



THE SCALE OF THE ISSUE

Worldwide, one in four victims of **MODERN SLAVERY** are children

The 2021 Global Estimates indicate that every day around **3.3 MILLION CHILDREN** are in situations of forced labour - 12 per cent of all those in forced labour.

A further **9 MILLION** children are in forced marriage.

Approximately **650 MILLION** girls and women alive today were married before their 18th birthday.

Around **15 MILLION** adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 have experienced forced sex in their lifetime.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates that **22,000** child labourers are killed at work each year.

Hazardous child labour is defined as “work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children”.

The ILO Minimum Age Convention has established minimum age thresholds for various forms of employment, setting 15 as the age for general employment, 18 for hazardous work and 13 for light work if it does not harm a child’s health or interfere with their education.

According to the ILO, 61 per cent of child labourers work in agriculture. The rest are trapped in services, including domestic work (27%) or industry (13%) such as construction, manufacturing and mining. Younger children generally work in agriculture but as children grow older, boys are increasingly found in industry, while girls are more likely to be in services (including domestic work in third-party households, small-scale commerce and other informal activities).

The key driver behind child labour is poverty – children are sent out to work to help provide for their family. They are often deprived of an education, keeping them in the cycle of poverty and exploitation.



DIG DEEPER

In different cultures and family settings, children work. It is therefore critical to understand the difference between acceptable conditions, forced and hazardous child labour.

According to the ILO, child labour is defined as “work that deprives children (any person under 18 years of age) of their childhood, potential, dignity, or harms their physical or mental development.” This includes work that is dangerous to children mentally or morally, or that disrupts their education by preventing them from attending school or requiring them to juggle schooling with long and difficult working hours.

Whether something is defined as “child labour” depends on several factors, including a child’s age, the type and number of hours worked, the work conditions and the specific laws within individual countries.

ERADICATING CHILD LABOUR AND FORCED MARRIAGE

In September 2015, the UN announced its **2030 Sustainable Development Goals - 17 interrelated goals** which promote economic, social and environmental development. One of these targets, Target 8.7, aimed to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking and in particular, child labour in all its forms by 2025. Unfortunately, the world missed this target.

According to the ILO, an incredible 138 million children – 59 million girls and 78 million boys – are still in child labour worldwide, accounting for almost 8 per cent of all children globally. Nearly half of these child labour victims (48%) are aged 5 to 11 years old.



There has been some progress - since 2000, child labour has nearly halved from 246 million to 138 million children, but the current rate of decline is too slow. Progress needs to multiply by 11 times if we are to meet the global elimination target by 2030.

There has also been some progress regarding forced marriage: during the past decade, the proportion of young women who were married as children decreased by 15 per cent, from 1 in 4 (25%) to approximately 1 in 5 (21%). South Asia is still home to the largest number of child brides, followed by sub-Saharan Africa. However, in the last year alone, Kuwait, Bolivia, Zambia, Bulgaria, Sierra Leone and Belize has raised the legal age of marriage to 18. These reforms are the result of the long-term advocacy of international organisations and human-rights groups.



WATCH THE FILM

Ruth Dearnley, the CEO and founder of STOP THE TRAFFIK, shares her experience of using tech to fight modern slavery globally and locally.



https://youtu.be/_a_Fg-DGi54

1. What struck you as you watched the film?
2. How can we learn from some of the techniques used by criminals and use them instead to disrupt their networks and activities?
3. How is innovative technology helping the global fight against modern slavery and human trafficking?
4. How can we work locally and globally to disrupt criminal gangs?
5. Why is it so important that we work together?





READ LUKE 18 V 35-43

The wicked exploitation of children thrives across the world because of the blindness and silence of the great majority of people. We do not know how to 'see' the signs or how to 'shout' so that others might notice and respond with us. However, in this encounter, Jesus hears the blind man's calls and stops. Many people pass by unmoved by the blind man but Jesus is the one who notices. And when he comes near, Jesus says "What do you want me to do for you?"

Today, Jesus asks each of us: 'what do you want me to do for you?' We need to learn to pray each day "I want to see." I want to see what is really happening and how I might be able to respond in ways that can glorify God and cause 'all the people' to praise God too.

- What might be contributing to your blindness or ignorance to the exploitation of children?
- How might you learn to 'see' more clearly, and respond more effectively?
- Draw up a list of tasks for yourself and your church to help you 'see' and 'shout' about the plight of children in modern slavery during the next year.

