



Speak Out

Secondary Assembly

Resources:

PowerPoint presentation

Video clip (www.youtube.com/watch?v=_3VFojOFdAs)

Aim:

To reflect on how we can all speak out against human trafficking

Introduction

Introduce yourself to the pupils and welcome them to their assembly.

Let's start today by thinking about freedom. Tell the pupils to think about what freedom is. You might want to ask students to put their hand up if they can finish the statement 'Freedom is....' and ask them to feed back. You could then share the definition on the presentation - 'Freedom is having the power to act or speak or think for yourself without anyone or anything stopping you.'

We're going to reflect on how people may or may not be free now. I'm going to tell you about an individual's situation, and afterwards I want you either to put your hand up when I say 'free' if you think they are free, or put your hand up when I say 'not free' if you don't think they are.

Activity: free or not free?

1 Becky likes to go out with her friends when she's finished at school for the day. Her parents are happy for her to go out as long as she's keeping up with her schoolwork.

2 Laura's boyfriend gets very jealous when she spends time with her other friends. He just told her that she shouldn't see them any more and she should only spend time with him. He reminded her of all the things he's done for her and the gifts he's bought her. He tells her that if she loves him she will do what he's asked.

3 David started to take alcohol from his mum's cabinet when he was 12. Now he's 15 and drinks each day. He has older friends that buy him alcohol each week, and sometimes he needs to steal money to pay for it. But he can't imagine not drinking - it helps him cope with the feelings of hurt and anger he has.

4 Sarah loves art. She's volunteered at a kids group to help teach people younger than her how to draw and paint; she enjoys sharing her skills with others. The leader of the group has said if she can't come each week it's not a problem.





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5 Sam got into trouble when he borrowed a lot of money from his friend's older brother to get a new phone he wanted and couldn't pay him back. Now he has to help each night at the café the brother owns, washing up and cleaning. He said that two weeks would be fine, but he's been doing it now for two months. The older brother has said he hasn't worked hard enough yet to pay off the debt. Sam is scared of him and the people he knows, and he's not sure what would happen if he stopped going each day.

These are different situations where some of the people don't have the freedom they should have. When we think of people who are 'not free', we often think of people in chains, people locked up, people who don't have food to eat or anything of their own. But being enslaved to something or someone can look very different from this. It can be within a relationship, where one person manipulates the other to do what they want. It can be being addicted to something and no longer being able to live freely because you can't cope without it. It can be working for someone and not being able to leave.

Today we're thinking about how we can speak out against human trafficking. Human trafficking is the fastest-growing form of modern-day slavery. It is the taking of people by deception (telling them lies) or violence from their homes for exploitation.

We're going to look at a short video clip now to show you how easy it is for people to be deceived into trafficking.

Story

So we can see that this can happen to anyone. Lots of people have dreams of earning more money, providing a better future for their kids or getting more education; and when these things are offered, people want to take the opportunity.

In the Bible it says:

'Defend the weak and the fatherless;
uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed' (Psalm 82:3 NIV).

The Salvation Army tries to defend the weak and oppressed by fighting against human trafficking. They do this by raising awareness (just like in the video clip you watched), caring for victims and their families, engaging people in the fight against trafficking, advocating for changes in the law and helping local teams to respond.





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One example of how The Salvation Army has done this is the story of a girl called Rashmi. Rashmi was separated from her parents at the age of five during conflict in Sri Lanka; a Salvation Army girls' home cared for her and gave her a good education.

Some years later Rashmi wanted to travel and see more of the world, so she took a job as a nanny and housekeeper for a family in Dubai. After five pleasant years with kind people who treated her as a member of the family, Rashmi returned to The Salvation Army home and, as always, was warmly welcomed.

After a while she once again felt the need to gain her own independence and began to search for other work opportunities. This time Rashmi was offered a position as a nurse in the UK through an agency which promised to make the arrangements for a fee of 100,000 rupees.

But on arrival in the UK, Rashmi was met by a man who took her passport and told Rashmi there was no nursing work for her, only a housekeeping position. He drove her to a family home where, after a few days of being treated kindly, Rashmi soon discovered the realities of her new life. She had no bed, was forced to work more than 12 hours most days with full responsibility for the children, and was fed only on leftovers. Rashmi never saw her wages which went straight to the agency instead, and the family threatened her with beating should she attempt to leave the house unaccompanied.

Distraught and desperate, Rashmi called a friend at The Salvation Army in Sri Lanka who advised her that The Salvation Army in the UK could help her. A couple of days later Rashmi found the courage to call The Salvation Army in the UK asking for advice. Then the police arrived at the house, and Rashmi realised this was her chance to escape.

After explaining her situation to the police, The Salvation Army drove her to a safe house where staff helped Rashmi begin to recover from her ordeal, while giving her the support and connections to plan for a safer future.

The Salvation Army speaks out about human trafficking so more people will know how trafficking happens and how to stop it.

Response

But it's not just The Salvation Army's job to speak out. If we want to see an end to human trafficking, we all need to play a part. So what can you do to speak out?

One way you could speak out is by learning more and telling the people around you about it. The more others know, the more people will stand against it.





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You could write a letter to your MP to let them know how strongly you feel on this issue. You could say that you want more to be done to ensure people are not being trafficked, and ask for there to be more support for those that have been set free from slavery.

Finally you could get involved with the work that The Salvation Army does in supporting people who have been rescued from slavery and in working alongside communities to tackle trafficking. One way you could do this is by getting involved with the Cry Freedom campaign. This could include fundraising. You can find out more on our International Projects web page - www.salvationarmy.org.uk/id/cryfreedom

Let's take a few minutes of silence to think about what we can do to speak out.

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that you offer us freedom and new life. We pray that you would protect us from becoming enslaved by anyone or anything. We ask that you would guide us in helping set others free.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

