



21st June 2021

Dear Friends

I thought I would take this opportunity to give you some information regarding a project that is coming up in October 2021 called **#1Life1Voice**. This is a large-scale project based on raising awareness on the various forms of modern slavery. We hope to stimulate local action and a coming together to address some of the issues that exist within our communities across the Diocese. Modern slavery exists in Dorset, Wiltshire and neighbouring counties.

**#1Life1Voice.** 1 Life because each and every life is precious and of great worth. 1 Voice because we need to stand up against the cruelty and injustice of all forms of slavery and work as a community to ensure our most vulnerable children, young people and adults are protected in society from those who wish to abuse and destroy their lives and their right to freedom.

**Did you know...?**

40 million people are estimated to be trapped in modern slavery worldwide:

- 1 in 4 of them are children.
- Almost three quarters (71%) are women and girls.
- Over 10,000 were identified as potential victims by the authorities in the UK in 2019.

The DBE is working with a range of partners including parishes, schools, Salisbury Cathedral, the Clewer Initiative (The Church of England campaign arm against modern slavery), the Police and the Mothers Union to name but a few. We are also working with some of our Community Hubs and are very keen to develop this work further.

The project itself is set around Anti-Slavery Day (October 18th) and is covering a range of activities and opportunities to learn and explore modern slavery which we hope will bring our community together in understanding the significance of this across the Diocese.

We have organised for an Art Exhibition to be held at Salisbury Cathedral which is to be opened by Bishop Karen on Friday 15th October at 5.00pm. The artwork is being completed by young people across the Diocese and will reflect their understanding and thoughts on the various forms of modern slavery (see below).

During the week beginning Sunday 17th October, there will be guest speakers who come from a range of backgrounds and organisations who will be delivering virtual sessions in which all members of the community (the public, parish, schools, and professionals) will be welcome to attend. Further information and booking information will be shared on the Salisbury Diocesan website in the near future.

**We are asking schools to get involved in the following way:**

The Art Exhibition at Salisbury Cathedral will be placed in the Cloister area and will be open to the public. The Art Exhibition will show artwork created by our young people. We would like **all schools** within the Diocese (church, maintained and independent) to encourage their pupils and students to create artwork based on the theme of modern slavery.

This can be as creative and imaginative as our young people like and can include drawing, painting, multi-media, and 3D sculptures. The artwork can be any size from A4 to A1. We would like the young people to write a short passage of reflective writing to go alongside their artwork to explain their thinking, feelings, or a message they would like to share with others regarding modern slavery.

The theme of modern slavery may include:

- **County Lines.** When drug gangs from big cities expand their operations to smaller towns, often using violence to drive out local dealers and exploiting children and vulnerable people to sell drugs. These dealers will use dedicated mobile phone lines, known as 'deal lines', to take orders from drug users.
- **Human trafficking.** The use of violence, threats or coercion to transport, recruit, or harbour people in order to exploit them for purposes such as forced prostitution, labour, criminality, marriage or organ removal.
- **Forced labour.** Any work or services people are forced to do against their will under threat of punishment.
- **Debt bondage/ bonded labour.** The world's most widespread form of slavery. People trapped in poverty borrow money and are forced to work to pay off the debt, losing control over both their employment conditions and the debt.
- **Descent-based slavery.** Most traditional form, where people are treated as property, and their "slave" status was passed down the maternal line.
- **Slavery of children.** When a child is exploited for someone else's gain. This can include child trafficking, child soldiers, child marriage and child domestic slavery.
- **Forced and early marriage.** When someone is married against their will and cannot leave. Most child marriages can be considered slavery.

**For our young people:**

For our young people (Y7 – Y11) we will be providing training by Escapeline for each year group listed. These will be virtual sessions on Monday 18th October - Anti-Slavery Day. The training will focus on Child Exploitation and County Lines training for young people and will include understanding the grooming process, the signs to look out for, and different stages of recruitment. Learning about risks and consequences of drugs and being involved in criminal gangs. Identifying safe places and who to talk to if worried about their safety or that of others.

**For our parishes:**

We are organising for resources to be available to all churches to use at Sunday services on 17th October. We hope this will be another way to open up conversations and for possible localised projects to take place alongside other groups in the community. It would be wonderful if the church community were to take a real lead in this.

Bishop Alastair will be leading some parts of Evensong at Salisbury Cathedral on Sunday 17th October, and this will focus on the theme of modern slavery.

**For the whole community:**

Over the last few months, schools and parishes have been offered County Lines training by The Clewer Initiative. These courses proved to be very popular and were quickly filled. Additional to this, limited places have been offered to some secondary schools to professionally develop a staff member on the 'Train the Trainer' County Lines course.

It is hoped that these trained people will then offer the course learning out to their own and neighbouring schools plus others in the local community, including parishes, youth groups and other voluntary groups. If you would like further information, please do contact me.

This is an important project. Safeguarding the most vulnerable in our community is all of our responsibility and we need to work together to this end. Each person is of great worth and should be protected from all aspects of modern slavery.

If local communities, parishes, and schools would like to get involved in some way and need help or support in forming an action group for positive change, please do also contact me and I will try to put you in touch with people who can support you.

I sincerely thank you for taking the time to read this. We can all do something...

Kind regards



*Deborah Heritage*

School Improvement Advisor & Strategic Lead for SIAMS

Tel: 07469 859994

Web: [www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools](http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools) Diocesan Education Centre, The Avenue, Wilton, Nr Salisbury, SP2 0FG



## LIVING OUT GOD'S TRANSFORMING PRESENCE

The Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education is a company limited by guarantee (No 464306) and is registered as a charity (No 1059195)

### **Covid-19 Update**

**Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, like many others we at the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education have transitioned to a hybrid system of home and remote working.**

As such, we ask that you please note the following:

- Please send all correspondence electronically rather than via postal services to DBE
- Our office land lines may not be answered – please use our mobile numbers listed on the website or email and we will telephone you [DBE contact details](#)
- We are also using Microsoft Teams to meet with our internal and external colleagues
- We appreciate your patience as we put all of our remote working systems and processes in place