

THE BAKHITA INITIATIVE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORLDWIDE ESPECIALLY IN GREATER LONDON

A partnership of:



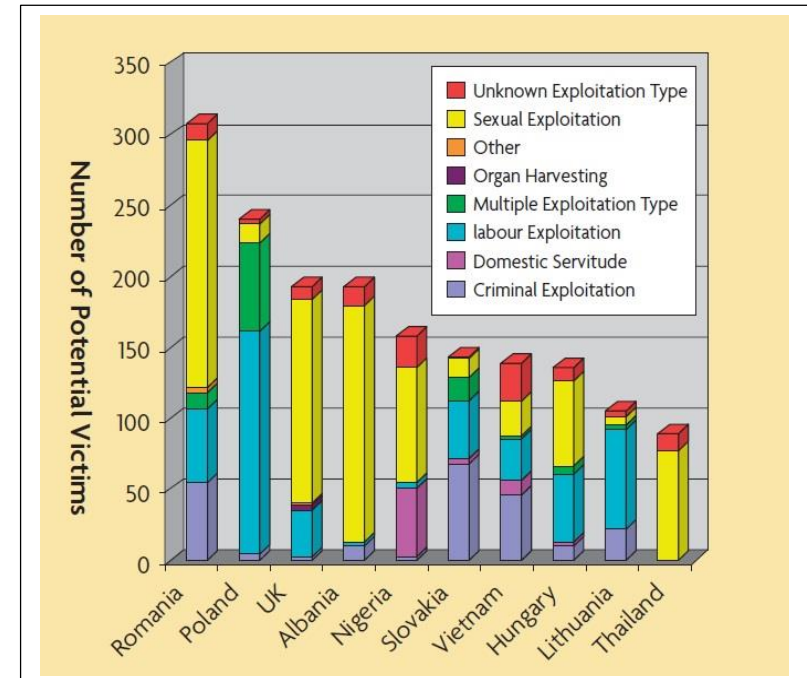
Diocese of Westminster



This briefing is to inform you of a shameful growing global problem to which the UK, and more so, Greater London are caught in, particularly given our unique position as an international centre of opportunity and world influence – financially, politically, and culturally. Through an international movement born of the Santa Marta Group, and with the Catholic Conference of Bishops of England and Wales (CBCEW) joining together with the Diocese of Westminster and its Caritas network, we offer a holistic plan to eradicate human trafficking at the sources, and specifically in Greater London. The fact is the world comes to London because of the promise of a better life and opportunities to succeed – unfortunately with all the good comes the criminal element looking to capitalise. This threatens our social and economic fabric, and our reputation. Benefit fraud, the drug trade, prostitution, money laundering and even terroristic activities are all linked to the human trafficking enterprise. The Diocese of Westminster, under the leadership of HE Cardinal Vincent Nichols, who is also the chair of the Catholic Bishops Conference, is at the forefront of combating human trafficking, using not only our position and resources, but by leading the moral and spiritual charge against this crime against humanity.

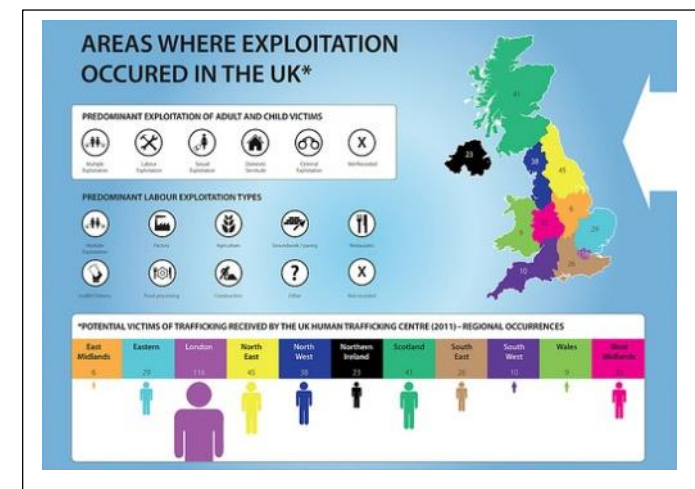
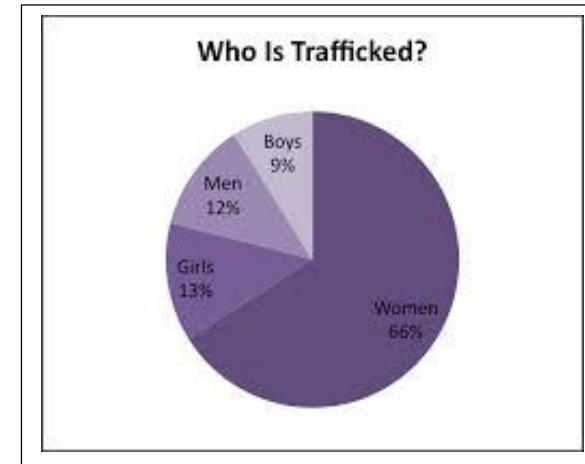
SCOPE OF THE ISSUE

