

PRAYING FOR FREEDOM FROM MODERN SLAVERY

These resources are designed to equip you to lead prayers for freedom from modern slavery in a meaningful and transformative way. Suitable for:

- *gathered worship*
- *small groups*
- *adaptable for prayer spaces*

See www.salvationist.org.uk/resources for the Praying for Freedom from Modern Slavery Leader's Guide



PRAYING FOR

THE UK #1



A guided prayer activity of lament and restoration for the UK

Leader notes: This activity is based on the art of Kintsugi, meaning 'golden joinery'. This is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with lacquer mixed with gold. Instead of hiding the cracks, it makes them visible and beautiful. It demonstrates that something broken can be restored with care and become even more meaningful through its scars. This guided prayer activity can be led from the front or adapted for creating reflective/prayer spaces.

Preparation

Materials needed: A picture of something broken, or broken pieces to display (ensure they are safe to handle); paper shapes such as hearts cut into several pieces; glue sticks or craft glue; gold glitter; trays, paper plates or newspaper to catch excess glitter; wipes or tissues for cleaning hands.

Creating a reflective space: Keep the atmosphere reflective, gentle and prayerful. This activity touches on modern slavery, trafficking, exploitation, trauma and injustice, so allow people time and space to respond. This activity can be done in silence or using reflective instrumental music as a background.

Suggested timing: Move slowly through each stage. Use open questions, allow silence and space. Provide space for people to lament before moving into hope, action and prayer. Allow approximately 20–30 minutes for the full activity: 5 minutes to notice what is broken, 5–10 minutes for lament, 5 minutes to reflect on restoration, and 10 minutes for the Kintsugi-style prayer activity.

Suggested reflective worship songs:

'No Longer Slaves' - by Jonathan David and Melissa Helser

'And Can It Be' - by Charles Wesley performed by Hymnology

This activity helps people move through four stages: recognising brokenness, lamenting injustice, reflecting on restoration, and praying for healing in the UK. It uses the image of Kintsugi to show that brokenness around us does not need to be ignored or hidden but can be held with care and restored with beauty.

- 1. Reflect on what is broken.** Begin by inviting people to look at something broken. This could be a picture of a broken plate or cup, or real broken pieces placed on a table. Ask: What do you notice? Encourage people to name what they can see, such as sharp edges, uneven pieces, gaps, or the sense that the object cannot easily be put back together. Use this as a way to begin thinking about brokenness caused by modern slavery and trafficking.
- 2. Lament over the broken pieces.** Invite people to connect what they see with the brokenness caused by modern slavery and trafficking in their communities and the UK. Ask: Why is this brokenness happening? Encourage reflection on injustice, inequality, exploitation, trauma, and the pain experienced by those affected. Allow space for sadness, anger, grief, and honest prayer before God.



Consider restoration and wholeness. Ask people to think about what restoration might look like for someone who has experienced exploitation living in the UK. Ask: What does healing, freedom, dignity and wholeness look like? Then reflect together on what we can do to support restoration through prayer, practical care, awareness, advocacy and action.

Pray for healing through a Kintsugi activity. Give each person pieces of paper cut from a simple shape, such as a heart. Invite them to glue the pieces back together to recreate the shape. Then ask them to fill the cracks with glue and gold glitter. Shake off the extra glitter and look at the finished shape. Explain that, like Kintsugi, the gold marks show that the brokenness around us has not been ignored or hidden but instead held with care. Use this moment to pray for healing, restoration and beauty to emerge from places of brokenness.

See printable on p14

Read the Bible verse: 'Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.' (Lamentations 3:21-23)

Read aloud this prayer:

Lord, I feel overwhelmed by the brokenness caused by modern slavery and trafficking. I carry the weight of this sorrow. Yet I know you are a God of hope, and you can restore what has been broken. Your faithfulness never ceases and your love can bring restoration to the pieces of brokenness.

