

Slovenia



Healing from the Bible

Project: 101085
Tax & Non Tax Deductible



70%+

of Slovenians identify as Christians

50%

or less of Slovenians regularly attend church

19.8

deaths per 100,000 by suicide in Slovenia (2021), the highest rate in Europe

Overview

Bible Society Australia is supporting the Bible Society of Slovenia in helping suffering, wounded and marginalised people heal through the message of the Bible. This trauma healing project trains facilitators and establishes trauma healing groups, expanding in 2025 to reach not just women but all who are suffering especially youth.

The Need

There is a pressing need for trauma healing in Slovenia due to widespread issues such as anxiety, depression, violence, abuse, and post-war wounds. Many individuals experience feelings of loneliness and alienation, limiting their energy for life and spiritual freedom. Although around 70% of Slovenians identify as Christians, only about half regularly attend church, reflecting a strong secularisation that leaves many without spiritual support. This project aims to address the lack of trauma-focused ministries within churches and communities, providing essential healing resources.

The continued impact of COVID-19 on teenagers has increased mental health issues and feelings of hopelessness. There is a need for a specialised Teen Trauma Healing program to support this vulnerable group. Additionally, there is a need for support and assistance for parents and educators, to enhance their resilience in guiding children.

There is a need to partners with organisations like Caritas to reach marginalised individuals who often lack spiritual counselling. Overall, there is a great need to create a supportive environment for healing, fostering genuine discipleship and deeper engagement with God's word.

Goals

In 2025, the Bible Society of Slovenia will run equipping sessions to train trauma healing facilitators, with the goal of having 20-30 new certified trainers. This project seeks to cultivate a thriving community of trauma healing facilitators dedicated to spiritual growth and discipleship. They will be equipped with skills to support trauma-affected individuals and foster holistic trauma healing ministries within churches and communities across Slovenia. Training will also be given to 8-10 new facilitators in the teen trauma healing program, with plans to establish at least three healing groups specifically for teens, as well as strengthening partnerships with youth organisations.

In 2025, a network of up to 20 trauma healing groups will be established. The focus of the project has expanded from aiding traumatised women to encompassing all marginalised individuals. Collaborating with various Christian organisations, the project encourages breaking the silence around trauma and finding new life through the Bible. The Trauma Healing program will be presented to additional interested churches and organisations. Resources, including a Trauma Healing Bible, a journaling New Testament and YouVersion Bible plans on trauma healing themes will be developed and distributed in 2025.

Impact

By the end of 2025, it is expected that the overall impact of this project since it began will be at least 20,200 people. In 2025, the project aims to reach 150 participants in healing groups, mini-groups, or retreats.

The Trauma Healing project is expected to have a significant impact by equipping facilitators to provide effective trauma healing ministry. Participants will experience holistic healing of their spirit, soul, and body through teaching from the Bible and personal encounters with Christ. This will lead to ongoing engagement with Scripture in small discipleship groups following the healing sessions.

Indicators of impact include revitalised communities, improved relationships, and increased demand for facilitators and healing groups across various churches.

The project aims to raise public awareness about the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation. Overall, the initiative seeks to foster a supportive environment for trauma recovery and spiritual growth.

Testimony

“The Trauma Healing program was a decisive tool for me to start helping others with traumas and suffering. In the healing groups the process connected us strongly as brothers and sisters. Our lives are changing, including mine as facilitator of the group. It is easier for us to discover God’s guidance and loving presence in our daily lives and tasks.” — William, PhD, Jesuit, priest, Trauma Healing facilitator, counsellor for more than 25 years*

**Name changed to protect privacy.*

Prayer Points

- Praise God for sending Jesus, who offers salvation and healing to the lost. Please pray that those in healing groups encounter Jesus, experience true repentance, and embrace discipleship.
- Pray that God calls and prepares more people to serve in this project. Please pray for new assistants and partnerships to begin a Teen Trauma Healing for Slovenian teenagers.