



FIGHTING MODERN SLAVERY IN THE DIOCESE OF ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

Issue 1



WELCOME

Welcome to the very first newsletter from the Diocesan Steering Group on Modern Slavery. The steering group was formed in 2019 to help combat modern slavery in all its forms throughout our Diocese and beyond. This newsletter aims to share important news and updates, raising awareness of this terrible crime and helping people throughout our Diocese tackle modern slavery wherever it exists.

*David Farey
Chairman of the Diocesan Steering
Group on Modern Slavery*

OUR AIMS

Modern slavery exists in many different guises including forced domestic service, human trafficking for exploitation, and crimes which enable trafficking. **Combatting the practice of modern day slavery is an important but enormous task.**

Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of human traffickers becoming unpaid modern-day slaves in their own countries and abroad. It is estimated that there are **over 130, 000 people** involved in some sort of modern day slavery in this country alone. Our steering groups aims to:

- Raise public awareness of Modern Slavery and work towards its abolition.
- Collaborate with a wide range of people and groups, networking with other churches, charities and organisations to provide important resources - like our safe house.
- Assist the Police in bringing to justice the perpetrators modern slavery

We work with a wide range of service providers, with our meetings receiving input from the police and other relevant external organisations. We hope to work together to create a **vigilant well-informed network of people** who understand how to report suspicious activity, how to lobby local MPs and local authorities (where appropriate) and how to campaign for a rigorous application of the laws holding companies and organisations accountable for their supply chains and hidden sources of exploitation.

ANTI-SLAVERY DAY

Sunday 18th October

We are fast approaching **Anti-Slavery Day**. This important event was created as a result of the Anti-Slavery Day Act, a Private Members Bill introduced Anthony Steen CBE, now Chair of the [Human Trafficking Foundation](#).

Modern slavery is a crime that often hides in plain sight. Anti-Slavery Day provides us with an opportunity to raise awareness of human trafficking and modern slavery, encouraging the government, local authorities, companies, charities and individuals to do what they can to confront the problem.



● WE SEE YOU.

THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

There are a number of organisations and charities working to combat 21st century slavery, they include the [Santa Marta Group](#) endorsed by Pope Francis and [The Clewer Initiative](#) overseen by the Church of England. The Clewer Initiative offers UK based training and practical resources, including two important android and Apple phone apps.

While many car washing businesses are entirely legitimate some are not. The '[Safe Car Wash App](#)' launched in 2018 aims to help possible victims of modern

day slavery by providing users with an easy and effective platform to report conditions in UK car washes. The app has been downloaded more than 8,000 times so far with over 2,000 reports submitted.

Labour exploitation is the second most common form of modern slavery in the UK. The [Farm Work Welfare App](#) aims to raise awareness of the issue amongst the general public while tackling modern slavery in farming, horticulture and food production. The app provides farmers and growers with information, signposting and tools to help them avoid criminal organisations and promote worker welfare. It also supports workers, helping them to understand their rights and the action they can take if they are being exploited.

Both apps can be accessed through the Clewer Initiative website.

WHAT IS OUR DIOCESE DOING TO HELP?

Arundel and Brighton Diocese is providing **supervised, temporary accommodation** for victims of trafficking or exploitation, giving those affected by this terrible crime a place of sanctuary when it is needed most. This important initiative is the result of many month's work with Sussex and Surrey Police, with the accommodation provided by the Diocese intended as a safe haven pending a decision to enter the National Referral Mechanism.

It is extremely difficult for people being trafficked or held as modern day slaves to escape the individuals and groups that control them. Providing a place of safety for victims of slavery and trafficking offers survivors the **opportunity to re-build their lives in safety**.

The Diocese is involved with both **Sussex and Surrey's Modern Slavery Networks**, working with the police, local authorities, National Health Service (NHS) and other first category responders. By building momentum and opposing exploitation and slavery we can all make a difference and get results.



EXTRACT FROM POPE FRANCIS' 'FRATELLI TUTTI'

*The Pope released his encyclical letter "**Fratelli Tutti**" on the 4th October. The letter highlights fraternity and social friendship as key elements in building a just and peaceful world with an emphatic 'no' to war and to globalised indifference. Pope Francis writes:*

"We should... recognise that 'even though the international community has adopted numerous agreements aimed at ending slavery in all its forms, and has launched various strategies to combat this phenomenon, millions of people today – children, women and men of all ages – are deprived of freedom and forced to live in conditions akin to slavery... Today, as in the past, slavery is rooted in a notion of the human person that allows him or her to be treated as an object... Whether by coercion, or deception, or by physical or psychological duress, human persons created in the image and likeness of God are deprived of their freedom, sold and reduced to being the property of others. They are treated as means to an end... [Criminal networks] are skilled in using modern means of communication as a way of luring young men and women in various parts of the world". A perversion that exceeds all limits when it subjugates women and then forces them to abort. An abomination that goes to the length of kidnapping persons for the sake of selling their organs. Trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of enslavement are a worldwide problem that needs to be taken seriously by humanity as a whole: "since criminal organizations employ global networks to achieve their goals, efforts to eliminate this phenomenon also demand a common and, indeed, a global effort on the part of various sectors of society"."



PRAYERS FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Prayer from the Santa Marta Group

We pray for the victims of human trafficking that they may be helped to rebuild their lives after the traumatic experiences they have gone through.
We pray that we, as the Church, will continue to defend victims of human trafficking.
We pray for our governments that they may make and implement laws that will protect victims of modern day slavery.
We pray for those organisations dedicated to eradicating modern day slavery that they will be courageous in the face of challenges.
We pray for those caring for the victims of human trafficking, that their efforts to help the vulnerable and traumatised may not go unrewarded.

Amen

The Prayer of St Josephine Bakhita

Despite the suffering she experienced as a slave, St Josephine Bakhita, bore wonderful witness to a life rooted in faith, inspired by hope and characterised by love. Catholics in England and Wales are invited to pray the prayer of St Josephine Bakhita for all victims of human trafficking.

O God,

**who led Saint Josephine Bakhita
from abject slavery
to the dignity of being your daughter
and a bride of Christ,
grant, we pray, that by her example
we may show constant love for the
Lord Jesus crucified,
remaining steadfast in charity
and prompt to show compassion.**

**Through Christ our Lord.
Amen**



ANTI-SLAVERY COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Dame Sara Thornton, has published her Annual Report for 2019-2020. You can read the full report [here](#):

If you don't want to read the full report (82 pages) then here is a quick overview:

- More victims of modern slavery are being identified and protected but there are still too many weaknesses in the system.
- More needs to be done to ensure that victims are supported to become survivors, leading lives of sustainable independence.
- Ever-longer delays in decision-making within the National Referral Mechanism must be addressed. A new NRM Transformation Programme is underway.
- The number of modern slavery operations by police forces has increased by 29% since last year, but the number of modern slavery prosecutions has not kept pace. There needs to be scrutiny of the low number of prosecutions and convictions under the Modern Slavery Act.



MORE INFORMATION

Resources will gradually be added to the Modern Slavery section of the Diocese's new website:

[Click Here](#)

Other useful resources include:

The Modern Slavery Helpline: www.modernslaveryhelpline.org

Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority: www.gla.gov.uk

The Clewer Initiative: www.theclewerinitiative.org

The Santa Marta Groups: <https://santamartagroup.com>

You can be a part of this important movement for change! If you would like to be added to our mailing list or wish to find out more:

E: tessa.ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk