

A photograph of Pope Francis, smiling and waving with his right hand. He is wearing his white papal attire, including a zucchetto and a pectoral cross. The background is slightly blurred, showing an outdoor setting with a building and a lamp.

MODERN SLAVERY

**“IS AN OPEN WOUND IN THE BODY OF CHRIST,
IN THE BODY OF ALL HUMANITY, IT IS A DEEP
WOUND THAT ALSO AFFECTS EACH ONE OF US.”**



caritas
diocese of east anglia



the **DIOCESE** of
EAST ANGLIA

WHAT DOES THE POPE ASK OF US ON MODERN SLAVERY?

His Holiness Pope Francis urges us all to "do something about it". He urges us all to "do something about it".

He says it is "far more widespread than previously imagined - even, to our scandal and shame, within the most prosperous of our societies"

"The voice of its victims...is the voice of Jesus crying out to us."

The Pope wants us to "find" people who are enslaved. **He wants them to be freed.**

"How I wish that all of us would hear God's cry, 'Where is your brother?'" (Gen 4:9)"

What does Jesus say about freedom?

"He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free," (Luke 4: 17-20).

Jesus said this on his very first day of preaching. He chose that passage from Isaiah to read to everybody in the Temple in Nazareth.

Later, in his parable about our

division at the end of our lives, one from the other as sheep from goats, (Matthew 25:32.) Jesus asks us to tackle the problem of injustice, to help people without freedom,

He tells us in that parable, He was a prisoner and we came to him. *"When you did it to one of the least of my brethren here you did it to me."*

SURELY THERE AREN'T ANY SLAVES TODAY NOT IN ENGLAND?

Modern Slavery (MS) is an umbrella term including Human Trafficking (HT). Many use the terms interchangeably.

17,004

In 2023 the number of souls in the UK actually found in slavery by front line services, and others and referred into the Home Office's scheme for helping them (the NRM). This is the known figure.

136,000

There is also a "dark" figure: those unknown but estimated. The last Global Slavery Index (UN) figure estimated this to be the number of people in the UK in Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking (MS/HT).

55,760

Are under 18 - "children": 41% of the total. British is the largest nationality group referred into the NRM over its 8-year history.

4,476

Number of enslaved souls estimated to be part of our R C Diocese of East Anglia. See more at Resource 3 on the Diocesan website MS pages. They can be found by searching "RCDEA Slavery" or using this QR code:



THE PATRON SAINT OF ENSLAVED PEOPLE

St Josephine Bakhita: Feast Day 8th February



Josephine was given the name Bakhita or “Lucky” by the Arab slave traders who stole her.

She was aged 7, when she was taken near her village home in Darfur, Sudan and forced to walk barefoot about 600 miles to be sold at market.

She was sold and resold five times to “owners”: who whipped and cut her and poured salt in the wounds.

Even while a slave, she became a modern, proud and independent woman, always looking out for the underdog.

Her last “owner” took her to Italy.. Read more of her life at Resources 2 via the QR code on the previous page.

WHAT DOES OUR CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS SAY ON MODERN SLAVERY?

Cardinal Archbishop Vincent Nichols has said “consumers of cheap goods and services are part of the supply chain of Modern Slavery.”

Talking of the victims of this abhorrent crime, Cardinal Nichols added: “In one way or another

we are part of the chain of supply and demand that results in their enslavement.

We want cheaper goods, illegal or immoral pleasure, cheap services for our bodies or for our cars. We are part of the demand met by modern day slaves..”

SEEING IS BELIEVING

It's worth watching "Shady Chocolate" or "The Dark side of Chocolate" with your family, on YouTube and see the deception and broken promises; the avoidable suffering of the Ivory Coast child slaves who provide that free labour indirectly for Big Chocolate cocoa suppliers.

Apply this illustration of the chocolate industry to all the goods and services that are vulnerable to exploitation and you will see the scale of the problem;

but also, what consumers can do to stem the demand.

How many slaves work for you?