- 116 countries around the world report human trafficking – it is a worldwide human rights problem that’s relatively unknown or people think “it’s not in my backyard”. More than 2.4 million people worldwide have been trafficked.
- UK citizens are the third largest group of trafficked humans within the UK. The UK receives mostly Romanians, Poles, Albanians and Nigerians being trafficked who are then enslaved within our borders. Our economic engine, ease of ingress, and social climate make the UK quite favourable to criminals, unfortunately.
- More than 14,000 (understated) trafficked humans are estimated to be in Britain; more than half of them pass through and/or remain in Greater London (now voted (the “top city” in the world). Most UK citizens who are enslaved within Britain are young women, unfortunately feeding the drug and prostitution industries.
- While the majority of victims worldwide are women, in the UK the trend is increasing for male victims – duped into promises of work, particularly in the construction and and food processing industries here, seeking a better life for their dependents.



HOW IT HAPPENS

- Unsuspecting people are lured through social media sites, online dating sites, adverts promising jobs, education, resettlement and immigration help for dependents, or through criminal rings operating in home countries with expatriates here. They often arrive via budget airline flight or by coach.
- And then their passports are taken by criminal accomplices here, their identities stolen, coercive threats of harm here or to family “over there” are made; benefits are falsely applied-for, victims are beaten and/or made to sleep in crowded run-down flats, made to work three jobs to pay back inflated debts – cruel, inhuman, modern day slavery without the shackles.
- Those exploited are forced to work in restaurants, fisheries, brothels, farms or are pressed into domestic servitude – in the UK, male victims are often forced to work in the tarmacking, paving and construction industries, if not in food processing and other labour-intensive industries where wages are traditionally low. Enslaved UK girls are often victims of controlling gangs.
- Women trafficked in Britain represent half of the trafficking victims here (2011 est.), with a significant number of them placed into the sex industry.
- Sexual exploitation and abuse is common among both male and female victims – either as a way of mind control, or related to prostitution (a female can “payback” her transit “debt” in days upon arrival by performing sex for money).
- Human trafficking is the second most profitable criminal enterprise worldwide (\$32 billion in revenues mostly to organised gangs) – it will take the world collaborating to eradicate this problem; no one country can solve this alone.



The Catholic Church is well placed to take on this problem given its unique global network and relations with many of the countries in question. Many Catholic organisations in these counties can help with communications, interdiction, outreach, care for victims, and healing in communities.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

- There is a global consortium of police chiefs, diplomats, corporate leaders, NGOs, and Church officials which have joined forces to combat the problem at the sources, in transit, and to care for the victims when we can rescue them – it is named the Santa Marta Group which was formed in 2012 in the presence of Pope Francis.
- The Santa Marta Group created The Bakhita Initiative to address the problem, and the Group has promised to convene annually to manage the Initiative – there have been three international conferences to date, continuing to build the coalition and expand its reach. The inaugural meeting was at The Vatican in 2013; the second was at Lancaster House in London in 2014; the third conference is scheduled for 2015 in Madrid, Spain; and the fourth conference has been recently scheduled to take place in the Philippines in 2016.
- The aims of the Initiative are holistic (the police catching criminals, the Church caring for victims, social structures heightening awareness) and are focused on:
 - Researching the root causes of human suffering and despair that allow people to become victims (ref: Bakhita Research Centre at St Mary’s University);
 - Stopping human trafficking at its sources, through international policing and interdiction;
 - Identifying the extent of victims and rescuing them, and exposing their captors;
 - Providing immediate triage care and offering hope to heal and turn lives around (Caritas Bakhita House);
 - Teaching the future generations, through public education and awareness programmes, stressing social responsibility for sourced consumer goods coming from exploited labour, and to help governmental agencies develop more sound jobs and migration policies – working across all lines.
- The good news is that The “Modern Slavery Act” passed by Parliament in 2014 shows further leadership by the UK, given its pivotal position and as a financial and policy centre – but also says the UK will tolerate this *No More*. The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) assumed leadership for the Bakhita Initiative by providing the coordinating/managerial link between the world and the UK.
- The Modern Slavery Act contains provisions for training of border control officials, stiffer penalties, police and social service detection protocols – this represents one side of solving/eradicating the problem in the UK. The first-ever office of Anti-Slavery Commissioner was established (Kevin Hyland, Commissioner)
- But what about the victims? (They have no recourse to public funds beyond the 45-day immediate assistance funding provided by law for such victims)
 - They need our love and trust first and foremost – nearly all are terrified for their lives; many have been conditioned to expect death if they seek help.
 - They require removal in secrecy from their captors and exploiters – a safe house for them, and so the criminals won’t know.
 - They need professional evaluation, health and support services:
 - Medical, as a matter of public health, to document evidence, and to prevent further disease and complications.
 - Mental/behavioural – these are victims or trauma, abuse and captivity.
 - Spiritual.



In addition, to really change the course of their lives, they need:

- Legal services as to status, rights, repatriation options (in safety).
- Counselling and skills development – especially the “soft skills” needed for functioning – conflict resolution, communication, cooperation, etc.
- Access to educational opportunities leading to gainful employment – resume prep, interview skills, essential and job-related skills to qualify.
- Move-on accommodation – from an emergency bed, to transitional accommodation, to independence.

THE CHURCH’S RESPONSE TO DATE

- The Santa Marta Group empowered the CBCEW to serve as the coordinating link, and transitioned responsibility for an active, tangible plan (the Bakhita Initiative) to be developed in the UK
- The Diocese of Westminster, under the leadership mantle that Cardinal Vincent Nichols holds for England and Wales, began with the launching of Bakhita House in 2014 as a first, concrete step to give victims a safe place to come. It will serve as a model and “Centre of Excellence” nationally, and internationally. Its small size will allow for benchmarking best practices and the most effective mode of caring.
- Located in a residential section in Central London, it is non-descript and secret, but with controlled access, links to the police and emergency responders, and staffed 24/7. This can serve as a model for replication internationally, usually where housing is less costly.
- A classic 4-storey terrace house, it features shared rooms for 12 to 14 victims depending on intake and relationships (often two women are rescued together, or a mother and children). Victims can stay up to 3 months, depending on their personal situation and progress. We hope to treat 65 to 80 women per year.
- Complete with normal reception room, reception room, kitchen, baths, laundry – the intent is to make it look and feel safe, like a home, not a hostel or hotel, barracks or anything like prison.
- Special rooms fitted for therapy, group activities, counselling, rehab sessions, computer use for resume and job search, a therapeutic garden as well as modest offices for staff and volunteer respite.
- We realise that in order to scale-up and really meet the need in terms of numbers of victims, we can’t just open more houses/flats for a few victims here and there – a second type of model is needed, one with greater impact, faster, and less costly than buying properties.



