



FREEDOM SUNDAY

GOD'S PEOPLE
WORKING TOGETHER
TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

RESOURCES FOR
WORSHIP + ACTION

**“The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me: he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners...”
-Isaiah 61:1**

The prophecy of Isaiah is a promise that can be fulfilled today: ‘release’ for those enslaved by the traffickers. There is more: when released, they deserve ‘healing’ through re-connecting with a community that honours, protects and cares for them and values each as an individual and child of God. This is “good news”, and it is news that we can share with others. By promoting Freedom Sunday resources we become part of making Isaiah’s prophecy real today.

Together, with our brothers and sisters across the world, our desire is for ‘Freedom Sunday’ to continue to be a resource and an event that will include a growing number of faith communities around the world. Through our worship and by inspiring local community action we seek to prevent the global crime of human trafficking.

This copy of the Freedom Sunday resource is the Christian version.



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“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.”

Pope Francis, Her Holiness Mata Amritanandamayi (Amma), Venerable Bhikkhuni Thich Nu Chan Khong (representing Zen Master Thích Nhất Hạnh), The Most Ven. Datuk K Sri Dhammaratana, Chief High Priest of Malaysia, Rabbi Dr. Abraham Skorka, Rabbi Dr. David Rosen, Dr. Abbas Abdalla Abbas Soliman, Undersecretary of State of Al Azhar Alsharif (representing Mohamed Ahmed El-Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar), Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Taqi al-Modarresi, Sheikh Naziyah Razzaq Jaafar, Special advisor of Grand Ayatollah (representing Grand Ayatollah Sheikh Basheer Hussain al Najafi), Sheikh Omar Abboud, Most Revd and Right Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France (representing His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew)

WHAT IS FREEDOM SUNDAY?

Freedom Sunday is a global day of worship, prayer and action on human trafficking. On Sunday 16th October* 2016 or Saturday 15th October faith communities will join together to raise awareness of the crime of human trafficking and show the world our compassion for men, women and children who are trafficked and exploited around the world. As the world's faith communities we must demonstrate a united and tangible response against human trafficking. This heinous crime must not be tolerated.

Through Freedom Sunday, faith communities will make commitments to take action to prevent the crime of human trafficking in our local and global communities. Together, let's stop human trafficking and let's start freedom.

*This Sunday has been selected, as Sunday 16 October is European Anti - Trafficking Day. Of course if this date doesn't work for you please choose the best date for you and your faith community. For ideas of [potential dates](#), [click here](#).

HOW TO GET INVOLVED.

1. PLAN A SERVICE

Within this pack you will find a selection of worship materials from different cultures and denominations to provide a rich resource for you to use. Please use all of these resources as flexibly as you wish and select what will appropriately lead and inspire your faith community. Resources include prayers, sermon thoughts and stories. These resources have been designed to support your faith community to learn more about human trafficking and explore the role that they can play in tackling this injustice. Thank you to all who have contributed towards this resource.

2. TAKE ACTION

Every instance of trafficking involves a person being trafficked from one community into another; therefore your community has the power to stop human trafficking both locally and globally. Together we can make neighbourhoods safer places where it is harder for traffickers to operate and hide themselves and their victims. A selection of resources are available to equip your community to start taking action to prevent human trafficking. Resources include study materials, ideas for how your faith community can engage wider society and creative campaign actions (see pages 17 - 19).

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS...

The recruitment or movement of a person, by deception or coercion for the purpose of exploitation. People are bought and sold for sexual exploitation, forced labour, street crime, domestic servitude or even the sale of organs and human sacrifice.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS...

The world's fastest growing global crime and is one of the largest sources of income for organised crime. The profits are high and the risks are low.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS...

A system based on greed, control and power.

In whatever shape or form everyone dreams of progress, whether it's to be loved, to be seen, to belong, or for a better future for their family. Traffickers often exploit that desire amongst the most vulnerable. The trafficker creates an intimate point of sale, making promises of progress like an education, a new start and future choices. This is the ultimate deception.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS...