Invite participants to read together:

Lord, we choose to recognise the impact of modern slavery and trafficking on individuals in our local community and around the world. Lord, we don't turn away from the sadness, the trauma and pain this has caused. We choose to respond and stand against this form of exploitation. We pray for justice. We pray for healing. We pray for freedom. We pray for hope. We pray to see the end of this injustice. Amen.

Invite participants to listen prayerfully to your chosen worship music and reflect on the words.

Encourage them to notice any phrase, image or message that stands out to them.

Reflection questions:

- What might God be saying through these songs?
- What could our response be?

Close in a final prayer.

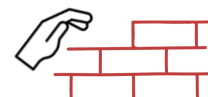
Lord, we look to you and seek wisdom. We reflect on the brokenness and know you are a God of justice. Amen.



Written by the Head of Integrated Mission, ATMS

PRAYING FOR

THE UK #2



Prayer for communities that champion freedom from the injustice of modern slavery in the UK

Non-government organisations, charities, faith groups and community organisations play a vital role in helping survivors of modern slavery move from survival to recovery, independence and sustained freedom. There is a very real possibility that once someone has found safety after exploitation they find themselves re-exploited. This may be due to lack of work, lack of community or homelessness. This is why these organisations are so important: they create safe spaces for people to grow, rebuild trust and grow in confidence. **We have highlighted some focus areas to enable you to pray for these organisations and the work they do.**

“Freedom is more than escape. True freedom is having the opportunity to heal, belong, contribute and thrive.”

The support from these organisations is about rebuilding lives, piece by piece; from supporting someone out of exploitation to feeling safe and happy in the community. To reflect this, you may wish to use bricks to help you pray:

- Use Lego or similar bricks to add your prayers together to build a wall.
- Create a paper image of a brick wall and write your prayers on each brick.

See printable on p15

Prayer for organisational resource

Lord, we thank you for your provision, for resources and finance to enable these groups to operate. We pray for staff teams, volunteers and programme vision. We pray for those who are advocating for individuals and their needs.

Prayer for rebuilding

We pray for people as they rebuild their lives, for healing from their trauma including their mental health and physical trauma. We pray for those groups that offer counselling and therapeutic activities; for those who offer safe space and community to rebuild confidence, trust and identity.

Prayer for community

We are thankful that community can reduce isolation, create belonging and establish social connection. Where family relationships may be lost, community can bring family and friends to offer help, support and love.

Prayer for empowerment

We pray for those groups that help build independence and resilience, through education, training and opportunities to grow. We pray for empowering communities that encourage survivors to see themselves as people with strengths, gifts and future potential.

Prayer for The Salvation Army's Build programme

We pray for the Build programme as it champions people's growth, contribution and dignity through mentoring, workshops and integrated partnerships. We pray for the staff coordinators and strong team of volunteers who mentor survivors or support workshop sessions. We pray for continued and new partnerships with faith organisations and local charities.

PRAYING FOR

THE UK #3



A call and response prayer for those supporting people affected by modern slavery in the UK

Leader: God of justice and mercy, you hear the cries of those who are oppressed and forgotten.

All: Give us hearts that listen, eyes that see, and courage that acts.

Leader: We pray for all who are trapped in modern slavery, exploitation, and human trafficking.

All: Bring freedom where there is bondage, hope where there is despair, and healing where there is trauma.

Leader: We pray for all who walk alongside vulnerable people in the UK.

All: May their words bring comfort, their presence bring peace, and their actions reflect your love.

Leader: When the stories they hear are difficult and the burden feels heavy,

All: Be their refuge and strength.

Leader: We entrust their work, those they serve, and them into your care.

All: May they know kindness, feel supported and be blessed by those they meet.

Leader: Loving God, be with all those working as supporters today. Fill them with wisdom, compassion and integrity, and encourage those serving to support those who have experienced modern slavery: the chaplains, support workers, first responders, advisers, volunteers and many more. Even when their work is unseen, may they know they are making a real difference and bringing hope to others.

