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Modern Slavery Statement

Methodist Council Modern Slavery Act (2015) Transparency Statement

This statement relates to the financial year ending August 2018 and the activity of the Methodist Council.

The Methodist Church is committed to working in partnership with others to see the eradication of modern slavery. As such, the Methodist Church has for the last ten years had 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. In 2018 the Methodist Conference (the decision making body of the Church), adopted a notice of motion convening a task group which will seek to examine how the Church can respond to this issue.

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 ensure that the supply chains procured and utilised by the Connexional Team do not support slavery or human trafficking.

Supply chain

The Connexional Team during the year 2017-18 had a procurement policy that already required 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 JACEI, CFB etc.;
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 during 2018-2019, further steps shall be taken which will include:-

- Asking all suppliers to the Connexional Team that they are committed to abolishing modern

slavery and checking their modern slavery statements where appropriate.

- The Methodist Council will not enter into contracts and if necessary will withdraw from an existing contract, if an organisation does not confirm their commitment to abolishing modern slavery.
- The Procurement Manager regularly reviews the Methodist Council procurement process and will be introducing further measures during 2018-19 to ensure as far as possible that Modern Slavery is not a feature of the Council's supply chain.
- The Procurement Manager will seek to ensure that where appropriate contractual warranties are obtained from suppliers that state no slavery is used anywhere in the supplier's business or by any of the suppliers in its supply chain and that all necessary processes and policies have been put into place to mitigate the risk of modern slavery being utilised with the supply chain;
- The Procurement Manager will seek to include within all new contracts the right to request compliance related information and the right to audit suppliers at the Team's discretion.
- New contracts will include wherever possible the right to terminate for breach of the Act.

Regarding the adoption of this statement, please see Methodist Council Paper [MC/19/26](#).

Approved by the Methodist Council on 31 January 2019 and signed on its behalf by Mr Doug Swanney, Connexional Secretary on 8 April 2019.

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