulf Report:

<https://files.anglicanalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/01101659/Safe-Migration-into-the-Gulf-%E2%80%93-FINAL.pdf>

This report was published after the Anglican Alliance's 2020 regional consultation in the Gulf. It contains information on work around safe migration taking place in the Middle East region as well as global resources and information on human trafficking.

## Freedom Framework:

<https://anglicanalliance.org/the-freedom-framework-ideas-and-recommendations-for-ways-churches-can-help-tackle-human-trafficking-and-modern-slavery/>

The Freedom Framework provides a framework for thinking about the different ways in which churches can tackle modern slavery and human trafficking. It can be used as a guide to choose particular focus areas for your church according to the skillsets and resources available in your context.

## Global Slavery Index:

<https://www.walkfree.org/global-slavery-index/>

The 2023 Global Slavery Index, published by the Walk Free Foundation, provides regional overviews of modern slavery and a country-by-country estimate of the number of victims of slavery.

## The Clewer Initiative:

<https://theclewerinitiative.org/>

The Clewer Initiative is an organisation that works with churches to respond to modern slavery. Their website contains a collection of free resources available to download in order to raise awareness and respond to the issue.

## The Salvation Army:

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/modern-slavery>

There are a range of resources to help you respond to modern slavery on the Salvation Army modern slavery webpages.

## Thank you

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 #FreedomSunday and tag us on social media @anglicanalliance or send us your stories by email to [anglicanalliance@aco.org](mailto:anglicanalliance@aco.org)

