



# ANTI - TRAFFICKING

## SECONDARY ASSEMBLY

### Resources

- PowerPoint presentation
- Cry Freedom video clip - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=5A\\_c\\_nw2uWY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5A_c_nw2uWY)

### Aims

To understand how The Salvation Army has fought against human trafficking in the past

To reflect on what we can do today to make a stand against trafficking

### Introduction

Introduce yourself to the class and welcome them to their anti-trafficking assembly.

Today we're going to think about things that are worth speaking up against. To start with I want you to think about what things you would stay silent about if you saw them and what things you would speak up about. I will read a situation and I want you to put your hand in the air if you think you would challenge someone on their behaviour - keep your hand down if you would stay silent.

1. At lunch time you see someone steal a couple of chips from his friend's plate when he's not looking
2. You see someone a couple of years older than you push past an elderly lady to get on the bus, she almost falls over
3. On your walk back from school you go to the supermarket, you see a man take some sandwiches off the shelves and put them straight into his rucksack. He looks as though he's about to leave
4. You see a man shouting at a woman outside a house as you are walking home. The man seems to be getting more and more aggressive in his tone of voice and you hear him say 'you will regret disobeying me' before he pushes her back into the house

Human Trafficking is the taking of people by deception (telling them lies) or violence from their homes for exploitation. It is the fastest-growing form of modern-day slavery.

Sometimes the actions of others cause us to speak up as we've just seen - especially when the person who is the victim can't speak for themselves. Today's assembly is about just that - raising our voice for victims of human trafficking.

### Story

Today I want to explain a story about how The Salvation Army refused to be silent about slavery. This story is set in Japan in the year 1900. Although this is a long time ago and a place far from us it reminds us of how important speaking out against trafficking is.





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At this time trafficking of girls was accepted as part of the way society worked in Japan. They even had a system of licensed slaves. Although buying and selling people into slavery was illegal, many of the traffickers found a way around this. They would loan money to the girls, or to their families, and say that the girls only need work until they had paid off the loan. However the loan would always keep increasing and it would be impossible to pay back. These girls were stuck, unable to escape and live the lives they wanted. Those in charge were seen as too powerful to be challenged. The police declared that they were unable to force these traffickers to release the girls even when there was no debt to pay.

The Salvation Army had not long started work in Japan in 1900. There was only around one hundred members, but they decided that something must be done to help these girls. They decided to speak out and raise their voices. They published a special edition of the War Cry (the official news publication of The Salvation Army) about how what was happening was illegal and why it was wrong, in a way that ordinary people could understand. They didn't stop there!

They organised to march to the areas where the girls were kept, carrying the Salvation Army flag, beating a drum, singing and declaring that the girls should be free to leave. They were met with fierce opposition each time. They were always outnumbered by those involved in the trafficking who violently attacked them. The attackers injured their members, shredded their flag and smashed their drum. However through their publications, marches and the violent opposition they encountered they received a lot of publicity. Most of the Japanese press began to support The Salvation Army's action. People were stirred up and started to discuss how things could change.

The Japanese government was forced to do something as ordinary people were demanding justice - this led to them declaring an ordinance that any slave that wanted to be free need only declare it to the police and she would be free. It became a punishable offence to keep them against their will. This was just two months after the war cry had been printed. In the year following the ordinance 12,000 girls left their lives of slavery and were free to return to their families.

'Social Evils The Salvation Army has challenged' Captain Danielle Strickland - [www.armybarmy.com/JAC/article2-63.html](http://www.armybarmy.com/JAC/article2-63.html)

### Challenge

In the Bible it says:

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute (Proverbs 31:8 NIV)

The Salvation Army believes that we must fight for the rights of those that do not have a voice. This story is an example of how The Salvation Army has done this in the past. It's about people that made a stand, that were not willing to be silent. Their members were not going to be content just helping with smaller problems in society whilst there was slavery and injustice going on all around them. They made their voices heard and change came because of it. This is the story of a group refusing to believe a problem was too big for them to make a difference and that the people in charge were too powerful to be challenged.





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We can all be these sorts of people too. With more than 800,000 people trafficked every year; we need to be people that speak out against trafficking.

### Response

So let's think about what small things we can do to ensure that we are not silent. Here are some ways that you can have your voice heard:

One way you could help is by learning more and telling the people around you about it. We can all let people in our lives know about what trafficking is and where it's happening. The more others know the more people will stand against it.

You could write a letter to your MP to let them know how strongly you feel on this issue; you could say that you want more to be done to ensure people are not being trafficked, and ask for there to be more support for those that have been set free from slavery.

Finally you could get involved with the work that The Salvation Army does in supporting people who have been rescued from slavery and in working alongside communities to tackle trafficking. One way you could do this is by getting involved with the Cry Freedom campaign. This could include fundraising. You can find out more on our International Development web page- [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/id/cry-freedom](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/id/cry-freedom)

(If there is time you could show the cry freedom video clip)

Let's take a few minutes of silent reflection to think about the freedom we have and what each of us could do to help people who are victims of human trafficking

### Prayer

Dear Lord,

We thank you for the peace and freedom we have, help us to be grateful for this freedom every day and to use our freedom to love and help others. Guide us in how we can all speak up for those that don't have a voice, for those trapped in slavery. We pray that you would bring freedom where people are trapped and that you would bring justice to communities that are suffering

In Jesus' name,

Amen