All: May justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Written by Estelle Blake (Chaplain, ATMS)

To find out more about support for survivors [click here](#)

PRAYING FOR

THE UK #4



Prayers for children and young people in the face of county lines. County lines is a form of modern slavery where criminal gangs trick, pressure or force children and young people into moving and selling drugs, putting them at risk of violence, abuse and exploitation.

Prayers by young people for victims of county lines

Lord,

We want to lift up all the children and youth who are caught up in county lines.

We ask for those that are being groomed, that you surround them with your protection, Lord. Help them see what's actually happening and have the courage to speak out and seek help.

For those already in the world of county lines, we pray that you would stay close to them and guide them away from the dangerous situations they face by showing them a way out.

We also think of the older youth who have been involved so long and feel hopelessly trapped. We pray that they learn they're not beyond help and that there are many support networks waiting for them.

Lord, protect every young person – those involved, those being targeted, and those being watched from a distance. Keep them safe. And help us to be people who notice, who care, and who step in.

Amen.

Prayer to open our eyes to our community and be active in our mission

Leader: Loving God, we pray for all those affected by county lines exploitation, especially children and young people.

All: Lord, protect them, strengthen them, and lead them to safety.

Leader: Give our families, schools, churches and communities wisdom to recognise the signs of exploitation and the courage to respond with compassion and care.

All: Help us to work together to prevent harm, support those in need, and seek justice for all.

Leader: May we be a community that watches over one another, bringing hope where there is fear and light where there is darkness.

All: Guide us in your love and make us instruments of your peace. Amen.

Prayer for the future of county lines

As we look ahead, we pray for a future where children and young people are protected from exploitation and where communities are equipped to recognise and respond to those at risk. May we be inspired to challenge injustice, support those affected, and help create places of safety, belonging and hope.

As you reflect and pray, consider:

- What would our communities look like if every child and young person had safe relationships, positive opportunities, and a strong sense of belonging?
- How can churches, schools, families and local organisations work together to prevent exploitation before it begins?
- Where is God calling us to be a voice for those who are being exploited or overlooked?

PRAYING FOR

COURAGE #1



A posture prayer of courage for people to be able to see, speak and act against modern slavery.

This prayer is a call and response posture prayer, use the postures below to help anchor our prayers in action.

Leader: 'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute' (Proverbs 31:8). God of justice, you see every person, every hidden story and every silent cry for help. Today we ask for courage: courage to see, courage to speak and courage to act.

Lord, human trafficking and modern slavery often hide in plain sight. We confess that we can be too busy to notice, too distracted to ask questions, and too uncertain to trust what we observe. Give us eyes that see as you see. When fear hides behind a smile, when control disguises itself as care, when vulnerability becomes an opportunity for exploitation, help us to notice what others miss.

Action: Place your hands around your eyes as though looking into the distance

All: Open our eyes, Lord.

Leader: Lord, seeing injustice is not enough. When the reality of exploitation feels overwhelming, when we are tempted to look away, when compassion feels costly, soften our hearts.

May we never become comfortable with the suffering of others. May we recognise the value, dignity and worth of every person made in your image.

Action: Place your hands on your heart.

All: Open our hearts, Lord.

Leader: Your word calls us to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. Give us courage when silence feels safer. Give us wisdom when we fear getting it wrong. Give us boldness to challenge injustice and raise concerns when something is not right. When vulnerable people need protection, when warning signs should not be ignored, when another voice is needed, strengthen us to speak.

Action: Place your hands on your mouth.

All: Raise our voices, Lord.

Leader: Lord, let our prayers become action. Show us how to build communities where exploitation cannot flourish. Help us to be people who notice, people who care and people who act. Where there is risk, may we bring protection. Where there is injustice, may we seek justice. Where there is fear, may we bring hope.

Action: Stretch your arms out in front of you.

All: Move our hands, Lord.

Pause and invite everyone to repeat the actions a final time.

Leader: Open our eyes, *(Hands to eyes)*

All: That we may see.

Leader: Open our hearts, *(Hand on heart)*

All: That we may care.

Leader: Raise our voices, *(Hands around mouth)*

All: That we may speak.