A global market place where people are the product and everyone has a price tag. It's based on an international conveyor belt of transactions and exchange, with sophisticated trade routes and communications. This human product creates profit, tens of billions every year...and growing.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS... A HORRENDOUS CRIME.

This crime is so awful that often people instinctively struggle to admit it exists. Often society doesn't listen, business doesn't see and governments don't talk about it. Those trafficked are often invisible, always powerless, and are put to work.

THIS HAS TO STOP!

The answer is for individuals, communities and society to see this crime, listen for it, talk about it, and take action to prevent and disrupt this global system!

We can only STOP this crime together. Society, government and business must work together to generously share knowledge, information and resources that can be used to empower vulnerable communities, making them safe, and to disrupt and ultimately stop the traffickers' trade.

Faith communities around the world have a vital role to play!

STORIES BEHIND THE STATISTICS

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE IN CAMBODIA

Sokha and Makara are from Poipet in Cambodia. Aged 14 and 15 years old, their mother became ill and the family needed money to pay for treatment. A man promised good jobs for the girls in nearby Thailand, and offered the family some money to take them. Sokha and Makara were excited to help the family with the money they earned.

The reality turned out to be very different. The man was a trafficker. There were no 'good jobs' for the girls in Thailand. Sokha says, 'I felt cheated. The traffickers used us for slave jobs, and while they earned lots of money, we only got enough to feed ourselves each day.'

Sokha and Makara's parents met with Cambodian Hope Organisation (CHO) that works with Tearfund, a relief and development agency. CHO found and rescued the girls about a year after their ordeal started. When asked what they hope for in the future, Sokha says to set up her own sewing business and employ and help girls in her situation. 'We were scared all the time in Thailand,' she says. 'Now I'm happy, getting support, living with my family and free to work when I want.'

See their full story [here](#).

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH SUPPORT IN THE UK

Jenny was exploited by older men from the age of 13. Her elderly neighbour groomed her with kindness, lifts to school and presents. Her home life was difficult and her father absent, so Jenny appreciated this treatment but then felt obliged to reciprocate with sexual favours when her neighbour demanded them. Aged 16, the neighbour introduced Jenny to a gang of men, telling her that he owed them money and she could help him. They forced Jenny to have sex with different men under threat of her safety and that of her family. Over the years Jenny was beaten, stabbed with a coat hanger, introduced to diazepam and forced into addiction, transferred from one gang to another and subject to an attempted sham marriage.

Jenny finally escaped in 2014 following an incident involving the gang dousing her in petrol and attempting to set her alight. Jenny was then introduced to the Salvation Army who took her to a safe house. Traumatized by her experiences Jenny was extremely grateful that the Salvation Army stuck with her in helping her resolve her difficulties.

Today Jenny finally feels free from the grasp of her traffickers; she wants to work and live a normal life. Jenny is living in move-on accommodation, supported by a charity in the south of England.

To hear Jenny's story in her own words click [here](#). The password for this film is freedom.

RESCUED THROUGH COURT ACTION IN TAMIL NADU

Ms. A. J., aged 19, was taken from her parents by a trafficker to a mill and was told by the management that she would get Rs.30000 after completing a three year contract. She was not paid a monthly salary but was provided with food and lodging.

Ms A.J. was beaten with leather belts by the management if she refused to work, had no money or means of communication and could not escape from the mill premises. On hearing the issue and how employees were being physically and sexually harassed, the SAVE team visited the mill and managed to meet Ms. A. J. The owner of the mill would not release Ms A.J. as she had only worked for a year. There were around 150 girls at the mill in the 14 to 21 age group employed under the Sumangali scheme.

SAVE filed a petition in court to release Ms A.J and on hearing the complaints and the evidence produced, the court set her free. The court then suggested she file another case to claim compensation and her salary.

