

PLASP Faith Group Meeting: February 11 2019

Clewer Initiative

- **PLASP Freedom Days (Roadshows)** The Clewer Initiative has picked up what PLASP is doing in Lancashire. See the article on the Clewer Initiative website [How a bus is raising awareness of modern slavery in Lancashire](#)
- **Mothers' Union** Following a training session (the Yoke Farm video made a particular impact), the Clewer Initiative are working in collaboration with the Mothers' Union, uniting with them in the goal to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of ending modern slavery by 2030. See [The Clewer Initiative is partnering with the Mothers' Union](#)
- **Safeguarding Training** Clewer have now completed two online safeguarding courses that are specifically focussed on modern slavery. The first course '*Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking 1*' is a general introduction to modern slavery, containing case studies which are relevant to congregations. The second '*Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking 2*' is a guide to good practice when dealing with vulnerable groups within churches and church social action projects. See [Safeguarding and Modern Slavery Course](#)
- **Homeless Project** The Clewer Project Lead in the Diocese of Lichfield recently worked with the West Midlands branch of the Big Issue to deliver modern slavery training to a group of their sellers. See [Empowering People at risk of Modern Slavery](#)
- **Hidden Voices** is a new resource created by [Mosaic Creative](#) for The Clewer Initiative. It is based on the principles of an existing resource called Stories on the Street, and is designed to help churches and communities respond to modern slavery. Local people can spot the signs of modern slavery and help the police to find victims. They can prevent vulnerable people they work with, like the homeless, from being trafficked or exploited. And they can support the survivors of modern slavery, and help them to overcome the trauma they have experienced. Hidden Voices is written in four modules: *Understanding modern slavery, Prevention, Detection and Restoring dignity*. All of the modules include Biblical reflections and practical tools and activities to help churches work alongside their community. See [Hidden Voices](#)

Caritas Anti-Trafficking

- The Migrants and Refugees (M&R) Section of the Vatican has published a report [Pastoral Orientations on Human Trafficking](#). During 2018, M&R held two consultations with Church leaders, scholars and experienced practitioners and partner organizations working in the field. The Orientations are for use by Catholic dioceses, parishes and religious congregations, schools and universities, by Catholic and other organizations of civil society and by any groups willing to respond.
- Caritas Salford, which has two of its eight deaneries in East Lancashire, has bid for funding for a one year, part time, post to pursue its aim to work with partners in bringing an end to modern day slavery in the Diocese by 2025. Caritas hopes to hear soon if it has been successful.
- There are over 40,000 practising Catholics in the Diocese of Salford and coupled with the Anglican community and other faith groups we can target a large number of people. Targeting will be in the context of the need for a Christian conversion to the true meaning of the Gospels and the need to acknowledge complicity in perpetuating poverty and exploitation.

Round Table Exercise

Chaired by Peter Fahy, the exercise on February 15, will have 80 delegates on 10 tables discussing victim scenarios to identify how the Partnership can work together to meet victim needs. Those attending will include the Police and Crime Commissioner and a representative from Unseen. The National PCC lead will speak on video.

PLASP and Cumbria

Working with Churches Together, PLASP and Cumbria Police will meet at Lancaster Priory on March 27th.

Other items

- The Salvation Army is getting a small number of Moslem victims
- A lot of Faith Groups were represented in the volunteers for Operation Aidant – the recent week of activity targeting the homeless in Lancashire towns.
- Sion Hall addressed 70 delegates at the Conference of Religious at Manchester University on January 26. This meeting, and an earlier one in London, followed on from the recent major research conducted by the Arise Foundation [Threads of Solidarity](#) which revealed the scale of the contribution by Religious to anti slavery. The [Arise Foundation](#) sent a questionnaire to all Congregations in England and Wales, in the first ever attempt to map the work that is taking place.
- Lancashire Police note an increase in calls from the public following their weeks of action.
- There is to be a series of three modern slavery features on BBC NW covering cannabis farms, sexual exploitation and some interviews.
- We were warned that people are being conned by charity bag collections. Criminal operations may collect the bags or post counterfeit versions. Moreover, companies contracted by the charities may use exploited labour and may sell almost entirely for their own profit with little money going to the charity or goods going to charity shops.
- Clewer are launching their Lent challenge [Give up Slavery](#) Each week they will give you an aspect of modern slavery to read about and take action on.