Leader: Move our hands, *(Hands outstretched)*

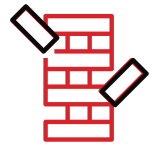
All: That we may act.

All together:

May God open our eyes to see, our hearts to care, our voices to speak, and our hands to act, until all people know freedom. Amen

PRAYING FOR

COURAGE #2



Prayer for societal change and disruption of established structures that facilitate exploitation.

Preparation- if you wish to use an interactive prayer

- Divide a set of Jenga-style blocks in two.
- Label half the blocks with words that represent systems and attitudes that enable exploitation: greed, materialism, corruption, discrimination, cruelty, apathy, ruthlessness, pride, individualism, intolerance, prejudice, abuse of power, fear, exploitation, injustice etc.
- Label the other half with words that represent God's Kingdom values: justice, truth, integrity, humility, compassion, courage, forgiveness, reconciliation, equality, transparency, faithfulness, community, peace, kindness, goodness, gentleness, love, hope, accountability etc.
- Build a Jenga tower using the blocks labelled with the negative words.
- Place the blocks labelled with Kingdom values in a pile to one side.

As you pray the first prayer, remove the blocks from the tower one by one. Reflect on the systems, attitudes and structures they represent. Continue until the tower collapses.

God of Justice,

We bring before you the structures that allow exploitation to thrive. The systems that trap people into modern slavery, abuse and oppression can seem overwhelming, and we can be tempted to look away. Yet we know you hear the cry of the oppressed and stand with those who are exploited. Lord God, bring down the greed that values profit above people. Bring down the corruption that protects the powerful and silences the vulnerable. Bring down the discrimination, prejudice and indifference that deny human dignity. Bring down the systems that treat people as commodities rather than children of God.

As this tower falls, may systems built on oppression crumble, and may truth, compassion and justice prevail.

Amen.

As you rebuild a new tower from the Kingdom value blocks, pray this prayer:

God of justice,

As we build this tower, help us to imagine the world as you intend it to be. Stir us from our apathy. Do not allow us to become sensitised to suffering. Where we have influence, give us courage to act. Help us to challenge harmful attitudes, speak truth, make ethical choices, and use our voices, resources and relationships to resist exploitation.

May your Kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

Amen.

PRAYING FOR

COURAGE #3



Prayer for survivors who are returning to countries

God,

We think of survivors returning to countries following modern slavery and human trafficking. For some this is a yearning to return home to supportive family and communities and familiarity.

For others there are no options to remain, and they face the distress of returning not by choice to contexts with few opportunities and a sense of shame. For many it can be a complex mix of emotions and a fear of the unknown.

We pray for:

- **Wisdom** in navigating challenging and complex reunions with family
- **Strength** in seeking means to find financial stability
- **Courage** in returning to communities asking difficult questions and expecting money from their time overseas
- **Security** to those at risk from abusers, exploiters and those they owe debt to
- **Support** in the journey of recovery through caring individuals, communities and organisations
- **Peace** amidst the lingering wounds of trauma and hurt
- **Joy** in starting a new chapter in life with opportunities for choice, and agency after a period of exploitation

We give to you in prayer each person who faces this reality.

Amen.

*Written by Rebecca Treadaway (International Project Advisor, ATMS)
For more information on international support available for survivors [click here](#)*

PRAYING FOR

TOGETHERNESS #1



Prayer of courage to stand up to the systems of injustice and to speak up alongside those voices that have been silenced

Dear God,

We pray for all those who are still suffering from slavery and human trafficking and injustice. May they find freedom, safety, healing and the opportunity for a new beginning.

Give us all the courage to speak the truth, to stand against injustice and to walk alongside those who are vulnerable.

Fill the hearts of survivors with hope. Heal their wounds and give them the strength to rebuild their lives with dignity, confidence and peace.

Bless all those who work to rescue survivors, to speak on their behalf and pursue justice. Grant them wisdom, compassion and unwavering courage.

May our children and future generations grow up in a world where no one has to live in fear, exploitation or slavery.

*Written from lived experience,
original prayer written in Hindi*

PRAYING FOR

TOGETHERNESS #2



A reflection and prayer from lived experience

Lord, there was a time I did not believe you could see me. Not really. Not where I was.

I had a name once, and somewhere along the way people stopped using it. I became a body that worked, a problem that moved from place to place, a story people told to explain why help came too late. When you have been treated as something less than human, prayer can feel like one more thing being asked of you. One more performance. One more voice telling you what you should feel.

So if you are reading this to someone who has lived through exploitation, I am not asking you to hand them a prayer and expect it to land. I am asking you to remember what I had to relearn slowly, in my own time, on my own terms: God was never the one who looked away. People looked away. Systems looked away. God did not.

God who sees,

You knew my name before anyone tried to take it from me. You knew it while I was trapped, believing no one was coming. You know it still: on the days I feel strong and on the days grief catches me by surprise in the middle of an ordinary afternoon.

I will not pretend healing is a straight road. Some days freedom feels like standing in the sun for the first time in years. Other days it feels like grieving the life I thought I would have. Meet me in both. Do not rush me towards peace before I am ready to receive it.

For every survivor still waiting to be believed, I ask for someone who will sit with them without flinching. For every survivor still trapped, I ask for rescue that does not come with more harm attached to it. For every survivor who has found their voice, I ask for communities willing to truly listen, not simply when it is convenient to quote them.

Break the systems that profit from exploitation. Give wisdom and courage to those working to prevent modern slavery, support survivors and pursue justice. Soften hearts that have become indifferent and strengthen those who choose compassion over convenience.

For those of us still finding our footing, remind us that surviving was never the end of our story. There is life beyond what happened to us, and with you there is hope to rebuild, to belong and to flourish.

I am not what was done to me. I am who you say I am.

Amen.

Written from lived experience by Malaika Oringo

PRAYING FOR

TOGETHERNESS #3



A crafting prayer

This crafting prayer brings together a love of knitting, prayer and a call to social justice. The Salvation Army's Anti-Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Team invites your group to create prayer squares which can be joined into prayer blankets for survivors of modern slavery. As you knit squares, reflect on these Bible passages, pray for survivors of modern slavery and offer your time and skills as a practical sign of compassion, dignity and hope.

Pray while you knit:

- Pray that God's compassion would surround survivors like a blanket, bringing warmth, safety and hope.
- Pray that each square, stitch and blanket would carry God's peace, love and hope. Our knitting may feel small, but when offered with love and prayer, it becomes part of God's healing work.
- Each stitch, square and blanket becomes a symbol of compassion and solidarity, reminding recipients that they are valued, remembered by God and not alone.

**GOD OF COMPASSION AND JUSTICE,
BLESS THE WORK OF OUR HANDS.
MAY EVERY STITCH BE A PRAYER,
EVERY SQUARE A SIGN OF HOPE,
AND EVERY BLANKET A REMINDER
THAT NO ONE IS FORGOTTEN BY YOU.
AMEN.**

*Adapted from 'Knitting and Praying' by Alison Raybould
For more information on prayer squares and blankets email: build@salvationarmy.org.uk*

PRAYING FOR

TOGETHERNESS #4



A prayer for those who need strength

Dear God,

I pray for all those who have lost their voice, their courage, their confidence, and their hope because of what has happened to them.

Please restore their confidence and help them feel safe, comfortable, and supported as they find their path to healing and recovery.

