



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/>

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

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

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

DH&Co

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And the team at The Clewer Initiative!