Freedom In Action:
A Holistic Framework in Response to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking for The Salvation Army

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INTRODUCTION

From the girl forced into selling herself at a hotel next to your favourite restaurant to the man discovered in that very restaurant kitchen, stripped of his passport and humanity, human trafficking happens everywhere and in every community. From forced labour and forced marriage to child soldiers and domestic servitude, modern slavery takes many forms.

In order to tackle and address modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT), a solution beyond good intentions and surface conversations is required.

This paper and presentation seek to introduce the prevalence of modern slavery and human trafficking worldwide, provide context and definitions to how it manifests itself within communities, and share the vulnerabilities to experiencing exploitation. It also seeks to share how The Salvation Army is uniquely equipped as an international Christian movement to address modern slavery and human trafficking by introducing fundamental principles and a framework for responding holistically to MSHT.

MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING BY THE NUMBERS

Modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT) is considered to be among the most widespread crimes globally, affecting millions of men, women, and children each day. Today, more than 40 million men, women, and children worldwide are impacted by MSHT. More than
15 million of these are in forced marriages, more than 24 million are in forced labour situations.\textsuperscript{1} and about 30 percent of those exploited are children.\textsuperscript{2}

Human trafficking is hidden, fast-growing, and complex—generating billions each year by exploiting millions of people. According to the International organisation of labour, human trafficking is a $150 billion industry.

**MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19**

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the vulnerabilities of men, women and children to modern slavery and human trafficking. Traffickers take advantage of people who have had a reduced income or loss of livelihood by offering false opportunities. Online recruitment, grooming, and exploitation have increased and have been widely used by traffickers during the pandemic. Many anti-trafficking stakeholders and survivors of trafficking worldwide have reported decreased accessibility of assistance and services for victims and survivors. \textsuperscript{3}

Millions of women, children and men worldwide are out of work, out of school and without social support in the continuing COVID-19 crisis, leaving them at greater risk of human trafficking. We need targeted action to stop criminal traffickers from taking advantage of the pandemic to exploit the vulnerable,” said UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly.

\textsuperscript{1} Global Modern Slavery Index 2021

\textsuperscript{2} 2020 Trafficking In Persons Report
Defining the Problem

Modern slavery acts as an umbrella term, covering several human rights issues, of which human trafficking is one. Modern slavery encompasses slavery, servitude and forced labour and human trafficking. Human trafficking, force, fraud or coercion needs identifying.

What are the forms of Modern Slavery?

- **Sexual Exploitation**: When someone is deceived, coerced or forced to take part in sexual activity. Typical forms of sexual exploitation are but are not limited to prostitution, brothels (massage/sauna), forced marriage, mail order brides, sex tourism, pornography, pole/lap dancing, escort services, phone sex lines, and stripping on a webcam.

- **Labor Exploitation**: People are coerced to work for little or no remuneration, often under threat of punishment. Common forms of labour exploitation include but are not limited to factory work, fishing, nail bars/salons, construction, hospitality, restaurants, car washes, and manufacturing.

- **Domestic Servitude**: A person who works within their employer's home, performing a variety of tasks. This arrangement becomes exploitative when there are restrictions on the domestic worker's movement, and they are forced to work long hours for little pay. They may also suffer physical and sexual abuse; this can happen in a private home or in a community such as a commune.

- **Forced Marriage**: When a person is put under pressure to marry someone. They may be threatened with physical or sexual violence or placed under emotional or psychological

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4 [OHCHR | Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CCATG/docs/Supplementary-Covenant-18112019.pdf)

5 [Types of exploitation, human trafficking & slavery - STOP THE TRAFFIK](https://stopthetraffic.org/about/what-is-human-trafficking/types-of-exploitation/)
distress to achieve these aims. A situation where forced marriage can be used: To gain access to a country or to gain access to benefits.

- **Forced Criminality:** Somebody is forced to carry out criminal activity through coercion or deception. Typical forms of forced criminality express themselves by the drug trade, pick-pocketing, bag snatching, ATM theft, selling counterfeit goods, and begging.

- **Child Soldiers:** Children and young people, ranging from four to 18 - used for any military purpose. Both males and females. Children may be used for frontline combat – which means they commit acts of violence – or within auxiliary roles, such as informants or kitchen hands. Often, the children are also sexually abused. This type of practice is most prevalent in parts of Africa and Asia.

- **Organ Trafficking:** Involves removing a part of the body, commonly the kidneys and liver, to sell often as illegal trade. Traffickers can take organs in several ways:
  
  - **Trade** – a victim formally or informally agrees to sell an organ but is cheated because they are not paid for the organ or are paid less than the promised price.
  
  - **Ailments** – a vulnerable person is treated for a condition, which may or may not exist, and the organs are removed without the victim's knowledge.
  
  - **Extortion** – a victim, may be kidnapped from their family and organs removed without consent.

**VULNERABILITIES AMONG SURVIVORS**

All over the world, human beings are exploited. No country is immune. Is there a common vulnerability among survivors? While it’s not a definitive list but rather a starting point, The
United Nations has indicated nine push factors or conditions affecting susceptibility to someone experiencing MSHT.  

