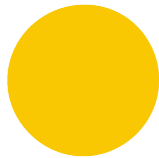


From: [The Clewer Initiative](#)
To: ctcinfohub@gmail.com
Subject: The importance of prevention
Date: 01 February 2024 09:59:53



THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

Mobilising the Church to help end modern slavery.

Upstream v. downstream

In this month's newsletter, we share our "public health" approach to tackling modern slavery as well as information about True Freedom, our new resource for Lent. We also highlight a film, created for St. Bakhita's Day, which features bell-ringers from the Diocese of Exeter, Oxford and London.

Please forward this newsletter to your friends and colleagues and encourage them to sign up to receive it regularly.



Why prevention is better than cure in the fight against modern slavery

There is an often-quoted parable that tells of a man and woman fishing by a river. Suddenly they spot a woman in the river who is struggling for life. The couple pull her out. Then another person appears, also close to drowning, and again they pull them out. This happens all afternoon and the couple get more and more tired from constantly rescuing people from the river. Eventually they think: “we need to go upstream and find out why so many people are falling in the river.”

When they go upstream, they discover that people are being drawn to the edge of a cliff to look at the river but there is no safe way to do this. People keep falling in. The couple work with the local community to build a fence to keep people from falling in the river. Occasionally, a few still fall in but it is a lot less than before.

As this story demonstrates, investing upstream in prevention rather than downstream in intervention is often wiser and more effective. This philosophy is

the essence of public health.

We have adopted this “public health” approach to fighting modern slavery.

[READ MORE](#)

Prevention that works

The [Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre](#) commissioned a [research project](#) to explore what works in the prevention of adult sexual and labour exploitation in the UK. It concluded that a ‘whole systems’ approach to modern slavery prevention is required and includes intervening before harm occurs, intervening early and treating harms after they have occurred.

The report outlines five key pathways and emphasises the importance of:

- ensuring all people have access to the fundamental things of life
- education and awareness-raising
- strengthening community resilience
- building partnerships

These are key tenets in our work. It is encouraging to have independent and robust research backing up our preventative strategy.

[READ MORE](#)

For Whom the Bell Tolls

On February 8th, Christians around the world will remember the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita and the [International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking](#).

This year, the tenth anniversary of the International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking, [Talitha Kum](#), an international network of religious sisters, will be hosting an online livestream, showcasing the work of sisters around the world in responding to human trafficking. The theme of the

Day of Prayer is "Journeying in Dignity: Listen, Dream, Act."

To help mark the day, The Clewer Initiative has asked churches from across the Church of England to ring their bells. Bell-ringing is used to draw people's attention to special days and events and it provides a powerful way of communicating our solidarity with victims of modern slavery. It invites people to stop and listen to the voice of the most vulnerable in their communities.



Churches from the Diocese of Exeter, Oxford and London (including St Paul's Cathedral and St Andrew's church in the Clewer Parish of Windsor, the parish where the Clewer Sisters come from) have already sent in footage which we have compiled into a film for the livestream.

We hope you enjoy watching the bell-ringers from around the country!

[READ MORE](#)

Countdown to Lent 2024

With just two weeks to go until Lent begins, we are keen to spread the word about our new resource, True Freedom.

If you haven't already, please visit www.truefreedom24.com and consider using the resource, either individually or in a group over Lent.



If you are wondering how to adapt True Freedom for your church, take one minute to listen to Claire Walford as she outlines the different ways the resource can be used.



Watch our interview with Rev Tracey Voysey (Team Vicar (Interim) in the Honiton Mission Community and Mothers' Union Chaplain in the Diocese of Exeter) as she talks about her experience of using a Clewer Initiative Lent course.

Bill Crooks has created 12 new images to communicate the main themes covered within True Freedom. Our digital communications officer has set them to music:



Watch this haunting representation of modern slavery!

We have translated True Freedom into French, Spanish, German and Dutch. Having five translations of the course is a "first" for The Clewer Initiative and our hope is that this will enable churches in many more countries to benefit from the material.

If you have friends or contacts who speak these languages, please signpost them to the [microsite](#) where they can download the different translations.

TRUEFREEDOM24.COM

THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

World Council of Churches

AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD IN

- ENGLISH
- FRENCH
- DUTCH
- GERMAN
- SPANISH

Relentless growth

Why is modern slavery and exploitation increasing?

In the Introduction to True Freedom, Bishop Alastair Redfern discusses six factors that are driving modern slavery.

He describes the increasing number of vulnerable people in our communities who can be susceptible to false promises and desperate for money. He also identifies the desire in all of us for cheap goods and services. The key is the low price, not how anything has been produced. This means we don't think about the people behind the products.



[READ MORE](#)





TRUEFREEDOM24.COM WEBINAR

 THE CLEWER INITIATIVE  World Council of Churches






If you missed our True Freedom webinar on Thursday 18th January, catch up here!

SIGN UP FOR MODERN SLAVERY TRAINING

1. County Lines Schools Resources Training Session
Wednesday 6th March 16:00-17:00
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/775611223047?aff=oddtcreator>

Find out more about our training offering, visit <https://theclewerinitiative.org/training-and-events>

Follow us on social for more news from The Clewer Initiative!

The Clewer Initiative enables Church of England dioceses and wider church networks to develop strategies for detecting modern slavery in their communities and help provide victim support and care. [Learn More](#)

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