



FIGHTING MODERN SLAVERY IN THE DIOCESE OF ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

Issue 3 - May 2021



"We have to maintain at the centre of our motivation the person, the vulnerable person who is the target of the exploiter. The focus must be on the human lives and how we put an end to the suffering and marginalisation endured by 40 million people across our world."

*Cardinal Vincent Nichols
on slavery*

*Santa Marta Latin
American Conference in
Buenos Aires, 2019*

MESSAGE FROM DAVID FAREY

As lockdown eases many of us are looking forward to meeting safely with friends and family once again. In the past months, when so many events and activities have been cancelled or postponed, we are reminded that organised crime has not suffered in the same way. Scam merchants have adapted and so have traffickers. Methods of exploitation that were less lucrative in lockdown were changed, with those trapped by criminals moved like cattle into other fields of exploitation.

Criminals' resources make the fight against modern slavery intensely hard, especially for cash strapped and pressured agencies.

Members of our churches are embedded in the communities where slavery and exploitation is taking place and there is an increasing urgency for our churches and the people in all communities to be made aware that slavery and exploitation is happening **everywhere!** We can all learn the signs, using our eyes and ears to observe what is going on in our neighbourhood, taking action to inform the authorities when we see something that isn't right and giving them the details that enable them to act effectively. *See our item on becoming an Awareness Ambassador below.*

Please share this newsletter with as many people as you can, encouraging them to sign up to receive future news. To be added to our mailing list:

E: tessa.ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk or to find out more [visit our website >>>](#)

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

RECRUITING NOW -

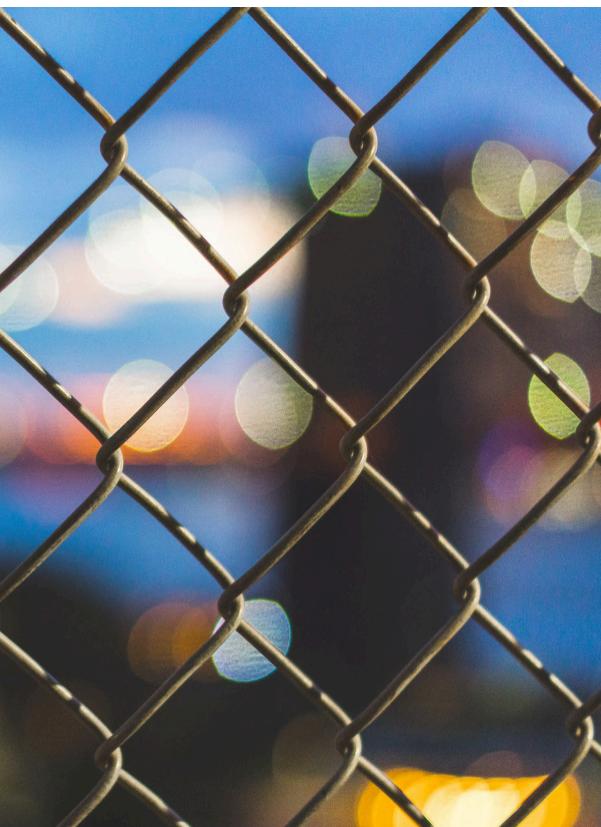
Modern Slavery Awareness Ambassadors

Our diocesan group is working on a joint enterprise with the charity **Together in Sussex** to raise awareness of modern day slavery. Together we would like to recruit 'Ambassadors' willing to be involved in this process. Ambassadors will be trained in anti-slavery issues, act as a point of contact and will be part of our campaign to raise awareness of modern slavery.

[**Click here to find out more >>>**](#)

To express an interest or find out more contact our Social Action Adviser Tessa Ricketts;

E: Tessa.ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk



**TOGETHER
IN SUSSEX⁺**

GATWICK IMMIGRATION REMOVAL CENTRES

Mary Barrett is a member of the diocesan Modern Slavery Abolition Group and a volunteer visitor at the Immigration Removal Centres based in Gatwick. Mary writes:

"I was aware that some of the men being held in Brook House and Tinsley House were victims of trafficking and modern slavery. I have heard their stories of being made to work in warehouses around Luton and Heathrow, of working on cannabis farms and many other stories of exploitation. However, I was not aware of these dire statistics: Between 2016 and 2019, 4,695 individuals were recognised as foreign modern slavery victims in the UK but of these, only 549 adults were granted discretionary leave to remain as trafficking victims."...

