



FREEDOM SUNDAY

GOD'S PEOPLE
WORKING TOGETHER
TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

RESOURCES FOR
WORSHIP + ACTION
(AUSTRALIAN PACK)

'FREEDOM SUNDAY' WAS STARTED IN THE USA BY 'NOT FOR SALE'. IN 2013 'NOT FOR SALE' PARTNERED WITH 'STOP THE TRAFFIK' TO INVITE AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES TO JOIN TOGETHER IN PRAYER FOR FREEDOM. IN 2014 A NUMBER OF GLOBAL FAITH ORGANISATIONS WANTING TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP JOINED IN WITH 'FREEDOM SUNDAY' DEVELOPING RESOURCES THAT WOULD ENGAGE FAITH COMMUNITIES IN ENDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

TOGETHER OUR DESIRE IS FOR 'FREEDOM SUNDAY' TO CONTINUE TO BE A RESOURCE AND AN EVENT THAT WILL INCLUDE A GROWING NUMBER OF FAITH COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD. THROUGH OUR WORSHIP AND BY INSPIRING LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTION WE SEEK TO PREVENT THE GLOBAL CRIME OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.





CONTENTS

1. WHAT IS FREEDOM SUNDAY?
2. THE FREEDOM SUNDAY PRAYER
3. WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?
4. A THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION ON HUMAN TAFFICKING
5. THE STORIES BEHIND THE STATISTICS
6. RESOURCES FOR WORSHIP
7. FROM WORSHIP TO ACTION
8. MORE RESOURCES

“IN THE EYES OF GOD, EACH HUMAN BEING IS A FREE PERSON, WHETHER GIRL, BOY, WOMAN OR MAN, AND IS DESTINED TO EXIST FOR THE GOOD OF ALL IN EQUALITY AND FRATERNITY. MODERN SLAVERY, IN TERMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, FORCED LABOUR AND PROSTITUTION, ORGAN TRAFFICKING, AND ANY RELATIONSHIP THAT FAILS TO RESPECT THE FUNDAMENTAL CONVICTION THAT ALL PEOPLE ARE EQUAL AND HAVE THE SAME FREEDOM AND DIGNITY, IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY.”

POPE FRANCIS, HER HOLINESS MATA AMRITANANDAMAYI (AMMA), VENERABLE BHIKKHUNI THICH NU CHAN KHONG (REPRESENTING ZEN MASTER THÍCH NH T H NH), THE MOST VEN. DATUK K SRI DHAMMARATANA, CHIEF HIGH PRIEST OF MALAYSIA, RABBI DR. ABRAHAM SKORKA, RABBI DR. DAVID ROSEN, DR. ABBAS ABDALLA ABBAS SOLIMAN, UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE OF AL AZHAR ALSHARIF (REPRESENTING MOHAMED AHMED EL-TAYEB, GRAND IMAM OF AL-AZHAR), GRAND AYATOLLAH MOHAMMAD TAQI AL-MODARRESI, SHEIKH NAZIYAH RAZZAQ JAAFAR, SPECIAL ADVISOR OF GRAND AYATOLLAH (REPRESENTING GRAND AYATOLLAH SHEIKH BASHEER HUSSAIN AL NAJAFI), SHEIKH OMAR ABBOD, MOST REVD AND RIGHT HON JUSTIN WELBY, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN EMMANUEL OF FRANCE (REPRESENTING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW)

A QUOTE FROM THE GLOBAL FREEDOM NETWORK FAITH LEADERS DECLARATION
WWW.GLOBALFREEDOMNETWORK.ORG/DECLARATION/

WHAT IS FREEDOM SUNDAY?

FREEDOM SUNDAY IS A GLOBAL DAY OF WORSHIP, PRAYER AND ACTION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING. ON SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER* 2015 OR SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER FAITH COMMUNITIES WILL JOIN TOGETHER TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE CRIME OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SHOW THE WORLD OUR COMPASSION FOR MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO ARE TRAFFICKED AND EXPLOITED AROUND THE WORLD. AS THE WORLD'S FAITH COMMUNITIES WE MUST DEMONSTRATE A UNITED AND TANGIBLE RESPONSE AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING. THIS HEINOUS CRIME MUST NOT BE TOLERATED.

