



YOUTH RESOURCE

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

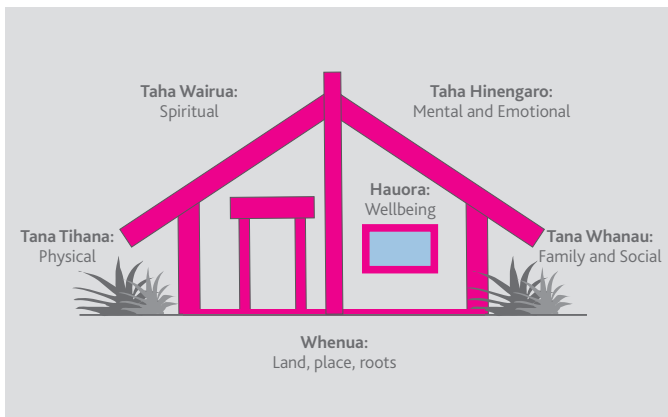
Ask a young person to read John 10:10: 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'

Have you ever had anything stolen from your home or person? How did it make you feel? Did you get it back?

Some things that are stolen we can replace. But some things we have are special because they are a part of who we are. When they are taken, they are harder to find again. What might these be?

One way we can describe the fullness of who we are is through the picture of a house. A house is built connected to the land. It symbolises a deep connection to our place of belonging. The walls of a house can be built around four pillars. These provide strength to our lives. Our physical well-being, mental and emotional well-being, our spiritual well-being and the well-being of our family and community. As people, our connections help shape who we are and keep us healthy. They enable us to live a full life.

THE FOUR PILLARS OF OUR HAUORA



Sir Mason Durie, Te Whare Tapa Whā, 1984

The Bible is full of stories that tell of both the light and dark that exists in the world as a result of the Fall. The thief described in John 10:10 does not come to steal the physical things we own, but what is most precious to us: the full life God hoped for us to have. What are some things you can think of that enable us to live a full life? (Some examples might be joy, dignity, respect.) Jesus is good news for us, because his love and sacrifice means that even when the most precious things are taken, he promises to restore them. He can give us a full life, even if we feel we have lost it.

(Read the Parable of the Lost Sheep)

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT) is the act of taking one of the most precious things we have: our freedom. MSHT tricks and forces people into unfair and unsafe work. Sometimes people are promised a better life or a good job and then trapped and made to do something else. Someone could be a victim of slavery or trafficking in the same country they live, or sometimes, in another country.

There are many places where people could be in slavery without us even knowing. They are often too scared to tell anyone or have been told they cannot tell anyone or something even worse will happen to them. Two main forms slavery are labour and sexual exploitation. However, people can also be trafficked and enslaved:

- On farms
- On fishing boats
- In hotels or in people's private homes as servants
- In brothels or pornography
- In marriage
- In factories
- As soldiers

The Bible says that we are made in the image of God. When someone hurts another human being, they hurt God. People who traffic or keep slaves are not treating people with the respect and dignity that God gave all of us. MSHT takes away people's freedom, joy, opportunity, hope and so much more. This breaks God's heart. God loves us so much that he promises to give back what is lost. But what God wants most of all is for no one to have their full life taken to begin with. God invites us to partner with him in ensuring people experience the life he wants for them.

TEACH YOUNG PEOPLE

What can you do?

1. Know the signs

Learn what indicators to look for that might show someone is being exploited. There are many things to look out for, including people's living conditions, work conditions and noticing how other adults around them treat them. Learn how to be safe on the Internet. How can you and your friends keep each other safe?



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2. Tell others (advocate)

Once you know the signs, share them with others so they know too. This helps create safer communities. Find out if where you live has support for survivors. In some places, if you suspect someone might be a victim, you can report it.

Work with a small group in your community to raise awareness of this issue. Maybe you could present something in your school, workplace or church.

3. Pray! Pray for our leaders, pray for organisations that support survivors, pray for those suffering. Pray for God's full life for all his precious children.

4. Be you! – All of us are created differently and can bring something unique to make a difference. Young people are often the best at creating change. Here's some examples:

Rez Gardi: Rez was born in a United Nations refugee camp. When she was a child her family went to New Zealand as refugees. She worked hard at school, even though sometimes she got bullied. She became a lawyer and now advocates for other refugees who may be in danger.

Rosalie Fish: When Rosalie was at school in the United States, she was a very good runner. When she was 17, she competed in a race with a red handprint across her face to represent and raise awareness of missing and murdered indigenous women in her community and country. She said, 'When I run about it, people will notice.' She continues to raise awareness every time she runs, and her awareness-raising has received international attention.

WONDERING QUESTIONS

I wonder what is unique about you?

I wonder what is right in front of you that you could have an impact on?

I wonder if there is something you hear God specifically asking you to help with?

ACTIVITY

Draw, create or talk about a house. Imagine the house is you (or your community).

Ask:

- What goes into the house to give it life?
- What things might be specific to you and where you are and what you value?
- What things in life might shake the house? Or make it less strong/healthy?
- What things can help protect the house? Keeping it strong/healthy?

Written by Captain Missy Ditchburn