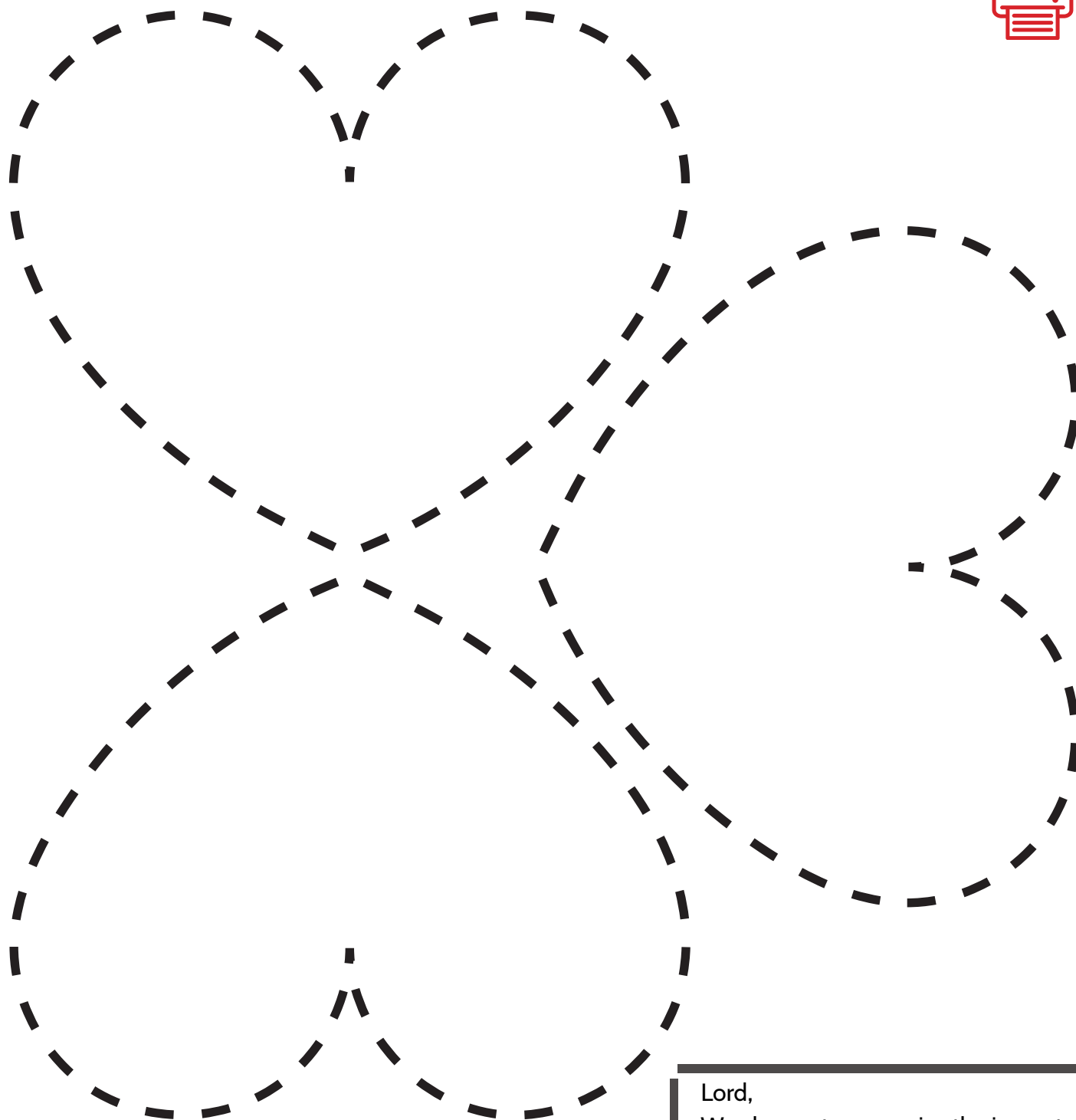
Give them strength to speak out about the injustice they have lived through.

Give them courage to share their wisdom, their experiences, and their perspective with others.

May their voices rise again with clarity, dignity, and power.

Amen.

Written by Parastou Ghorbani (Advisor for Survivor Engagement and Inclusion, ATMS)



Lord,
We choose to recognise the impact of modern slavery and trafficking on individuals in our local community and around the world. Lord, we don't turn away from the sadness, the trauma and pain this has caused. We choose to respond and stand against this form of exploitation. We pray for justice. We pray for healing. We pray for freedom. We pray for hope. We pray to see the end of this injustice.
Amen.