SEED FUNDING APPLIED

- The Diocese of Westminster purchased a House which could be deemed to be optimal as a safehouse and triage centre. The total cost to acquire and refit the facility in 2014 was £2,797,200 – paid for by the Diocese of Westminster as its seedling commitment.
- In addition, the Diocese has made a commitment through Caritas Westminster to provide operational and programmatic oversight, and an operating budget of £350,000 per annum for the next 3 years
 - Service Manager – 1 professional person responsible for the House, mission delivery, program and ethos integrity, and budget
 - House Manager – 1 director responsible for day-to-day operations, delivery of service, upkeep and quality control
 - Support Staff (2) – providing direct care, counselling and support for victims, addressing their needs and well-being
 - Night Concierge Staff (2) – ensuring 24/7 availability, security, response, and communications with Metropolitan Police, hospitals, etc. as needed
- In addition, we have the spiritual and volunteer support commitment of a Religious Order of Sisters and a few Catholic Parishes. Additional volunteer corps will include the on-call pro-bono services of professional therapists, nurses, solicitors, and other health/human service workers (est. training expenses £6,000)
- Operating costs include utilities, security system, cleaning, bedding/linens, food, activities, consumable personal care items, internet (est. £82,000 per annum)
- Other capital/durable item costs – furniture/beds, computers/classrooms, communal spaces, furnishings (est. £18,000 new and replacement costs)
- This is just a start, and it shows the need to expand our reach dramatically.

} Est. £240,000 per year

FUTURE PLANS

- Based upon the current volume of victims in and around Great London, and the trendline increasing for total victims, and changing to more male victims in the future, Caritas Westminster proposes:
 - As a needed second small step, to acquire a site and open a second Bakhita House for men, with hopefully a capacity for 20-25 victims (desired by 2017) – **cost estimate: £3 to £4 million**. There could be additional houses after the two, if donated property becomes available (given London's difficult property market). But we realise this is not an ongoing effective solution in terms of meeting the volume, and use of funding.
- We will also expand our reach here in Greater London to serve hundreds more victims by developing a Satellite Network of in effect “foster shelter” partners, offering emergency rooms or donated flat space provided by caring citizens and parishioners at no capital cost to us. We will use our parish network to enlist volunteers to act as hosts, and then train them on essential protocols in dealing with fragile guest seeking shelter-type placement. **Estimate training costs: £26,000 per year (£104,000 over 4 years to get the network up and running).**



- We would also provide temporary housing – several victims or small groups at a time, spread them across the area in designated, leased safe homes/flats/multi-plex buildings. To do this and have a list of properties across Greater London already under contract we would need a “rent fund” in the **estimated amount of £4 million**. London is one of the hottest rental markets in the world, so we’d have to get sites at favourable terms, under contract fast.
- Here in the UK, we will also develop a Trafficked Victims Resource and Support Centre, using best practices, educational and personal development tools and resources, data and referral information – to help both victims and care givers with the best knowledge on-demand – to put lives back together, deliver best-of-practice support, and compiling data and evidence – cost to design, operate and make this centre available first online, with the potential of locating an office in London in the future: **£500,000**
- The Diocese of Westminster is also committed to provide funding for research projects under the Bakhita Research Institute located at St Mary’s University (**commitment: £100,000 per year for two years**)
- And for the long term, the problem will only be solved through education and public awareness – impacting children, employers, consumers, hiring practices, etc. – these campaigns and programmes will be designed with social media, events, and advocacy efforts direct to decision-makers (cost: £3,000,000 +/-)

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ESTIMATES & PROJECTIONS

<i>Initiative Component</i>	<i>2014-2015</i>	<i>2015-2016</i>	<i>2016-2017</i>	<i>2017 and Long-Term</i>
Santa Marta Group oversight/international liaison		£150,000	£250,000	£500,000
Current Bakhita House for Women and Children	£2,797,200			
Operating Budget for Existing Bakhita House	£350,000	£350,000	£365,000	£380,000
Second Bakhita House for Male Victims (and start-up funding)		£3,000,000+	£350,000	£350,000
Satellite Network – Rent Fund & “Foster Care” in homes		£2,026,000	£1,026,000	£1,052,000
Resource Centre – Best Practices and Tools		£50,000	£250,000	£200,000
Research Grants – St Mary’s University		£100,000	£100,000	
Public Education and Awareness Programmes – school based, consumer based, employer/jobs based		£100,000	£1,400,000	£1,500,000
FUNDING NEEDED	£3,147,200	£5,776,000	£3,741,000	£3,982,000
GRAND TOTAL – INITIATIVE OVER 4 YEARS				£16,646,200
LESS DIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER COMMITMENT				£3,497,200
AMOUNT TO BE PROVIDED THROUGH FUNDRAISING				£13,149,000

