

The Clewer Initiative on a page

1. Who we are

The Clewer Initiative was launched in 2016 as the Church of England's response to modern slavery.

2. Why we exist?

The Clewer Initiative exists to mobilise the Church and communities to take action against modern slavery. We also aim to share learning and signpost best practice amongst our partners as well as contribute to policymaking and more effective legislation. The Church of England is present in all communities and at the heart of many. As a result, we believe it has a responsibility to lead these efforts.

3. What are we trying to achieve?

Ultimately, we want to reduce the prevalence of modern slavery in our communities. Based on our belief that the tools to tackle modern slavery lie within our communities, we work with local churches to build resilience and support vulnerable groups. We seek to raise awareness and develop practical tools and resources for use by churches, communities, partners and the public. We also provide care and recovery for victims.

4. How will we do this?

We will seek to do this:

- By developing strong partnerships and networks
- Through broad collaboration at all levels – local and national
- By educating and involving the public – supported by the use of technology and apps
- By training and empowering local Christians

5. What do we want people to do?

We want every person to play their part in reaching out to the increasing number of vulnerable people in society and in combating modern slavery. We want to help people understand the prevalence of modern slavery, recognise potential victims, and know how to take action.

6. What difference will that make?

We will create richer, more resilient communities where modern slavery cannot thrive. We will increase intolerance to all types of exploitation. We will encourage better practice at all levels and help bring in a stronger legislative framework.

Core values

- Mobilisation
- Education
- Collaboration

Key messages

- Modern slavery exists in every community and is a growing issue – according to the Global Slavery Index, there are an estimated 136,000 victims in the UK and 40.3 million people affected worldwide
- The Clewer Initiative is a leading player within the Modern Slavery arena both nationally, and internationally
- The Clewer Initiative's mission is to build resilience within vulnerable communities; raise awareness of modern slavery and provide care and recovery for victims
- We believe Christians and the Church have been at the forefront of social justice for hundreds of years and their efforts continue to be needed in this present age
- We believe the Church of England can make a unique contribution through its diocesan and parish systems. It is extremely influential, perhaps the only institution with an ability to work through government and civil structures right down to local level
- The Clewer Initiative works at varying levels with the Church of England's 42 dioceses, either on community-based projects or by sharing learning and knowledge through its network
- Our key premise is that slavery needs to be eradicated at a local level and the solution will be the result of tangible actions.
- The Clewer Initiative is committed to working in partnership with law enforcement, local government, charities, and wider faith networks

- The Clewer Initiative is funded by the Clewer Sisters, an Anglican order of Augustinian nuns founded in 1852 to help marginalised, young women who found themselves homeless and drawn into the sex trade
- Thanks to the Clewer Sisters' generous provision, we can be independent and focus on supporting and encouraging long-term, sustainable projects that have an enduring impact, without getting distracted or affected by financial concerns
- The Clewer Initiative was launched in 2016 with the backing of Prime Minister Theresa May and the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- The Clewer Initiative is an open, learning and developing organisation

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