

## Modern Slavery Act (2015) Transparency Statement

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<b>Action Required</b>	Approval
<b>Resolutions</b>	26/1. The Council receives the report.  26/2. The Council adopts the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement.  26/3. The Council directs the Connexional Team to ensure that as far as possible the steps for 2018-19 set out in the statement are undertaken.

### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and Aims</b>	To establish a modern slavery transparency statement adopted by the Council that demonstrates the Council's commitment to ensure modern slavery is not a feature of the Connexional Team's supply chains.
<b>Main Points</b>	The paper outlines the requirements of the legislation and sets out the actions that the Methodist Council has taken and should take to prevent Modern Slavery in its supply chains.
<b>Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)</b>	<a href="#">MC/18/69 Update on work from the Conference</a> , <a href="#">Notice of Motion 2018/207: Human Trafficking</a>

### Introduction

1.0 One of the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (which comes into force on 31 March 2019) is the need for organisations with a turnover exceeding £36 million to have a slavery and human trafficking statement. Such a statement needs to be published each year. The statement must be published online with a link to it placed on a 'prominent place' on the organisation's website's homepage.

### What must the statement include?

1.1 S.54 (4) of the Act defines the statement as:

A statement of the steps the organisation has taken during the financial year that ensure slavery is not taking place:

- (i) in any of its supply chains, and
- (ii) in any part of its own business

The organisation is not expected to guarantee that its supply chains are completely slavery free but Home Office [guidance](#) on adhering to the legislation states that 'year-on-year improvements outlining practical progress' are expected.

1.2 The legislation is not prescriptive; it recommends rather than obliges. Section 54 (5) outlines information that the statement *may* include:

- a) the organisation's structure, its business and its supply chains;
- b) its policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking;
- c) its due diligence processes in relation to slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains;
- d) the parts of its business and supply chains where there is a risk of slavery and human trafficking taking place, and the steps it has taken to assess and manage that risk;
- e) its effectiveness in ensuring that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in its business or supply chains, measured against such performance indicators as it considers appropriate;
- f) the training about slavery and human trafficking available to its staff.

1.3 A statement has been prepared in line with the above and the Council is asked to adopt this statement at which point it will be placed on the website.

#### **Does this definitely apply to the Methodist Church in Great Britain?**

1.4 It is not apparent to the author of this paper that the Act applies to the Methodist Church in Great Britain as it is not a corporate body Section 54(2) and nor does the Church engage in commercial activities. It does however have a turnover above £36 million and the Secretary of the Conference has therefore received a letter from the Home Office stating that a statement will be required. A letter of response has been sent making it clear that the Methodist Church fully supports the objectives of the Act and a statement will be prepared. It has however been highlighted that the Methodist Church does not necessarily consider itself as needing to comply with the Act. The concern being that in future the requirements of the Act and the burden on organisations may increase significantly.

#### **Modern Slavery Act (2015) Transparency Statement**

This statement relates to the financial year ending August 2018 and the activity of the Methodist Council.

The Methodist Church is committed to working in partnership with others to see the eradication of modern slavery. As such, 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. In 2018 the Methodist Conference (the decision making body of the Church), adopted a notice of motion convening a task group which will seek to examine how the Church can respond to this issue.

#### **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 ensure that the supply chains procured and utilised by the Connexional Team do not support slavery or human trafficking.

#### **Supply chain**

The Connexional Team during the year 2017-18 had a procurement policy that already required as part of the tendering process that potential suppliers might be asked about:-

- a. *attitude to and deployment of the UK Living Wage;*

- b. *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.;*
- c. *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 during 2018-2019, further steps shall be taken which will include:-

- Asking all suppliers to the Connexional Team that they are committed to abolishing modern slavery and checking their modern slavery statements where appropriate.
- The Methodist Council will not enter into contracts and if necessary will withdraw from an existing contract, if an organisation does not confirm their commitment to abolishing modern slavery.
- The Procurement Manager regularly reviews the Methodist Council procurement process and will be introducing further measures during 2018-19 to ensure as far as possible that Modern Slavery is not a feature of the Council's supply chain.
- The Procurement Manager will seek to ensure that where appropriate contractual warranties are obtained from suppliers that state no slavery is used anywhere in the supplier's business or by any of the suppliers in its supply chain and that all necessary processes and policies have been put into place to mitigate the risk of modern slavery being utilised with the supply chain;
- The Procurement Manager will seek to include within all new contracts the right to request compliance related information and the right to audit suppliers at the Team's discretion;
- New contracts will include wherever possible the right to terminate for breach of the Act.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

**26/1. The Council receives the report.**

**26/2. The Council adopts the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement.**

**26/3. The Council directs the Connexional Team to ensure that as far as possible the steps for 2018-19 set out in the statement are undertaken.**