1. *Children:* They are vulnerable to the demands and expectations of those in authority, including their parents, family and teachers. Children are not able to protect themselves physically. They are often unaware of the existing laws to protect them and cannot discuss fair treatment for themselves.

2. *Gender:* Women are vulnerable to MSHT because they are often excluded from mainstream economic and social systems, such as higher education and employment. Women are susceptible to rape, domestic violence, harmful traditional practices, trafficking, and limited access to resources.

3. *Poverty:* While poverty is a complex term with various definitions, it can often be referred to as a lack of resources. In Bryant Myer's Walking with the Poor, poverty is defined as “the absence of shalom in all its meanings.” A web of dysfunctional relationships can fuel poverty. Myers argues a holistic understanding of poverty is a relational issue.

4. *Social and Cultural Exclusion:* Those who do not fall into the “preferred” category suffer discrimination in education, employment, access to social services and lack of a political voice. According to the 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report, identifying as part of the LGBTGQI+ continues to be a leading factor contributing to being vulnerable to trafficking.

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6 *An Introduction to Human Trafficking: Vulnerability, Impact and Action (unodc.org)*

7 *Walking with the Poor: Principles and Practices of Transformational Development* by Bryant L. Myers
5. *Limited access to education*: Individuals with little education will likely have few income-generating opportunities. Limited access can be determined by gender, social customs, economic capacity and or cultural relevance to getting an education.

6. *Political instability, war and conflict*: Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to the consequences of political instability and armed conflict. The disruption of traditional community life, along with its protective framework and the resulting displacement, make them highly vulnerable to exploitation, including abuse of power by relief workers, limited access to resources and sexual assault.⁸

7. *Social, Cultural and Legal Frameworks*: The status of an individual within their environment, whether that status is defined through formal systems (such as a legal system) or informal systems, creates different levels of vulnerability. Some factors that you could consider in such a discussion include discriminatory labour practices, patriarchal social structures; women's role in the family; precedents of bonded labour and servitude, and early and forced marriage.

8. *Movement*: Forced migration and movement against your will exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and creates new conditions under which individuals are vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking. Refugees, internally displaced persons and asylum seekers, who find themselves in highly volatile situations without traditional protection mechanisms, are highly vulnerable. In addition, women and children find themselves in situations where they must exchange sexual services for food or other survival-related necessities.

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⁸*37Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, Displaced Women and Girls*
9. **Demand:** The demand for cheap labour and services mainly from the destination countries, usually in construction, seasonal agriculture work, the garment and hospitality sectors, domestic service and the commercial sex trade, all contribute to the way MSHT is prevalent. Once the person is being exploited, that person becomes vulnerable due to the lack of familiarity with the local language and culture isolation, fear and mistrust of local authorities.

**TRAFFICKERS ARE STRATEGIC**

Traffickers use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude, and inhumane treatment. Globally, most persons prosecuted and convicted of trafficking in persons continue to be male, with around 64 and 62 per cent respectively. Offenders can be organised crime groups, which traffic the great majority of victims, to individuals operating on their own or in small groups on an opportunistic basis.⁹

Traffickers see their victims as commodities without regard for human dignity and rights. They sell fellow human beings for a price ranging from tens of U.S. dollars to tens of thousands, with significant criminal organisations making the highest incomes.

Traffickers can even be described as strategic. According to the 2020 United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, traffickers can be grouped into four structures:

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⁹ [GLOTiP_2020_Global_overview.pdf (unodc.org)](https://unodc.org)
Traffickers have long-term aims and a roadmap to how to achieve them. In the case of victimisation of people into MSHT, traffickers aim to force people into exploitation to gain a profit. Traffickers are also strategic enough to recruit and mobilise others to join in the life of a crime and operate systematically, often across country lines and navigating complex systems.

**CAN THE BODY OF CHRIST BE MORE STRATEGIC THAN TRAFFICKERS? A CASE FOR THE SALVATION ARMY**

Just as traffickers use strategic forces for evil and the exploitation of people, the body of Christ should work even harder to stop evil from continuing to happen and walk alongside those who have been affected by it.

The Salvation Army, in particular, is uniquely equipped for responding to MSHT.
The Salvation Army is active in 132 countries. In its very structure, being both a church and a non-profit providing social services, The Salvation Army can be holistic and strategic in its response to MSHT.

MSHT is an international crime, and we are an international Salvation Army. As traffickers can mobilise, so can The Salvation Army world. Around the world, the Salvation Army has the passion, the people and the resources to stop this evil trade and exploitation of our brothers and sisters.

From its beginnings, The Salvation Army has fought against modern slavery and human trafficking. In 1885, in coalition with social campaigners such as William T. Stead, Salvationists exposed the entrapment, abduction and sale of young girls and women into London brothels and effectively campaigned for changes in the law.

To this day, The Salvation Army believes in the biblical principles of all persons' inherent and equal value and the duty to care for one's neighbour. The exploitation of human beings commodifies and dehumanises the individuals who are trafficked, rewards the inhumanity of the traffickers and weakens the moral, social and economic fabric of society.

