Australian Freedom Network

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO ESTABLISHING A MODERN SLAVERY ACT IN AUSTRALIA

Submission by the Australian Freedom Network
28 April 2017

AUSTRALIAN FREEDOM NETWORK

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

28 April 2017

Faith Leaders Statement in support of a Modern Slavery Act for Australia

Dear Members of the Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee,

We thank you for the opportunity to make this submission to your inquiry into modern slavery.

The 2nd of December 2015 marked the formation of the Australian Freedom Network. A shared vision of ending slavery concentrated the hearts and wills of Australian faith leaders to take action together.

The faiths represented include: Evangelical Christian, Baptist, Salvation Army, Presbyterian, Coptic Orthodox, Anglican, Catholic, Sunni and Shia Muslim, Lutheran, Jewish, Hindu, Quakers, Uniting Church and Buddhist.

Christians in our network believe that every human being is made in God's image and that those who seek to follow Christ should uphold the intrinsic dignity and worth of all.

For centuries, Christian Churches have given comfort and support to victims of human trafficking and advocated against slavery. From the abolitionist campaigns of 18th century against the transatlantic slave trade to more recent statements by Pope Francis that modern slavery is a "a wound on the body of Christ," churches have universally condemned and worked to eliminate this scourge on humanity.

For other faiths slavery too, is an affront to human dignity.

- For Jews, the central event of the Hebrew Bible is the liberation of an entire nation of slaves, Israel, from a cruel oppressor.
- Hindus believe all living beings are the embodiments of the divine.
- Muslims believe Allah created us free and no one has the rights to enslave or abuse the rights of his or her fellow human beings.
- Buddhists believe that all sentient beings have the potential to gain enlightenment and we should all work together to help those most in need.

AUSTRALIAN FREEDOM NETWORK

The enclosed submission offers recommendations to the Australian Government in considering the implementation of a Modern Slavery Act. As committed leaders of faith represent communities across Australia, we encourage and support you in your initiatives to address the scourge of humanity that is modern slavery.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to your Inquiry.

Yours Sincerely,

Commissioner James Condon
Chair, the Australian Freedom Network

AUSTRALIAN FREEDOM NETWORK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Statements from Global Faith Leaders.....4

Term of Reference 5.....4

Overview of AFN Organisations work on Modern Slavery.....5

Australian Faith Leader Recommendations.....7

Term of Reference 6.....7
Term of Reference 7.....9

Australian Faith Leader Statements.....11

- Archbishop the Most Rev. Denis Hart, President, Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference.....11
- Archbishop the Most Rev'd Dr Philip Freier, Primate, Anglican Church of Australia11
- Pastor Wayne Alcorn, National President, Australian Christian Churches.....11
- Peter Wertheim, President, Executive Council of Australian Jewry.....12
- Pastor Stuart McMillan, President, Uniting Church in Australia.....12
- His Grace Bishop Daniel, Coptic Orthodox Church of Australia, Sydney and Affiliated Regions.....13
- Bishop John Henderson, Lutheran Church of Australia.....13
- Pastor Brian Houston, Global Snr Pastor and Founder, Hillsong Church Australia....14
- His Eminence Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohammed, Grand Mufti of Australia.....14
- Rev Dr Bill Brown Chair, National Council of Australian Baptists in Australia.....15
- Pandit Narendra Dave, President, Australian Council of Hindu Clergy.....16
- Jo Jordan, Presiding Clerk, Religious Society of Friends in Australia (Quakers).....16
- Sheikh Ali Jaber Director, Al Sadiq Foundation, Melbourne.....17
- Rev Dr Joe Goodall: Moderator, Congregational Federation of Australia and New Zealand.....18
- Venerable Ban Ruo Shi Senior Abbott, Prajna Monastery Australia.....18
- Commissioner Floyd Tidd, National Commander, The Salvation Army Australia.....19
- Sheikh Youssef Nabha Imam, Masjed Al Rahman.....20

STATEMENTS FROM GLOBAL FAITH LEADERS

Term of Reference 5: **Provisions in the United Kingdom's legislation which have proven effective in addressing modern slavery, and whether similar or improvement measures should be introduced in Australia.**

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Alastair Redfern, Bishop of Derby UK— "In a ground breaking first year the Commissioner has been able to establish widespread networks to improve policies and practices - both nationally and internationally. The international perspective is especially vital because modern slavery knows no boundaries, and often profits from the overly narrow focus of those seeking to challenge this wicked crime.

"This initial year has also seen effective collaboration with a range of civil society organisations across a vibrant third sector, crucial work to help ensure further advances in the law enforcement response, and efforts to support the increasing determination of businesses to play a key role in combating modern slavery.

"Much remains to be done and I know that the Commissioner will continue to prioritise important changes to better support victims, ensure increased prosecutions of traffickers, and put in place a fully joined-up approach that looks to prevent these awful crimes."

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Catholic Archbishop of Westminster and President of the Catholic Bishops Conference in England and Wales, praised the enactment of the UK Modern Slavery Bill.

"The new law allows for life-sentences for human traffickers, as well as authorising the seizing of their assets and compensation for their victims. While no Act can cover everything in the serious criminal activity of human trafficking and modern slavery, which abuses vulnerable people, the enhanced support and protection for victims is particularly to be welcomed."

"Along with many others, the Catholic Church through the Bakhita Initiative and the Santa Marta Group where police chiefs and the Church work together internationally is committed to working towards the eradication of modern slavery."

"As Pope Francis said at the launch of the Santa Marta Group in the Vatican, the crime of trafficking and modern slavery is a crime against humanity; a wound on the body of Christ."[1]

[1]http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/03/27/cardinal_nichols_praises_enactment_of_modern_slavery_bill/1132666

OVERVIEW OF AFN ORGANISATIONS WORK ON MODERN SLAVERY

The AFN is engaged in activities that promote the eradication of Modern Slavery in the following ways:

- Raising awareness about slavery in Australia among their faith communities;
- Providing a unified platform for faith-based organisations to collaborate on ending slavery in Australia;
- Encouraging members to engage with the issue of modern slavery as an extension of their faith;
- Support and amplify existing antislavery work in Australia by governments and other organisations.

Of particular note is the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, and The Salvation Army who have made significant commitment to addressing modern slavery in Australia.

Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

The most senior Catholic Church leader in NSW, Archbishop the Most Rev. Anthony Fisher, publicly announced the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney will slavery-proof its supply chains at the NSW Trafficking Inquiry on 28th March 2017[2].

"…the commitment of the Archdiocese of Sydney to a programme directed to the eradication of human trafficking, including the following practical measures on our own part:

1. We will review and revise all relevant contractual and business practice documentation, including the Archdiocese's Guide for Business Practice, to highlight the Church's commitment to eradicating human trafficking.

2. We will as far as possible only purchase slavery-proofed products and services, and as far as possible only contract with firms who certify that their goods are not tainted by human trafficking.

3. We will maintain a register of suppliers who have given the requested certification about their goods and services and ensure that all Archdiocesan chancery, parishes, schools, agencies and affiliates, as well as our major suppliers,

[2]http://afn.org.au/scribe/sites/afn.org.au/files/Parliamentary_Inquiry_into_Human_Trafficking_2017_final.pdf

are fully aware of this procurement policy and understand the principles and practices set out in the revised Archdiocesan Guide.

4. We will establish an Archdiocesan Anti-slavery Taskforce with a specific mandate:

(1) to promote this new ethical procurement policy throughout the Archdiocese;

(2) to prepare resources and conduct programmes for the Catholic faithful and other people of good will about eradicating human trafficking;

(3) to devote some part of the energies of the Archdiocesan Office of Justice and Peace, parishes, schools and other agencies to educating about and campaigning to end human trafficking;

(4) to partner with and support the work of Australian Catholic Religious Against Human Trafficking and other organisations, particularly in their mission to assist victims of human trafficking."

