



**EUROPEAN BAPTIST FEDERATION
ANTI-TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE, ST PETERSBURG, RUSSIA
23-25 AUGUST 2011**

Conference Declaration

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour' (Luke 4:18-19)

1. We, the participants in the EBF Anti-Trafficking Conference in St Petersburg, Russia, from 23-25 August 2011, declare our conviction that the churches may and must contribute to the opposition to the modern slavery of human trafficking.
2. We believe that Jesus Christ calls us to do this by giving us his own example of how we must treat those oppressed and humiliated, rejected by other people and marginalised by our societies.
3. Our churches are the body of Jesus Christ on earth to continue his ministry; and so they are called to express solidarity and care towards people who become victims of human trafficking, offering them practical and spiritual support to be set free from this oppression.
4. Our local Baptist churches, which are 'grassroots' communities made up of people from all strata of society, are well placed to become involved in anti-trafficking initiatives.
5. Churches affirm their hope for deliverance in Jesus Christ which we can share with the victims of trafficking. We are called to pray and call upon the Holy Spirit to penetrate situations where sin and darkness exist.
6. We are the representatives of different European countries and cultures who celebrate our unity in Jesus Christ through the fellowship which we find in the European Baptist community. Through the network of the EBF Anti-Trafficking Working Group we can unite our efforts against human trafficking and confront this modern form of slavery.
7. In the light of the affirmations above, we call upon the Unions, Conventions and Networks of the European Baptist Federation:
 - to become informed about human trafficking in our own countries;
 - to raise awareness about the issue of human trafficking among the member churches of our Unions, Convention and Networks;
 - to encourage the formation of initiatives for prayer concerning human trafficking;
 - if they have not already done so, to appoint a Representative to the EBF Anti-Trafficking Network, a person who can keep the Union/Convention informed about the wider EBF context of anti-trafficking initiatives;
 - where appropriate, to support existing local initiatives and/or initiate projects to care for the victims and to prevent human trafficking;
 - to be open and ready to work together with other partner churches and organisations which oppose human trafficking.

'And the King will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me"'. (Matthew 25:40)