

Some Prayers of Intercession for the weekend 11 & 12 February, 2017

The feast day of Josephine Bakhita and the day Pope Francis has called a day of prayer, reflection and action against human trafficking

Leader: Let us pray together that God's justice and right will break forth in our time.

1. We pray for Christian Communities and world leaders around the world that they will have strength, courage and vision in confronting and eradicating the injustices of human trafficking in all its forms.

Response: God of compassion, let justice and right break forth.

2. We pray for those in bonded labour, in agricultural fields, mines and factories who have been reduced to tools for production and commodities, rather than human beings.

Response: God of compassion, let justice and right break forth.

3. We pray for women who are estimated to make up 80% of human trafficking victims, and for changes in societal attitudes that deny the equality and dignity of women.

Response: God of compassion, let justice and right break forth.

4. We pray for the millions of children trafficked for sexual exploitation, the production of pornography, forced marriage, illegal adoptions, organs removal, begging and other criminal acts, that our prayer and actions will restore to them dignity and freedom.

Response: God of compassion, let justice and right break forth.

5. We pray for the development of impoverished nations so that their peoples may know a decent standard of living, have opportunities for education and employment, and thus be less vulnerable to human trafficking.

Response: God of compassion, let justice and right break forth.

6. We pray that the demand for trafficked people will reduce. May men and women grow in appreciation of the dignity of every human person so that we can live in a world where no-one is enslaved.

Response: Good of compassion, let justice and right break forth.

7. We pray for all who have died as a result of their exploitation and slavery.

Response: God of compassion, let justice and right break forth.

Leader:

Awaken our hearts and deepen our commitment to work for a world where all people are free to live with dignity and freedom. We ask for conversion of heart for traffickers and for strong laws to protect victims. Give us wisdom and courage so that together we will find ways to ensure Your freedom is the gift for all people. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Source: ACRATH. Find more of ACRATH's Bakhita Day resources at: <http://acrath.org.au/world-day-of-prayer/> (Prayers written by Claire Griffin csb based on US sisters' reflection)