

**The Salvation Army
International Headquarters
International Social Justice Commission**

**Statement for The Conference on Violence Against Women, Prostitution and
Human Trafficking**

The Salvation Army is committed to fighting for justice, especially for the most vulnerable, and to promote “the fullness of life” that God intended for humankind and that Jesus came to bring.

The International Salvation Army Positional Statement on Human Trafficking includes the following: “Humankind is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26). All people are valuable to God, holding a special place in God’s creation (Psalm 8:5). The Bible teaches that nobody should be exploited or damaged (eg. Psalm 10, Isaiah 42:22, Joel 3:3). This scripture is as relevant now as it was when it was written many years before the birth of Jesus.

Jesus taught that no one should live in physical or spiritual bondage. He said, ‘The Lord has sent me to announce freedom for prisoners, to give sight to the blind, to free everyone who suffers, and to say, ‘This is the year the Lord has chosen.’ (Luke 4: 18 – 19). He was quoting Isaiah 61: 1 – 2. Later in Isaiah 61 are these words, ‘I, the Lord, love justice! But I hate robbery and injustice’ (v8).

Consequently, Christians are called upon to work for the elimination of all forms of human exploitation.

Since its inception, The Salvation Army has sought to reduce the worldwide phenomenon of abuse of individuals or groups of people for personal gain,

It rejects this commodification of women in any circumstance – including pornography, prostitution and sex tourism - and works both to eliminate human trafficking for this purpose and to create alternatives for women who would otherwise be forced into prostitution.

Often the incidence of human trafficking is hidden within a society. Human trafficking flourishes because there is a demand for the services trafficked people are forced to provide. The Salvation Army therefore undertakes education and awareness raising activities so that those who use products or services supplied by trafficked people are confronted with the human misery, suffering and injustice created by their continuing use of these services or products.

The Salvation Army recognises that there are a number of credible organizations working locally and globally on the issues of human trafficking. The Salvation Army encourages cooperation and networking with these agencies to achieve the elimination of human trafficking and to provide support to trafficked people.

The Salvation Army calls upon Salvationists and other Christians worldwide to seek God’s face and pray.”¹

The Salvation Army recognises that we are not the only people who are called to this mission and welcome the opportunities to work with others who share the same purpose in what can often appear an overwhelming task.

1 See www.salvationarmy.org/isjc for the full positional statement