As the first faith based organisation to do so, this is a moment of challenge and inspiration to all.

The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is active in the anti-slavery movement through its Freedom Partnership to End Modern Slavery[3]. The Freedom Partnership is mobilising community, business and government to eradicate slavery while also independently operating Australia's only Trafficking and Slavery Safe House since 2008.

[3] See: www.endslavery.salvos.org.au

AUSTRALIAN FAITH LEADER RECOMMENDATIONS

Term of Reference 6: Whether a Modern Slavery Act should be introduced in Australia.

We encourage the Australian Government to take all necessary measures to assist in the elimination of slavery wherever it exists in Australia and around the world.

In doing so, we reaffirm our call, expressed in a letter[4] and statement[5] from the Australian Freedom Network (AFN) to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on the 2nd of December 2016 for the introduction of a Modern Slavery Act for Australia.

The letter was written to coincide with the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery and called on the Federal Government for an Act of Parliament to discourage slavery-like conditions both in Australia and in our trading partners. The letter said:

"Australia has an opportunity to lead and an opportunity to learn from what has worked and not worked in other countries to identify, mitigate and eradicate modern slavery."

We also re-state the measures we recommended in the 2016 statement by AFN faith leaders, namely:

- Legislating for an Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner
- Passing world's best practice legislation that ensures supply chains of Australian businesses are transparent and free of unethical exploitation or slavery-like practices
- Building on the record of the United Kingdom and the United States in helping tackle modern slavery practices in the countries in our region.

The AFN recommends three key elements for a Modern Slavery Act for Australia.

1. **Appointment of an Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner**

The appointment of an Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner to lead Australia's fight against modern slavery, with powers and responsibilities similar to the appointed UK Anti-Slavery Commissioner (currently Kevin Hyland).

Independent oversight is vital to the success of any efforts to tackle the multifaceted crime of modern slavery which requires a response from a vast range of stakeholders across the public, private and community sectors.

[4] http://afn.org.au/2016-faith-leaders-letter/
[5] http://afn.org.au/scribe/sites/afn.org.au/files/NEW_AFN-leaders_statement.pdf

2. **Modern Slavery Statements**

At a minimum, legislation that requires all large organisations doing business in Australia to publish an annual "Modern Slavery Statement" reporting on steps taken to eradicate modern slavery within their organisations and supply chains.

Large businesses have the power to influence change within supply chain networks, to drive up standards and remove the profitability of modern slavery.

3. **The creation and maintenance of a free publicly-accessible central repository for all Modern Slavery Statements**

A repository is needed to ensure laws are effective in bringing change. The repository was an identified gap in the UK framework that has since been remedied. A public repository, and reports generated from it, can be used to measure the progress of organisations, improve public accountability and review social impact.

The introduction of a Modern Slavery Act for Australia would also demonstrate steady progress towards United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 8.7 to "take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and … and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms." Australia is one of 177 countries who have adopted the UN agenda.

Term of Reference 7: Any other related matters

Transparency measures in supply chains will enable faith organisations to address more directly the cycle of global poverty, one of our great and abiding concerns.

Poverty is recognised as one of the main factors that drives a person into slavery or human trafficking, as traffickers prey on the most vulnerable and desperate as they seek to escape their grinding existence, further entrenching that poverty into the supply chain.

By shining a light on the real cost of goods and services, transparency measures in supply chains make it easier for those seeking to be good citizens of the world to adapt our own procurement and consumption practices, at the same time as providing disincentives to those less inclined to follow suit.

Decoupling our consumption from slavery-tainted supply chains would be a significant contribution to breaking the cycle of poverty.

Professor James Cockayne from the United Nations University has concluded that slavery creates a long-term drag on development.

