



JOURNEYS

A new resource to inspire you
in the fight against modern slavery.



FOREWORD BY THE RT REVD AND RT HON DAME SARAH MULLALLY, BISHOP OF LONDON

Journeys seeks to explore some of the complexities surrounding modern slavery and makes clear there are no simple solutions. Modern slavery is a global crime with sophisticated criminal organisations at its heart. However, there is hope. As the resource suggests, when people move from being bystanders to taking action, we can build resilient communities where modern slavery is noticed and prevented from getting a foothold.

The five victim stories are profoundly compelling and show us the different ways in which modern slavery manifests itself in the UK. Hearing from volunteers and church leaders on the frontline who have all had different modern slavery journeys provides clear examples to follow.

Watch the films, read the supporting material, and tell a friend – everyone has a part to play in making modern slavery a thing of the past.



INTRODUCTION BY BISHOP ALASTAIR REDFERN, CHAIR OF THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

Every modern slavery journey is different.

Some people are targeted in their bedrooms in suburbia, others on a busy street in Vietnam or an internet cafe in Albania. Many British victims are approached when they are already struggling with other vulnerabilities such as homelessness or school exclusion. Through coercion, deception and sometimes force, victims are taken from their homes and exploited against their will. Many people are trapped in slavery for years, not knowing who to turn to or trust. Others successfully escape their captors, only to be retargeted and exploited by another criminal gang. Even when someone finds freedom from exploitation, there is significant trauma which means their modern slavery journey never really ends.

Similarly, every volunteer and campaigner has a different story. For some, it is deeply personal. For others, it starts in a professional capacity and moves into the personal. It usually begins with the shocking realisation that slavery is not a thing of the past. Knowledge and awareness leads to action and mobilisation.

In our new resource, we try to tell these stories - the stories of victims and volunteers. And we reflect upon how we too can take the next step in our modern slavery journey.

HOW THE RESOURCE WORKS

Journeys is made up of five films and five chapters of supporting material. We would encourage you to watch a film per session and spend some time in discussion and reflection either with others or on your own. In each chapter, we have contemporary art to prompt further contemplation on the experience of victims. There are also case studies, background information and statistics to help deepen your knowledge of modern slavery. At the end of each film, there is a clear application point to help guide you in your response.

CARING FOR YOURSELF



This resource is about a subject which is emotive and upsetting. Before you start, think about how you will care for yourself and others. If you are distressed by the subject matter or it has triggered painful memories, we would urge you to share your concerns with others who might understand.



WEEK 1 THE JOURNEY BEGINS

In film 1, we learn how Mihail was drawn into modern slavery and reflect on the experience of victims in general. We consider their isolation; mental anguish and physical pain; the verbal abuse, injustice and abandonment. As we digest the true nature of the crime, we also hear about the importance of raising awareness and speaking up if we see something suspicious or troubling.

WATCH THE JOURNEY BEGINS



Film questions



- How did Mihail's journey begin?
 - What led him into slavery?
 - What led him out of slavery?
- Why is raising awareness so important?
- What small steps could you take in response to what you've seen and discussed?

Consider these images:



- What do these contemporary images communicate about how it feels to be a victim of modern slavery?



- How does slavery often begin?
- What sort of people do criminal gangs usually target?



NEXT STEPS ON YOUR JOURNEY

Three ways to deepen your understanding of modern slavery and raise awareness in your community:

1. Sign up for one of The Clewer Initiative's one-off seminars.

We have a selection of free online courses which focus on different aspects of modern slavery or are designed for different audiences. For example, we have County Lines' seminars for teachers, foster parents and grandparents or seminars about identifying modern slavery for people involved in social action projects.

<https://theclewerinitiative.org/training-and-events>

2. Spread the word! Put up posters about spotting the signs of modern slavery in shared spaces such as your local library, swimming pool and church hall.

<https://theclewerinitiative.org/resources/awareness-downloads>

3. Organise a seminar or film night for people in your workplace, school or business to find out more about modern slavery. Use the five Journeys mini films to prompt discussion or invite a local charity to share information about exploitation in your area.

<https://theclewerinitiative.org/resources/journeys>



We all have a part to play. We're not all going to be investigators, looking into the crimes, but we can all be the eyes and ears on the ground.

Becca Faal, Diocese of Gloucester Safeguarding Officer



FURTHER READING

AN INTRODUCTION TO LABOUR EXPLOITATION

By Frank Hanson, Head of Prevention and Partnerships at the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA)

Labour exploitation is the most common form of modern slavery in the UK. Victims are forced to work for little or no pay, often under the threat of punishment. Thousands of people in the UK are potential victims of labour exploitation and are controlled by force, threats, coercion, abduction, fraud and deception.

Labour exploitation can take place in any sector. It is commonly found in agriculture, food processing, construction, hand car washes, care, manufacturing and catering industries.

Someone may be a victim of labour exploitation if they:

- Show signs of psychological or physical abuse – they may appear frightened, withdrawn or confused
- Have their movements restricted and are always accompanied
- Are transported to and from work
- Lack protective equipment, suitable clothing or training
- Work unusually long hours
- Do not have access to their passport or other identity documents
- Are forced to stay in accommodation provided by their employer
- Do not have a contract
- Are paid less than the National Minimum Wage
- Are afraid to accept money or payment

This is not an exhaustive list - not all of the indicators will apply in every case, and some may not be immediately apparent.

Victims may be reluctant to tell their story through fear of reprisal or not being believed, or a feeling of shame about letting themselves be treated in this way, or because they do not know their rights and the treatment they are entitled to receive.

VICTIMS OF MODERN SLAVERY REFERRED INTO THE NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM IN 2021

12,727

potential victims of modern slavery were referred to the Home Office in 2021, a

20%

increase compared to 2020 and the highest since the NRM began in 2009

58%

of potential victims claimed exploitation had occurred in the UK only (as opposed to overseas)

LABOUR EXPLOITATION

was the most common form of exploitation for adult potential victims.



SION'S JOURNEY

In 2017, Sion Hall, a senior detective with the Lancashire Police, was asked by the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner's Office to use his imminent retirement to establish an Anti-Slavery Partnership. Having worked for 30 years for the police and set up the Human Trafficking Team for the county, Sion felt it was a perfect way to put his skills and experience to good use and work on something he was passionate about.

“Modern slavery is all about money, greed and power and lots of it is driven by organised crime so there are significant amounts of money involved. I've been into some brothels where there's literally been bags stuffed full of cash. It's a very lucrative trade.”

Sion became the chair of the newly formed Pan Lancashire Anti-Slavery Partnership (PLASP) and quickly began drawing in other statutory agencies, NGOs, charities and faith groups to work together. As a committed Catholic, he felt strongly about the importance of the church being closely involved with the Partnership.

PLASP meets monthly and focuses on raising awareness amongst frontline agencies, churches and community groups and the wider public, providing training and encouraging victim identification and support.

<https://twitter.com/PLASPsupport>

“

If you see something that doesn't feel right, it probably isn't right and you should report it.

Sion Hall, Retired Deputy Chief Inspector and Chair of the Pan Lancashire Anti-Slavery Partnership (PLASP)

“

If you work in a social action project such as a homeless shelter or a food bank, it's really important that you know how to spot the signs of both victims and perpetrators.

Becca Faal, Diocese of Gloucester Safeguarding Officer

WEEK 2 THE JOURNEY CONTINUES



In film 2, we hear about how Emma was drawn into county lines drug smuggling. We also learn about community resilience and how our individual and corporate response can make a massive difference in protecting vulnerable people from exploitation and noticing those who are already in the grip of slavery.

WATCH FIRST ENCOUNTERS



Film questions



- Was Emma the sort of girl you'd expect to get drawn into county lines?
 - What led to her involvement?
 - What were the clues she was getting drawn into county lines?
- How are families secondary victims of modern slavery?
- What do you understand by the term "community resilience?"
- How can communities play a role in protecting vulnerable people from slavery?

Consider these images:



- What might it look like to show compassion to victims of modern slavery in your community?
 - What is the first step?
 - Who can you notice and reach out to in your neighbourhood?





NEXT STEPS ON YOUR JOURNEY

If “community resilience” is a new concept for you and you would like to find out more, the best thing to do is sign up for The Clewer Initiative’s Breaking County Lines or Hidden Voices course. Both of these courses consider in greater detail how a community can respond to modern slavery.

- Sign up for Breaking County Lines
<https://theclewerinitiative.org/training-and-events/breaking-county-lines>
- Contact us about running a Hidden Voices course in your community
clewerinitiative@churchofengland.org



FURTHER READING

WHAT IS COMMUNITY RESILIENCE?

In film 2, we talk about community resilience which can sound a bit technical. According to the dictionary, “community resilience is the sustained ability of communities to withstand, adapt to, and recover from adversity.” The Clewer Initiative is founded on a community resilience approach – we believe that modern slavery can only be eliminated at a community level where relationships are strong and where individuals are looking out for their neighbours' welfare.

Find out more about community resilience on our website -
<https://theclewerinitiative.org/what-we-do/working-in-communities-1>

WHAT IS COUNTY LINES?

In film 2, we hear the story of a girl drawn into county lines before her family can intervene. County lines involves the supply of illegal drugs from large urban areas to smaller cities, towns and provincial locations using dedicated mobile phones, known as deal lines, to take orders. Criminal gangs frequently target children and vulnerable adults to facilitate the county lines - manipulating and coercing them into drug trafficking and distribution. Young women are sometimes specifically recruited because they less are likely to attract suspicion from law enforcement.



One of the tragedies of our time, which allows modern slavery to thrive, is the collapse of neighbourhoods.

*Bishop Alastair Redfern,
Chair of The Clewer Initiative*



VICTIMS OF COUNTY LINES REFERRED INTO THE NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM IN 2021

In 2021, **2,053** county lines referrals were flagged, a **23%** increase from 2020

The majority (**76%**) of these referrals were for male victims.

BREAKING COUNTY LINES

By strengthening relationships within a community, we can help discourage the presence of county lines activity. There are many different things we can do to build community resilience – all of them take time, effort and perseverance. On The Clewer Initiative's Breaking County Lines course, we think in detail about county lines and practical steps communities can take to grow in resilience.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

In film 2, we saw how modern slavery affects a whole family. Sometimes parents, grandparents, foster carers and teachers can be unaware that county lines' gangs are targeting children in their midst. For this reason, we have developed a range of county lines' seminars for different groups. <https://theclewerinitiative.org/training-and-events/breaking-county-lines>

“ As human beings, we tend to form cliques and love to be in the “in crowd.” We often don't look across what can be quite a wide chasm. Sadly, human beings have always had the capacity to penetrate and exploit these gaps. If we are to tackle modern slavery in our communities, we must build bridges across these gaps and prevent them getting wider. Community resilience can sound slightly jargony. In essence, it means creating communities that are aware and feel safe and include all their members.

Hilary Lines, Executive Team Coach and volunteer with The Clewer Initiative



ROB'S JOURNEY

Rob has been working for The Clewer Initiative for the last year as a part-time trainer and facilitator. He has developed some of our county lines resources and was recently asked to use them in a totally new and challenging setting.

The senior management team at a local primary school knew of Rob's modern slavery work and asked him for help when they became concerned about four young boys who were involved in county lines.

Rob explains: "When I'm not working for The Clewer Initiative, I am a creative education specialist using art to get alongside vulnerable children. The staff at one of the schools I work in was worried about four boys who were at extreme risk of expulsion. The staff, social services and police believed that keeping the children in school was the best place for them because if they were expelled or sent to a Pupil Referral Unit, it would only lead them further into the criminal world they were already a part of. As I knew the children through the art work I had been doing in the school, I was asked to adapt The Clewer Initiative's existing county lines material and use it to educate the boys about the dangers of county lines and begin the long work of showing them they have choices.

"I am spending time with each boy, one -to-one, thinking about how you know who to trust; how county lines drug gangs operate; how the senior gang members are benefitting from their involvement and where it might lead in the long run.

"The children face huge pressure to work for the gang, delivering drugs, and it is hard for them to imagine any other life. I am hoping that by working together over an extended period, the children may begin to see that there are other options and know who to turn to and trust if they want to talk.

"As I work with these children, I am convinced more and more that early intervention is key. Once children are embedded in a county lines gang, it is extremely hard for them to leave. It is so important we give children the tools to resist county lines before they get groomed and manipulated. The Clewer Initiative has such brilliant resources for primary and secondary aged children and it is critical we get them into the hands of teachers, carers and social workers to help them in the vital work of caring for, supporting and equipping vulnerable children to avoid county lines."



WEEK 3 FALSE STARTS AND NEW DIRECTIONS

In film 3, Richard explains the devastating impact modern slavery has had on his family. He introduces us to a lesser-known form of modern slavery and shares how he initially didn't realise his son had been groomed.

We also consider how our modern slavery journey may not be straightforward either. We may experience setbacks and challenges.

WATCH FALSE STARTS AND NEW DIRECTIONS



Film questions

- What struck you about Richard and Danny's story?
- What false assumptions did the father make?
- What is the process of modern slavery activism like? What is hard about getting projects off the ground?
- How will this help you manage your expectations as you begin to take action?





Consider the images:

- How do these contemporary images help us be honest about modern slavery challenges and setbacks and how we can be complicit in victims falling back into exploitation?



NEXT STEPS ON YOUR JOURNEY — THINKING ABOUT PARTNERSHIPS

If you are beginning to think about what you can do, a good first step is to find out what is already going on in your neighbourhood.

Consider mapping your community – put together some large pieces of paper and draw a map of your community, marking out the main roads, rivers, railways, key buildings such as shopping centres, churches, mosques, pubs, and clubs. Then add the resources that already exist, such as buildings, services, leisure activities, centres of faith, and youth and elderly focused activities. Consider the various needs or issues you have in your community and mark those on the map as well. As you add to your map, consider:

- What are the main priorities?
- Who do you need to work with to address this issue?
- Which groups, institutions, clubs and businesses could help?
- What charities or organisations are already working in the area?
- How could you volunteer / support their work? What are the gaps?
- Who are the key figures in your community who you could get to know?
Local police / other statutory / local head teachers.
- How could you convene people with an interest in modern slavery?
- How can you start a conversation?

Not everything will work but as you begin to move forward, you will see the gaps and where you can begin to make a difference.

This exercise is part of The Clewer Initiative's Hidden Voices course. If you would like to build on your initial mapping exercise, why not sign up for Hidden Voices.



The top thing I would recommend is to look in your local community and find a charity that supports survivors of slavery or look to your local authority who will typically have a modern slavery lead.

Rebecca Helme, Hestia



FURTHER READING WHAT IS FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION?

In film 3, we hear the story of a boy drawn into a criminal network over the internet and forced to defraud his own father. This is an example of financial exploitation. We asked the Threat Leadership Command at National Crime Agency to explain more:

Financial exploitation is where offenders coerce victims into committing financial actions subject to penalty for the exploiter's gain. Exploiters may even set up accounts in the victims' name without their knowledge in order to conduct further transactions and illegal activity.

Financial exploitation is often observed alongside another form of exploitation, such as sexual or labour exploitation, and is used as a further mechanism to control victims and as an additional income stream for exploiters.

Victims are often targeted based on existing vulnerabilities such as age, disability, homelessness, inability to speak English, or any other characteristic that makes them easier to coerce and/or control, such as having the same nationality as offenders.

In order to financially exploit victims, offenders may:

- Coerce victims into opening bank accounts or providing bank account details that will then be controlled by the exploiter.
- Coerce victims into taking out credit cards, loans, mobile phone contracts, overdrafts, or vehicle finance.
- Use victims' identities and details for financial transactions linked to criminality so that offenders can distance themselves from that criminality. This may include opening additional accounts in victims' names that they may later use to commit fraud against third parties.
- Commit benefit fraud by forcing victims to fraudulently claim benefits or claiming benefits in the victim's name unbeknown to them.
- Force victims to have their identities and bank accounts used during the laundering of proceeds of crime.

