

Adoption of Modern Slavery Transparency Statement for 2020/21

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Action Required	For decision.
Resolution	29/1. The Council adopts the modern slavery transparency statement for 2020/21, as set out in the report.

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	To review the Church's compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
Background Context and Relevant Documents	MC/19/26 Adoption of Modern Slavery Statement MC/20/28 Modern Slavery Act 2015 - Transparency Statement
Consultations	Connexional Team Procurement Manager

Introduction

- 1.0 Under section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 ('the Act') 'commercial organisations' with an annual turnover of £36 million or more are required to produce annual modern slavery transparency statements. Statements must outline steps taken to ensure that modern slavery does not feature in their businesses or supply chains.
- 1.1 The Methodist Council is not a 'commercial organisation' for the purposes of the section 54(2) of the Act. It nevertheless complies with the legislation voluntarily, given the Church's commitment to eradicating modern slavery.
- 1.2 The Methodist Council supervises the work which the Connexional Team does under Standing Order 303(2). It has adopted two statements on the Connexional Team's behalf for the connexional years 2018/19 and 2019/20.
- 1.3 The 2019/20 statement outlined significant improvements that had been made to the Connexional Team's procurement processes in the previous connexional year.

Modern slavery transparency statement for the connexional year 2020/21

- 2.0 The Home Office monitors compliance with the legislation. Guidance it has issued notes that statements should ideally demonstrate year on year improvement.
- 2.1 The Legal and Constitutional Practice Team based in the Conference Office therefore consulted the Connexional Team's Procurement Manager in respect of changes made to procedures since the Council's approval of the 2019/20 statement last January.
- 2.2 The Procurement Manager noted that as a result of COVID-19, the Connexional Team's procurement activity in 2019/20 was significantly reduced. She stated that in light of the significant improvements made last year, the Connexional Team's procedures did not require adjustment and thus have remained more or less unchanged.

- 2.3 The Statement for the year 2019/20 therefore remains largely unchanged.
- 2.4 The Council is asked to adopt the below Modern Slavery Transparency Statement for the year 2020/21.
- 2.5 Due diligence activities in relation to existing strategic suppliers will continue during annual business reviews to ensure that our suppliers regularly review and map their supply chain to identify and mitigate potential modern slavery risks related to their business.
- 2.6 The Legal and Constitutional Practice Team in the Conference Office is meanwhile keeping under review amendments that the Government has proposed to the Act. The date at which they will take effect is yet to be confirmed.

*****RESOLUTION**

- 29/1. The Council adopts the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement for 2020/21, as set out in the report.**

Modern Slavery Transparency Statement 2020/21

Methodist Council Modern Slavery Act 2015 Transparency Statement

The Methodist Church is committed to working in partnership with others to see the eradication of modern slavery. As such, the Methodist Church has procurement processes in place that ensure that no part of the Methodist Church contracts with any organisation that does not pay their staff the living wage according to the Living Wage Foundation.

Introduction to the Methodist Church

The Methodist Council oversees the work of the Connexional Team which resources the wider Church in seeking to fulfil *Our Calling*. This statement is adopted by the Methodist Council in seeking to ensure that the supply chains procured and utilised by the Connexional Team do not support slavery or human trafficking.

Supply chain

The Connexional Team has a procurement policy that requires as part of the tendering process that potential suppliers might be asked about: -

1. attitude to and deployment of the UK Living Wage;
2. compliance with the Ethical (Investment) Policy of the Methodism Council which may apply to first tier suppliers and their supply chains – such advice as is required should be taken from Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment (JACEI), Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB) et al; and
3. compliance with legislation and codes of practice. Wherever possible, the Methodist Council only enters into contracts with organisations that are signed up to the Living Wage Foundation and where a supplier is not already signed up, will seek to ensure that the organisation becomes a member of the Living Wage Foundation within a fixed period of time.

In seeking to ensure that modern slavery does not take place within the supply chains procured and utilised by the Connexional Team steps taken will include: -

- Ensuring that all suppliers to the Connexional Team are committed to abolishing modern slavery and checking their modern slavery statements where appropriate.
- Not entering into contracts and if necessary withdrawing from an existing contract, if an organisation does not confirm their commitment to abolishing modern slavery.
- Where possible, only doing business with suppliers who have their own modern slavery transparency statements (excluding commercial organisations whose turnovers are below that which trigger compliance), who enter into contractual warranties and who are willing to provide compliance and audit information.
- Including wherever possible in new contracts the right to terminate for breach of the Act.
- Due diligence activities in relation to existing strategic suppliers which will continue during annual business reviews to ensure that our suppliers regularly review and map their supply chain to identify and mitigate potential modern slavery risks related to their business.

The Church will continue to maintain its online resource material aimed at raising awareness and helping to counter Modern Slavery, through the [Joint Public Issues Team](#).

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