"It appears to drive down whole communities' wages and productivity, suppress tax revenues and remove valuable human capital from the economy… foregoing human, business and national development; and often also acquiescing in major environmental harm."[6]

Australian Church Leaders' position on poverty was recently expressed in the Micah Church Leaders Statement on Foreign Policy.[7]

"We believe that God calls all people to deliberate, judge, govern and trade with special care to protect the rights of those living in poverty in any community. In international, as well as domestic, affairs, we believe that governments are mandated to 'give justice to the poor' and to 'uphold the rights of the oppressed'."

In light of this, we believe that:

The purpose of Australia's foreign policy should be to achieve the sustainable flourishing and wellbeing of all Australians and of our global neighbours.

Australia is a wealthy nation located in a region with large populations of people living in poverty. The vast majority of the world's poorest people (those living in absolute destitution on less than US $ 1.90 per day) are our neighbours, living within this wider region.

[6] http://freedomfund.org/wp-content/uploads/Unshackling-Development-FINAL-FOR-EMAIL.pdf
[7] http://www.micahaustralia.org/church_leaders_statement_on_foreign_policy

This appalling and grinding poverty is not merely financial or material; it robs people of the capacity to live dignified, secure and healthy lives and limits their potential to contribute to their societies. This poverty harms people's health, stifles their freedoms and capabilities, and tragically cuts short too many lives.

We believe it would be a powerful expression of both Australia's values and our interests to ensure that our foreign policy is directed towards ensuring that our region is peaceful and secure, that all people are able to thrive sustainably, and that we are contributing to international efforts to fight poverty and meet global challenges.

We support free and open trade among nations but recognise that the poorest and most marginalised people are often excluded from enjoying the fruits of trade and the benefits of growth. Our trade, aid and diplomatic efforts should aim to ensure that the benefits of growth are shared equitably … and people are able to secure dignified work and participate fully in the economy.

We must always be committed to human rights, as well as labour and environmental protections at the heart of our trade and investment efforts."[8]

[8] http://dfat.gov.au/whitepaper/submissions/documents/170227-350-Micah-Australia-Church-Leaders.PDF

AUSTRALIAN FAITH LEADER STATEMENTS

Archbishop the Most Rev. Denis Hart, President, Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference

In the words of Pope Francis, today slavery is rooted in the notion of the human being treated as an object.

When we no longer regard our neighbours as being of equal dignity, sharing a common humanity without brothers and sisters, but rather as objects, slavery can often take root in our society.

It is a tragedy that in our world today, human beings created in the image and likeness of god, are deprived of their freedom, sold and reduced to being the property of others.

With education, respect and dignity for every human person, we can make a difference. Many are treated as a means to an end. Together, let us commit to eradicate this affront to our humanity.

Archbishop the Most Rev'd Dr Philip Freier, Primate, Anglican Church of Australia

For any person the concept of slavery is abhorrent. We know that it exists in far too many places in the world today, even in our own country.

It's important that we all take a stand to eliminate this great evil, and we join together to recognise the God-given dignity of each human person: to know freedom; to live without their lives being owned by others and to express themselves to the fullest of the potential that god has given them.

So join with me in helping to make our world free of slavery.

Pastor Wayne Alcorn, National President, Australian Christian Churches

The Australian Christian Churches believes that every human being is entitled to freedom and equality, to live with dignity and be treated with respect.

As a movement of over 1,000 churches, we condemn slavery in all its forms and we are committed to actively ensure that human trafficking is eradicated in our world during our generation.

Today we stand as advocates for the freedom of those whose lives are being traded as commodities, and as a voice for liberty and justice for those who have no voice and whose rights have been violated.

Peter Wertheim, President, Executive Council of Australian Jewry

The central event of the Hebrew Bible is the liberation of an entire nation of slaves, Israel, from a cruel oppressor. This liberation is brought about by the direct intervention of God, "with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm" (Deuteronomy 26:8). From this we learn that life, liberty and dignity are the inalienable birthright of every human being, Divine gifts that no human being or institution may justly abrogate.

