



Sisters of Charity
Foundation

MEDIA RELEASE

Sisters of Charity Foundation Launches Campaign to Raise the Roof for Survivors of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in Australia

30 July is the UN World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. The Sisters of Charity Foundation's [Raise the Roof](#) Giving Weekend (28–31 July) will raise awareness about modern slavery and fundraise for the [Modern Slavery Transitional Housing Program](#) to help survivors of modern slavery find a safe place to call home.

There are approximately 50 million people in slavery throughout the world today – more than at any other time in human history. 1 in 4 are children. 54% are women and girls. 27.6 million are in forced labour. 22 million are in forced marriage. And 41,000 are in Australia.

The Global Slavery Index 2023 estimates that on any given day in 2021, around 41,000 people were living in slavery-like conditions in Australia. Deception, threats and violence are used to keep people in situations they feel they cannot leave or change, usually for someone else's benefit. Some examples are migrant workers being paid minimal wages and working long hours, fruit-pickers isolated and underpaid on rural farms, women trapped in domestic servitude or 'slave-like' relationships, or young women and children forced to marry by their families.

Survivors are in a vulnerable position, even after they have escaped their perpetrator(s). Australian citizens may have no family or support networks to rely on, no money, no education and nowhere to live. The situation is worse for foreign nationals, who must navigate unfamiliar customs and bureaucracy and may not speak English.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation and The Salvation Army's Modern Slavery Transitional Housing Program has been operating since February 2020 to provide transitional housing assistance and casework support to survivors.

"Every dollar donated to Raise the Roof will go toward helping a survivor of slavery set up their own home, contributing to rent, furniture and support from caseworkers," said Sisters of Charity Foundation CEO Louise M Burton. "With this campaign we will raise community awareness about modern slavery in Australia – as well as help survivors take back control, become independent, and start a new life free from exploitation."

About the [Sisters of Charity Foundation](#)

The Sisters of Charity Foundation is a progressive not-for-profit, dedicated to the development of lifechanging social justice programs that provide compassion, hope and practical assistance to people experiencing financial hardship. The Sisters of Charity Foundation feeds, houses, and educates some of the most disadvantaged, marginalised and socially isolated people in our community.

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