

More than 200 years after the abolition of slavery there are still an estimated 45.8 million men, women and children trapped in modern slavery, up to 11,700 potential victims in the UK alone.

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT. IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

We believe that the tools to end modern slavery already exist within the local community and that the Church, which is present in all communities and at the heart of many, has a primary responsibility in leading these efforts.

The Clewer Initiative is a three year project to enable Church of England dioceses and wider Church networks to develop strategies to detect modern slavery in their communities and help provide victim support and care. It involves working with the Church locally, identifying resources that can be utilised, developing partnerships with others, and creating a wider network of advocates seeking to end modern slavery together. Nationally, it involves developing a network of practitioners committed to sharing models of best practice and providing evidenced based data to resource the Church's national engagement with statutory and non-statutory bodies.

The initiative forms part of the Church of England's approach to eradicating modern slavery and is funded by the Clewer Sisters, an Anglican order of Augustinian nuns founded in 1852 to help marginalised, mainly young women, who found themselves homeless and drawn into the sex trade, by providing them shelter and teaching them a trade.

WORKING WITH DIOCESES

The Clewer Initiative is committed to working extensively with dioceses, building their capacity to respond to modern slavery in their communities. The approach is long-term and is tailored to the needs of each diocese, enabling them to work effectively in their context. It is designed to accompany dioceses in building new relationships between the Church, statutory and non-statutory agencies to develop a community-wide response to modern slavery.

Our aim is to work alongside a diocese to develop strategies to detect instances of modern slavery in their communities and to help provide victim support and care.

- Bespoke training and mentoring
- An overview of the challenges of slavery in the diocese including a history of the Modern Slavery Partnership, details of other statutory and non-statutory agencies working in the area and modern slavery crime figures for the area.
- Help in identifying existing resources in the diocese.
- Development of strategic partnerships between the diocese and statutory and non-statutory agencies.
- Support in engaging and mobilising key stakeholders in the diocese and in the community.
- Facilitating the delivery of a strategy and operational plan for modern slavery in the diocese.
- Access to a wider community of diocesan practitioners, experts and champions to enable mutual support, collaborative working and shared best practice.

A key part of our work is providing resources that help to raise awareness of modern slavery in the local church. Through our website and newsletter, we offer a range of resources that can be used, as well as opportunities to share stories and promote best practice.