Find out by daring to take the survey here:

(This works best on a laptop or desktop)



HELP BY SPOTTING THE SIGNS AND REPORTING

Most crimes are reported to the police by the victim. In slavery the victim is (almost by definition) unable to report the crime against him or her.

He/she often doesn't speak the language, has no phone, is terrified of his/her enslaver and under their control.

So, if anyone is going to initiate that police investigation leading to his/her freedom it's us!

Identifying trafficking and slavery is the first step to stopping it.

Understanding the signs to look out for will help the most vulnerable people in your community. Become a Freedom Watcher.

While not exhaustive there is a list of some common signs of MS at resource 7 via the QR code on page 3.

WHAT DO THE POLICE ASK US TO DO ABOUT MODERN SLAVERY?

"A colossal difference can be made to people's lives with even small pieces of information being reported. If you even slightly suspect modern slavery or human trafficking then please contact the MS Helpline and report your concerns on **08000 121 700**."

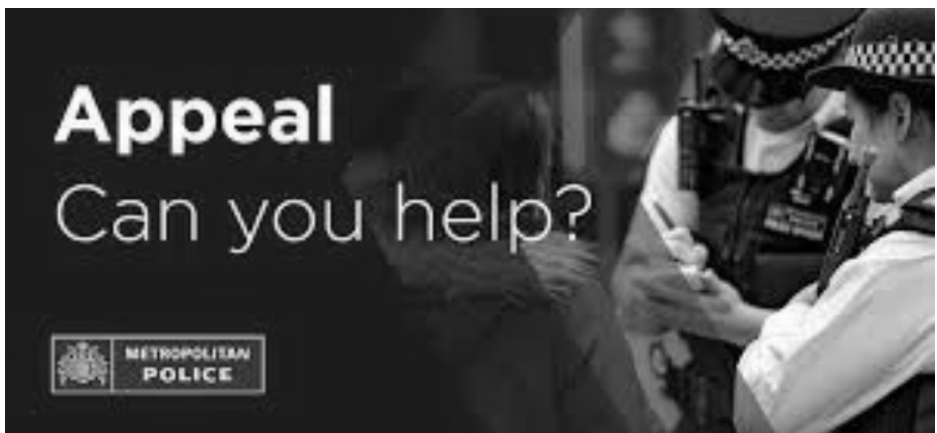
Please put this number in your phone.

"I would also like to ask people to be our 'eyes and ears' and to let us know about potentially suspicious activity."

BE OUR EYES AND EARS

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MS/HT) have become embedded in global society. It is everywhere: "hidden in plain sight" in our communities, on our streets in our towns and villages.

"It is in the footprint of the goods we buy, in our kitchens, our wardrobes, our living rooms, cars. All Catholics should proactively engage in making societies



more just, respectful and inclusive, eliminating all forms of exploitation" - Pope Francis.

"Communities have an important role to play in recognising abuse"
Norfolk Constabulary