[**Click here to read Mary's article in full >>>**](#)

THE TABLET WEBINAR

A crime against humanity: fighting Modern Slavery in a post pandemic world - The Tablet Webinar

Back in February The Tablet ran a webinar exploring combatting slavery as 'an agenda for action across all sectors'. David Farey attended the Zoom meeting and has written an overview report about the issues discussed.

[**You can read it here >>>**](#)





STREETLIGHT UK -

Tackling Sexual Exploitation One Individual at a Time

Streetlight UK is a specialist support service for women involved in prostitution, and at risk of sexual violence and sex trafficking across Sussex, Surrey and London. Modern Day Slavery is a global issue which requires a global response - streetlight UK tackles it one individual at a time. You can read their [Annual Report here >>>](#)

To learn more about the charity's work [visit their website >>>](#)

CLEWER INITIATIVE - MODERN SLAVERY IN RURAL AREAS

The Clewer Initiative enables church networks to raise awareness of modern slavery.

The Clewer Initiative's focus this month is on modern slavery in rural areas, highlighting what it looks like and exploring the myths surrounding it. Their Farm Work Welfare app has been updated for the 2021 picking season, providing farmers, growers and fresh produce suppliers information, signposting and tools to help them avoid criminal organisations and promote worker welfare.

[Find out more here >>>](#)

WE SEE YOU.

THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

Brighton shop stripped of its licence as police 'believe this to be a case of modern slavery' - [click here >>>](#)

The UK Government launches modern slavery statement registry with organisations strongly encouraged to share the positive steps taken to tackle and prevent modern slavery - [click here >>>](#)

Modern slavery: man and woman arrested in Kings Drive, Eastbourne - [click here >>>](#)

Two men aged 80 and 55 charged with human trafficking after man was found in a shed 'where he had lived for 40 years' - [click here >>>](#)

'How I escaped from human traffickers' by 23-year-old undergraduate Damilola Falodun - [click here >>>](#)

NEWS ROUND UP



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

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

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





HOME SECRETARY, PRITI PATEL'S PLANS FOR THE IMMIGRATION SYSTEM - UNWORKABLE?

The current system for processing immigrants and asylum applications in this country is woefully inadequate with many people waiting years in limbo. However, it is generally agreed that Priti Patel's proposals for a new resettlement scheme for refugees, announced late last month, are unworkable at best.

The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants said the 'New Plan' was "an attack on the principles enshrined in the Refugee Convention" arguing that they were inhuman and unworkable and do nothing to prevent the further exploitation of people by traffickers.

To learn more, go to the [Joint Council's website >>>](#)

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

The Possibility Club is an online community of people and organisations interested in discussing and debating how we can make Sussex modern slavery-free. It's a place to share ideas, build collaboration and move towards eradicating slavery and exploitation from all aspects of society. The initiative is funded by the University of Sussex and the ESRC to help translate academic knowledge into action.

You can find out more [here >>>](#)



THE ARUNDEL AND BRIGHTON DIOCESAN 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. It can be as forced labour, domestic servitude, human trafficking for exploitation and crimes which enable trafficking. The task to overcome this evil is enormous and we seek to play our part in a number of ways.

1. To raise public awareness of Modern Slavery and its abolition.
2. To collaborate with other organisations and groups; networking with other churches and organisations across the Diocese to raise awareness and provide resources, like our 'safe house'.
3. To assist the Police in bringing to justice the perpetrators Modern Slavery by raising awareness and showing people how to play their part in tracking down criminals.

Our meetings regularly have input from the police and other organisations as necessary.

We hope to form a network of individuals and groups across our Diocese. Working together we can raise awareness, encouraging people to be vigilant and giving them the tools they need to report suspicious activity. Providing individuals and groups with the latest information means they can be active in every way to eradicate this affront to human dignity.

Our remit includes lobbying, where appropriate, for rigorous application of government legislation, holding companies and organisations accountable for their supply chains and hidden sources of exploitation.

You can find out more on the Diocesan website [here >>>](#)

If you would like to get involved or have a question please contact
E: tessa.ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk