



embolden hope

2024

THE SALVATION ARMY
INTERNATIONAL MODERN
SLAVERY AND HUMAN
TRAFFICKING RESPONSE
IMPACT REPORT



GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

MSHT

➤ Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

MSHTR

➤ Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Response

SPEA

➤ South Pacific and East Asia



Prayer



Prevention



Protection



Partnership



Participation



Prosecution



Proof



Policy



INTERNATIONAL MODERN
SLAVERY AND HUMAN
TRAFFICKING RESPONSE
INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Produced by the International Modern Slavery
and Human Trafficking Response Section
Designed by Berni Georges



Foreword _____ 4

Thank-You Letter _____ 5

Problem and Response _____ 6

2024 at a Glance _____ 8

ZONAL RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS:

Africa Zone _____ 10

Americas and Caribbean Zone _____ 12

Europe Zone _____ 14

South Asia Zone _____ 16

South Pacific and East Asia Zone _____ 18



Dear Valued Partners,

The theme ‘Embolden Hope’ brings to mind a hope that is filled with strength and purpose. A hope that sees a future that is sure and certain in the knowledge that life can be better. A hope that is courageous and shines a light in the darkness so that women, men and children who have had hopeless situations thrust upon them can know what it is to be free. This is not simply freedom from circumstances, but freedom that brings release from physical, emotional and mental strain. It is a hope that transforms life, and brings dignity and renewal.

This report highlights the vastness of the work that is being done around the world, and the incredible difference that is being made to bring freedom and hope to precious individuals. To this end I say ‘thank you’ to all those who are actively involved in the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking. I thank God for his provision and protection as you go about this challenging and important work, and I pray that you sense his guiding hand upon all that you do to provide opportunities filled with emboldened hope.

Commissioner Kelvin Pethybridge

*International Secretary for Administration
and Personnel, IHQ*



IT IS A HOPE THAT
TRANSFORMS LIFE,
AND BRINGS DIGNITY
AND RENEWAL

THANK YOU!

Dear Partners in Justice,

In 2024, The Salvation Army celebrated 139 years since our first documented response to human trafficking. In 1885, long before the terms ‘modern slavery’ or ‘human trafficking’ were defined, Salvation Army officers in London led a bold and successful campaign to change the age of consent from 13 to 16. This story, known as Britain’s *Maiden Tribute*, is a powerful reminder of how responding to MSHT is woven into our DNA as a global church and charity – one that has always sought to embolden hope in the face of injustice.

What began 139 years ago as a local response to the sexual exploitation of women and girls – restoring their God-given dignity – has since evolved into a global strategy committed to dismantling MSHT holistically. Since launching The Salvation Army’s global MSHT Strategy in 2020, we have journeyed alongside over 40,000 survivors and supported more than 100,000 vulnerable individuals across 134 countries. Each of these lives represents a story of resilience, courage and hope rekindled.

At the heart of our global response to MSHT are our officers, employees, survivors, volunteers, friends and partners. Their unwavering dedication emboldens hope in countless lives, mobilising and coordinating efforts that span nations and communities.

We are deeply grateful for the passion, commitment and impact of every individual engaged in this mission. To all those who tirelessly embody Jesus through their work in MSHT – your efforts do more than restore; they embolden hope where darkness seeks to prevail.

The following pages reflect your commitment to emboldening hope in the lives of so many. Together, we celebrate the impact we have made in 2024 and look ahead with faith and determination.

WITH GRATITUDE AND HOPE

International MSHT Council

Priscilla Santos, *Chair*

Malaika Oringo, *Survivor Chair*

Major Ray Lamont, *Vice Chair, Zonal Coordinator – Caribbean and North America*

Anne Gregora, *Secretary*

Commissioner Shelley Hill, *International Women’s Ministries Representative*

Major Carolina Marquez, *Zonal Coordinator – Latin America*

Angela Pontororing, *Zonal Coordinator – SPEA*

Major Anugrah Masih, *Zonal Coordinator – South Asia*

Jeroen Hoogteijling, *Zonal Coordinator – Europe*

Anne Makumi, *Zonal Coordinator – Africa*

Emmanuel Wataka, *Practitioner – Uganda*

Joanne Beale, *International Programme Resources Representative*

Tolu Jaiyebo-Okoro, *Senior International Project Advisor*

PROBLEM AND RESPONSE

A GLOBAL PROBLEM

Modern slavery acts as an umbrella term, covering several human rights issues, of which human trafficking is one. Essentially, modern slavery is the exploitation of people for their bodies and labour.

