



# The Salvation Army Canada & Bermuda Territory

## Strategy against Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking and Exploitation

On September 22<sup>nd</sup> the Salvation Army globally will again pause to learn, contemplate and pray for those victimized by slavery, human trafficking and exploitation (resources at <https://salvationist.ca/articles/salvation-army-called-to-prayer-against-human-trafficking/> ). Additionally we celebrate the launch of our territory's strategy against modern slavery, human trafficking and exploitation and the formation of the territorial anti-human trafficking committee comprised of representatives from all divisions along with territorial headquarters leadership.

While work against trafficking and exploitation in the Canada & Bermuda Territory has been ongoing and fruitful, this strategic plan calls for increased fervor in the fight! It calls us as an Army and individuals to carefully and prayerfully consider how, close to home and afar, we can prevent and foil the injustice and practically respond to the pain and damage.

"The Salvation Army is deeply committed to fighting modern slavery and human trafficking. Modern slavery is an umbrella term including human trafficking for sex, labour or organs, exploitative labour practices, child labour and early and forced marriage. It involves not just individuals but also social and economic systems.

"The Salvation Army believes in the biblical principles of the inherent and equal value of all persons and the duty to care for one's neighbour. The exploitation of human beings commodifies and dehumanizes the individuals who are trafficked, rewards the inhumanity of the traffickers, and weakens the moral, social and economic fabric of society. The Salvation Army is opposed to the abuse of power against other human beings that is inherent in modern slavery and human trafficking."<sup>1</sup>

In 2018, prompted and inspired by the Lord in His perfect timing, a diverse group of people from across our territory gathered together to share about the extensive ministries against trafficking in our territory and to sketch the new strategic response out of the shared vision. This response supports the local and divisional ministries against trafficking already happening along with addressing the identified gaps. The plan has also been informed by both The Salvation Army's North American Anti Trafficking Action Plan and International Headquarters' modern slavery and human trafficking response strategy. The three strategies are a testament to the Lord's inspiration of aligning all three in only a few months! All these works and groups direct the overall intended outcome which is:

**We are informed by the International framework that promotes the intended outcome of having a strong and sustainable Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT) response present in every territory, command and region, and embedded within Salvation Army structures.<sup>2</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> The Salvation Army Positional Statement Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, April 2018; page 1

<sup>2</sup> The Salvation Army International Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Response Strategy – Approved by the General: April 2018 page 3

To achieve this outcome there has been a new international system and structure put in place to coordinate the actions and response. The structure is also intended to build capacity within The Salvation Army internationally, and we are encouraged to develop our strategies using the 7P's framework. Here in the Canada & Bermuda Territory we added to that framework with our 8P's:

- **Prayer** - For The Salvation Army prayer is an essential practice in the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking. Prayer gives people a way to gain God's perspective and guidance in complex situations. Prayer keeps us in relationship with God and empowers our work.
- **Participation** - The local church is a resource in the battle against modern slavery and human trafficking and serves in some isolated communities that other agencies do not reach. Although appropriate training is needed for working with victims and survivors, every church can raise awareness in their communities of the presence of such abuse and exploitation, and provide a place of loving welcome for those on the journey of restoration. The Salvation Army will continue to build the capacity and provide resources for their members, corps and centres to participate.
- **Prevention** - We cannot combat what we do not recognize. Raising awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking are a vital element of prevention. Prevention also involves addressing both the factors that make people vulnerable and those that create the demand for exploited labour or for sexual exploitation. This can include income generation, child sponsorship, working with offenders, promoting fair trade and many other activities.
- **Protection** - The Salvation Army has a holistic view of health and seeks to assist survivors regain their health, physically, mentally, emotionally, relationally and spiritually. Victims need protection within their places of exploitation and survivors need protection and assistance during their rehabilitation. This could include reporting unsafe labour practices and advocating for change. Provision for survivors may include providing a means of exit for victims, transfer to a safe place, providing safe havens and opportunities for restoration to the survivors, both short and long term.
- **Partnership** –The Salvation Army recognizes there are a number of reputable organizations working locally and globally on eliminating human trafficking. The extent of the exploitation is such that no single agency can address it alone. Collaborating and networking with these agencies is encouraged to achieve the elimination of modern slavery and human trafficking and to provide a holistic service for those who have been exploited as they journey towards restoration.
- **Policy** - The Salvation Army calls upon all legislators and policy makers to develop and implement mechanisms to fight modern slavery and human trafficking and bring justice for all involved. The Salvation Army will work with government, businesses and community organizations in this regard. The Salvation Army often works closely with law enforcement through assisting with referrals, training and giving aid to those victimized as well as working with offenders and their families in some jurisdictions. This work with offenders seeks to prevent further offending behavior and invites them to restoring a relationship with God and society.
- **Personal Accountability** – Human trafficking flourishes because there is a demand for the services trafficked or exploited people are forced to provide. The Salvation Army therefore undertakes education and awareness raising activities so that those who use products or services supplied by trafficked or exploited people are confronted with the human misery, suffering and injustice created by their continued use of these services or products. In addition, the Salvation Army will continue to monitor our employment and purchasing practices and work to ensure we are not contributing to the demand for goods and services created through exploitation.
- **Progress** – The Canada & Bermuda Territory added this 8<sup>th</sup> “P” recognizing the importance of