STOP THE TRAFFIK have created a powerful film entitled Sumangali - you may wish to show a clip from the film during your service. To download the full film click [here](#). to download a shorter version of the film click [here](#).

STRENGTH FOUND THROUGH SUFFERING IN THE PHILLIPINES

When only 12 years old, Elsa's father died suddenly and her mother abandoned her. Determined to earn extra money to keep both her and her brother in school, Elsa worked as a housekeeper, a caretaker, a receptionist, a shop keeper - anything she could find. But traffickers actively prey on girls like Elsa--vulnerable girls who are alone and afraid. And they were ready and waiting for her. The traffickers offered Elsa a job in a bar that promised good pay but, once there, Elsa was given a skimpy 'uniform' and, night after night, men paid to take Elsa away to their hotel rooms, where they could abuse her as they pleased.

The nightmare eventually became routine - she was trapped, with no way out. With the help of police, IJM rescued Elsa and 15 others from that place of fear. You should see Elsa today. Now living in a shelter, she is in her second year of college studying business administration, dreaming of opening her own ice cream shop. When recently asked to describe herself, Elsa answered with one word: "Strong." See Elsa's full story [here](#).

"OVER 200 YEARS AGO THE ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE ACT WAS PASSED THROUGH THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT, THANKS TO THE TIRELESS ADVOCACY OF WILLIAM WILBERFORCE AND OTHER CONCERNED CHRISTIANS. IT IS ALMOST BEYOND BELIEF THAT IN THE 21ST CENTURY MILLIONS OF HUMAN BEINGS ACROSS THE WORLD ARE STILL PRESSED INTO THE HORRORS OF SLAVERY. THIS GROSS INJUSTICE SUMMONS US TO RESPOND AS CHRISTIANS OF OLD DID, WITH OUR PRAYER, ADVOCACY, ACTION AND PURCHASE CHOICES. SUPPORTING FREEDOM SUNDAY IS ONE WAY TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE CONTINUED SCOURGE OF HUMAN SLAVERY, AND TO UNITE CHRISTIANS TO WORK TOWARDS ITS ABOLITION."

Rev'd Janet Woodlock, Federal Coordinator, Churches of Christ, Australia

HOW DO WE TACKLE MODERN SLAVERY?

Introduction

There are a number ways we can tackle modern slavery and human trafficking, one of these being legislative measures. Below is a snapshot of recent UK legislation which has assisted in forming a global, collaborative approach to ending this global crime.

NO NATION CAN END MODERN SLAVERY ALONE. ELIMINATING THIS GLOBAL SCOURGE REQUIRES A GLOBAL SOLUTION. IT ALSO CANNOT BE SOLVED BY GOVERNMENTS ALONE. THE PRIVATE SECTOR, ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, CIVIL SOCIETY, THE LEGAL COMMUNITY, AND CONSUMERS CAN ALL HELP TO ADDRESS THE FACTORS THAT ALLOW HUMAN TRAFFICKING TO FLOURISH.

Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 2015

NATIONAL

Government Strategy

The UK government has created a fourfold strategy to tackle the issue of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. The strategy was devised in 2014 and then implemented in the 2015 Modern Slavery Act.

1. Pursue: Its first aim is to ensure that the perpetrators of this crime are prosecuted and are appropriately punished but also aims to disrupt the activities of the criminals in the first place in order to make it more difficult to commit this crime.
2. Prevent: It is anticipated that by deterring offenders by raising awareness of the consequences of this offence and also intervening to prevent the facilitation of the crime, fewer potential perpetrators will be drawn in to this activity.
3. Protect: The aim is to protect vulnerable people through raising awareness, strengthening boarder security and improving both private and public awareness and resilience.
4. Prepare: The intention is that through training and awareness raising more victims will be identified and provided with the support and protection they need to help them to recover.