From the great Prophet of Israel, Isaiah, we learn that each of us is morally obliged to do what we can to "undo the heavy burdens, and let the oppressed go free.'" (Isaiah 58:6). As is true of all of the profound teachings of the Hebrew Bible, this passage has many levels of meaning, but at its most basic it demands the release of captives and slaves, at home and abroad.

As Abraham Lincoln famously noted in his second inaugural address as US President, no person of conscience would seek the assistance of a just God "to wring his bread from the sweat of another man's brow".

No society which claims to value justice can tolerate the practice of slavery. It should have been abolished in all of its forms long ago. It is appalling that this scourge persists even in the twenty-first century. Fair-minded people everywhere must unite to stamp it out once and for all.

Pastor Stuart McMillan, President, Uniting Church in Australia

The Uniting Church in Australia believes that all people are precious and entitled to live with dignity because they are God's children. Each person's life and rights need to be protected or the human community - the reflection of God - is diminished.

All forms of slavery and forced labour are an abuse of human rights and contrary to the gospel of God's love in Christ for all human beings and the earth.

The Uniting Church in Australia has a long-standing commitment to advocacy for human rights through our own councils and agencies, and in solidarity with our partner churches around the world.

We proudly support this network for the elimination of human trafficking and slavery which is an abomination of human rights and dignity.

His Grace Bishop Daniel, Coptic Orthodox Church of Australia, Sydney and Affiliated Regions

We believe that Jesus Christ gave us the commandment of "love", "to love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34).

We believe all men and women are born equal and hence, all men and women have the right to live in peace, harmony, without prejudice of any kind, without harm of any abuse, and of any kind of violence to all human beings.

We believe that we will work in solidarity to eliminate slavery of all kind for the benefit of mankind.

Bishop John Henderson, Lutheran Church of Australia

From the very beginning human beings were created in the image of God. Reverence for human life as a sacred gift and trust fills each person with dignity and worth.

We learn this also from the life of Jesus Christ, who treated each person with dignity and compassion. He did not come to be served, but to serve. As the son of God he freely served other human beings with his whole life. He showed us the way that God wants us to deal with one another.

Forced service or bonded labour shatters that dignity. Turning one human into the possession of another, to deal with as they will, dehumanises both. This practice undermines the basis of human society, and cheapens the value of human life. We are to explore new ways of living in which one human being does not exploit or dominate another.

We believe that slavery in all its forms is wrong. As a society we need to work to remove it, and repent of inhumane practices and the economic benefits we have received from them.

The Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand joins with church, faith, business and community leaders across the world to do all we can spiritually and practically to eradicate modern slavery.

Let us pray for the strength, grace, and determination we all need to achieve this end. Even as Christ has set us free, so let us live in that freedom for the welfare and benefit of all.

Pastor Brian Houston, Global Senior Pastor and Founder, Hillsong Church Australia

From the very beginning human beings were created in the image of God. Hillsong Church believes that all people are created in the image of God and that, as image bearers, all human beings are entitled to freedom, dignity and respect.

As a local church in Australia we are opposed to slavery in all its forms and are passionate about eradicating human trafficking across the globe.

The Bible says: "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute" Prov 31:8 (NIV).

Today we are raising our voices to speak on behalf of those whose voices have been silenced by injustice. Together with the co-signatories of the Australian Freedom Network, Hillsong Church supports every effort to stand against, and eliminate human trafficking in the 21st Century. Working together we believe we can achieve this goal.

His Eminence Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohammed, Grand Mufti of Australia

The AFN Religious Leaders declaration is an important declaration calling for the freedom from slavery, liberating people from the fear of creation and worrying about their livelihood.

On behalf of the Muslims of Australia, I am honoured to sign this declaration that lifts the status of the human being, restoring his or her dignity and freedom. May the peace, mercy and blessings of God be with you

AUSTRALIAN FREEDOM NETWORK

Rev Dr Bill Brown Chair, National Council of Australian Baptists in Australia

Australian Baptists affirm the supreme authority of the Bible, the living word of God, in all matters of faith and conduct, and seek to thoughtfully and diligently apply biblical teaching to issues of public and private morality.

