



JOURNEYS

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



FOREWORD BY THE RT REV'D 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