



Abolish Slavery Now

An invitation to our Diocese

Standing Against Slavery

The Venerable Dr. Douglas Edwards
Executive Director, Abolish Slavery Now

On December 3, Diocesan Convention will consider a resolution to become an Abolitionist Diocese. If adopted, the Diocese of Los Angeles will join the emerging abolitionist movement within the Anglican Communion.

It is challenging to comprehend the breadth and pervasiveness of slavery today, but according to estimates provided by the United Nations this Fall, more than 42,000,000 souls are living in slavery worldwide, the largest number in human history. The slave trade is the world's third largest economy, ranking behind the world's energy and illicit drug markets. Sadly, with the recently reported first case of trafficking in Greenland, every country in the world has been infected with this ancient evil.

Americans tend to think of slavery as ending with the Civil War, yet the U.S. State Department estimates 17,000 individuals are trafficked into the United States every year. California law enforcement reports 40,000 enslaved persons statewide, a number commensurate with the total worshippers attending Episcopal churches in the six-county diocese on any given Sunday.

West African slavery comes to our shores when large corporations such as Folgers, Hershey, and Mars purchase raw material for coffee and chocolate which is grown and harvested by child slaves. When you begin to learn the facts, the candy displays at most stores in California take on a dark character.

Within the Diocese, enslaved persons can be found in the sex industry, nail salons, as

"domestic workers," and even in restaurants



and agriculture.

But the Church is responding. The Diocese of New York's Task Force on Human Trafficking is but one example of the Church educating its members, advocating to the local community, and intervening to rescue young women in the sex trade. Several other dioceses across the land are gaining their voices on behalf of those who live in fear and silence.

By becoming an Abolitionist Diocese, the Diocese will align itself with the suffering in our midst and abroad, living out our baptis-

mal covenant to respect the dignity of every human being. It will bring hope, freedom, and restoration.

Only the Holy Spirit knows how the Kingdom will be manifested by this simple step of becoming an Abolitionist Diocese.

Our Lord began his earthly ministry reading from Isaiah in a synagogue, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free."

Jesus then says, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4)

Is this the day you become an abolitionist?

"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little."

— Edmund Burke



This newsletter is prepared by
Abolish Slavery Now

a 501(c)3 charity organized by
members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Ventura,
to combat slavery.

We exist to free enslaved children
and to raise abolitionists within the Episcopal Church.

www.abolishslaverynow.org

"Take the Pledge" and join the team!

The Episcopal Church Urges Members to Combat Slavery



Resolved, That the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church calls for the protection of all victims of human trafficking, particularly women and children, providing necessary attention to their physical, psychological and social needs, and using approaches that respect victims' rights and integrity; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention urges its members to support legislation and action oriented to the recovery and reintegration into society of victims of human trafficking. These efforts should provide a safe, dignified and sustainable way for victims of trafficking to reintegrate into society and lead a normalized life; and be it further

Resolved, That all congregations and dioceses are urged to observe a Human Trafficking Awareness Day, in their liturgical, congregational and diocesan lives. (Adopted 2009)

Anglican Consultative Council Resolution 15.10: The trafficking of persons

When the international Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) met in Auckland, New Zealand, in October 2012, it passed a resolution requesting the Provinces of the Anglican Communion to:

- learn about, and raise awareness of, their own country's or countries' involvement in trafficking
- identify resources available and activities already being undertaken nationally in addressing the elimination of trafficking
- **report findings to provincial and diocesan synods or conventions with a view to evaluating how churches can engage prophetically and develop local and regional strategies in response to trafficking (emphasis added)**
- promote and disseminate new and existing liturgical and theological materials relating to trafficking in persons as a resource for local churches.

The Anglican Communion Stands Against Slavery

The Global Freedom Network (GFN) started life early in 2014 with the objective of bringing together an open association of faith leaders who commit to, and work towards, the end of modern slavery and human trafficking by 2020, throughout our world and for all time.

In March 2014 a Memorandum of Agreement and joint statement was signed by representatives of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Justin Welby,

Pope Francis, and the Grand Imam of Al Azhar.

The GFN operates as a coalition of faith communities committed to working with governments, national authorities, businesses, civil society, anti-slavery organizations, and people of goodwill. Its focus areas are:

❖ Mobilizing faith-based communities

- ❖ Supply chain proofing
- ❖ Law Reform and Enforcement
- ❖ Education and Awareness
- ❖ Funding.

Did you know ???

One easy way to help combat slavery is to BUY FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS...





