

# Informing Better Practices: Shared Learning to End Human Trafficking

The Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities (JLI) Anti Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Hub (AHT-MS Hub) offers a horizontal learning community linking academics, policymakers, and practitioners working on faith and religious communities' contribution to ending human trafficking. The hub seeks to be a collaborative platform that provides understanding for better practices in the effort to end human trafficking and modern slavery.



**AHT-MS Hub Co-Chairs: Anne Gregora, Salvation Army, Emma Tomalin, University of Leeds, and Christa Foster Crawford, Freedom Resource International and Payap University Human Rights Law Center**

**There are over 40 million victims of human trafficking worldwide.** The annual cost of this exploitive industry totals a massive US\$150 billion a year, with no country to escape the grips of this human rights tragedy. Alongside global efforts, local faith communities - with their widespread reach and unique community presence - are key assets in countering human trafficking. They play a role in prevention, protection, and prosecution, tenets of a holistic human trafficking response, by supporting the vulnerable, ensuring that systems are just for all and making perpetrators accountable.

## **A SHARED COMMITMENT**

The AHT-MS Hub partners are committed to:

- Convening an inclusive and diverse learning community of academics, policymakers, and practitioners to advance a core set of values and principles to counter human trafficking and modern slavery
- An evidence-based process focused on local faith communities and religious leaders
- Understanding 'how' to engage, and what works and does not in order to provide practical recommendations for practitioners

## **SCOPING STUDY SPOTLIGHT**

### **Faith and Freedom: The Role of Faith Actors in Anti-Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery- A Scoping Study**

Led by Dr John Frame at North Central University with Professor Emma Tomalin at the University of Leeds. This study explored the role of local faith actors (LFAs) in countering human trafficking in the Global South.

Methodology: 208 documents were reviewed including grey and academic literature, 5 cases collated and 14 semi-structured interviews conducted

## KEY FINDINGS

The JLI AHT-MS Hub Scoping study highlighted key findings supported by a growing evidence-base.

- More widely labelling the activities of local faith actors in their communities as contributing towards prevention of human trafficking and modern slavery, may increase the likelihood of funding being appropriated to their work.
- Religious leaders are people of positive influence who will help their communities take human trafficking and modern slavery seriously. Therefore, there is a need for educating religious leaders about preventing human trafficking, as many religious leaders are not equipped with knowledge about this topic, nor do they have the skills to raise awareness about it.
- LFAs can be uniquely positioned to aid in the prosecution process in ways other actors cannot, but only some LFAs are actually equipped to support in this way.
- LFAs are critical to sustaining systemic policy changes as they involve large, influential networks that never leave the country.
- Partnering with LFAs allows for rapid community mobilization of existing faith networks and strong grassroots participation, reduces duplication of work, and facilitates shared learning with others.
- The 3P framework (prosecution, protection, and prevention), while important for addressing human trafficking holistically, does not provide a full picture of all facets through which AHT-MS should be conducted. We instead propose considering a Freedom Framework, including prevention, protection, prosecution, policy, partnership, participation, prayer, and proof.

## COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCES

1. **Policy Brief Package** - A summary of the scoping study findings, along with key lessons learned and policy recommendations. The brief serves as an advocacy tool, promoting the role of LFAs in AHT-MS work.
2. **Case Study Infographics** - Infographics designed to support the policy brief with key case studies and lessons learned.
3. **Social Media Banners** - Quick, catchy tiles for social media that use evidence to promote AHT-MS work, especially pertaining to the work done by LFAs.



**FAITH AND FREEDOM**  
The role of local faith actors in  
anti-modern slavery and human trafficking  
—  
A scoping study

## ABOUT THE JLI LEARNING HUBS

The JLI is dedicated to **convening multi-sector** collaborations through learning hubs and knowledge partnerships to increase the **evidence** of **faith engagement** to **inform** and **improve policy and practice** between faith groups, humanitarian, and development communities.

**Join the AHT-MS Hub!**  
Participate in collaborative learning with opportunities to share resources, events and news with others in the sector.

**Visit the JLI Website at <https://aht-ms.jliflc.com/about-aht/> or email [aht-ms@jliflc.com](mailto:aht-ms@jliflc.com)**

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FAITH & LOCAL COMMUNITIES**