Financial exploitation has a profound and lasting impact on victims, both psychologically and in terms of financial and credit damage, jeopardising their ability to obtain financial accounts and access credit once the exploitation has ended.



DAN'S JOURNEY

Dan Pratt is the founder of The Together Free Foundation and helped to establish Southend Against Modern Slavery (SAMS) Partnership. He tells us more about the process and shares some of the challenges of modern slavery activism.

“I started by having conversations with people who I already knew within the community - whether they were church leaders, charity workers, the council or local police. We thought about how we could build a more resilient response within our locality. Following lots of one-to-one conversations, we decided to form an anti-slavery partnership and gathered around 30 different community leaders from the third sector, statutory and faith groups, as well as law enforcement.

There are always challenges in developing community resilience. I found one of the main issues was around awareness and people not realising that exploitation is happening locally. In Southend, there was a whole piece of work to be done around education. Overall, I think it was a case of not giving up if people pushed the idea aside but instead persevering. I kept asking people “what are we doing about this?”

Often it is a case of finding people who are passionate about the issue and working with them. It is about going where the energy is and sometimes that entailed working with people I hadn't anticipated.

Plans don't always work out as we'd hoped for. It's very much a sense of trying to do our best. And if something doesn't work, then we can just try again. For me, my faith has a massive role to play in keeping me motivated and a sense of me joining in with God's mission of bringing His kingdom and reign on earth. I know that ultimately His Kingdom is a place where there is no slavery, and all people are treated with dignity and respect.

If people want to get involved in the fight against modern slavery, I would suggest exploring what's going on within your locality and find out about which local charities or organisations are already responding to the issue.

Rev'd Dr Dan Pratt, Founder of The Together Free Foundation.”



WEEK 4 SYSTEMIC FAILURE

Many modern slavery victims face a lifetime of misery – exploitation; hunger; verbal abuse and threats; violence and the belief that there is no way out. They often do not know who to turn to and the Government systems can fail then. Their suffering goes unnoticed and is fuelled by society’s hunger for cheap goods and services and lack of care for the most vulnerable.

In film 4, we try to grapple with these systemic forces and explore how having robust safeguarding policies and processes in place can help mitigate some of these challenges.

We also hear Rayowa’s story and how people in her community turned a blind eye to her suffering.



**WATCH
THE FULL HORROR
OF THE CRIME**



Film questions

- What struck you about Rayowa's story?
- What were some of the complexities around her situation that made it particularly hard for her to be noticed / rescued?
- Why is modern slavery such a challenging crime to identify and tackle?
- How does our contemporary approach to safeguarding help us open our eyes and say "we see you" in a way that is life-changing?



Consider the images:

When you look at these images, how do you see systems crushing the life out of this victim?



NEXT STEPS ON YOUR JOURNEY — STAYING ON TOP OF SAFEGUARDING

There are increasing numbers of vulnerable people in our communities. We need to know from a safeguarding perspective what to do if someone walks into our social action projects and we see signs of slavery.

The Clewer Initiative regularly runs general safeguarding training as well as bespoke seminars for those working and volunteering in social action projects; people working alongside refugees and people volunteering in food banks.

Find out more here

<https://theclewerinitiative.org/what-we-do/safeguarding-and-modern-slavery>



Victims may not come forward for a host of reasons. Sometimes it is because they don't see themselves as victims. I've met men who are working 12 hours a day in a car wash, sleeping on dog blankets on a concrete floor and occasionally paid £5. It absolutely was exploitation but when we talked to them, their view was, 'our home country was a lot worse and at least we wake up in the morning here without being blown up'. They would never want to report themselves as victims because they didn't see themselves as victims.

Sion Hall, Retired Deputy Chief Inspector and Chair of the Pan Lancashire Anti-Slavery Partnership (PLASP)



FURTHER READING WHAT IS DOMESTIC SERVITUDE?

