



# WOMEN IN THE SHADOWS

## A NEW COURSE FOR LENT 2021

### #WOMENINTHESHADOWS

Worldwide, women and girls account for **71 per cent** of the **40.3 million** people living in modern slavery. In the UK, it is harder to gather exact numbers but we know that in 2018, a third of cases reported to the UK Modern Slavery Helpline related to female victims.

To help shine a light on the suffering of marginalised women, The Clewer Initiative has launched **Women in the Shadows**, a new Lent course for churches, community groups and individuals.

Sincere thanks to all our contributors and participants:

**Film participants:**

Jen Baines, Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority [www.gla.gov.uk](http://www.gla.gov.uk)  
Louise Hullah, author and modern slavery campaigner  
[www.louisehulland.com](http://www.louisehulland.com)  
Sister Lynda Dearlove, [women@thewell](mailto:women@thewell) [www.watw.org.uk](http://www.watw.org.uk)  
Rosie Hopley, Beloved [www.beloved.org.uk](http://www.beloved.org.uk)  
Karen Anstiss, Caritas Bakhita House  
[www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/bakhita-house.php](http://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/bakhita-house.php)

Alison Logier, Hestia [www.hestia.org](http://www.hestia.org)  
Shayne Tyler, Fresca Group [www.frescagroup.co.uk](http://www.frescagroup.co.uk)  
Clive Davies, Chief Superintendent, East Surrey Division, [www.surrey.police.uk](http://www.surrey.police.uk)  
Jackie Mouradian, Mosaic Creative [www.mosaiccreative.co.uk](http://www.mosaiccreative.co.uk)  
Bishop Alastair Redfern, The Clewer Initiative [www.theclewerinitiative.org](http://www.theclewerinitiative.org)

**Devotional material:**

Rev Edwina Fennemore; Rev Caroline Pinchbeck  
Bishop Simon Burton-Jones; Canon Jane Brooke  
Bishop Alastair Redfern.

## ABOUT THE COURSE RESOURCES

The course comprises of five short films and a devotional booklet. The films include haunting survivor stories, with insightful contributions from front line experts and campaigners.

The devotional booklet was written by colleagues in the Clewer network who are all deeply committed to combating modern slavery in their dioceses. Through Bible study, reflections and prayer, we will explore what the Bible says about social injustice, exploitation, and God's heart for the poor. The devotional will also encourage you to reflect on how we can take action to help vulnerable women in our communities.

The films can be watched as standalone documentaries or as part of the complete course.

Each week, the course will follow the following structure:

- a series of opening questions to set the scene
- a five-minute film
- a guided opportunity to reflect on issues raised in the film
- a Bible passage, followed by a reflection, discussion questions and prayer
- background reading
- extension – an opportunity to reflect more deeply during the week and find out more about the life and ministry of Harriet Monsell, the first Clewer sister.



## TIPS ON RUNNING THE COURSE WITH A GROUP

- Distribute the booklet over e-mail (this is available either as a complete pack or weekly modules so you can choose how to use it)
- organise a weekly zoom call so that you can work through and discuss the material together
- check that you know how to share the films and documents over zoom so you can all work together.



## HELPFUL NUMBERS:

**Modern Slavery Helpline:** 08000 121 700

**Local police:** 101 or 999 in an emergency

**Crimestoppers:** 0800 555 111

(if you would prefer to remain anonymous)

**Childline:** 0800 1111

## CARING FOR YOURSELF

This toolkit is about a subject which is emotive and upsetting. Before you start, think about how you will care for yourself and others. If you or anyone using this course needs support, please encourage them to seek help.

In each section of the course, there is a short film including survivor testimonies dramatised by actresses. Some people may find this upsetting so they should be offered the choice to watch or take a short break instead. Sources of emotional support should be signposted for people in case they trigger any distress. If you spot a person at risk or being exploited, you should speak to a safeguarding lead and follow the safeguarding procedure for your organisation.

## ABOUT THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

The Clewer Initiative was launched in 2016 as the Church of England's response to modern slavery. We work to mobilise the Church and communities to take action against modern slavery and aim to share learning, signpost best practice amongst our partners and contribute to policymaking and more effective legislation.

The Clewer Initiative works with the Church of England's 42 dioceses as well as with other denominations, faith groups and community organisations. We share learning and knowledge through our network and help support community-based projects. The Clewer Initiative is funded by the Clewer Sisters, an Anglican order of Augustinian nuns founded in 1852 to help marginalised, young women who found themselves homeless and drawn into the sex trade.