

# Compassion and Justice Diary

**March 2024**

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## **International Women's Day – Azalea article**

Azalea is a Bedfordshire-based anti sex trafficking charity. According to the Global Survey Index (2023) an estimated 50 million people were victims of modern slavery on any given day in 2021. 54% of these were women and girls.

In 1 Corinthians 3:16 we are told clearly that God's spirit dwells in each of us, that we are a temple, a container of His Holy Spirit. In our frontline work with women surviving sex trafficking, each day we are reminding our guests of this: that God who created the heavens and the earth is alive in them, that they carry his spirit wherever they go. As this realisation sinks in, a sense of worth, of value, of need to take care of oneself builds in them and it teaches them that they have something to give. This truth tramples the lies that have been spoken over them for countless years: that they are worthless, damaged, dirty, dispensable.

There are references to sex trafficked women throughout the Bible:

- Mary Magdalene was a best friend to Jesus and the first person he appeared to after his resurrection
- Rahab was the grandma to King David, a direct descendant of Jesus Christ

Sex trafficked women were not shamed and ostracised by Jesus, they were redeemed, restored and empowered to live as new creations.

Empowerment is an Azalea core value. Everything that we do and say is in the hope that survivors of sex trafficking will be empowered to fulfil their potential and step further into who God is calling them to be.

So many women and girls continue to live in darkness: exploited, abused and hidden. Our hope is that every woman and girl experiencing the horrors of sex trafficking would know the light and truth of Jesus, and that his spirit dwells in them.

## **Prayer points:**

- Pray for the British governmental systems that are putting survivors of sex trafficking at additional risk and depriving them of vital support
- Pray for policy makers and politicians to be proactive in creating and fixing systems to protect the most vulnerable in society
- Ask the Holy Spirit to make himself known to those who are both domestically and internationally trafficked who do not know the love of God yet
- Pray for men who purchase sex to reach out for help to stop the demand

## **Active actions:**

- Join our prayer movement for weekly updates- email [rebecca@azalea.org.uk](mailto:rebecca@azalea.org.uk). Azalea is primarily a prayer movement. We can send you a bookmark in the post with the pseudonym for a guest and client so that you can pray specifically.
- Consider volunteering for Azalea – there are various voluntary roles spanning from baking cakes, to admin, to volunteer frontline with those impacted by sex trafficking
- Donate money to Azalea
- Become educated in sex trafficking and how to do your bit in the fight against it