In the film, we see a young girl trapped in domestic servitude. Domestic servitude is a live-in employment arrangement where the employee cannot leave of their own free will. It is a form of forced labour which sometimes also involves debt bondage. It can be hard for

authorities to inspect private homes and so this type of exploitation can be easier to hide. The 'employer' may hold the worker's travel/identity documents, use the threat of deportation and exploit other vulnerabilities, such as language barriers, as a means of control.

SIGNS OF DOMESTIC SERVITUDE



DO THEY WORK VERY LONG HOURS?

Or seem to be on call at all hours



HAVE THEIR PASSPORTS OR DOCUMENTS BEEN TAKEN AWAY?



DO THEY EVER LEAVE THE HOUSE ON THEIR OWN?



DO THEY APPEAR AFRAID OR ANXIOUS?



WHAT CONDITIONS ARE THEY LIVING IN?

Are there signs that they have been harmed or deprived of medical care, food, water or sleep?



DO THEY STAND OUT FROM OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS?

Are they wearing poorer clothing, quieter, more withdrawn etc?



CAN THEY FREELY CONTACT FRIENDS OR FAMILY?



BECCA'S JOURNEY

Becca is the Diocese of Gloucester's Safeguarding Officer and delivers some of The Clewer Initiative's safeguarding training. She used to work as a children's nurse and for the NSPCC. We talked to her about her role and why she is passionate about safeguarding.

She explains: "I believe everyone has a right to flourish as an individual. I believe this from a human rights perspective and a Biblical perspective. Everyone is made in God's image and should be valued. Anything that goes against that, whether that be abuse or modern slavery, is wrong and anything I can do to protect and inform people of their rights, is important to me.

"Safeguarding is so important. It is a key way in which we can protect vulnerable people from potential abuse and identify and support victims.

"All organisations have safeguarding policies and processes in place. Modern slavery is just another form of abuse for people to know about. We are not asking people to do anything different or extra. It shouldn't be burdensome because the safeguarding processes are already in place.

"Safeguarding isn't just something for specialists. Absolutely everybody needs to have a basic awareness of it and in that way, we can make our communities a lot safer.

"One of the things that really saddens me is when the systems don't work properly and people don't report. Someone might think "I only see this person once a week or maybe what I witnessed was just a one off." It is really important that we do something with that information. We must bring this darkness out into the light."

“ Most of us are colluding with modern slavery as consumers. From the clothes we wear through to the phones we have, the coffee we drink and the chocolates we eat.

Rev'd Dr Dan Pratt, Founder of The Together Free Foundation



WEEK 5 A NEW JOURNEY BEGINS

Despite enduring unspeakable suffering, many victims of modern slavery find ways to journey forward. In film 5, we hear Jing's experience of recovery and how therapeutic art has played a key role. We reflect on how we can walk alongside survivors in their journey as friends and supporters.



WATCH A NEW JOURNEY BEGINS



Film questions

- What struck you about Jing's story?
- How did she find dignity?
- What can ordinary people do to help victims of slavery?
- What struck you about the power of therapeutic art workshops?



Consider these images:

- How do these contemporary images convey the experience of victims post rescue – living in the shadow of the past and the light of the future?







NEXT STEPS ON YOUR JOURNEY — SUPPORTING VICTIMS

There are a number of ways you can support victims in your community.

- Get in touch with local charities and organisations to see if they need volunteers
- Consider how you could use art to raise awareness or support victims in their recovery? Are there any local charities running therapeutic art projects?

 **You need to take a holistic view when fighting modern slavery. I learnt this when I was in the police. It's not just about one agency or organisation. It is really important to get all the partners to the table to look at what part each can play.**

Sion Hall, Retired Deputy Chief Inspector and Chair of the Pan Lancashire Anti-Slavery Partnership (PLASP)

 **It's not a smooth process doing this kind of work and there are a number of challenges. One of the main challenges is working with volunteers. At the beginning, volunteers are often very enthusiastic but as it gets difficult, people's enthusiasm can, understandably, wane. The challenge is how to keep the passion alive and people motivated. I think it's about trying to focus on the long term vision.**

Bill Crooks, artist and facilitator for The Clewer Initiative



FIONA'S JOURNEY

Fiona grew up in Scotland and worked for 20 years as a lawyer before embarking on a dramatic change of direction. Her voluntary work with destitute asylum seekers in Bradford helped her to understand that her focus should be on people who are marginalised.

