

Modern Slavery Act 2015 - Transparency Statement

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Action Required	Approval
Resolutions	28/1. The Council receives the report. 28/2. The Council adopts the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement for 2019/20, as set out in the report. 28/3. The Council continues to underline its strong commitment to pursuing the objectives of the Act.

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	To review the modern slavery transparency statement adopted by the Council that demonstrates the commitment to ensuring modern slavery is not a feature of the Connexional Team's supply chains.
Main Points	The paper updates the actions that have been taken to prevent Modern Slavery in its supply chains.
Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)	MC/18/69 Update on work from the Conference , Notice of Motion 2018/207: Human Trafficking MC/19/26 Adoption of Modern Slavery Statement

Introduction

- 1.0 The Council approved in January 2019 the adoption of its first slavery and human trafficking statement in accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The Conference Office remains doubtful that the Methodist Church in Britain meets the definition of a 'commercial organisation,' which is *obliged* to produce a Modern Slavery statement under section 54(2) of the Act. Nevertheless, as the Church fully supports the objectives of the Act, this statement was prepared in line with recommended practice.¹ It is published online, accessible from the home page of the Church's website. The statement needs to be reviewed annually.
- 1.1 The Methodist Council oversees the work of the Connexional Team that resources the wider Church in seeking to fulfil *Our Calling* and, in adopting this statement, is seeking to ensure that the supply chains procured and utilised do not support slavery or human trafficking.
- 1.2 The Methodist Church is committed to working in partnership with others to see the eradication of modern slavery. Indeed, the Methodist Church has for the last ten years had procurement processes in place that ensure that no part of the Methodist Church contracts with any organisation that does not pay their staff the living wage according to the Living Wage Foundation.

Update

- 2.0 Over the last 12 months, the following action has been taken in relation to our procurement process and our commitments listed within the 2018-19 statement:

¹ Section 54 (5)

- We do now include in our pre-qualifying questionnaire to suppliers the question “Does the practice have an Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking statement?” Non-compliant companies would not be expected to progress to the final shortlist of suppliers invited to tender.
- Our contracts for major appointments will now include several clauses regarding compliance with anti-slavery and human trafficking laws and policies. Contractual warranties are obtained from contractors (and their sub-contractors) at the point where they sign-up to our terms and conditions of business.
- New measures are being put in place to include within all new contracts the right to request compliance related information and the right to audit suppliers at the Team’s discretion.

2.1 The Procurement Manager will continue to work on measures to strengthen compliance from suppliers.

2.2 Generally, the adoption of our statement has added to a heightened awareness of this as an issue within the Connexion and underlined the Church’s commitment to playing its part in eradication of modern slavery and helping to deliver the objectives of the Act.

2.3 The 2018 Conference passed Notice of Motion 2018/207 on human trafficking and directed the Methodist Council to appoint a task group. This task group was established and comprised the Revds David Hardman, Paul Worsnop, Ian Rutherford, Sheryl Anderson and Cathy Bird who worked with the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) on reviewing the existing available resources. Drawing upon these, the task group produced a set of easily accessible theologically reflective and practical materials which will raise awareness among Methodists, to assist in individual and collective decision-making, and to influence government policy at a local and national level in response to the reality of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

2.4 A webpage has been created within the JPIT website (<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/modern-slavery/local-and-national-anti-slavery-organisations/>). Due to the immense amount of work being done by many anti-slavery/trafficking organisations, the web-page predominantly signposts people towards other resources. These will help individuals, classes, ministers, young people and congregations get involved with learning, acting and praying to end modern slavery, exploitation and human trafficking. Resources include: information on the scale of modern slavery nationally and internationally; theological reflection; sermon ideas; videos/media that could be shown in services; resources for young people, youth leaders and children’s workers; and ideas for political action.

2.5 In the light of progress being made, the statement has been updated for 2019-20 as set out below.

***RESOLUTIONS

28/1. The Council receives the report.

28/2. The Council adopts the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement for 2019/20, as set out in the report.

28/3. The Council continues to underline its strong commitment to pursuing the objectives of the Act.

Modern Slavery Statement 2019-20

Methodist Council Modern Slavery Act 2015 Transparency Statement

The Methodist Church is committed to working in partnership with others to see the eradication of modern slavery. As such, the Methodist Church has procurement processes in place that ensure that no part of the Methodist Church contracts with any organisation that does not pay their staff the living wage according to the Living Wage Foundation. The Methodist Conference (the decision making body of the Church), recently convened a task group that has worked on producing an on-line resource of practical materials to raise awareness of the issue among Methodists, to assist in individual and collective decision making, and to influence government policy at a local and national level in response to the reality of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

Introduction to the Methodist Church

The Methodist Council oversees the work of the Connexional Team which resources the wider Church in seeking to fulfil *Our Calling*. This statement is adopted by the Methodist Council in seeking to ensure that the supply chains procured and utilised by the Connexional Team do not support slavery or human trafficking.

Supply chain

The Connexional Team has a procurement policy that requires as part of the tendering process that potential suppliers might be asked about: -

1. attitude to and deployment of the UK Living Wage;
2. compliance with the Ethical (Investment) Policy of the Methodism Council which may apply to first-tier suppliers and their supply chains – such advice as is required should be taken from JACEI, CFB etc; and
3. compliance with legislation and codes of practice. Wherever possible, the Methodist Council only enters into contracts with organisations that are signed up to the Living Wage Foundation and where a supplier is not already signed up, will seek to ensure that the organisation becomes a member of the Living Wage Foundation within a fixed period of time.

In seeking to ensure that modern slavery does not take place within the supply chains procured and utilised by the Connexional Team further steps shall be taken which will include: -

- Ensuring that all suppliers to the Connexional Team are committed to abolishing modern slavery and checking their modern slavery statements where appropriate.
- Not entering into contracts and if necessary withdrawing from an existing contract, if an organisation does not confirm their commitment to abolishing modern slavery.
- Only doing business with suppliers who have their own anti-slavery and trafficking statements, who enter into contractual warranties and who are willing to provide compliance and audit information.
- Including wherever possible in new contracts the right to terminate for breach of the Act.

The Church will continue to maintain its on-line resource material aimed at raising awareness and helping to counter Modern Slavery.

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