PATHWAY TO ERADICATION – A HOLISTIC APPROACH



AN INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM – 24+ Heads of National & International Law Enforcement:
 UK Government, Interpol, UK National Crime Agency, Europol, FBI, US Dept. of Homeland Security, The Vatican,
 Federal Police Forces from: Ghana, Ireland, Poland, India, Nigeria, Thailand, Australia, Argentina, many others

COORDINATED BY THE SANTA MARTA GROUP

UNITED KINGDOM LEADERSHIP
 Commissioner Kevin Hyland
 Diocese of Westminster
 Caritas Westminster
 Metropolitan Police
 Catholic Trust of England & Wales
 The Congregation of Adorers

Catholic Bishops
 Conference of
 England & Wales

Bakhita Research
 Institute
 at St Mary's University

SAFE HOUSES & SAFE PLACES
 Bakhita House in London for Women and Children (2015)
 Second Bakhita House for Men Needed
 Foster Rooms in Volunteer Homes
 Leased Houses/Flats

AFFILIATE NETWORK: INT'L. & DOMESTIC
 Emergency Housing in Private Homes Volunteered
 Leased Flats & Bldgs.
 Parish-based networks and Convents
 Community Centre Based Networks
 Ecumenical branch-out
 Non-profit sector allies

RESEARCH AND POLICY
 Social and Economic Costs
 Legal Research
 Jobs Programming
 Behavioural Research
 Policy Impacts/Guidance's (UK, EU)

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS
 Public Awareness Campaigns
 School-based youth education and mobilisation
 "Just Enough" children's education campaign
 UK 20:20 Global Issues Forum
 Consumer Education – Sourcing & Fair Labour
 Ecumenical Events

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We have an incredible and compelling opportunity to combat a fundamental global human rights issue which has placed the UK in the spotlight – with money and by taking action socially – aimed at policy leaders, employers, stores, our children, our faith communities and civic groups, with partner organisations, and across borders. The problem is growing in Greater London even with our vibrant economy and the quality of life we enjoy here. We can't ignore it, nor wait for other governments.

We need to understand the root causes of this problem AND to empathise with the victims. At the centre of the problem is economic desperation – the inability to earn a wage, find work, provide for loved ones, and make economic progress. Imagine having to compromise your human dignity, values and integrity (or sell your body for sexual purposes) in order to produce income to survive, and to support loved ones. And then have most of it taken away by criminals. Imagine that happening in a place such as London? This problem transcends any political, religious, cultural or social views. London can set the standard for the world, and we can export best practices.

Let's show empathy for the victims by examining our economic blessings and doing something meaningful about it. Small donations won't eradicate the problem. We need – and rightfully so – the investment of individual philanthropists, corporations, firms doing business globally, trusts, and from ecumenical and civic partner organisations. Please support this consortium and the Bakhita agenda with a philanthropic gift, and by speaking out, checking sources of goods and the labour used to bring them to market, and by teaching the next generations – our children – about respect for human life, the dignity of each person, and the value of work.

GIFT COMMITMENT LEVELS NEEDED TO RAISE £13 MILLION+

<i>Number of Commitments Needed</i>	<i>Gift Range (Five Year Pledges for Gifts of £100,000+)</i>	<i>Yielding</i>
1	£2,500,000 *	£2,500,000
3	£1,000,000 *	£3,000,000
5	£500,000 *	£2,500,000
10	£250,000	£2,500,000
25	£100,000	£2,500,000
All Others	Any Amount	\$300,000
40-50 Leadership Gifts	* Distinguished Leadership Level	£13,300,000+