AT THE CLOSE OF 2014 A NUMBER OF WORLD FAITH LEADERS INCLUDING POPE FRANCIS, ARCHBISHOP WELBY, ARGENTINE RABBI DR ABRAHAM SKORKA AND IRAQI GRAND AYATOLLAH MOHAMMAD TAQI AL-MODARRESI AND ZEN MASTER BHIKKHUNI THICH NU CHAN KHONG SIGNED AN HISTORIC DECLARATION AIMED AT TACKLING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY. IT STATED THAT EVERYONE IS BORN WITH DIGNITY AND FREEDOM, AND ANYTHING THAT INJURED THAT WAS AN "ABHORRENT CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY".

THROUGH FREEDOM SUNDAY FAITH COMMUNITIES WILL MAKE COMMITMENTS TO TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT THE CRIME OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN OUR LOCAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITIES. TOGETHER, LET'S STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND LET'S START FREEDOM.

***THIS SUNDAY HAS BEEN SELECTED, AS SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER IS EUROPEAN ANTI - TRAFFICKING DAY. OF COURSE IF THIS DATE DOESN'T WORK FOR YOU PLEASE CHOOSE THE BEST DATE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY. FOR OTHER POSSIBLE DATES CLOSEST TO SUNDAYS GO TO WWW.STOPHETRAFFIK.ORG/AU/FREEDOMSUNDAY**

HOW TO GET INVOLVED.

1. PLAN A SERVICE

Within this pack you will find a selection of worship materials from different cultures and denominations to provide a rich resource for you to use. Please use all of these resources as flexibly as you wish and select what will appropriately lead and inspire your faith community.

Resources include prayers, sermon thoughts and stories. These resources have been designed to support your faith community to learn more about human trafficking and explore the role that they can play in tackling this injustice.

2. TAKE ACTION

Every instance of trafficking involves a person being trafficked from one community into another, therefore your community has the power to stop human trafficking both locally and globally.

Together we can make neighbourhoods safer places where it is harder for traffickers to operate and hide themselves and their victims. A selection of resources are available to equip your community to start taking action to prevent human trafficking.

“HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS A GRAVE CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY. IT IS A FORM OF MODERN DAY SLAVERY AND A PROFOUND VIOLATION OF THE INTRINSIC DIGNITY OF HUMAN BEINGS. IT IS INTOLERABLE THAT MILLIONS OF FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS SHOULD BE VIOLATED IN THIS WAY, SUBJECTED TO INHUMAN EXPLOITATION AND DEPRIVED OF THEIR DIGNITY AND RIGHTS. THIS OUTRAGE SHOULD CONCERN EACH ONE OF US, BECAUSE WHAT AFFECTS ONE PART OF HUMANITY AFFECTS US ALL. VIRTUALLY EVERY PART OF THIS WORLD IS TOUCHED IN SOME WAY BY THE CRUELTY AND VIOLENCE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.

IF WE ARE TO COMBAT THIS EVIL THEN WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO PREVENT THE CRIME, SUPPORT THE SURVIVORS AND PROSECUTE THE CRIMINALS. THE KNOWLEDGE THAT CHURCHES HAVE OF THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES PUTS THEM ON THE FRONTLINE IN THIS CAMPAIGN. FREEDOM SUNDAY PROVIDES CHURCHES WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN TOGETHER WITH OTHERS AROUND THE WORLD IN A DAY OF WORSHIP, PRAYER AND ACTION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING. FREEDOM SUNDAY CHALLENGES US AND RESOURCES US TO TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT THE CRIME OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN OUR LOCAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITIES.”

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, THE MOST REVEREND JUSTIN WELBY

“JESUS CAME TO RELEASE THE CAPTIVES AND I PRAY THAT EVERY CHRISTIAN AND EVERY CHURCH WILL HAVE THE COURAGE AND POWER TO BECOME PARTNERS IN BUILDING A FREEDOM COMMUNITY.”

**COMMISSIONER JAMES CONDON,
TERRITORIAL COMMANDER, AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORY**

FREEDOM PRAYER

WE ARE INVITING ALL CHURCHES TO JOIN TOGETHER IN PRAYING THIS FREEDOM PRAYER DURING THEIR SERVICE. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE THIS PRAYER TO CLOSE YOUR SERVICE.

