

Volunteer Advocate Against Modern Slavery Role Description & Person Specification

The Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance (ODBF) is committed to promoting a safe environment and culture for everyone.

The individuals appointed to this volunteer role must be committed to our Christian vision, ethos and principles that underpin all that we do. Together we are called to become more Christ-like: contemplative, compassionate and courageous for the sake of God's world. You can find out more about our diocese at oxford.anglican.org/who-we-are/our-vision-and-values/.

Although the Transatlantic Slave Trade was abolished over 200 years ago, slavery still exists in many different guises today. The term 'modern slavery' includes both people trafficking and exploitation such as forced labour, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, and county lines. Most of us have modern slavery in our communities.

A 2023 Global Slavery Index study estimated that in the United Kingdom, there are over 122,000 men, women, and children trapped in modern slavery. Despite this, only 30% of people feel confident about spotting the signs of modern slavery in their communities. Less know what to do if they suspected a situation of trafficking or exploitation.

The role of the Volunteer Advocate Against Modern Slavery is crucial to raising awareness in churches across the diocese. By giving church leaders and congregations the tools to spot and correctly report modern slavery, we can be part of bringing hope and freedom.

Purpose of role

The overall purpose of the role is to help raise awareness about human trafficking and modern slavery among churches within your archdeaconry. As a volunteer you might help by sharing and promoting useful materials and resources, running Clewer Initiative training sessions and their Lent course, talking with church groups and gatherings and potentially delivering talks or sermons. This role will also connect with the Thames Valley Anti-Slavery Partnership network.

Responsibilities - what will you be doing?

Your work will to an extent be guided by your skills, interests, and available time, with support from our Social Justice Adviser. This work may spark creative ideas to raise awareness, and it may lead to individual churches developing their own initiative or partnering with other organisations that support survivors of modern slavery.

The volunteer Advocate Against Modern Slavery could encompass the following areas:

- **Learn and Understand:** Equip yourself with knowledge and information about the different types of modern slavery, available resources, and the context both in the UK and in our diocesan area. Attend online or in-person training sessions or briefings on modern slavery as needed.

- **Serve as a Point of Contact:** Become a named individual for advocating against modern slavery within your archdeaconry.
- **Raise Awareness:** With support from the diocese, speak to church groups and gatherings, and/or deliver talks or sermon, to raise awareness about modern slavery.
- **Promote Training:** Deliver Clewer Initiative training sessions and encourage churches to participate in Clewer Initiative's Hidden Voices course.
- **Network and Connect:** Engage with relevant groups such as the Mother's Union, Thames Valley Anti-Slavery Network, and Clewer Initiative.
- **Signpost:** Direct churches interested in developing initiatives or partnering with organisations that support survivors of modern slavery to the Social Justice Adviser, or to other organisations working in the area of modern slavery.
- **Lead Annual Events:** Champion church awareness by helping organise an annual event for Anti-Slavery Day in October.
- **Collaborate and Share:** Stay in touch with the Social Justice Adviser to receive support, share stories, and feed back any learnings.

Key Working Relationships

Responsible to: Social Justice Adviser

Other key relationships:

- Church leaders within your designated archdeaconry
- Area Deans within your designated archdeaconry
- Groups or organisations such as The Clewer Initiative, Mother's Union, Thames Valley Anti-Slavery Partnership.

Location and hours - when and where you will be doing it?

- Working from home with occasional travel to speak with groups and churches across your designated archdeaconry in the Diocese of Oxford
- Attend occasional in-person training or network meetings.
- Hours required will vary according to how much of your time you can give. We anticipate the role could be around two to four hours per week.
- It is appreciated that this is a voluntary role, held alongside other responsibilities.

Support you will be given

- An induction into your role
- A 'settling in' or 'trial' period
- Ongoing support, accountability, oversight and supervision (1:1s with the Social Justice Adviser)

General Information

- This is a volunteer role for which expenses will be paid.
- Volunteer Advocate Against Modern Slavery may be lay or ordained.
- We ask advocates to commit to this role for a minimum of one year, with the option to extend by mutual agreement.

- We are seeking four volunteers to cover the four diocesan archdeaconry areas:
 - Oxford archdeaconry
 - Dorchester archdeaconry
 - Buckingham archdeaconry
 - Berkshire archdeaconry

Person Specification - Knowledge, Skills and Experience

We are looking for volunteers with the following knowledge, skills, experience and personal attributes that a person needs to carry out the above role.

Essential:

- A strong interest in issues of modern slavery, and belief in the church's role in responding to this
- Keep abreast of news and policy relating to modern slavery
- As this role involves representing and supporting the mission and values of our organisation, we are seeking someone who has an understanding of and empathy for the work of the Church of England as well as ability to subscribe to our Christian ethos and values.
- Comfortable building relationships with others, both in person and online
- Ability to use video conferencing technology (e.g., Zoom, Microsoft Teams), or a willingness to learn
- Willingness to travel within the assigned archdeaconry within the Diocese of Oxford
- Comfortable presenting to groups of people and running training sessions, adapting Clewer Initiative material

Desirable:

- Experience of The Clewer Initiative resources
- Experience speaking to small groups on modern slavery or other issues
- Experience delivering talks or sermons, and running training sessions
- Experience working with victims and/or survivors of modern slavery