

# Justice & Peace Matters

## Victims of Trafficking

**Is modern slavery a big problem? The simple answer is “yes”.**

Modern slavery is the fastest growing international crime with 40 million people worldwide affected. Traffickers' profits are worth \$150 billion per year. Prostitution, domestic servitude, hospitality, nail bars, car washes, garment factories, tea & cocoa plantations, mining, forced marriage, organ donation are some of the areas in which modern slavery exists.

**40.3 million** people are estimated to be trapped in some form of modern slavery in the world today. **136,000** victims are estimated to be in the UK, **6,993** potential victims were found in the UK in 2018. They were trafficked from 130 different countries.

UK referrals **increased by nearly 100%** from 820 in 2017 to 1,625 in 2018. The numbers of children referred **increased by 48%**.

These increases were driven by labour exploitation, which includes those exploited for criminal purposes by 'County Lines' drug gangs.

Of the victims referred, 2728 were female and 4261 were male; 3856 were adults and 3137 were minors.

**The most common categories of adult exploitation were**

- **Labour exploitation: 1993**
- **Sexual exploitation: 1289**
- **Domestic servitude: 419**
- **Other: 155**

*(Global Slavery Index and the National Crime Agency (UK)).*

Please remember victims of trafficking in your prayers.

For further information [www.medaille-trust.org.uk](http://www.medaille-trust.org.uk)

## Welcome

Welcome to this month's edition of J & P Matters. We met on Monday evening. Our next meeting will be on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 7:30. All are welcome!** Topics for this month:

- Victims of Trafficking
- CAFOD Lent Fast Day
- Racial Justice Sunday
- Fair Trade Fortnight
- Church Action on Poverty
- Diary Dates

## CAFOD – Lent Fast Day 6<sup>th</sup> March

The focus of CAFOD's Lent Fast appeal this year will be to help finance the 'skilled experts', such as doctors, nurses, pharmacists, who provide vital care to people in the most difficult to reach places on earth. If you give up chocolate for a week this Lent, your £6 could train a health worker to check babies for malnutrition. So as a parish we can do so much more.... Watch this space!

## Racial Justice Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February

### **'You are the heart of the Church'**

Is the theme of this year's Racial Justice Sunday and celebrates the contribution Travelling Communities make to the Church in England & Wales. Historically, Gypsies, Roma & Travellers have experienced discrimination both in the wider community and, sadly, within the Church. The Bishops of England & Wales are encouraging us to be more welcoming towards fellow Catholics who come from a Traveller background.

**When he met with Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Communities, Pope Francis said:**

*"The time has come to put an end to age-old prejudices, preconceptions and mutual mistrust that are often at the base of discrimination, racism and xenophobia. No one must feel isolated and, no one is authorised to trample on the dignity and rights of others."*

We are being asked, as Catholics, to pledge our support by

- Challenging hate speech and discrimination against Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Communities.
- Call on elected representatives to ensure that appropriate sites and facilities are provided.
- Welcome Gypsy, Roma & Traveller parishioners as sisters and brothers in Christ.

Please pray for all who face prejudice, hatred and discrimination & today, especially pray for the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Communities.

For further information:- [www.cbew.org.uk](http://www.cbew.org.uk)

**Fair Trade Fortnight 24<sup>th</sup> February – 8<sup>th</sup> March**

**The Fair Trade Foundation is using Fair Trade Fortnight 2020 to highlight the plight of those who work to produce the cocoa that goes to make the chocolate we eat.** It may be hard to swallow but many of the people behind our most-loved food still live in extreme poverty. It is a scandal that behind the sweet delight of chocolate lies the bitter taste of exploitation.

The UK chocolate industry is worth at least £4 billion each year. And yet the average cocoa farmer in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, where 60 percent of all cocoa is grown, makes less than 75p a day. This is well below the extreme poverty line of around £1.40 per day.

If this wasn't enough to cope with, the climate crisis is already wreaking havoc on global food production. Farmers are battling less predictable seasons, more plant diseases and weather extremes, leading to a lack of food. They are suffering, struggling to harvest crops and working longer hours, for lower prices.

For women, the situation is even more unfair. In Côte d'Ivoire, for example, women carry out more than two thirds of the labour involved in cocoa farming. They work in the fields, look after children, carry water, and help bring the crop to market. And yet they often have fewer rights than men, and often earn less.

To change this story, we, in the UK need to understand the power we have as consumers and to choose Fair-trade every time. We need to show companies that people in the UK expect them to go much further to pay living income prices to farmers. So please try to remember to buy Fair Trade chocolate to show your support for the cocoa workers. But please buy fairly traded products wherever possible because: -

- **Trade justice is essential for climate justice.** Fair-trade farmers are among the people who have contributed the least to climate crisis – but are already feeling the worst effects. 21 people from Cote d'Ivoire have the same carbon footprint as one person in the UK, but studies have shown that Africa is the continent most vulnerable to climate change.
- **Trade justice is essential for human justice.** Human trafficking is the extreme end of modern consumerism. We need to buy more fairly traded goods and question how & where our garments were made and our food produced.

For further information [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

**Poverty Action Sunday - 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

*'As followers of Jesus, we are called to speak **Truth to Power** - especially when too many are struggling to make ends meet across the UK' (Church Action on Poverty)*

Did you know?

- There were **4.1 million children** living in poverty in the UK in 2017-18. That's 30 per cent of children, or **nine in a classroom of 30**.
- There are expected to be **5.2 million children** living in poverty in the UK by 2022
- **47%** of children living in **lone-parent families** are in poverty. Lone parents face a higher risk of poverty due to the lack of an additional earner, low rates of maintenance payments, gender inequality in employment and pay, and childcare costs.
- Children from **Black and minority ethnic groups** are more likely to be in poverty: **45%** are now in poverty, compare with **26%** of children in White British families.
- Work does not provide a guaranteed route out of poverty in the UK. **70%** of children growing up in poverty live in a **household where at least one person works**.
- Childcare and housing are two of the costs that take the biggest toll on families' budgets. When you account for childcare costs, an extra 130,000 children are pushed into poverty. (Information from Child Poverty Action Group 2019)

**What if...**

*What if we raise our voices?*

*Echo the truth once spoken to power.....*

*the kingdom will be proclaimed*

*the still small voice of God will comfort the exile*

*the roar of the righteous will drown out the wicked*

*the hope of resurrection will be sung out.*

(Marie Pattison Katherine House)

**Diary Dates**

6<sup>th</sup> March - CAFOD Lent Fast Day

„ „ - Women's world Day of Prayer