Modern slavery includes trafficking in persons, debt bondage, deceptive recruitment, forced labour, forced marriage, organ trafficking, servitude, sexual servitude and slavery.







People trapped in modern slavery situations of exploitation often cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception and/or abuse of power.

More than 65 million people are enslaved across the world today,¹ with 64% being women and 56% being trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation.


OUR GLOBAL RESPONSE


The Salvation Army's historical and ongoing efforts to confront social injustices, such as modern slavery and human trafficking, require a holistic approach that addresses the underlying social, economic and environmental factors that contribute to vulnerability and exploitation. By working together with our diverse teams and ministries units, we bring effective and creative community-led solutions.

The Army's Freedom Action Framework comprises our eight global response areas, expressing our holistic approach as a global movement:

-  **PRAYER:** Responses are rooted in deep spiritual foundations.
-  **PREVENTION:** Raising awareness and addressing MSHT root causes in local communities is a vital way to decrease vulnerability and strengthen well-being.
-  **PROTECTION:** We walk alongside and serve survivors as they regain their physical, mental, emotional, relational and spiritual health.
-  **PARTNERSHIP:** We partner with a global network to respond to MSHT.
-  **PARTICIPATION:** Salvation Army people and ministry units participate in responding to MSHT.
-  **PROSECUTION:** We support survivors as they access legal assistance and we give our backing to restorative justice efforts.

¹ <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/about-us/news/calls-for-urgent-action-to-policy-makers-as-research-reveals-real-extent-of-human-trafficking/>
Royal Holloway University of London website, 4 December 2024

 **PROOF:** We ensure responses that both contribute to and are received from research, which are also informed by evidence-based practices.

 **POLICY:** We create internal policies and advocate for external policies that reduce MSHT and its demand in the communities in which The Salvation Army is active.

We respond by aligning with our global MSHT core values:

LOVING AND COMPASSIONATE: Inspired by Jesus, The Salvation Army aims to embody deep love and compassion across our responses and in our relationships with one another.

SURVIVOR-CENTRED: The strengths, needs, desires and voices of survivors should be at the forefront and centre of The Salvation Army's responses.

COORDINATED AND INTEGRATED: As modern slavery and human trafficking is a multidisciplinary issue, an interconnected and collective response is required throughout The Salvation Army.

LEARNING TOGETHER: We believe all people are made in the image of God and are equal in value. With this in mind, we listen and learn from those we serve and work alongside.

LOCALLY LED: The Salvation Army acknowledges that local communities hold the best solutions and embrace being led by solutions created locally.

INCLUSIVE: The Salvation Army aims to create a culture of belonging where deep participation of Salvation Army ministry units and personnel is shaping and informing our practices and responses.



BY **WORKING TOGETHER** WITH OUR DIVERSE TEAMS AND MINISTRIES UNITS, WE BRING EFFECTIVE AND CREATIVE COMMUNITY-LED SOLUTIONS

The Salvation Army drives community-led efforts to respond to modern slavery and human trafficking in 134 countries. With the dedication of local and international officers, soldiers, survivors, employees, volunteers and friends, we are confronting this crisis together.

While numbers provide insight, they do not capture the full impact of our work. We celebrate every effort – large or small – that brings meaningful change to communities worldwide.