Today, just as in 1902 when we invaded the Japanese brothels and helped to free 1400 and led to the operation of 117 safe houses, The Salvation Army is uniquely equipped to intercept trafficking networks through strategic interventions and provide safety, justice, and holistic services to its survivors.

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10 The Salvation Army International - Worldwide
11 dcd77513-b173-4a4d-acfa-4a811f7dde2a_Fight+for+Freedom+A+basic+guide.pdf
12 JCE002-Challenging-Evil-v2-TXT-1.pdf (sajustice.us)
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A Christian international organisation must recognise several interacting principles relevant to all aspects of a holistic response to address MSHT.

- **Aggressive Hope**: We choose unwavering hope as defiance in the face of violence and horrific exploitation.

- **Survivor centred**: The survivor’s autonomy and active participation should be the centre of every response. The rights, needs, desires and voice of the survivor should be at the forefront.

- **Coordinated, integrated approach**: As MSHT is a multidisciplinary problem, a holistic response requires a coordinated and integrated approach in all thematic areas and expressions of The Salvation Army worldwide.

- **Learners**: The Salvation Army continues to work towards decolonising our responses and seeks to adopt a learning posture from those we serve and serve alongside.

- **Locally Led**: We approach our responses acknowledging local communities hold the best solutions. We embrace being led by solutions created locally.

- **Culture of Belonging**: We believe that everyone’s voice should be heard and provided ways to be heard. We aim to create a welcoming, vibrant, deep participation of Salvation Army expressions and personnel worldwide.
The Freedom Action Framework was developed to serve as The Salvation Army’s eight focus areas for a global holistic response to MSHT\textsuperscript{13}. The International Anti-Trafficking Task Force developed this framework in partnership with consultation workshops with the Anglican Alliance.

Focus Area #1 - Prayer

Prayer is an essential practice in the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking for the Salvation army. Prayer allows us to gain God’s perspective and guidance in complex situations. Prayer keeps us in a relationship with God and helps to inform our work.

Focus Area #2 - Prevention

\textsuperscript{13} IPS-Modern Slavery.4.6.20.indd
We cannot tackle and address what we do not recognise. Raising awareness and addressing the root causes of modern slavery and human trafficking is a vital prevention element. Prevention also involves addressing both the factors that make people vulnerable and those that demand various types of exploitation.

**Focus Area #3 - Participation**

The Salvation Army believes that the local church and community are vital resources in addressing modern slavery and human trafficking. The Salvation Army serves in some isolated communities that other agencies do not reach. While appropriate training is needed for those helping survivors, every corps can raise awareness in their communities and provide a place of belonging for survivors on the journey out of MSHT.

The Salvation Army will continue to engage in movement building and sharing learning and knowledge to equip its Salvation Army expressions further worldwide to participate.

**Focus Area #4 - Protection**

The Salvation Army has a holistic view of health and seeks to walk alongside survivors in their journey to regain their health, physically, mentally, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually. Survivor services can include but are not limited to providing a means of exit from their MSHT situation, assisting in transfer to a safe place, helping to return and reintegrate to the survivor’s country of origin, providing a short-term or long-term haven and providing holistic case management.

**Focus Area #5 - Prosecution**
The Salvation Army will continue to strengthen its services of supporting survivors through the legal process. We also believe in a restorative justice approach when working with traffickers. While we assist in the prosecution of offenders, we also assist in the restoration process of the trafficker and helping make inappropriate relationships right.

**Focus Area # 6 – Policy**

The Salvation Army promotes working alongside policymakers to develop and implement mechanisms to address modern slavery and human trafficking and bring justice for all involved. The Salvation Army works with government, businesses, and community organisations in this regard.

Modern slavery and human trafficking flourish because there is a demand for the services trafficked or exploited people are forced to provide. Therefore, the Salvation Army undertakes education and awareness-raising activities so that those who use products or services supplied by trafficked or exploited people are confronted with the human misery, suffering, and injustice created by their continuing use of these services or products.

The Salvation Army will continue to monitor our employment and purchasing practices and ensure we are exploitation free.

**Focus Area # 7 – Proof**

The Salvation Army will contribute to research and be informed by its analysis. Evidence-based practices will be used to be as ethical, contextual, effective, and efficient as possible. Efforts will be monitored and evaluated.
As members of communities and practitioners working to address MSHT, many stories are heard and gathered, providing important information about the trends of trafficking. The Salvation Army will contribute its knowledge of MSHT and learnt effective responses to worldwide research efforts.

**Focus Area #8 - Partnership**

The Salvation Army recognises incredible organisations are working locally and globally in tackling MSHT. However, the extent of the exploitation is such that no single agency can address it alone. Therefore, collaborating and networking with these agencies is encouraged and necessary to eliminate MSHT and provide a holistic service for those who have been exploited as they journey towards healing.

**CONCLUSION**

While MSHT has had a devastating impact internationally this far, The Salvation Army continues to agree with God that it has a unique role in responding to this growing phenomenon. Therefore, we affirm that we are called to continue to have aggressive hope and work together towards a world filled with the embodied love of Jesus, justice and freedom.
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