measuring progress. The objectives and goals for the strategic plan will be evaluated annually through a report on specific areas respective of both outcomes and outputs. Outcomes will relate the specific progress made on the objective and outputs of the objective will be determined by measuring the specific statistical data in that area. The committee will determine these measurements in each objective area. The anticipated outcomes will be realized over a period of time, becoming more pronounced as supportive strategies and services are reviewed, assessed and if need be, modified. In determining the extent to which desired outcomes or results will have been achieved, it will be necessary to rely on a number of effective methods of information gathering. These methods will be further determined as the plan is implemented.

### **“Grounds for the Position of The Salvation Army**

Humankind is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26). All people are valuable to God, holding a special place in God’s creation (Psalm 8:5). Nonetheless, the Bible describes horrifying realities that are as real now as when the Scriptures were written:

- Psalm 10 describes the wickedness of the one who entraps others. ‘He lies in wait to catch the helpless; he catches the helpless and drags them off in his net. His victims are crushed, they collapse; they fall under his strength. He says to himself, “God will never notice.”’
- Isaiah 42:22 says, ‘But this is a people plundered and looted, all of them trapped in pits or hidden away in prisons. They have become plunder, with no one to rescue them; they have been made loot, with no one to say, “Send them back.”’
- Joel 3:3 says, ‘They cast lots for my people and traded boys for prostitutes; they sold girls for wine that they might drink.’ The Bible is emphatic about the injustice of this. No one should be exploited or damaged. The Christian conviction is that the present broken and sinful state of the world is not the last word. God who made people wants no one to be lost.
- Jesus came into the world that everyone might have life in all its fullness (John 10:10). He said, ‘The Lord has sent me to announce freedom for prisoners, to give sight to the blind, to free everyone who suffers, and to say, “This is the year the Lord has chosen”’ (Luke 4: 18 – 19 CEV). When Jesus said this, he was quoting Isaiah 61: 1 – 2. Later in Isaiah 61 are these words, ‘I, the Lord, love justice! But I hate robbery and injustice’ (v8). Micah 6:8 asks, ‘What does the Lord require of you?’ and answers: ‘to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God’. The neighbour is to be loved as one loves oneself (Matthew 22:39; Lev 19:18).

Consequently, Christians are called upon to work for the elimination of all forms of slavery and human trafficking.”<sup>3</sup>

## **The Strategy**

The Canada and Bermuda Strategy against modern slavery, human trafficking and exploitation outlines four goal areas with specific objectives as follows:

1. **Training** - All Salvation Army members, volunteers, congregants, officers, and employees in the Territory are trained to know what human trafficking and exploitation are and how best to respond to it.

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<sup>3</sup> The Salvation Army International Position Statement Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, April 2018 – page 3

2. **Communication** - Effective and efficient communication in place across the territory to prevent, equip and respond to modern slavery, human trafficking and exploitation.
3. **Resources** - Funding and other resources are in place to ensure the work of the strategic goals
4. **Program** - Thriving ministry initiatives are in place that address or support all aspects of human trafficking –those exploited (the survivors), those exploiting (the buyers) and those exploiting through the trafficking (the traffickers)

It is important to note that these goals align closely with the following Territorial strategic priorities: social justice, children and youth, leadership development, integrated mission, spiritual health, and gospel and transformation.

To exist, human trafficking relies on complacency; beliefs that trafficking cannot and does not happen around us or distraction from taking the time to really listen to those we have the privilege to encounter. Let's continue to talk, learn and pray against modern slavery, human trafficking and exploitation; purchase fair trade goods and ethically sourced items; support global initiatives to reduce poverty and address the rights of people; support existing initiatives or launch new ones that come alongside vulnerable children and youth such as youth groups, after school zones, meal clubs. Let's end modern slavery, human trafficking and exploitation!