In conversation with the Church of Scotland, she learned of its support for the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy (FCEI). She was amazed to discover that the organisation was looking for a native English speaker with advocacy skills, ideally with some Italian and keen to work alongside migrants and refugees. It seemed like a divine match.

Fiona has been seconded to FCEI by the Church of Scotland since 2018. FCEI's refugee and migrant programme, Mediterranean Hope, has teams based in Lampedusa, Sicily, Calabria, Bosnia and Beirut, as well as Rome, where Fiona works. She supports her colleagues through her engagement with external institutions and policymakers, by helping to develop good practice, in particular, in relation to legal pathways such as the humanitarian corridors which FCEI pioneered in Italy, and through awareness-raising initiatives.

Fiona has seen first-hand the power and potential of therapeutic art in community projects amongst refugees and migrant workers in southern Italy. She explains:

“The process of recovering from an experience of modern slavery or exploitation is long and requires specialist assistance. But there are things that we, as communities, can do to help that process of recovery.

“The therapeutic art project, which we've run with help from The Clewer Initiative, involved people who had had different experiences of exploitation. It enabled them to detach from and start to process the trauma they've been through by reconnecting with a sense of self and fun. It was incredible to watch people who perhaps hadn't held a pen or paintbrush for a long time suddenly be afforded the opportunity and the time simply to play.

“We don't have all the answers, and nor should we imagine that we do. It is a process that requires specialist help and we have to be very careful when we're attempting to assist people who've been through such trauma. However, it has been a privilege to watch people open up and share something of their stories.”



CONCLUSION

Caroline Virgo, Director of The Clewer Initiative

As you come to the end of this resource, we hope you feel clearer about the next steps you can take. We have tried to flesh out what it looks like to join the fight and move from the side lines to action.

We have talked about the importance of knowing the signs of modern slavery and what to do with your suspicions. We have discussed the incomparable value of community resilience and investing in our neighbourhoods so criminal gangs cannot target vulnerable people. We have explored the importance of strategic partnerships and robust safeguarding practices and have rejoiced in the power of therapeutic art and other community initiatives that help victims in their recovery. Our hope is that these elements will become part of your journey.

The question is “what is your next step and what do you need to achieve it?” At The Clewer Initiative, we have developed a swathe of practical tools and resources to help churches, communities, partners and the public take action against modern slavery. We have posters, apps, training courses and seminars which have all been designed to equip and inform.

If you have been stirred by the material in Journeys and are looking for further support or have a question about next steps, please get in touch with us by emailing on clewerinitiative@churchofengland.org We can connect you with other projects in your area and support you as you explore the best way forward.

It may be you are only just beginning to find out about modern slavery and are unsure how to respond or what capacity you have to help. If this is the case, please don't despair or feel powerless! Remember the famous proverb, "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."



WHO TO CONTACT

If there is an emergency and someone is in immediate danger, call 999.

If you would like to report any non-emergency suspicious activity in your local area then call your local police on 101 or go to your local police station.

If you need advice or support on modern slavery, please call the MODERN SLAVERY HELPLINE ON 08000 121 700.

It operates 24 hour a day, 365 days a year.

If you are in England or Wales and suspect that you or someone you have come across could be a victim of modern slavery and in need of help, please call The Salvation Army's 24/7 confidential referral advice line on 0800 808 3733. This is where to go to get adult victim specialist support.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped bring the Journeys project to life, particularly:

Becca Faal

Bill Crooks <https://www.theclewerinitiative.org/>

Dan Pratt <https://www.togetherfree.org.uk/>

Fiona Kendall www.mediterraneanhope.com <https://www.fcei.it/>

Hilary Lines

Rebecca Helme <https://www.hestia.org/>

Sion Hall <https://twitter.com/PLASPSupport>

Bishop Alastair Redfern <https://www.theclewerinitiative.org/>

GLAA <https://www.gla.gov.uk/>

NCA <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/>

DH&Co

April de Angelis

And the team at The Clewer Initiative!