We believe that all slavery - whether chattel slavery, serfdom or debt bondage -is contrary to the will of God, who sees and hears the suffering and injustice caused by slavery (Exodus 3:7-8).

We believe that slavery alienates humankind from god and from one another; that no person should be owned or exploited as the property of another; that workers are not to be considered as merely instrumental in the production of goods and services; that work done should be justly remunerated; and that workers have a right to adequate rest from their employment.

We believe that an essential element of the mission of god, expressed in the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, is to proclaim good news to the poor, freedom for prisoners, and release from oppression - including the physical and psychological oppression of slavery (Luke 4:18-19). All those who seek to follow Jesus are called to join him in this work.

We commend the prophetic witness of all who work toward the noble goal of freedom from slavery and an end to its evil institutions. We commend the actions of governments and non-government organisations dedicated to ending slavery in our time.

We commit ourselves to expose the sin of slavery, to serve as Christ's presence in support of enslaved people, and to help to bring healing and wholeness to individuals and families and communities broken by slavery, for the glory of god and the realisation of the kingdom of God.

We further commit ourselves to work together with others of similar convictions toward a world where economic injustice and discrimination are eliminated - or, as the Apostle Paul put it, where "there is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, nor is there male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

Pandit Narendra Dave, President, Australian Council of Hindu Clergy

One of the core beliefs of Hinduism is that God resides in the heart of every living being. All living beings are the embodiments of the divine. But it is only in the human birth that one can strive for self-realization and unification with the divine.

The human birth is thus an extremely precious attainment and we deplore all forms of trafficking, slavery or any form of degradation, exploitation or coercion of other human beings for commercial gain.

There is a common universal prayer that we recite: "may the wicked become virtuous, may the virtuous attain peace, may the peaceful be liberated from their bonds and may those who are liberated help to liberate others!

Jo Jordan, Presiding Clerk, Religious Society of Friends in Australia (Quakers)

Quakers raised slavery as a moral issue as early as the 1670s and 80s.

Later in the 20th century, Quakers were part of a growing awareness of continuing forms of slavery, and, with others, began to campaign against these.

Quakers do not condone any actions, statements or situations that imply a lack of respect for the humanity or human rights of any person. It is a shocking reality that slavery persists within our world and within this country.

We join with others to raise the issue of slavery and exploitation and to work towards its eradication

Sheikh Ali Jaber Director, Al Sadiq Foundation, Melbourne

We the Muslim Eithna Ashari school of thought, stand with our brothers in faith and our like in creation, for a practical action plan to eradicate modern slavery, human trafficking, forced labour, prostitution, organ trafficking, and any other abuse to a fellow human being across the world.

Allah created us free; no one has the rights to enslave or abuse the rights of his/her fellow human being. Islam came as a practical religion to guide humanity from darkness into light with the teachings of the holy Prophets (Noah, Ibrahim, Mosses, Jesus, Muhammad peace be upon them all) who were sent as a mercy onto humanity all brought reform of slavery by encouraging the followers of the faith to free their slaves or treat them as their brothers, feed them from what they eat and dressed them from what they dress and not to ask them (slaves) to do things beyond their capacity (power) and if you they do so, then to help them.

To stop slavery It is not righteousness that ye turn your faces Towards east or West; but it is righteousness- to believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the Angels, and the Book, and the Messengers; to spend of your substance, out of love for Him, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves; to be steadfast in prayer, and practice regular charity; to fulfill the contracts which ye have made; and to be firm and patient, in pain (or suffering) and adversity, and throughout all periods of panic. Such are the people of truth, the Allah-fearing. (Quran 2:177)

Allah will not call you to account for what is futile in your oaths, but He will call you to account for your deliberate oaths: for expiation, feed ten indigent persons, on a scale of the average for the food of your families; or clothe them; or give a slave his freedom. If that is beyond your means, fast for three days. That is the expiation for the oaths ye have sworn. But keep to your oaths. Thus doth Allah makes clear to you His signs, that ye may be grateful. (Quran 5:89).