Victim Support

All potential victims of human trafficking are entitled to be supported under the UK Government's commitment to the Council of Europe's Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings. Once a potential victim has, with their agreement, been referred in to the National Referral Mechanism and received a positive initial decision regarding the possibility of them being a victim.

The Salvation Army, which holds the government contract to manage the support for victims of modern slavery and human trafficking, will provide safe accommodation or outreach support if accommodation is not necessary.

The Salvation Army works with 11 other partners to provide support to victims during their 45 days Recovery and Reflection period. During that time they are helped to look at their future options and move on safely. In the last year over 5,000 victims have been supported in this way.

The Private Sector

A key component of the modern slavery act is to encourage partnerships with representatives from all strands of society, not underestimating the potential of the private sector.

The Modern Slavery Act requires that businesses operating in the UK with an annual turnover of more than £36 million must report on what they are doing to ensure that their supply chains are free from human trafficking, forced labour, and other forms of human exploitation, regardless of where the company is incorporated. A company's supply chain is comprised of all of the steps taken in the production of a good or service before it is ready for consumption, and can span multiple countries. Therefore, one must delve deep into the origins of all materials used and the conditions of their processing in order to assert that a product of modern day slavery.

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The company statement must be approved by the company board, signed by a director, and published on the organisation's website. Although this requirement is fundamentally about transparency rather than the eradication of modern slavery per se, such legislation is nonetheless an encouraging step in the right direction, and a clear illustration of how UK law continues to adapt in order to promote a new strategy to fight human trafficking. In a climate in which investigative journalism, social media and public pressure have increasing power to influence corporations, the requirement for transparency should be a legitimate concern for organisations from a reputational perspective, and thus should act as a tangible impetus for change and more rigorous supply chain management.

Example Supply Chain of a T Shirt



GLOBAL

Sustainable Development Goals

Established in 2015 by the UN, The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) marked a significant step towards a globally unified vision for sustainable development. But the SDGs mark more than just a unified vision, they also set out 17 key goals that aim to end extreme poverty, fight inequality & injustice and fix climate change. It would be impossible to achieve this without ending slavery and trafficking where the vulnerable are coercively kept in situations of oppression and poverty. So to fulfil the SDGs we also need to end slavery and trafficking. Two particular goals mark a significant recognition of this and a victory for the anti-trafficking community:

SDG 8: Decent work and Economic Growth

8.7: “Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms”.

This reflects a global recognition that together we must end all forms of modern day slavery including human trafficking.

SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

16.3: “Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all”.

Although it may not be obvious at first, this goal is crucial to any anti-trafficking theory of change. Laws against slavery and trafficking in just about every country across the world. What doesn't exist is effective law enforcement. By enforcing these laws (SDG 16) we can help accomplish SDG 8 and, in turn, the eradication of extreme poverty.

By achieving these SDGs, by enforcing laws to eradicate slavery and trafficking we can accomplish some of the key components of the SDGs allowing our global community to build a more sustainable world.

WHAT NEXT?

Creating legislative measures is one way to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking. However, legislation on its own will not solve the problem, the whole of society needs to be engaged in tackling the issue. The remainder of this pack has been created to help you and your faith community find simple ways to be able to take action and join in the fight to end this global crime.

SELECTION OF PRAYERS.

Here you will find a selection of prayers for public worship, please pick and choose the prayers that you feel are most appropriate for your congregation. Together let us pray for God's will to be done to abolish the enslavement of people.

FREEDOM PRAYER

We are inviting all churches to join together in praying this Freedom Prayer during their service. We encourage you to use this prayer to close your 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.**

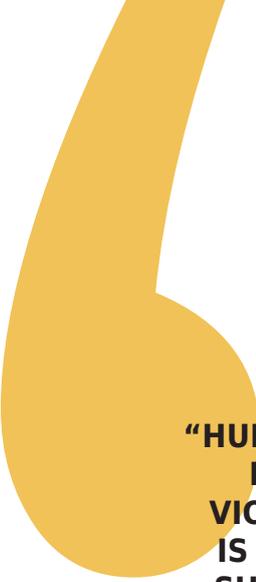
Voice 3: Give us faith to face the Pharaohs
Who line their pockets from this plague
Send us as salvation's sponsors
Willing servants; slaves to love

**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 click here.](#)

If you are looking for ideas of how to use visible symbols as an act of commitment during worship, other types of prayers or prayer points, please click [here](#).

