



WOMEN IN THE SHADOWS

A NEW COURSE FOR LENT 2021 #WOMENINTHESHADOWS

Worldwide, women and girls account for **71 per cent** of the **40.3 million** people living in modern slavery. In the UK, it is harder to gather exact numbers but we know that in 2018, a third of cases reported to the UK Modern Slavery Helpline related to female victims.

To help shine a light on the suffering of marginalised women, The Clewer Initiative has launched **Women in the Shadows**, a new Lent course for churches, community groups and individuals.

Sincere thanks to all our contributors and participants:

Film participants:

Jen Baines, Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority www.gla.gov.uk
Louise Hulland, author and modern slavery campaigner
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Sister Lynda Dearlove, women@thewell www.watw.org.uk
Rosie Hopley, Beloved www.beloved.org.uk
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Alison Logier, Hestia www.hestia.org
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Bishop Alastair Redfern, The Clewer Initiative www.clewer.org.uk
Devotional material:
Rev Edwina Fennemore; Rev Caroline Pinchbeck
Bishop Simon Burton-Jones; Canon Jane Brooke
Bishop Alastair Redfern.

ABOUT THE COURSE RESOURCES

The course comprises of five short films and a devotional booklet. The films include haunting survivor stories, with insightful contributions from front line experts and campaigners.

The devotional booklet was written by colleagues in the Clewer network who are all deeply committed to combating modern slavery in their dioceses. Through Bible study, reflections and prayer, we will explore what the Bible says about social injustice, exploitation, and God's heart for the poor. The devotional will also encourage you to reflect on how we can take action to help vulnerable women in our communities.

The films can be watched as standalone documentaries or as part of the complete course.

Each week, the course will follow the following structure:

- a series of opening questions to set the scene
- a five-minute film
- a guided opportunity to reflect on issues raised in the film
- a Bible passage, followed by a reflection, discussion questions and prayer
- background reading
- extension – an opportunity to reflect more deeply during the week and find out more about the life and ministry of Harriet Monsell, the first Clewer sister.



TIPS ON RUNNING THE COURSE WITH A GROUP

- Distribute the booklet over e-mail (this is available either as a complete pack or weekly modules so you can choose how to use it)
- organise a weekly zoom call so that you can work through and discuss the material together
- check that you know how to share the films and documents over zoom so you can all work together.



HELPFUL NUMBERS:

Modern Slavery Helpline: 08000 121 700

Local police: 101 or 999 in an emergency

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

(if you would prefer to remain anonymous)

Childline: 0800 1111

CARING FOR YOURSELF

This toolkit is about a subject which is emotive and upsetting. Before you start, think about how you will care for yourself and others. If you or anyone using this course needs support, please encourage them to seek help.

In each section of the course, there is a short film including survivor testimonies dramatised by actresses. Some people may find this upsetting so they should be offered the choice to watch or take a short break instead. Sources of emotional support should be signposted for people in case they trigger any distress. If you spot a person at risk or being exploited, you should speak to a safeguarding lead and follow the safeguarding procedure for your organisation.

ABOUT THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

The Clewer Initiative exists to raise awareness and mobilise the Church and communities to take action against modern slavery.

We were established in 2016 as a three-year project, funded by the Clewer Sisters, an order of Anglican nuns who donate generously to causes related to the eradication of human trafficking. In 2024, we became an independent charity, funded by several trusts and donors. We have a board of trustees and 12 Church of England Bishops as our Patrons.

Based on our belief that the tools to tackle modern slavery lie within communities, we work with local churches and communities to build awareness and resilience, and support vulnerable groups.

WOMEN IN THE SHADOWS

WEEK BY WEEK GUIDE

Welcome to 'Women in the Shadows' - a new five week course for Lent, focusing on the different ways women and girls are exploited in the UK today.

During the course, you will discover how women are drawn into modern slavery and exploitative situations and what life can be like for them once they are rescued from exploitation, including the

many challenges they face as they recover from trauma. You will also find out more about sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and county lines and how to recognise signs of modern slavery.

WEEK 1

BEGINNINGS

In this first week of Lent, we will learn about how women and girls can get embroiled in exploitative situations and also what we can do to join the fight against modern slavery.

WATCH BEGINNINGS

and think about what we can do to help vulnerable women and girls avoid modern slavery.

WEEK 2

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

This week, we will learn about how women of all different nationalities and backgrounds can end up being sexually exploited and the damage that this form of slavery can inflict.

WATCH ANITA'S STORY

and think about how we can shield vulnerable women and girls from sexual exploitation and show our care and concern for those who are suffering.

WEEK 3

LABOUR EXPLOITATION

We will hear how workers can find themselves in debt to traffickers and working as slaves but also what businesses can do to spot the signs.

WATCH HANA'S STORY

and think about how we can be more aware of who is providing the goods and services we consume every day.

WOMEN IN THE SHADOWS WEEK BY WEEK GUIDE

WEEK 4

COUNTY LINES

This week, we will find out more about county lines and what communities can do to reach out to vulnerable children and make the alternative to gang life more attractive.

WATCH GEMMA'S STORY

and think about how we can open our communities to children and young people before they are drawn into gangs.

WEEK 5

BEYOND SURVIVAL

In the final week of Lent, we will hear about how women and girls can begin to rebuild their lives post-slavery and learn what sort of support can help in their recovery.

WATCH OUT OF THE SHADOWS

and think about how we can offer support and help people move forward positively from trauma.

WOMEN IN THE SHADOWS

resource:

[www.clewer.org.uk/resources/
women-in-the-shadows](http://www.clewer.org.uk/resources/women-in-the-shadows)



www.clewer.org.uk



www.facebook.com/theclewerinitiative



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