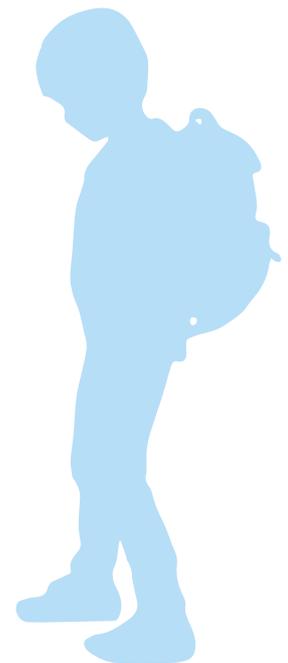


PRAYER

Lord God, open our eyes that we may see more clearly the suffering of your children, and make our voices heard so that more and more people can recognise the challenges and the opportunities that we need to pursue as a witness to your love and grace, and as a way of enabling your salvation to be tasted and celebrated in our busy world.

We ask in the name and power of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of all your children.

Amen





**A STORY OF HOPE - RUTH DEARNLEY, THE
FOUNDER OF STOP THE TRAFFIK**

When Ruth Dearnley heard about the scale of human trafficking across the world, she knew she had to do something. She founded STOP THE TRAFFIK in 2005 and began campaigning, going to large Christian conferences such as Spring Harvest to build support and momentum. By February 2008, STOP THE TRAFFIK was able to present 1.5 million signatures to the UN, urging it to shift the public debate from rescue to prevention.

Ruth explains: “I met people all over the world who were doing incredible front-line work, but they were always exhausted because for every person they rescued, it didn’t disrupt the traffickers’ business model. I came across the deputy director of human intelligence at the Serious Organised Crime Agency at an event, and he started me on the journey of understanding how sharing data and intelligence could change everything!

“I realised that all these different organisations – government, NGOs, faith networks, businesses, banks, law enforcement and individuals - knew different bits of information about modern slavery and human trafficking, but no one was collecting it. It felt like a jigsaw, and I saw that if we could build

a technology platform and put all the pieces together, then we could begin to understand the big picture and start to be effective in our war against the criminal networks.

“I passionately believe that modern slavery and human trafficking thrive for three reasons – firstly, its profits move unimpeded through financial institutions; secondly, businesses overlook exploitation in their supply chains, and thirdly, vulnerable communities remain unaware of how and where traffickers operate. If we share what we know, we can strengthen the hand of those who advocate against these three pillars that prop up trafficking.”

In 2017, in collaboration with IBM, STOP THE TRAFFIK launched the Traffik Analysis Hub, translating the largest collection of survivor stories into a comprehensive and interactive database. STOP THE TRAFFIK now uses AI to analyse the data and look for patterns and hotspots. This intelligence can be used by banks, businesses and law enforcement to go “upstream” and stop something from happening before it happens.



One of STOP THE TRAFFIK's other tactics is geo-targeted social media campaigns. This is another brilliant way in which the organisation is harnessing modern technology to fight human trafficking. It uses social media adverts to inform at-risk groups about how to spot the signs of trafficking, where to report it and offers legitimate alternative recruitment pathways to vulnerable, hard-to-reach communities.

STOP THE TRAFFIK was contacted by a young person from Afghanistan who had seen one of its campaigns. He lived in a closed camp in Lesbos. He feared deportation and was told he had to pay for a lawyer. Out of desperation, he was considering selling an organ for money to pay the lawyer. STOP THE TRAFFIK advised him of the dangerous situation he was considering and the potential risks. It assured him that he was entitled to legal aid and connected him with an organisation that could provide shelter and legal support. He said: "I had many problems. I was considering selling one of my organs to solve my problems in Greece. I now have good living conditions. Thank you to your good organisation"

He was later granted asylum and no longer faces the threat of deportation. He is attending school and is learning English and Greek. Thanks to the support he received, he is no longer considering putting himself in high-risk situations.

Ruth adds, "We kept him safe, and he went on to live a whole different life. Over the last eight years, we've reached more than 30 million people from Ukraine, the Philippines, the UK, America, Europe, Africa, India and Nepal through geo-targeted social media campaigns like this. We work globally and locally. Technology is giving us the tools, but the tools alone aren't enough. It's the stories that we share and the leadership that means we work together in a way that transforms the world."



ACTION - JOIN THE TECH REVOLUTION!