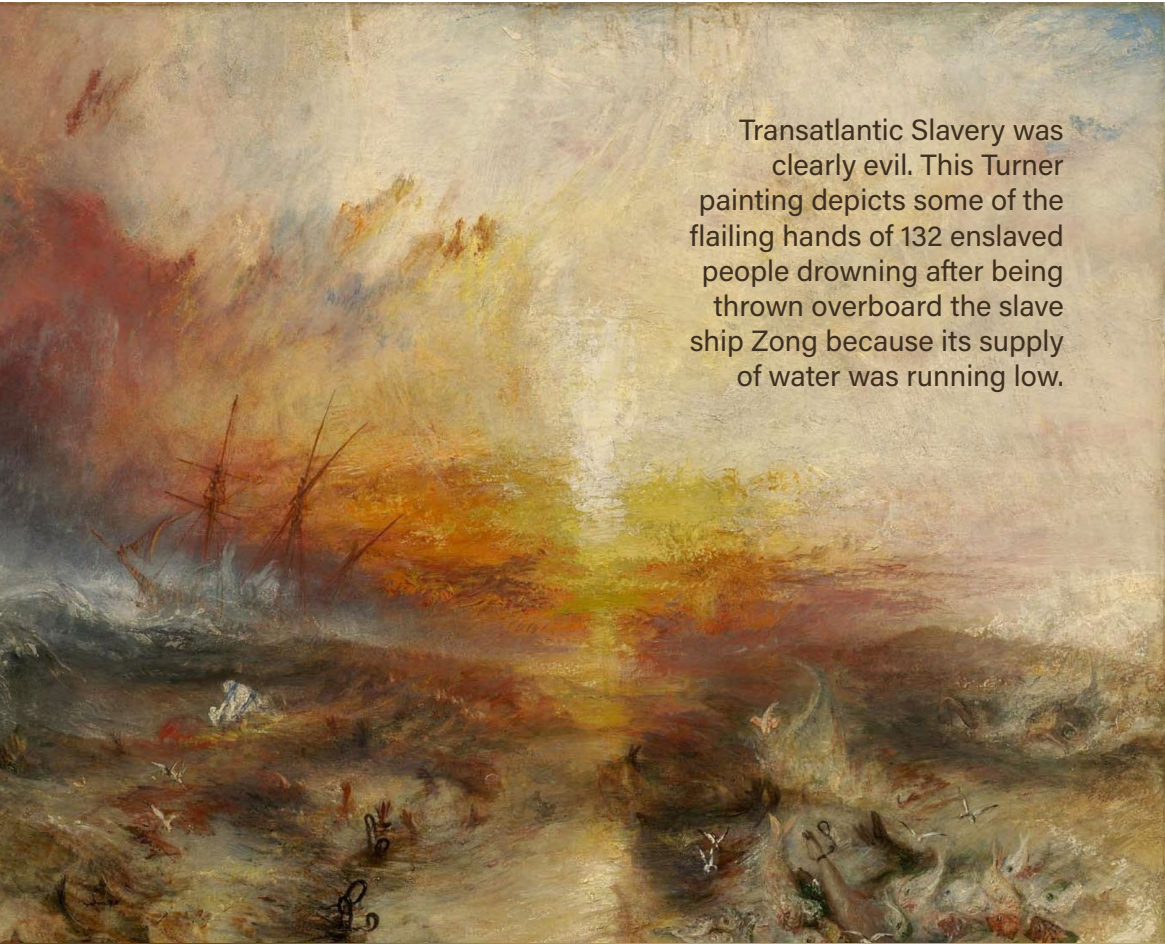
It's clear that one of the very things catholic social action is all about is to protect people from Modern Slavery and to find them so they can be rescued.

OK, I DO WANT TO HELP END SLAVERY HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE?

Here's some of what you can do - it's not complicated!

- Learn more from the QR codes and spread the word at work and home
- Use your consumer power to insist supplier companies prove there is no child or forced labour in their supply chains A simple template message is at Resource 6 via the QR code on page 3.
- Support Abolitionist charities that provide information on MS and opportunities to help
- Restrict our purchases to fairly traded goods whenever possible
- Urge our political representatives to promote and/or strengthen anti-slavery laws
- Sign the Coalition Petition to ban the import of products tainted by slave labour sign here...





Transatlantic Slavery was clearly evil. This Turner painting depicts some of the flailing hands of 132 enslaved people drowning after being thrown overboard the slave ship Zong because its supply of water was running low.

250 years later, slavery is back with a vengeance, hidden in plain sight. Slavery crushes the souls of more people today than ever before.

The 39 Vietnamese suffocated occupants of this shipping container were likely to be enslaved in UK cannabis farms.

Little has changed. Will you suffer it to continue?



TO LEARN MORE AND VOLUNTEER, CONTACT DIOCESAN CARITAS CO-LEAD ON MODERN SLAVERY SIMON JOHN ON JOHN_SIMONG@HOTMAIL.COM