

Human Trafficking Prayer Service. January 11 2023

Introduction

Human trafficking is the recruitment and transport of a child or adult for the purposes of sexual exploitation or forced labor. Sadly, there are more people enslaved today than at the height of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. The enslavement of God's children breaks God's heart. Learn more about human trafficking and join us in prayer for an end to the injustice of human trafficking and modern-day slavery.

Human trafficking statistics

- Out of more than 7.6 billion people in the world, an estimated **40.3 million** adults and children in forced labor, sexual slavery, and forced marriage.
- One in four modern slaves is a child.
- **14 countries** are violating the U.S. Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008.
- Profits from forced labor equal **\$150.2 billion annually**.

Efforts to fight human trafficking

The **Trafficking Victims Protection Act** was first passed in the United States in 2000 and is the largest piece of anti-trafficking legislation in U.S. history. It created the first comprehensive federal law to address human trafficking and other forms of modern-day slavery, targeting both domestic and international aspects of the crime.

The act uses a three-pronged approach to combat trafficking: prevention, protection, and prosecution.

Because traffickers continually change their methods to skirt the law, legislation needs to be regularly updated. In particular, there is a critical need to expand federal criminal jurisdiction to cover trafficking offenses committed abroad. This means an offender can be tried in the United States whether or not the crime was committed in the United States.

(worldvision.org)

Opening Prayer

May we be blessed with the discomfort with easy answers,
half-truths and superficial relationships,
so that our lives have depth and vision.

May we be blessed with courage to confront injustice
and exploitation of people,
so that we work for justice and peace.

May we be blessed with tears to shed for those who suffer,
so that we reach out to comfort them.
to turn their pain into joy.

May we be blessed with enough faith and "foolishness"
to believe that we can make a difference in this world,
and do what others claim cannot be done.

-based on a Franciscan prayer

Readings

Lamentations 5:1, 11, 13, 15

Oh God, remember what has happened to us;
consider and see our degradation.

The women in Zion have been raped,
the young girls in the town of Judah.

Youths have been put to the mill,
boys stagger under loads of wood.

Joy has vanished from our hearts;
Our dancing has turned to mourning.

Matthew 19:13-14

Then the little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

Mark 9:36-37

Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

Intercessions

For children objectified in the commercial sex industry and young adults who run away from foster care and are coerced into trafficking. We pray to the Lord, **God of hope, set us free.**

For women trafficked by their spouses, romantic partners, parents, or family members. We pray to the Lord, **God of hope, set us free.**

For migrant workers who live and work in isolated conditions and are forbidden to leave their place of employment. We pray to the Lord, **God of hope, set us free.**

For adults and children coerced and forced into providing images and videos for the pornography industry. We pray to the Lord, **God of hope, set us free.**

For those committed to combatting trafficking, may they increase their awareness about this scourge, and may God give them the strength to accompany survivors on their path to healing and wholeness. We pray to the Lord, **God of hope, set us free.**

For perpetrators of human trafficking, that they repent of their evil ways and turn to God for forgiveness. We pray to the Lord, **God of hope, set us free.**

(chausa.Org) Catholic Health Association of United States

Speakers

Moment of Reflection:

What in my/our style of life contributes to the reality of child slavery and forced labor?

What can I/we do to change the unjust structures that cause suffering from child slavery, forced labor and human trafficking?

Leader: Let us pray

Closing Prayer:

Compassionate and loving Creator of all, we thank you for the gift of time to ponder the horrific realities of human trafficking. We pledge to do what is possible to stop this local and global tragedy. May our efforts, combined with efforts of our local and global siblings transform local and global trafficking realities into dignity and justice for all. This we ask with great confidence in you, our compassionate and loving Creator of all.

Amen.

sistersagainsttrafficking.Org