

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



ANTI-TRAFFICKING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

1 John 3:1 We are God's children

The Salvation Army as a church and charity is a global network and so is well placed to respond to human trafficking, a globally networked crime. It is estimated that 40.3 million people are trapped in modern slavery today – including labour exploitation, domestic servitude, forced marriage and sexual exploitation.

The Salvation Army in the UK and Ireland Territory supports projects which seek to mobilise communities to be resilient to trafficking and support survivors. Projects include skills training for vulnerable young people in Ukraine, children's recovery centres in Malawi and Tanzania, and awareness-raising in Russia.

We also know that emergency situations and humanitarian crises increase people's vulnerability to human trafficking for various reasons. For example, people's livelihoods are threatened, so they may accept high-risk job offers as a survival strategy, and children who have been orphaned/separated from their caregivers may be traumatised by their experiences and more trusting of adults and apparent authority figures. The Salvation Army is working to ensure that anti-trafficking activities are integrated into emergency response.

Human trafficking is the movement of people by means such as force, fraud, coercion or deception, with the aim of exploiting them. It is a form of modern slavery.

Each child will need:

- ➔ A new (unused) notebook with a blank cover (this can be lined or plain inside) and decorative supplies

You will need:

- ➔ 'Would you rather' questions (search online) – see Start It section

Start It

Play a game of 'Would you rather?'

Ask a series of 'Would you rather' questions (search online) and invite the children to do an action depending on whether they choose option one or option two (eg wave your arms for option one or jump up and down for option two). The questions could be somewhat serious to get to know the group better (would you rather watch a movie or read a book?) or silly (would you rather vomit on your hero or have your hero vomit on you?).

- 💬 **Say:** Anti-Slavery Day is on 18 October, so today we are thinking about the issue of human trafficking and modern slavery. The Salvation Army is working all over the world to stop human trafficking and support survivors.
- 💬 **Say:** When people are trafficked, their freedom is taken away. While they may not be held in physical chains, their choices are limited and they are forced to do things they don't want to do.
- 💬 **Say:** God loves us and wants us to be free.

Sing It

This song highlights that we are all different and we are all loved by God.

'Big Family Of God' by Nick and Becky Drake (4 mins 33 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEvJzOxm6zs>

Tell It

Ask: Do you know yourself to be a child of God?

Read 1 John 3:1 (ICB)

'The Father has loved us so much! He loved us so much that we are called children of God. And we really are his children. But the people in the world do not understand that we are God's children, because they have not known him.'

- 💬 **Say:** God created everything – including you. He is our heavenly Father and we are his children. This means that, while we can't see him, we can know that God loves us and wants what is best for us.
- 💬 **Say:** God could have made us in such a way that we had to love him. But God wanted us to have choice; we are free to choose our own path in life. We are free to love God, or to turn away from him. Even though God's heart breaks when people choose not to love him, they are never forced to.
- 💬 **Say:** God cherishes each one of us for who we are and longs for us to see ourselves, and one another, the way he sees us. He made us in his image after all (Genesis 1:27)!
- 💬 **Say:** Sadly, all over the world people are being trafficked, exploited and abused – their freedom and choice is taken away from them. Traffickers see people as products to be bought and sold. They 'don't understand that we are God's children' and they ignore the truth of who people are – children of God, precious and deeply loved by him.

Action It

- 💬 **Say:** God wants people in the world to know and love him, and therefore love one another. As children of God we have a responsibility to care for our brothers and sisters both locally and globally.

Video

Watch *Jonathan's story – Unseen Promise* by The Salvation Army International Development UK (2 mins 30 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzGOhMAUEbE>

Discuss

- ➔ What stood out to you from the video?
 - ➔ How did Jonathan feel at different points in his experience?
 - ➔ What were some of the reasons Jonathan took the job offer?
 - 💬 **Say:** One of the reasons people are trafficked is because they have limited choices. Sometimes it feels as though it is better to take a risky offer than continue living in poverty. Traffickers use this for their own greed.
 - 💬 **Say:** We are fortunate to have lots of choices, especially when it comes to things that we buy. This is one way that we can show love to our brothers and sisters around the world, by making informed choices so we are not unknowingly supporting human trafficking.
- Ask:** Can you think of any ways we can use our choices to support vulnerable people around the world?

💡 **Say:** Buying Fairtrade or other 'traffick-free' products is one way we can make sure the people involved in producing the things we buy, eat or wear are treated well.

💡 **Say:** Trafficking happens all over the world, even in the UK. It is important to know the signs of trafficking so that you can protect yourself and look out for your friends.

See Ideas section for a list of signs of trafficking which you may want to share with the children.

Pray It

Prayer notebook

Ask the children to decorate their prayer notebook while listening to this song.

'Who you say I am' by Hillsong worship (5 mins 29 secs)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcC1Bp13n_4

Invite the children to decorate their notebook however they choose. Once decorated, they can use it to note down their prayers – perhaps in the morning before they start the day, or at night before bed (or whenever they feel like it!).

💡 **Say:** God loves you and wants to hear from you! Your prayers are precious to him. Sometimes it is tricky to pray in our heads as we can get distracted and start thinking about something else. But that's OK; writing down your prayers might help you stay focused.

Screen share: 1 John 3:1

Once everyone has finished decorating their notebook, read 1 John 3:1 and invite the children to write it out on the first page of their notebook.

💡 **Say:** The Father has loved us so much! He loved us so much that we are called children of God. And we really are his children. But the people in the world do not understand that we are God's children, because they have not known him.

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IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to share with your group, for them to do at home.

FOR ME



Pray

Spend time every day in prayer with God. Encourage using the prayer notebook.

TOGETHER



Investigate

Learn more about the issue of human trafficking as a family.

Visit <https://www.stopthetraffik.org/about-human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking> for a clear explanation of human trafficking and some facts and figures about the issue.

Talk about the issue together, and pray for people who have been trafficked – for survivors and those who are still trapped in slavery.

Find out more about what The Salvation Army is doing to tackle human trafficking around the world by visiting <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/international-development/areas-work/anti-trafficking> or emailing id@salvationarmy.org.uk

Signs of trafficking (from Childline UK)

If you're worried that someone you know is experiencing or could be at risk of child trafficking or exploitation, it's important to know what to look out for. Signs that this might be happening include:

- ➡ their behaviour has changed; they could be more aggressive or more withdrawn
- ➡ they're wearing the same clothes several days running
- ➡ their appearance has changed and they may look run down or like they haven't washed
- ➡ they're travelling a lot
- ➡ you're seeing less of them
- ➡ they're anxious to respond to phone messages quickly
- ➡ they have new friends that pick them up from school
- ➡ they have new gifts like a phone and clothes, and can't explain where they got them
- ➡ not having contact with their family or feeling uncomfortable talking about where they live.