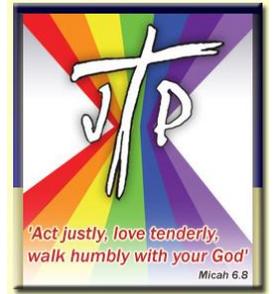




# Portsmouth Diocese

## Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility

### Bulletin February 2017



## Freedom and Responsibility

“No longer a slave, but more than a slave a beloved brother .... welcome him” (Philemon 16)

*Pope Francis: “we will work together to eradicate the terrible scourge of modern slavery in all its forms. The physical, economic, sexual and psychological exploitation of men and women, boys and girls, currently holds tens of millions in inhumane and humiliating bondage. Every human being — man, woman, boy and girl — is the image of God; God, who is love and freedom, gives himself through interpersonal relations; therefore, every human being is a free person, destined to live for the good of others in equality and brotherhood” (2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2014)*

The quotation is part of Pope Francis speech given at a Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders against Slavery. Read the statements of all the religious leaders and watch a video on <http://www.globalfreedomnetwork.org/>.

### What Can we do?

Universally people of good will are against this global injustice, the abolition of slavery is a sustainable development goal (8.7) and the UK government have taken great strides to combat this trade in people with the Modern Slavery Act.

We too, in the diocese, have worked to raise awareness and look to see what we can do. With the Feast day of St Josephine Bakhita this month it seemed an opportunity to highlight again some ways we might play our part. Helpfully Archbishop Welby set out some practical goals in the declaration.

**1. We can make sure that every worshipping community knows about modern slavery and is ready to work to prevent it and put an end to these abuses**



St. Josephine Bakhita

**Feast of St Bakhita 8<sup>th</sup> February**

Highlight this feast day in newsletters to raise awareness of the story of St Josephine (Sister Miriam James you tube videos are interesting) and pray for an end to modern slavery. Maybe hold an event

to discuss what modern slavery is, how it is happening in our own communities and some of the signs to look out for

<http://www.stophetraffik.org/uk/page/spot-the-signs>. Report concerns to the police.

**Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth** suggests leaflets at the back of churches giving information on where to go if you are a victim – maybe you could have a notice, think about different languages.

**2. We can look at our own actions and choices as consumers and users of financial services, whose managers can put great pressure on companies in which they invest.**

### Valentine’s Day Green Hearts

Look again at our care of our common home; show you love it by joining the climate coalition call to respect both the poor and the earth they are interlinked.

<http://cafod.org.uk/News/Campaigning-news/green-hearts-valentines-day>



**Put Fairtrade in your Break for Fairtrade Fortnight 27<sup>th</sup> February to 12<sup>th</sup> March**

This year’s campaign makes much clearer the links between knowing that when we are buying Fairtrade we are not feeding exploitation.

Is it time to renew your community’s commitment to Fairtrade? – be confident the people who grow our tea and coffee are earning enough to feed

their families. Contact Fairtrade or traidcraft for information and speakers.

### **Fairtrade Gold**

Engagement rings and wedding rings, the only way to know that those that have mined your gold have been paid and have safety equipment is to know the source of the gold, Fairtrade do this! – if you have couples getting married in your church maybe offer information about this.



<http://fairtrade.org.uk/en/buying-fairtrade/gold>

### **3. We can make sure those who have been enslaved and trafficked are supported respected and welcomed into community**

In our diocese, we have the Medaille Trust running safe houses where men and women are offered welcome and care to support them to free themselves from terrible abuses. Support the trust work financially with a fundraiser or promote regular giving. Sharon Westby offers talks [s.westby@medialle-trust.org](mailto:s.westby@medialle-trust.org).

Exploited and abused people needs friends –could you or your parish offer this friendship?

### **4. We can continue to press governments to implement laws to root out these evils**

Now that we have the Modern Slavery Act the police have stronger powers to prosecute criminal but it's important to keep it on the agenda. Contact MPs and the Police and Crimes Commissioner and ask them to investigate progress – ask questions about arrests and prosecutions.

<http://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk/media/1097/annual-report-2016.pdf>

### **Comfort for the Afflicted.** Pope's prayer request for February Heavenly Father

For those who are exploited and enslaved may they find freedom  
For those who have lost everything, we pray you will rebuild their lives.  
For those desperate for a new home, open the doors to safer places.  
For those longing for the basic necessities of life, restore their material goods.  
For those whose communities and families have been ripped apart, strengthen new bonds of friendship.  
And for the church, near and far, which worships in safety today -- inspire us to welcome the stranger.

Help us to discern how to reach out in acts of mercy and how to help the afflicted seek justice for long-term hope. Amen

Contact Us with news and questions and offers of help at [JPSR@portsmouthdoicese.org.uk](mailto:JPSR@portsmouthdoicese.org.uk)

### **5. We can work with the business sector across the globe to ensure robust systems for slave free supply chains**

Ask questions in your workplace and check out companies you are dealing with this is information they should have. Take an interest by asking about farmers, factories and the transportation of good.

### **6. We can reinforce the ties of friendship and trust among ourselves and with those who profess faith and those who do not, share the commitment to end slavery.**

The Anglican Diocese of Portsmouth are working to raise awareness too, so this is a great opportunity to work together maybe for Fairtrade Fortnight. But if you get the opportunity this is a great time to work with other faiths.

#### **Volunteers needed**

[www.stophetraffik.org/campaign/giftbox](http://www.stophetraffik.org/campaign/giftbox)

The UN GIFT box is coming to Winchester Southampton and Portsmouth. This is a Unique way to raise awareness about modern slavery. It's a large walk-in street sculpture which invites you inside with promises and offers, but once inside you are presented with a different reality. STOP THE TRAFFICK have organised for it to come and they need about 40 volunteers in each place to help for a couple of hours, training will be given - Please help if you can but also taking the time to visit is important too.



Portsmouth 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> March contact [portsmouthactgroup@gmail.com](mailto:portsmouthactgroup@gmail.com)

