

## Exploitation: Definition and Discussion Areas

### **Exploitation is:**

- The action or fact of treating someone unfairly in order to benefit from their work; eg. "the exploitation of migrant workers". Examples of topics relevant to The Salvation Army – fair trade; human trafficking; commercial sexual exploitation (prostitution and pornography), human privilege and inequality; racism.
- Taking advantage, abuse, misuse, ill-treatment, unfair treatment, oppression; eg. "the exploitation of the poor". Examples of topics relevant to The Salvation Army – homelessness, poverty, illness, addiction, bullying, domestic violence, unsupported seniors.

Salvation Army assists exploited persons through its various ministry expressions by journeying alongside them and offering supportive services. Most people considered vulnerable and encountered by The Salvation Army have been significantly exploited in some way during their lives. When The Salvation Army meets them, their life's circumstances have often become overwhelming. We may, or may not hear the difficult journey that they have survived. There are also situations where The Salvation Army is called on to assist with care and support to someone identified and released from an exploitive situation.

### **Biblical Direction:**

We believe that all men, women, boys and girls are created in the image of God and as such are worthy of the utmost dignity and respect.

- Hosea 2:14 - "I will *win* her back. I will lead her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her. There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she will sing as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt."
- Micah 6:8 – "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."
- Ezekiel 36:26 - "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh..."
- Proverbs 22:16 – "Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty."
- Isaiah 1:17 – "...learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow."

- Isaiah 58: 6 & 7 - “Is not this the kind of fast that I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?”
- Job 12:22 – “He reveals the deep things of darkness and brings deep shadows into the light.”
- Romans 15: 1 – 5 – “We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbour for his good, to build him up. For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”