



DIOCESE OF ONTARIO
The Anglican Church of Canada

Meet Anne Abok

International Director of Media Campaign Against Human Trafficking (MeCAHT)

Born in Nigeria, Anne Abok is the founder and international director of Media Campaign Against Human Trafficking (MeCAHT). Established in 2008, MeCAHT works with victims of human trafficking in Africa and Europe. Trained in media and film, Anne uses her films about human trafficking to affect social change and awareness about modern day slavery.

Anne's journey as a human rights activist began after meeting a minister in Togo, West Africa, who sought to free trafficked girls and return them home to their families. Anne did not know about human trafficking in Africa and an encounter with two Nigerian teenage girls seeking the ministers help to escape left a deep impression on her.

Years later while studying for broadcast media certification in the Hilversum in the Netherlands, Anne was troubled by witnessing Nigerian girls selling their bodies in the red light districts of Amsterdam. She remembered her experience in Togo and then decided to focus on using media to address the problem of human trafficking. Anne developed a training course to assist European and African journalists about reporting on human trafficking and in the process be able to share experiences and solutions.

Through this work Anne knew she would use her entire media career to now address the problem of human trafficking. Inspired by the story of Nehemiah's rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem in the Bible, she uses her filmmaking as an advocacy in fighting human trafficking as a way to rebuild the broken walls of our modern society. Anne explains: *"The Bible talks about giving voice to those who cannot speak for themselves. My films also create opportunity for the victims, as*



survivors who can speak for themselves—they tell their stories their own way through media.”

Anne is currently studying and training for ordained ministry at the Queen’s Foundation in Birmingham, one of England’s oldest theological colleges. For her placement, she is visiting the Diocese of Ontario for five weeks and will visit parishes to raise awareness about the worldwide epidemic of human trafficking.

Working with victims of modern slavery since 2008, Anne says: *“I feel like it's my responsibility, not just me, but for the body of Christ. To champion this call to be part of the fight against human trafficking.”*

Please welcome Anne to your parish as she shares her experiences and advocacy work on human trafficking. You can follow Anne’s journey throughout the Diocese of Ontario each week in the eNews weekly.