The Salvation Army Annual Territorial Feedback in 2024² indicates:

4,645 ministry units participated in the International Day of Prayer for Victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking:

- Africa: **2,206**
- Americas and Caribbean: **457**
- Europe: **171**
- South Asia: **1,157**
- SPEA: **654**

12,718 MSHT community-awareness events were organised:

- Africa: **10,679**
- Americas and Caribbean: **652**
- Europe: **436**
- South Asia: **846**
- SPEA: **105**

165,540 people vulnerable to MSHT received support:

- Africa: **77,786**
- Americas and Caribbean: **44,042**
- Europe: **7,292**
- South Asia: **378**
- SPEA: **36,042**

1,474 survivors were supported to receive legal services:

- Africa: **133**
- Americas and Caribbean: **399**
- Europe: **818**
- South Asia: **36**
- SPEA: **88**

14,552 MSHT survivors were supported:

- Africa: **355**
- Americas and Caribbean: **7,011**
- Europe: **6,258**
- South Asia: **87**
- SPEA: **841**

1,018 MSHT survivors were repatriated to another country:

- Africa: **77**
- Americas and Caribbean: **10**
- Europe: **151**
- South Asia: **77**
- SPEA: **703**

2,872 ministry units are involved in an MSHT response:

- Africa: **1,570**
- Americas and Caribbean: **199**
- Europe: **225**
- South Asia: **175**
- SPEA: **703**

40 contributions made towards external MSHT research or reports:

- Africa: **20**
- Europe: **5**
- South Asia: **3**
- SPEA: **12**

The Salvation Army collaborates with **1,433** organisations:

- Africa: **160**
- Americas and Caribbean: **661**
- Europe: **507**
- South Asia: **36**
- SPEA: **69**

47 internal policies are in place prohibiting practices that can contribute to MSHT:

- Africa: **18**
- Americas and Caribbean: **1**
- Europe: **3**
- South Asia: **20**
- SPEA: **5**

² MSHT 2024 Territorial End of the Year Survey

▶ IMPACT STORY

A Collaborative Response Model

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO TERRITORY



Raising awareness of MSHT to the public in the Democratic Republic of Congo

In the Democratic Republic of Congo Territory, The Salvation Army is leading a powerful response to modern slavery and human trafficking through its embolden MSHT teams. At the heart of this effort is a taskforce created to support the National Contact Person (NCP) in addressing the territory's vast challenges. Drawn from diverse departments, the taskforce ensures collaboration and accountability while reaching all corners of the community.

Since its formation, the taskforce has organised impactful initiatives, including a week-long training at William Booth University attended by 50 participants, awareness campaigns, partnerships with organisations and support for survivors' reintegration journeys. Local churches have also been engaged to stand against MSHT, and advocacy efforts with government and community leaders continue to gain momentum.



To fund these activities, the taskforce established an 'Honorary Group', a network of supporters providing financial and in-kind resources. Their contributions enabled significant achievements, such as covering the costs of a mission to Luozi for training and awareness programmes, as well as funding a \$3,500 training session in Kinshasa.

Recognised as a leader among religious institutions, The Salvation Army also spearheads an interfaith network, 'Confessions Religieuses Plate-Forme', uniting nine member churches in the fight against MSHT. Together, these efforts embody a unified and determined stand to bring hope and freedom across the territory.

MSHT taskforce members in the Democratic Republic of Congo



▶ IMPACT STORY

G's Story

RWANDA AND BURUNDI TERRITORY

G* experienced much loss throughout her life, having been displaced from the genocide in Rwanda as a child, and as a consequence had lost much of her support network and family. As an adult, she followed prospects of a job overseas and did not know she was going to be taken to India. G was exploited and left extremely unwell with injuries that needed treatment, resulting in her requiring hospital care. G was supported by an NGO that helped her to get well enough to return home, where she desperately wanted to be back with her daughter. The NGO contacted The Salvation Army in

G, supported by The Salvation Army's Beyond Programme in Rwanda



Rwanda to identify any support that she could access, as she had returned with no money and chronic health-care needs.

The NCP in Rwanda communicated with G by phone before she returned, so she was familiar and comfortable with them before her journey back. G was referred to a specialist shelter to meet some of her basic needs on arrival and to access counselling. However, the shelter could only support her for one month, and after this she still had no regular income to support herself going forward. Our NCP developed a reintegration plan with her to meet some of her ongoing needs, and supported her in her ambition to set up a hair salon, in which she had previous experience.