To download [creative prayer stations, please click here.](#)



“HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS A GRAVE CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY. IT IS A FORM OF MODERN DAY SLAVERY AND A PROFOUND VIOLATION OF THE INTRINSIC DIGNITY OF HUMAN BEINGS. IT IS INTOLERABLE THAT MILLIONS OF FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS SHOULD BE VIOLATED IN THIS WAY, SUBJECTED TO INHUMAN EXPLOITATION AND DEPRIVED OF THEIR DIGNITY AND RIGHTS. THIS OUTRAGE SHOULD CONCERN EACH ONE OF US, BECAUSE WHAT AFFECTS ONE PART OF HUMANITY AFFECTS US ALL. VIRTUALLY EVERY PART OF THIS WORLD IS TOUCHED IN SOME WAY BY THE CRUELTY AND VIOLENCE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.

IF WE ARE TO COMBAT THIS EVIL THEN WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO PREVENT THE CRIME, SUPPORT THE SURVIVORS AND PROSECUTE THE CRIMINALS. THE KNOWLEDGE THAT CHURCHES HAVE OF THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES PUTS THEM ON THE FRONTLINE IN THIS CAMPAIGN. FREEDOM SUNDAY PROVIDES CHURCHES WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN TOGETHER WITH OTHERS AROUND THE WORLD IN A DAY OF WORSHIP, PRAYER AND ACTION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING. FREEDOM SUNDAY CHALLENGES US AND RESOURCES US TO TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT THE CRIME OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN OUR LOCAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITIES.”

Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby



THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL.

God went far beyond the call for justice and mercy. In Jesus the Word became flesh (John 1:14). In self-emptying love and humility, God entered our world, making possible life 'to the full' for all people (John 10:10). The stated mission of Jesus, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 61:1-2, makes clear God's redemptive purposes – particularly for the poor, those deprived of freedom, the suffering and the oppressed (Luke 4:18-19).

Restoration, renewal and reconciliation are offered to everyone through Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection (Ephesians 2:14-18). This powerfully demonstrates God's love for us and the value placed on humanity. In Jesus, God was prepared to make this self-offering in order to re-create, renew and restore all of creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

God's kingdom on earth.

When we respond to God's love we begin to live with different values – God's values. We live the prayer 'Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10). We learn that to love God is to love our neighbour as well (Mark 12:30-31). As people who have been reconciled to God we join in God's reconciling work in creation (2 Corinthians 5:19). Like Jesus, we learn to care for the least and the lowest (Matthew 25:40). In such ways, we strive to make God's kingdom here on earth a visible reality. This is a struggle – a spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:12).

Practical Christian responses to human trafficking.

Our response to human trafficking is based on what we believe about God and God's purposes for humanity. We also have an obligation to listen and to learn from survivors of human trafficking. Their voices are central to shaping and transforming both our theological and our practical responses to trafficking. Their plight cannot be ignored. Their needs are urgent.

Underlying causes of trafficking should be acknowledged - such as the demand for cheap labour, cheap services or cheap products. If we have been complicit or unheeding in these areas we need to be challenged to change and to work for a world where there is equity and enough for everyone.

Both individually and as the Body of Christ, we are called to respond in prayerful and practical ways. Our first priority is to pray for people who have been trafficked. Also, where possible, Christians can be actively involved in initiatives which seek out the suffering and provide places of refuge and sanctuary. Freedom and dignity must be restored to those who have been oppressed.

