Think globally, act locally

We're continuing our series on the fight against modern day human slavery

locally. To do this the
charity's Social Action Network enables a network of
45 Catholic charities to work
together to build an effective
and practical response
to poverty
and need. He
said: "Many
of the people
supported have
been trafficked
into Britain
and many are
the victims of
exploitation
and modern day
slavery. Today,
Fortress Europe
has
thousands of
migrants and
refugees
knocking on
the gates
pleading
to be given
entrance into
the European
Union where
everyone is
the minimum wage are in
the top 10% of the world's
richest people. As a charity
working with homeless
people, migrant workers
and refugees, Caritas and
its partner organisations
are working with people who are
desperate for
any help and
support our
communities
can offer."

"The charitable cause is not always the
most popular
one as the
benefits system is already
strained and the safety net
of the welfare state
is no longer wide enough to catch
everyone who needs it.
"My vision for Caritas is that in time all the works of
the diocese concerned with
social justice will come under
the umbrella of Caritas so
we have one vision and one
purpose but different ways in
which we bring our mission
about. Caritas must provide
professional support to allow
local initiatives to grow."
The local Combating
Human Trafficking Group
based at Ss Michael and
John Church in Clitheroe is
one initiative which Caritas
is happy to support. And so
impressed with the number of
locals willing to take on
the fight against human
trafficking, the Parish Priest
in Clitheroe, Mgr John
Corcoran, has decided that
the parishes in the East
Lancashire Catholic Deanery
will have trafficking as the
theme for the 2015/2016
"Year of Mercy" which begins
in December.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT TRAFFICKING?
In 2014, 2,340 people were
identified by the National
Referral Mechanism as
potential victims. Many are
referred to charities like the
Medaille Trust who provide
safe houses. The NRMA
grants a minimum 45-day reflection and
recovery period for
victims, after which case
workers decide whether they
should be considered victims
of trafficking according to
the definition in the Council
of Europe Convention. For
many, the end of this 45-day
period means the end of
statutory support and the
only option is to become
homeless and depend on
charities like Caritas Salford.
Mark believes that it is up
to all of us to help as much as
we can.

"We can find our
nearest asylum and refugee
centres, places often run
on shoestring budgets
that struggle to meet
unprecedented demands.
We can go and meet
the asylum seekers and
refugees who are living in
our communities. People
who have been 'processed, dispatched and dispersed'
to use the official language of the Home Office, all need
to see a friendly face. We can
counter the prevailing policy
of non-integration, which
segregates and marginalises
people by welcoming them,
befriending them, donating
cloths, food, money and
above all, time to help our
distant neighbours.

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING
There is still a lack of
awareness about the reality
of trafficking and modern
day slavery and a lack of
awareness of practical
help available to victims.
On the other hand there
are many charities and
organisations, nationally
and internationally, whose
mission is solely to combat
human trafficking in one way
or another.

Many more like Caritas
Salford either have a
subsidiary trafficking agenda
or are working to establish
one.
At first sight, anti
trafficking strategies might
appear to be the job of
the police, the authorities and
others - not something
for individuals who are
not professionals in these
matters. But this is not a job
only for the experts and we
can all play a part in bringing
this terrible trade to an end
through raising awareness
and knowing how to report
concerns.

How to tackle trafficking
Mark says the key to the success
of an effective anti-trafficking
force to stop the exploitation
of vulnerable people is the 5 Ps
strategy - the theme of the East
Lancashire Combating Human
Trafficking Group.

• Prevention - through raising
awareness of the issues and
knowing what signs to look for
we can safeguard vulnerable
people from trafficking or sexual
exploitation.

• Protection - supporting those
charities and organisations
such as the Salvation Army and
the Medalle Trust that provide
after-care to people rescued
from traffickers.

• Prosecution - by working with
the police the group can report
concerns and if needs be become
good witnesses to assist bring
people to justice.

• Partnership - by working with
charities, organisations and
authorities, the group is building
an effective network that creates
momentum.

• Prayer - be inspired by the life
of Roman Catholic St Josephine
Bakhita, herself a victim of
trafficking and slavery.