Rev Dr Joe Goodall: Moderator, Congregational Federation of Australia and New Zealand

We of the Congregational Federation of Australia and New Zealand believe that as human beings created in the image and likeness of God, all are created equal in the sight of God.

The exploitation or abuse of any one person is a shame not only on the exploiter but those who benefit by it and the bystanders who allow it. This has been the position of the Christian Church in opposing slavery for centuries.

Slavery in its modern form is far more widespread, complex and insidious than at any time in the past.

We therefore call on the Federal Government to establish a Modern Slavery Act to oppose slavery with the same level of sophistication internationally and domestically as the methods used to perpetuate it.

Venerable Ban Ruo Shi Senior Abbott, Prajna Monastery Australia

Slavery in all its forms should be abolished as it does not respect the rights of peoples of all faiths. It undermines our common humanity and seeks to destroy individual, family and community bonds.

Buddhism believes that we are all equal and that we should show compassion and respect to all sentient beings. Slavery does not respect or value the lives of others as it exploits the vulnerable and often voiceless members of society.

All sentient beings have the potential to gain enlightenment and we should all work together to help those most in need.

Commissioner Floyd Tidd, National Commander, The Salvation Army Australia

The Salvation Army Australia is deeply committed to ending modern slavery however it may be manifested. The Salvation Army stands together, united in one purpose, and with one voice to affirm that modern slavery must end.

Modern slavery is contrary to the principles of freedom and dignity, which are core to who we are.

The Salvation Army is opposed to the corrupt abuse of power against other human beings. We have a responsibility, both individually and collectively to work for the liberation of those who have been enslaved.

Every person has the right to freedom, every person should be respected and every human life should be held in high regard. Jesus taught that no one should live in physical or spiritual bondage. We are called to rise up, to speak out and to act, to end modern slavery

AUSTRALIAN FREEDOM NETWORK

Sheikh Youssef Nabha Imam, Masjed Al Rahman

We the **Muslim Eithna Ashari school of thought**, stand with our brothers in faith and our like in creation, for a
practical action plan to eradicate modern slavery, human trafficking, forced labour, prostitution, organ trafficking, and any other abuse to a fellow human being across the world.

Allah created us free; no one has the rights to enslave or abuse the rights of his/her fellow human being. **Islam** came as a practical religion to guide humanity from darkness into light with the teachings of the holy Prophets (Noah, Ibrahim, Mosses, Jesus, Muhammad peace be upon them all) who were sent as a mercy onto humanity all brought reform of slavery by encouraging the followers of the faith to free their slaves or treat them
as their brothers, feed them from what they eat and dressed them from what they dress and not to ask them (slaves) to do things beyond their capacity (power) and if you they do so, then to help them.

To stop slavery, it is not righteousness that ye turn your faces Towards east or West; but it is righteousness- to believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the Angels, and the Book, and the Messengers; to spend of your substance, out of love for Him, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who ask, ***and for the ransom of slaves***; to be steadfast in prayer, and practice regular charity; to fulfil the contracts which ye have made; and to be firm and patient, in pain (or suffering) and adversity, and throughout all periods of panic. Such are the people of truth, the Allah-fearing. (Quran 2:177)

Allah will not call you to account for what is futile in your oaths, but He will call you to account for your deliberate oaths: for expiation, feed ten indigent persons, on a scale of the average for the food of your families; or clothe them; ***or give a slave his freedom***. If that is beyond your means, fast for three days. That is the expiation for the oaths ye have sworn. But keep to your oaths. Thus doth Allah makes clear to you His signs, that ye may be grateful. (Quran 5:89).