Grainy image of a boy's rescue. Boys are sold to fisherman for less than \$20.



Hands of rescued children and Abolish Slavery Now team celebrating the children's freedom date: June 29, 2016.

Local Episcopalians Organize, Help Rescue 16 Children from Slavery

Sixteen children, ages 10-16, were rescued from slavery in Ghana, West Africa, in June of this year.

Abolish Slavery Now, a charity created by members of St. Paul's, Ventura, raised the funding for the four-month rescue operation which was managed by its Ghanaian NGO partner.

The total cost was \$15,000.

Shortly thereafter, Fr. Doug and Lynn Edwards visited the 14 boys and two girls at a safe house where the children will spend 12-18 months prior to being reintegrated into their villages, as is determined best for each child.

"The stories of the children are harrowing," said Fr. Edwards, ASN Executive

Director. "The children experienced beatings, food deprivation, and reported on friends and siblings who died while enslaved. They worked seven days a week, 12-18 hours a day. There is no doubt that we saved lives with this rescue."

To contribute to the next rescue, visit abolishslaverynow.org.

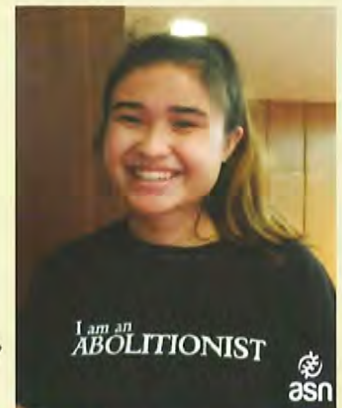


Anne Alday, Roger Mann, and Cathy Sexton, abolitionists



Will and Ana say, "Take the Pledge!"

"This day I choose to be an abolitionist. I vow to learn more about modern slavery, to constructively engage in support of those who campaign against slavery, and should I encounter one fleeing from bondage, to offer safe shelter to the best of my ability."



Will Alday and Ana Barnaby visited the slave dungeons of Ghana as part of a parish youth pilgrimage in June 2014. They are abolitionists.

I am an ABOLITIONIST

RESOLUTION TO BECOME AN ABOLITIONIST DIOCESE

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the 120th Convention declare this The Diocese of Los Angeles an Abolitionist Diocese.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Diocese of Los Angeles shall support the struggle against human trafficking through education of its members, the use of its treasure, consumer choices, and leadership within the broader Church and local community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the congregations and institutions of the Diocese of Los Angeles be asked to consider becoming Abolitionist Congregations and Abolitionist Institutions, make appointments and direct action in furtherance of this resolution as it deems appropriate to the mission of each congregation and institution.

Explanation:

WHEREAS human trafficking is a scourge to the Gospel of Jesus Christ who calls on us to love our neighbor and welcome the foreigner in our midst; and

WHEREAS the United Nations estimates that more than 42,000,000 persons are enslaved globally, and the U.S. State Department estimates more than 40,000 in the State of California (including our local communities); and

WHEREAS the Diocese of Los Angeles is called to be a light on the hill, bringing hope to victims of injustice; and

WHEREAS many congregations in the worldwide Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church are responding to the call on their members to combat modern slavery; and

WHEREAS America continues to suffer from the effect of two centuries of legal slavery of Africans.

In January 2016 St. Paul's Parish, Ventura, declared itself an Abolitionist Congregation. For nearly ten years, parish clergy, leaders and members (adult and youth group) have travelled to Ghana to learn, engage in mission work, and be transformed through interaction with the Anglican Church and remote villages. On the June 2014 Youth Pilgrimage, the ancient evil of slavery was experienced as a living reality. The Holy Spirit touched the pilgrims and their families to organize, learn about, and combat modern slavery. A group of committed parishioners established a charity, Abolish Slavery Now. We are asking the Diocese of Los Angeles to join this effort by declaring itself an Abolitionist Diocese that hope might overcome despair.

Submitted by

The Venerable Douglas B. Edwards, St. Paul's Parish, Ventura
 The Rev. Ed Steever, St. Paul's Parish, Ventura
 The Rev. Randall Day, St. Mark's in-the-Valley, Los Olivos
 The Rev. Canon Anthony Guillen, All Saints, Oxnard
 The Very Rev. Judith Heffron, St. Edmund's, San Marino
 The Rev. George Woodward, St. Edmund's, San Marino



Human Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons: by the threat or use of kidnapping, force, fraud, deception or coercion, or by the giving or receiving of unlawful payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, and for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor.