



FIGHTING MODERN SLAVERY IN THE DIOCESE OF ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

Issue 5 - November 2021



"Not only does the Christian religion, but nature herself, cry out against the state of slavery."

Pope Leo X

FOREWORD FROM BISHOP RICHARD

The dignity of the human person, rooted in the Gospel, is at the heart of our gathering. When we look to the needs of those who are trafficked across the globe, treated as commodities for the profit of others, we find ourselves with a call to action in defence of the oppressed, those held against their will, those unjustly deprived of liberty.

The Slavery Abolition Act came into force in the UK in 1834, yet a Modern Slavery Act was needed in 2015. It is thought that there are some 30 million people living in enforced labour, prostitution, as child soldiers, child brides – as the property in the servitude of absolute ownership. It is striking to think that in our present age, it is felt necessary for this country to have appointed a Queen's Commission for Anti-Slavery.

Modern slaves are on our streets, working for no pay, deprived of their travel documentation, and at the mercy of others. The call to each of us to combat this scandal in our world is as urgent as ever and I encourage you to keep this need in prayer and to become actively engaged in this work. The invitation in this edition of our Anti-Slavery Newsletter is especially timely.

With every Blessing,

+Richard

STRONGER TOGETHER: OUR ECUMENICAL ANTI-SLAVERY PARTNERSHIP HAS LAUNCHED



Anti-Slavery Day (18 October) was marked in a very special way this year with the commissioning of fifteen Anti-Slavery Ambassadors from our Diocese and the Anglican Diocese of Chichester.

Ambassadors were commissioned during an ecumenical service at St John the Evangelist in Horsham attended by Bishop Richard, the Anglican Bishop of Lewes, Rt Revd Will Hazelwood, and the Chair of the anti-slavery Clewer Initiative, the Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfern.

There are an estimated 136,000 people in England today living in slavery. Ambassadors will undertake an important role within their communities, raising awareness of the crime of modern slavery throughout their respective parishes, and beyond.

Could you join our Anti-Slavery Ambassadors team?

It is not too late to get involved! Ambassadors act as a point of contact, providing information on anti-slavery issues and raising awareness of the signs of modern slavery – and what to do if you spot them. The Diocese of Chichester is running a free online information and training session on Tuesday 16 November, 7-9pm. To register your place please contact our team;

E: tessa.ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk

More information about the Ambassadors role can be found on [our website](#)

CHILD LABOUR FIGURES REVEAL A MARKED INCREASE

Recent global estimates on child labour released by the International Labour Organisation and UNICEF show an increase for the first time in twenty years.

Children in slavery experience psychosocial trauma at a critical stage of their development, suffering a lack of healthcare, education, and nurture which affects them throughout their lives, often trapping them in slavery as adults.

At the beginning of 2020, 160 million children were believed to be in child labour globally, accounting for almost 1 in 10 of all children worldwide. There has been a significant rise in the number of children aged 5 to 11 years affected, with the latest estimates suggesting a further nine million additional children are at risk of being pushed into child labour by the end of 2022 as a result of the economic and social impact of the coronavirus pandemic - a figure that could rise to 46 million if critical protection is not secured. To find out more visit the [Anti-Slavery website](#).



POPE FRANCIS RENEWS CALLS FOR END TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Pope joined religious and world leaders in calling for an end to human trafficking on World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. The Pope used social media to share an anti-trafficking message tweeting: "I invite everyone to work together with the victims to transform the economy of trafficking into an economy of care."

Between 20 and 40 million people are estimated to be trapped in modern slavery today, an illegal billion-dollar business where traffickers exploit vulnerable people for labour, prostitution, and the trade in human organs. Talitha Kum, the global Anti-Trafficking Network of Consecrated Life Against Trafficking in Persons, used the occasion to launch a new campaign #CareAgainstTrafficking. Its international coordinator, Sr Gabriella Bottani, urged people of goodwill "to come together and tackle the systemic causes of human trafficking, to transform the economy of trafficking into an economy of care". She asked governments "to commit to long-term support for survivors", including access to education, jobs, justice, and healthcare.

[Click here to continue reading >>>](#)

THE POWER OF COMMUNITIES

Caroline Virgo, Director of the Clewer Initiative

 **WE SEE YOU.**
THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

"The power to end modern slavery already exists within local communities, we just need to harness it."

There are many reasons why modern slavery is able to thrive and grow within communities. The presence of modern slavery is not a reflection on the community itself, it can live anywhere - from busy urban neighbourhoods to sleepy villages; prosperous commuter towns, busy tourist centres, disadvantaged areas, city centres, quiet rural areas... One of the biggest reasons for its presence is its ability to go unseen and undisturbed. That's why working at a community level is vital. By understanding modern slavery in a community context we can expose it, make sure it's seen and find safe ways of disrupting it.

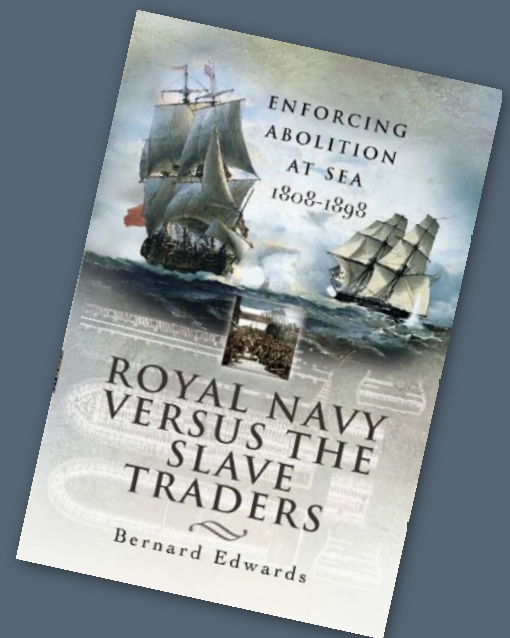
[Click here to read the full article >>>](#)

A BOOK FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST?

In *The Royal Navy Versus the Slave Traders: Enforcing Abolition at Sea 1808-1898* author Bernard Edwards provides valuable insight into the maritime history of the 19th century slave trade.

In 1808, the year after the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act, the Royal Navy's African Squadron was formed to stop and search ships suspected of carrying slaves from Africa to the Americas and the Middle East.

The Navy had to contend with slave ships, people traffickers, and those riding shotgun on caravans to the coast. This book serves as a reminder of just how ingrained human greed can be, highlighting the determination needed to overcome it. We continue the fight today!



TAKEN

Hunting the Sex Traffickers

Anti-Slavery Collective co-founders, HRH Princess Eugenie and Julia de Boinville, recently interviewed Peter Beard Director of Channel 4's documentary *Taken: Hunting Sex Traffickers*. Taken is the inside story of a secret police investigation into a human trafficking gang. Filmed over three years, in Britain, Brazil and Europe, the series follows specialist officers attempting to apprehend the gang's elusive leader. You can watch the [interview here >>>](#)



STORY FILMS

NEWS ROUND UP

Eastbourne charity for survivors of human trafficking receives Queen's award:

[Click here >>>](#)

Supermarkets vow to cut ties with meat suppliers found to exploit workers:

[Click here >>>](#)

How modern slavery referrals soared as lockdown ended:

[Click here >>>](#)

Inside the raids revealing the 'appalling reality' of modern slavery in UK carwashes

[Click here >>>](#)

Human trafficking boss lived 'like a king' while holding man 'as a slave' for two years:

[Click here >>>](#)

St Mary's University to lead research programme on survivors of modern slavery:

[Click here >>>](#)

New sentencing guidelines for modern slavery offences published:

[Click here >>>](#)

PRAYER 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





JOIN OUR STEERING GROUP ON MODERN SLAVERY

It is estimated that there are over 130,000 people involved in some sort of modern day slavery in this country including forced labour, domestic servitude, human trafficking for exploitation and crimes which enable trafficking.

Our diocesan Steering Group on Modern Slavery hopes to create a network of people able to raise awareness of slavery within our parishes, enabling people across our community to spot the signs of slavery, remain vigilant and report any concerns.

To find out more please visit [our website >>>](#)

FIND OUT MORE:

Clewer Initiative

The Clewer Initiative is enabling Church of England dioceses and wider Church networks to develop strategies to detect modern slavery in their communities and help provide victim support and care. [Click here >>>](#)

Justice and Care

Justice and Care help rescue victims of slavery and human trafficking, empowering them to rebuild their lives, working with the police to pursue and dismantle criminal networks and bring perpetrators to justice and securing communities at risk from traffickers and spark systemic change. [Click here >>>](#)

Stop the Traffik

Stop the Traffik is a pioneer in human trafficking prevention. Working to unite people around the world by inspiring, informing, equipping and mobilising communities to know what human trafficking is, know how to identify it and know how to respond appropriately if they saw it. [Click here >>>](#)

Together in Sussex

Together in Sussex works to inspire, enable and equip churches across Chichester Diocese to understand their neighbourhood and connect with vulnerable members of the communities. [Click here >>>](#)

There is information and further resources about fighting modern slavery on the [diocesan website >>>](#)

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