The church seeks to stand alongside people who have been trafficked by protecting them & preventing this crime through speaking out to the powerful systems that enable this crime to thrive, systems that we are all a part of in some way. In conjunction with other concerned groups, the church has a duty to press for societal and structural changes, alongside legal changes where these

SERMON / TALK OUTLINES

The style of sermon or talk you will want to deliver in your Freedom Sunday service will very much depend on your style of worship and congregation. Below you will find a selection of resources which we hope you might find helpful elements in your preparation.

BIBLE PASSAGES

Here are a range of bible passages that you may like to use within your Freedom Sunday service:

Psalm 82:1-4

Proverbs 31:8,9

Isaiah 58:6-8

John 10:7-10

Luke 4: 16-19 (Isaiah 61)

Luke 10:25-37

Ephesians 6:9

SERMON OUTLINES

Looking for further inspiration? We have created two full Freedom Sunday sermons outlines which link to the lectionary readings for [Sunday 16th October - please click here.](#)

SONG SUGGESTIONS

As it was for all those enslaved throughout history, singing songs of freedom calls freedom into reality. The world's faith communities hold a wealth of resources for sung worship, please feel free to choose songs/hymns which are most appropriate for yours.

Looking for some inspiration to get you started? [Click here to find some Christian freedom hymns](#) and songs from across the ages.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Children and young people are regrettably amongst some of the most vulnerable to trafficking today. The children and young people in your faith community can themselves play an active role in preventing human trafficking.

AKASH AND THE PIGEONS

Award winning children's author Penny Reeve, has written a beautiful story inspired by her trip to India with STOP THE TRAFFIK in 2013. Tell this story in your children's group.

To download the story click [here](#).

To download the [flashcards click here.](#)

FREEDOM FLASHMOB

A great way to learn about trafficking, raise awareness and inspire young people is to prepare and undertake a flash mob. To find out [more click here.](#)

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE - WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN.

Christians believe that human beings have a unique place in God's creation. Created in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27), humanity reflects the glory of God and is given dignity and worth. We are also gifted with individuality, autonomy, reason and creativity and with the capacity for knowledge and moral awareness (Romans 2:14-15). Reflecting the nature of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we seek for relationship and fellowship both with God and with each other. We are created with an innate longing for deep spiritual communion with our Creator (Psalm 42:1).

God's creative purpose for humanity also brings responsibility. Humanity is entrusted with the care of the rest of God's creation (Genesis 1:28 -30). We are also called to value all people, since every individual is created, known and precious to God (Psalm 139:13-17).

HOW OUR WORLD AND OUR RELATIONSHIPS HAVE BECOME DISTORTED.

Often our attitudes, choices and behaviours fall far short of God's creation plan for humanity (Romans 3:23). In conflict, hostility and division and in the mistreatment of people it is evident that relationships with God and with each other have become fractured and distorted. The use of power to abuse and exploit is further evidence of a broken world.

WHY HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS EVIL.

Human trafficking strikes at the heart of what it means for humanity to be created in God's image. It dehumanises those who are trafficked, denying them their God given value and worth and robbing them of their dignity and autonomy. Motivated by profit and greed, traffickers make commodities of human beings.

They prey on people in vulnerable situations, such as poverty, desperation or debt bondage. Trafficked people are oppressed and trapped, losing their freedom through coercion, fear, false promises or deception. Body, mind and spirit are affected.

GOD'S CONCERN FOR JUSTICE FOR THE VULNERABLE AND THE OPPRESSED IN OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES.

Trafficking of fellow human beings is not new. The Bible tells the story of Joseph who was sold by his own brothers (Genesis 37:28). Joel records how the defeated nation of Israel was scattered and its people traded (Joel 3:3). Amos describes poor people being sold, trampled on, denied justice and oppressed by their own people (Amos 2:6-7).

