



Fratelli tutti

BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL TOGETHER

Slavery

“Today, as in the past, slavery is rooted in a notion of the human person that allows him or her to be treated as an object... Whether by coercion, or deception, or by physical or psychological duress, human persons created in the image and likeness of God are deprived of their freedom, sold and reduced to being the property of others. “

Pope Francis, *Fratelli tutti*, paragraph 24

Scripture

I have heard their groaning when the slave drivers torment and harass them; for I know well their suffering.

Exodus 3:7

Watch

The Secret Gardeners (ECPAT)

<https://www.ecpat.org.uk/films-for-practitioners>

A short film about the plight of children who are forced by organised crime gangs to grow drugs in houses across the UK but who often face criminalisation and prison.

Questions for discussion

- How aware am I/ are we of where exploitation and slavery is taking place in our local area, or in providing the lifestyle we enjoy?
- How can we support victims of modern slavery from being re-trafficked, or suffering further exploitation when they encounter the authorities?
- Do I know the warning signs that a person is being controlled and how to report my suspicions to the police?

Other Church Teaching

‘The seventh commandment forbids acts or enterprises that for any reason – selfish or ideological, commercial, or totalitarian – lead to the enslavement of human beings, to their being bought, sold and exchanged like merchandise, in disregard for their personal dignity. It is a sin against the dignity of persons and their fundamental rights to reduce them by violence to their productive value or to a source of profit. St. Paul directed a Christian master to treat his Christian slave “no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother, . . . both in the flesh and in the Lord’.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, # 2414.

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“We warn and adjure earnestly in the Lord ... that no one in the future dare to vex anyone, despoil him of his possessions, reduce to servitude, ... in contempt of the rights of justice and humanity, bought, sold, and devoted sometimes to the hardest labour.”

Pope Gregory XVI, *In Supremo Apostolatus*

‘In Supremo Apostolatus’ is the Papal Bull issued by Pope Gregory XVI on 3 December 1839 condemning both the slave trade, and the institution of slavery.

Listen

Amazing Grace (my chains are gone) (Chris Tomlin) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-4NFvI5U9w>

A contemporary setting of the abolitionist hymn ‘Amazing Grace’,

Prayer

Loving God

We call to you with hearts in pain for all in our world

who suffer the horrors of modern slavery;

for all who dream of a better life in another place

only to be trapped, tricked and traded;

for all those who labour, forced and unseen, to make our everyday possessions;

for all who agonise for loved ones lost into this trade in humans.

Your Son came to bring good news to the poor and freedom for the oppressed –

May we too be voices against oppression, channels of good news;

May our eyes be opened wide to all who suffer in our midst but out of sight.

All this we pray to you, loving God, for whom no one is invisible.

Amen

Written by Rev. Rachel Carnegie, Executive Director of the Anglican Alliance

Further Learning

TED Talk by Kevin Bales on fighting modern slavery https://www.ted.com/talks/kevin_bales_how_to_combat_modern_slavery?language=en

TED Talk by Kate Garbers on unseen slavery in the UK https://www.ted.com/talks/kate_garbers_modern_slavery_hidden_in_plain_sight?language=en

Learn the indicators of modern slavery <https://www.unseenuk.org/modern-slavery/spot-the-signs>

Calculate how many slaves are involved in supporting your lifestyle <https://slaveryfootprint.org/>