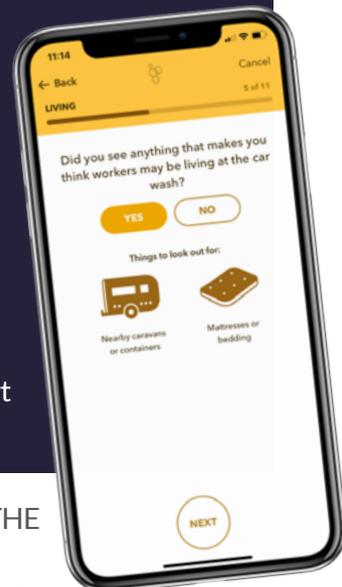
Like STOP THE TRAFFIK, The Clewer Initiative is also passionate about using technology to fight modern slavery! In June 2018, The Clewer Initiative launched the Safe Car Wash App and since then, it has been downloaded more than 40,000 times. It has received almost 9,000 reports, with many reports being referred to Modern Slavery Helpline and law enforcement every month. This intelligence has been crucial in building a clear picture of exploitation in the hand car wash sector around the country and has enabled law enforcement agencies to follow-up on numerous businesses that may be exploiting their workers.

The Safe Car Wash App is available for both Android and iPhones through the relevant app stores.

Android:
Safe Car Wash
App on Google Play

Apple:
Safe Car Wash App
App Store

Download the Safe Car Wash App so you know the signs of exploitation to look out for at hand car washes and can report suspicions if you have any.



You could also download STOP THE TRAFFIK's STOP APP. The STOP APP can be downloaded anywhere in the world and is anonymous, confidential and secure. It is available in 15 languages and allows you to submit suspicious trafficking-related activity quickly by sending text-based messages and uploading photos and videos.

Thank you for taking the time, during Lent, to learn and think about children caught up in slavery in the UK and across the world. We know that many of these reflections will have been deeply troubling. It is because of these dreadful statistics and growing trends that we, at The Clewer Initiative, and our guests in this resource, press on in our work.

When I was chatting with Ruth, she said, “Churches are bursting with the ability to care. We’re there to be ‘incarnate’ and present in our communities. We care about what happens on our streets.” It is this presence which gives faith communities power in numbers as we pray, love, and seek justice.

At The Clewer Initiative, just as with each of our guests, we believe that knowledge about modern slavery and exploitation empowers us to see wrongs and to act wisely. Building that knowledge is a key that runs through our prevention strategy:

1. We must strengthen early awareness, address root causes and equip communities, especially young people, to recognise risk long before exploitation takes place. Through this resource and other initiatives, we are continuing to build our education and training programme as well as support awareness events with cathedrals, youth groups and schools
2. Anecdotally we know that some victims of modern slavery access services such as food banks, refugee and homeless services, many of which are on church premises. For those who have already found themselves in exploitation, building awareness and confidence in church members through regular safeguarding training to know how to spot the signs and respond safely is so vital!

3. At The Clewer Initiative, we believe there is a huge opportunity for churches to provide safe, welcoming, trauma-informed spaces, where survivors of modern slavery can build relationships of trust and find long-term stability.

When I hear about some of the amazing work being done by churches or partners like we’ve read about here, my hope and determination for our work is charged. So I pray, in the words of our communion liturgy: “Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free!”

If you have been stirred by the material in Children in the Shadows Revisited and are keen to think further about how you can support child victims of modern slavery in your existing social action projects or in future initiatives, please get in touch with us by emailing info@clewer.org.uk

Spread the Word!
Warmly,

Lois

Lois Bosatta,
the director of The Clewer Initiative



REPORT A CONCERN

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SPOT THE SIGNS OR ARE WORRIED THAT SOMEONE MIGHT BE TRAPPED IN MODERN SLAVERY

As with other crimes, it is important you report any suspicions of modern slavery to the police. Do not attempt to intervene yourself, as you may put yourself and those around you – including the potential victim – in danger.



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**, the Modern Slavery Helpline on **08000 121 700** or Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**.

Alternatively, you can report your concerns online on the [Crimestoppers website](#) or [Modern Slavery Helpline website](#). They will then pass the information on to the Police or relevant agency. You can remain anonymous.

If you need advice or support on modern slavery, the Modern Slavery Helpline (**08000 1 21 700**) operates 24 hour a day, 365 days a year.

If you are on church property or if your concerns relate to something or someone connected to your church or church project, get in touch with your Parish Safeguarding Officer. There is usually a photo of your Parish Safeguarding Officer in your church building.