Yet God's concern for justice is also made abundantly clear in the Bible. Set free from slavery in Egypt, the Israelites were called to live differently from surrounding nations – as God's covenant people. They were never to forget what it was like to be enslaved (Leviticus 19:33-34). The Levitical code set out God's instructions to ensure protection and provision for disadvantaged, poor and vulnerable people such as aliens, widows or people with a disability (Leviticus 19:9-18).

The Psalmist testifies that God upholds the cause of the oppressed, the hungry, prisoners, those bowed down, aliens, the fatherless and the widow (Psalm 146:7-9). The prophets insist that God loves justice (Isaiah 61:8), and call for it to 'roll on like a river' (Amos 5:24). The obligation is clear to 'act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God' (Micah 6:8).

WORSHIP & ACTION

We are all called to action. Every one of us. Our worship together is important and calls us to continue our life of faith by taking action together in our communities. We all live in community and communities hold the answer to understanding what's going on and taking action to disrupt the global crime of human trafficking.

Here are a selection of ways that your faith community can take action to prevent human trafficking within and beyond your Freedom Sunday service.

STUDY.

The more we know, the more we will begin to understand this complex issue. We have a selection of bible studies available for the Christian community to use to explore what the bible says about freedom and God's compassion and call to end human trafficking. Whether you have one evening or several, engage with what the bible has to say, learn more about human trafficking and your role in ending it.

Get resourced - To download the [bible studies click here.](#)

ACT LOCALLY.

SPOT IT.

We can't stop what we can't see. We need to know what trafficking looks like.

SIGNIFICANT SIGNS

- Is the person lacking in self-esteem or do they seem anxious or fearful?
- Does the person act as if instructed by another? There may be control over their movement.
- Is there any evidence to suggest deception or coercion may be taking place?
- Is the person in possession of their legal documents? They may be held by somebody else.
- Does the person seem to be bonded by debt or is money deducted from their salary?
- Do they have any injuries that may be the result of controlling measures?
- Have there been threats against the individual or their family members?
- Is the person distrustful of authorities?

For detailed signs relating to different types of human trafficking, [click here to download SPOT THE SIGNS](#) guide to give out to members of your church and wider community. (Please note that the helpline numbers on this resource are for the UK, but all the signs information is suitable for global recipients.)

CONNECT

Trafficking occurs when a person is moved from a community into a community. Therefore your community has the power to stop it. We will only prevent human trafficking when we work together. We need faith groups, community groups, government, and business to generously work together and share information in order to disrupt this crime and protect those who are most vulnerable.

TAKE ACTION

Get to know those in your community who have a duty of care for those who are vulnerable to trafficking. Find out what they are doing to prevent trafficking. How could your church get involved?

Who to contact?

- Police
- Community leaders
- Education service
- Social services
- Other faith groups in your area
- Research the local organisations who are active in tackling trafficking your area

Why not bring them together for a community event and create a plan to take action together against trafficking?

To find imaginative ways that your faith community can engage in creating community events to end trafficking [click here.](#)

RAISE AWARENESS AND CAMPAIGN

Here are four different ways you can get involved to campaign and raise awareness for human trafficking.

1. SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Share your Freedom Sunday story

Whatever Freedom Sunday looks like for your community - we'd love other groups to be encouraged! Make sure you take a few photos of your worship service, bible study or any other action that takes place in your faith community. Afterwards post them up on social media. When you post, the best way to connect your post with the rest of the world is by including hash tags.

SOME SUGGESTED HASHTAGS YOU COULD USE: #FREEDOMSUNDAY #HUMANTRAFFICKING

- Take photos of your freedom Sunday.
- Share them on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc and use hashtags.
- Get your friends to share your posts and invite them to next year's Freedom Sunday!



