

Paper A2

Modern Slavery Statement

Business Committee

Basic information

Contact name and email address	Victoria James victoria.james@urc.org.uk
Action required	Adopt the URC's Modern Slavery Statement.
Draft resolution(s)	Assembly Executive: 1. Adopts the Modern Slavery Statement. 2. Asks Synods and local churches to develop policies in response to this Statement and to implement appropriate supporting procedures. 3. Notes the commitment from Church House to implement a Modern Slavery Policy and revise other policies in response to this statement while also implementing procedures to underpin the policy and overarching statement.

Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	Adopt a statement on Modern Slavery for the denomination under which local, churches and Synods as well as Church House will develop appropriate policies to meet the expectations of the statement.
Main points	A Modern Slavery Statement has been prepared following a Resolution brought to General Assembly in 2021.

	Members of West Midlands Synod (Synod from which original resolution was brought).
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Summary of Impact

Financial	There may be some cost implications if we need to procure contracts from different providers. The extent of this impact is currently unknown.
External (eg ecumenical)	None.

1. Background

- 1.1 West Midlands Synod brought the original Resolution seeking that a Modern Slavery Statement is prepared, and that Church House implements a policy thereunder. Albeit later than originally intended, the Statement is now before Assembly Executive for Adoption.

2. Proposed statement

- 2.1 After consultation, the proposed statement is set out in Appendix 1. Assembly Executive is asked to adopt this Statement.

3. Next steps

- 3.1 If Assembly Executive adopts this Statement, then Church House will finalise its policy to put the Statement into practice and develop other policies accordingly to ensure the statement is fully implemented. Such policies can be made available to Synods and Churches to help them as they seek to respond to the Statement.

Training

We recognise that it is everyone's responsibility to safeguard others and we need to ensure that people holding specific roles and responsibilities are specifically equipped to protect vulnerable groups.

To ensure a good understanding of the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking and the mitigations in place, specific training is provided in conjunction with the Clewer Initiative, who have trained our Synod Safeguarding Officers to deliver their package throughout the denomination. Training is available through the Synods and is also offered from the Assembly Safeguarding team. It is available to anyone who wishes to access it. Training dates are circulated via the Safeguarding newsletter.

Due Diligence processes for slavery and human trafficking

To help identify and monitor the risk of modern slavery and human trafficking in our supply chain, we commit to reviewing our existing suppliers in accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The URC's due diligence process includes building long-standing relationships with suppliers and making clear our expectations of business partners. We commit to include anti-slavery and human trafficking provisions in all our contracts with suppliers. Where we discover we have been engaging in business with a supplier in support of modern slavery and/or human trafficking, all ties will be immediately cut.

Actions and future commitments

To reduce the possibility of modern slavery or human trafficking occurring in our organisation and supply chain, we plan to implement the additional steps listed below:

- Continue to uphold related policies aforementioned, and implement URC Modern Slavery policy