G shares:

'The Salvation Army was incredibly helpful in providing me with the materials to start my salon. They provided me with a grant to rent a house for three months and paid for my health insurance. They continued to offer support and guidance throughout the process of starting and running my salon, which was helpful because when they came it encouraged me and helped me to stay focused and motivated.'

The UKI Territory's Beyond Programme provided funds for her to set up the salon. G has been successfully running the salon for over six months and her customer base is growing, giving her enough income to pay the rent and meet her basic needs. To help with ongoing future requirements, G is also saving through a local savings group. G has access to free health care now and peer support through the health care she receives. The Salvation Army continues to encourage her in her journey of reintegration, as she dreams of getting a bigger salon to meet the demand.

The NCP reflects on the fact that 'you cannot believe the G we met initially with the G we see now – she is a different person'. The Salvation Army observes her resilience and determination in this challenging and ongoing process of reintegration, and has welcomed working in partnership with different organisations across borders seeking to support her.

**Please note that this pseudonym has been chosen by the survivor and some details have been changed to protect her identity.*

AMERICAS AND CARIBBEAN ZONE

▶ IMPACT STORY

A Prevention Response

BRAZIL TERRITORY

Brazil tackles MSHT through Prevention, Partnerships, Participation, Policy and Prayer. Awareness campaigns reached more than 9,200 people during key national events, featuring marches, educational sessions and workshops on child protection. Brochures on MSHT and domestic servitude were distributed nationwide, encouraging community action. Social media played a crucial role in spreading awareness and promoting human rights.

The Brazil Territory promoted widespread participation in combating MSHT, engaging social units, corps and thrift stores. Training sessions equipped 54 female officers and cadets with prevention and response strategies, while publications raised awareness on decent work and violence against women.

Promoting MSHT education in schools



Strengthening partnerships, the territory participated in key local and international events, including 15 years of the State Commission for the Eradication of Slave Labour in Bahia (Coetrae BA), and the 68th UN Commission on the Status of Women. Additionally, policy efforts focused on detecting, preventing and responding to MSHT while contributing to public discussions on migration, refuge and labour rights.

Raising awareness of MSHT to the public



Listen to more insights from Brazil in this episode of the **Terminando con la Trata** podcast – episode 169:

<https://terminandoconlatrata.org/podcast/169/>



▶ IMPACT STORY

A Family's Reunification

USA WESTERN TERRITORY

Erwin left the Philippines when his daughter was four months old, arriving in the United States. He was labour-trafficked for years as a farm worker before escaping. After 18 years without returning home to the Philippines, he was recently reunited with his daughter and wife through the support of The Salvation Army's Orange County Anti-Trafficking Services Programme, the International Organization of Migration and other partner organisations. Erwin and his story of reunifying with his family is one of hope, healing and transformation.

'Don't lose hope. That's the most important thing about faith. You know, being hopeful for everything around you, no matter how difficult it is.'



Watch the video of the family reunion here:
<https://youtu.be/v8UMxRI7j40>



A time of joyful welcome and reunion for Erwin and his family



▶ IMPACT STORY

Diego's Story
NORWAY, ICELAND AND THE FÆROES TERRITORY

When Diego*, a 40-year-old male from Latin America, arrived at the Filemon Safe House, his face was weary, his eyes carrying the weight of a painful story all too familiar to the team at Filemon – another tale of exploitation and broken promises.

Diego had come to Norway with high hopes, enticed by a fellow countryman's assurances of a brighter future. He had been promised help in finding a stable job, legal residency, a comfortable home and a decent salary. But

reality quickly unravelled those dreams. His hard-earned wages were siphoned off to cover unexpected costs: the flight, rent and food. Diego found himself with almost nothing left, not even enough for warm clothes or sturdy shoes to face Norway's harsh, cold climate.

His days were long and filled with hard labour, while his nights were plagued by the crushing realisation that he had been deceived. The legal residency, fair salary and the security he had envisioned were nowhere to be found. When Diego tried to stand up for his rights, he was silenced with threats. It was only during a random police check that he found the chance to speak out, exposing the reality of his exploitation.