2. FASHION CAMPAIGN



The clothes that we buy and wear arrive on shop shelves after a long journey that starts at the source, cotton being a main contributor. Cotton is grown and harvested in faraway fields, then spun, dyed and woven into fabric in factories, to be sold to consumer markets all over the world. For the Global Blanket campaign STOP THE TRAFFIK want people from all over the world to send us signed fabric squares that we can sew together into a giant blanket petition as a way to speak out against the human trafficking in the fashion industry. For more details [go to our Fashion campaign here to find out more.](#)

- Collect fabric squares and a group of friends.
- Sign your name on the squares with a bit of extra flare.
- Take a photo of your signed square and post it on social media.

3. The STOP APP

Human trafficking is a hidden crime. The biggest obstacle to stopping the traffick is the lack of information. The details of how and where trafficking happens is often seen by people like you and me, living and working in our different communities.

The STOP APP enables anybody who sees, knows or has heard something that might be human trafficking, to share it into a safe and secure space.

You can share old information that you didn't think was important but made you feel uncomfortable. You can become aware of situations that make you suspicious and share what doesn't seem right. Any piece of information, big or small, is relevant and important. It could be the missing piece of a complex global picture. Connecting situations that appear unrelated - from the past to the present, from one community to another. For more information on [The STOP APP click here.](#)

- Download 'The STOP APP - end human trafficking' on Google play, Android market or The app store.
- Learn to spot the signs. [click here to download the SPOT THE SIGNS leaflet.](#)
- You can find out more on how **"big data"** can be used to end human trafficking by downloading the brochure on STOP THE TRAFFIK's homepage called [intelligence -led prevention. Click here.](#)



4. GLOBAL ACTION FOR CHANGE IN THE LAW



Over 200 years ago William Wilberforce made his history by passing one law in parliament. As a result of the Modern Slavery Act - enacted in 2015- there is now an unprecedented focus on supply chain transparency, holding businesses (with turnover of over £36 million) accountable for modern slavery that may be taking place within their supply chains. As a global campaign we want to see change in company legislation all over the world. During 2015, STOP THE TRAFFIK used their partnership with the Financial Times to leverage this campaign to a business audience. You can get involved with this campaign too. For more information click [here](#)

- To see if a legal representative has prepared a draft version of supply chain legislation [in your country. Please click here.](#)
- Use the draft legislation as a starting point to develop a campaign in your country.
- Engage people on social media with your campaign.
- Begin to lobby your local and national for bringing about these changes.
- For more information email info@stophettraffik.org.

Extra Resources.

For extra promotional resources to help you plan and promote your [Freedom Sunday service by clicking here.](#)

SAVE THE DATE FOR 2017.

Join this day of prayer and action in 2017. Next year Freedom Sunday will take place on Sunday 15th October 2017. Book it into your faith community calendar now!

“WE BELIEVE HUMAN BEINGS ARE CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD, AND THAT EVERY PERSON IS PRECIOUS AND ENTITLED TO LIVE WITH DIGNITY. THROUGH THE PROPHETS AND THE LIFE AND WORDS OF JESUS, GOD CALLS PEOPLE TO WORK FOR JUSTICE FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE. THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS MOTIVATES US TO LIVE OUT THIS CALLING AND TO AFFIRM THE DIGNITY OF ALL PEOPLE. WE AFFIRM THE RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE TO LIVE FREE OF PERSECUTION AND VIOLENCE. WE INVITE ALL CONGREGATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN FREEDOM SUNDAY THROUGH AWARENESS, FUNDRAISING, WORSHIP, PRAYER AND ACTION.”

Rev'd David Baker, Moderator Uniting Church in Australia

**THANK YOU
TO EVERYONE WHO HAS
CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS
THE MATERIALS WITHIN THIS
RESOURCE**

STAY IN TOUCH

**IT WOULD BE GREAT TO HEAR HOW YOU
AND YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY HAVE USED
THESE MATERIALS AND HOW YOU ARE
TAKING ACTION. PLEASE DO SEND YOUR
STORIES AND FEEDBACK TO
INFO@FREEDOMSUNDAYGLOBAL.ORG**