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New ministry: The Office to Combat Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery



With the blessings of and at the directive of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Mother Church of Constantinople has launched a new ministry – The Office to Combat Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery. The following describes the role, structure and mission of the new ministry.

1. Central Coordination Hub:
The office will act as the central point of coordination for all activities related to combating human trafficking and modern slavery. This will include gathering and disseminating information, issuing public statements, and organizing meetings, seminars, conferences, and other related activities. By centralizing these efforts, the office will ensure that the Church's response is cohesive, informed, and impactful.

2. Educational Resource Center:
The office will serve as a resource center for educating clergy, laity, and the broader community about the realities of human trafficking and modern slavery. It

will develop and distribute educational materials, host workshops, and provide training to ensure that clergy are well-informed and prepared to address these issues in their ministries. This will empower clergy to actively participate in discussions and initiatives at local, national, and international levels.

3. Monthly Online Seminars:
To maintain ongoing engagement and education, the office will host a monthly online seminar. These seminars will be designed to inform clergy and lay leaders across the globe about the latest developments in the fight against human trafficking and modern slavery, share best practices, and highlight the Church's ongoing work in this area. This regular communication will foster a global network of informed and engaged clergy who are equipped to lead efforts in their communities.

4. Development and Dissemination of Educational Resources:
The office will be responsible for the development, publication, and dissemination of an educational resource book, currently being prepared by the Joint Committee of the Patriarchate and the Church of Greece. This book will serve as a vital tool for clergy and educators, offering theological reflections, practical guidance, and case studies on how to address human trafficking and modern slavery within the context of Orthodox Christian teaching.

5. Network of Experts and Representatives:
The office will compile and maintain a comprehensive list of Orthodox clergy, scholars, and NGOs who are knowledgeable about human trafficking and modern slavery. This network of experts will be available to speak at conferences, represent the Patriarchate at international forums, and provide guidance on policy and advocacy initiatives. By establishing this network, the Church will ensure that it has a strong and credible voice in the global dialogue on these issues.

Location and Oversight:
The office will be based in London, operating under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain and under the direct supervision of His Eminence, Archbishop Nikitas. London, as a global hub, offers strategic advantages for networking, advocacy, and collaboration with other organizations and government bodies involved in combating human trafficking. Its location provides easy access to European and international institutions, further enhancing the Church's capacity to influence policy and drive meaningful change. The establishment of an office dedicated to combating human trafficking and modern slavery within the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain is not only a necessary step in fulfilling our Christian duty to protect the vulnerable but also a strategic move to position

the Orthodox Church as a leader in this global fight. Through coordinated efforts, educational initiatives, and active participation in the global dialogue, this office will enable the Church to make a meaningful impact in the struggle against these modern forms of slavery.

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