At Filemon, Diego began to rebuild his life. The safe house provided him with a place to rest, recover and regain his footing. He gained daily work experience and began forming connections that eased his isolation. With social assistance from the state, Diego could now buy his own food and clothing – small but significant steps towards reclaiming his independence. The staff at Filemon offered him counselling, practical support and guidance, walking alongside him as he navigated the challenges of processing his trauma and planning for a better future.

Diego washing his dishes in his accommodation at the safe house in Filemon, Norway



Though the road ahead remains uncertain, Diego holds on to hope. He believes that higher powers are watching over him, and with each passing day, he takes another step towards a life of dignity and freedom.

To learn more about Filemon, Norway's only male safe house, click on this link or scan the QR code:
<https://shorturl.at/IBiQU>



▶ IMPACT STORY

Safeguarding Potential Victims
GERMANY, LITHUANIA AND POLAND TERRITORY

Poland, at the heart of Europe, sees both migrants and Poles seeking opportunities abroad, making it a prime target for human traffickers. In response, The Salvation Army has launched various initiatives to protect potential victims. Through street campaigns, school seminars and strategically placed prevention posters in places like trams, bus stops and airports, they raise awareness about how to avoid trafficking and what to do if you become a victim.

One key project is the Job Verification Centre (JVC), which is supported by the UKI Territory and offers free checks on potential job offers, helping people to spot red flags before committing. The JVC also participates in job fairs and youth festivals, providing direct access to information and support.

These efforts ensure that vulnerable individuals are better informed, equipped and empowered to protect themselves. Through these initiatives, The Salvation Army continues to create a safer, more aware community across Poland.



The Salvation Army in Poland offers support and information about human trafficking to help potential victims



SOUTH ASIA ZONE

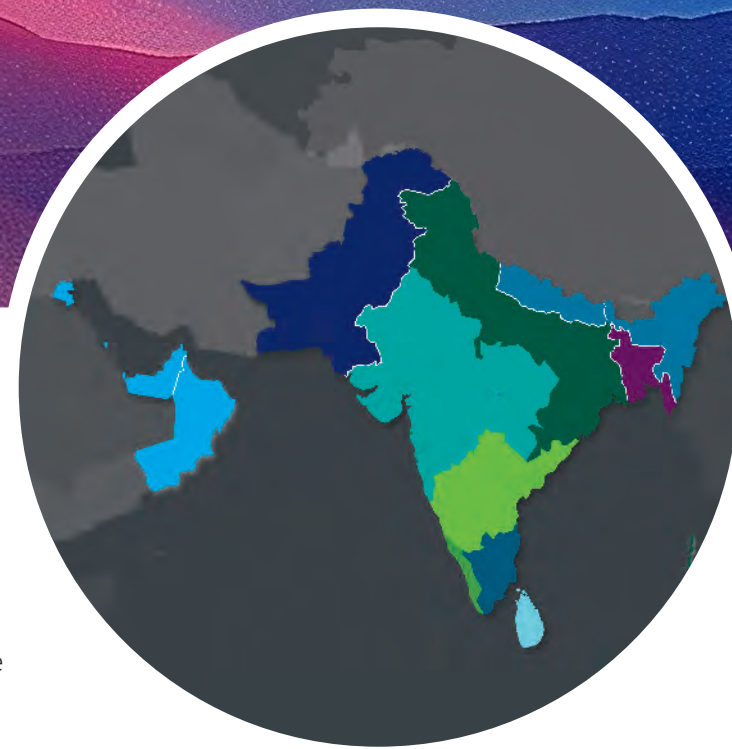
► IMPACT STORY

A Haven of Hope

INDIA WESTERN TERRITORY

Some things are completely outside of our control: the places and circumstances into which we are born; the experiences of our parents; the choices other people might make to exploit and abuse. For the children born into the red-light districts in Mumbai, they – like their mothers – are faced with the risk of exploitation and abuse, significant challenges and limited choices. They – and their mothers – also have potential and strengths and worth rooted in their being created in the image of God.

One of the choices The Salvation Army IWT has made in Mumbai is to be a presence in that red-light district



to come alongside women and provide an alternative home where their young girls can live. One of the choices the women can make is to entrust the care of their girls to Aruna Children's Shelter, supported by SAWSO, where girls who are 5–12 years old and are the children of women who work in India's red-light districts can receive safe accommodation, nutritious food, access to education, learn about the love of God, and have time and space for recreational activities and play.



Entrance to the
Aruna Children's
Shelter in Mumbai

► IMPACT STORY

Saanvi and Ishra's Story

BANGLADESH TERRITORY

The Salvation Army Bangladesh operates a support programme near Jashore's brothels to help vulnerable and exploited women and children who are exiting cycles of abuse. One such woman, Saanvi*, was sold into sexual exploitation by her abusive husband and later forced to raise her daughter, Ishra*, in the brothel. Tragically, Ishra was also drawn into the sex trade at a young age. With ongoing support from The Salvation Army, Saanvi eventually left the brothel but sadly passed away soon after. Inspired by her mother's courage, Ishra sought help, started her own grocery store and began rebuilding her life with assistance from the programme.

Since 2021, The Salvation Army has emphasised local ownership of its initiatives, engaging women, community leaders and other stakeholders to identify solutions to exploitation. They have supported 35 women in leaving brothels, with many receiving training



in skills like tailoring and small-business management. The programme also provides safe spaces for children living in brothels, offering education, creative activities and nutritious meals, while raising awareness about social issues such as child marriage and human trafficking in the broader community.

Saanvi and Ishra's story reflects both the immense challenges faced by women and children in exploitation and the hope that The Salvation Army continues to bring through its work in Jashore.

**Names have been changed.*



TOP: Training
class in small-
business
management
in Jashore,
Bangladesh

LEFT: Training
in sewing and
tailoring skills

SOUTH PACIFIC AND EAST ASIA ZONE



▶ IMPACT STORY

Safer Communities

THE PHILIPPINES TERRITORY

Throughout November, the Integrated Community Development Programme (ICDP) took centre stage in addressing critical community social issues through a robust awareness campaign on MSHT. This initiative was made possible through the collaborative efforts of Bansalan Corps in the Mindanao Island Division and the Department of Education’s ‘Catch-Up Friday’ programme, with support from the Public School District leadership.

The campaign reached a total of 100 people from two villages, along with 620 students from two high schools. These participants were given vital orientations on the realities of human trafficking and the importance of mental health awareness.

The impact of the initiative was palpable. Villagers and students alike expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the new knowledge and insights they gained. This effort underscores the ICDP’s ongoing commitment to preventative programmes that address pressing social issues and empower communities to thrive.

By fostering awareness and education, this campaign has planted seeds of resilience in the community, paving the way for a safer and healthier future.

Community members taking part in an awareness and education campaign in the Mindanao Island Division, the Philippines



Officer at Bansalan Corps speaking at the awareness and education campaign in the Mindanao Island Division, the Philippines

▶ IMPACT STORY

Bridging Critical Gaps Through Collaboration

AUSTRALIA TERRITORY

In 2024, the Additional Referral Pathway programme was launched in partnership with Anti-Slavery Australia, Australian Muslim Women’s Centre for Human Rights, Project Respect and Scarlett Alliance. This has resulted in a significant increase in the reporting of victims and the response to instances of exploitation and modern slavery.

Through a trauma-informed and survivor-centred approach, The Salvation Army works with various organisations and community partners to offer practical support, such as safe accommodation, financial assistance, legal advice, and emotional and social well-being services. The programme strengthens referral pathways, ensuring that individuals receive the right support at the right time, regardless of their immigration status or formal identification as a trafficking survivor.



By bridging critical gaps in support, the Additional Referral Pathway programme empowers survivors, restores dignity and emboldens hope for those affected by modern slavery in Australia.

THE SALVATION ARMY INTERNATIONAL MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESPONSE



INTERNATIONAL MODERN
SLAVERY AND HUMAN
TRAFFICKING RESPONSE
INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS



www.salvationarmy.org/ihq/antitrafficking



www.facebook.com/SalvationArmyIHQ



x.com/SalvArmyIHQ



www.instagram.com/salvationarmyihq/