

Prayer Service for an End to Human Trafficking

Setting: Prepare a table with a ritual cloth, candle with enough small stones for everyone gathered.

Opening Song: Play an opening song, such as *We Are Called*.

Leader: As we gather in prayer to end human trafficking, let us take a moment of silence to remember the estimated 21 million women, men and children who are trafficked today and every day.

[Moment of Silence]

Leader: Let us hold these people in our hearts as with hope we pray the words of the Psalm:

Reader 1: You listen, God, to the needs of the poor; you strengthen their hearts and incline your ear. You win justice for the orphaned and oppressed; no one on earth will cause terror again.

—Psalm 10:17-18

Leader: As we listen to the stories of survivors of human trafficking, we pray for the strength of those enslaved as we work to create a world where no one causes terror again.



"Hands of Trafficking survivors."

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Reader 2: "The long working hours made us weak and exhausted... I always felt very tired and much disturbed because the supervisors were scolding me for carelessness in my work. I also suffered from headache and leg pain. I didn't like working at the mill at all."

—A 20-year-old Dalit Girl working 12-hour plus days at a textile factory in Tamil Nadu, India

Reader 1: "My wife and I were forced to do agricultural and construction work to pay off our debt. Our small children were abused and forced to do household chores. We were all forced to live in the garage and were threatened with deportation. Food was locked up and we were not allowed to eat without permission."

—A man who moved with his family from Latin America to Washington State, USA

Reader 2: "We had no choice. There was nowhere to flee; we were surrounded by the sea. After we arrived back to the shore, we were locked inside the room guarded by their men. The workers had to take one trip after another. There were many workers living under the same conditions. "

—A young man enslaved on a fishing boat in Thailand

Reader 1: "They let me know what would become of me if I told anyone. They told me they knew where I lived, they knew my teachers, they knew my school, they knew everything about me. There was nothing I could do to protect myself. At 14-years-old. I didn't know where to begin."

—An American girl sold by a friend's father and trafficked for sex in Florida, USA

Leader: We now take a moment to reflect upon these stories.

[Moment of Silence]



Leader: A reading from 1 Corinthians:

Reader 1: Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
—1 Corinthians 3:16

Leader: Let us pray for the people caught in human trafficking, that they may be free and know that they have dignity and worth.

Reader 2: For those enslaved in mines, factories, agricultural fields, and bonded labor, who are being used as commodities and a source of profit;

R: Dwell in them and give them freedom.

Reader 1: For those forced to become soldiers, used to fight the wars of others;

R: Dwell in them and give them freedom.

Reader 2: For children and adults exploited in the commercial sex industry;

R: Dwell in them and give them freedom.

Reader 1: For the survivors of human trafficking, as they rebuild their lives;

R: Dwell in them and give them hope.

Reader 2: For the traffickers and pimps who have hardened their hearts and are exploiting others;

R: Dwell in them and change their hearts.

Reader 1: For consumers, that we may be aware of what we support through our daily words, actions and purchases; and that we respect the human dignity of all our sisters and brothers;

R: Dwell in us and help us see You in others.

Leader: Let us take a few minutes to think about one action we might take to support the dignity of all people and end human trafficking. *[Quiet Reflection]*

Leader: I invite you to share one action you will take for those caught in human trafficking. As you share your action, take a stone out of the basket as a reminder of your commitment. Together, we can end human trafficking. *[Sharing]*

Let us pray...

All: God of freedom, be with the people enslaved around the world. Help them to remember that they have dignity and worth. Guide us as we endeavor to end human trafficking and work for freedom for all people. Amen.

Play/sing a closing song, such as *We Shall Overcome*.

Take Action:

- ∞ Before you buy, check to see if your purchases were made using forced labor: [TheGoodGuide](http://TheGoodGuide.com)
- ∞ For upcoming sporting events, write to coaches, athletes, hotels and/or sponsors about human trafficking: iccr.org/resources/2012/CelebrationWithoutExploitationToolkit.pdf
- ∞ See how many slaves are working for you: www.slaveryfootprint.org
- ∞ Find out what and where products are made with slavery: productsofslavery.org
- ∞ Think you know of a case of human trafficking? Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-3737-888

I ask my brothers and sisters in faith and all men and women of good will for a decisive choice to combat trafficking in persons.

—Pope Francis



For more education and action resources, visit www.ipjc.org

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