VOICE 1: ON THIS HOLY GROUND OF WORSHIP
IN THIS SACRED PLACE OF PRAYER
WE HAVE HEARD THE VOICE OF FREEDOM
CRYING 'LET MY PEOPLE GO.'

**ALL: GOD OF FREEDOM,
WHO LEADS US INTO LIFE,
DELIVER US FROM EVERY EVIL:
AND MAKE OF US
DELIVERERS OF OTHERS.**

VOICE 2: WHERE CHAINS RESTRAIN GOD'S CHOSEN CHILDREN
WHERE HUMANS TRADE IN KIN AND SKIN
MAY OUR WORDS PASS ON YOUR PROMISE
OF A LAND WHERE LIBERTY IS SWEET

**ALL: GOD OF FREEDOM,
WHO LEADS US INTO LIFE,
DELIVER US FROM EVERY EVIL:
AND MAKE OF US
DELIVERERS OF OTHERS.**

VOICE 3: GIVE US FAITH TO FACE THE PHARAOHS
WHO LINE THEIR POCKETS FROM THIS PLAGUE
SEND US AS SALVATION'S SPONSORS
WILLING SERVANTS; SLAVES TO LOVE

**ALL: GOD OF FREEDOM,
WHO LEADS US INTO LIFE,
DELIVER US FROM EVERY EVIL:
AND MAKE OF US
DELIVERERS OF OTHERS.
AMEN**

TO DOWNLOAD THE FREEDOM PRAYER IN OTHER LANGUAGES [GO HERE](#)

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS...

THE RECRUITMENT OR MOVEMENT OF A PERSON, BY DECEPTION OR COERCION FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLOITATION. PEOPLE ARE BOUGHT AND SOLD FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, FORCED LABOUR, STREET CRIME, DOMESTIC SERVITUDE OR EVEN THE SALE OF ORGANS AND HUMAN SACRIFICE.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS...

THE WORLD'S FASTEST GROWING GLOBAL CRIME AND IS ONE OF THE LARGEST SOURCES OF INCOME FOR ORGANISED CRIME. THE PROFITS ARE HIGH AND THE RISKS ARE LOW.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS...

A SYSTEM BASED ON GREED, CONTROL AND POWER. IN WHATEVER SHAPE OR FORM EVERYONE DREAMS OF PROGRESS, WHETHER IT'S TO BE LOVED, TO BE SEEN, TO BELONG, OR FOR A BETTER FUTURE FOR THEIR FAMILY. TRAFFICKERS OFTEN EXPLOIT THAT DESIRE AMONGST THE MOST VULNERABLE. THE TRAFFICKER CREATES AN INTIMATE POINT OF SALE, MAKING PROMISES OF PROGRESS LIKE AN EDUCATION, A NEW START AND FUTURE CHOICES. THIS IS THE ULTIMATE DECEPTION.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS...

A GLOBAL MARKET PLACE WHERE PEOPLE ARE THE PRODUCT AND EVERYONE HAS A PRICE TAG. IT'S BASED ON AN INTERNATIONAL CONVEYOR BELT OF TRANSACTIONS AND EXCHANGE, WITH SOPHISTICATED TRADE ROUTES AND COMMUNICATIONS. THIS HUMAN PRODUCT CREATES PROFIT, TENS OF BILLIONS EVERY YEAR...AND GROWING.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS... A HORRENDOUS CRIME.

THIS CRIME IS SO AWFUL THAT OFTEN PEOPLE INSTINCTIVELY STRUGGLE TO ADMIT IT EXISTS. OFTEN SOCIETY DOESN'T LISTEN, BUSINESS DOESN'T SEE AND GOVERNMENTS DON'T TALK ABOUT IT. THOSE TRAFFICKED ARE OFTEN INVISIBLE, ALWAYS POWERLESS, AND ARE PUT TO WORK.

THIS HAS TO STOP!

THE ANSWER IS FOR INDIVIDUALS, COMMUNITIES AND SOCIETY TO SEE THIS CRIME, LISTEN FOR IT, TALK ABOUT IT, AND TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT AND DISRUPT THIS GLOBAL SYSTEM! WE CAN ONLY STOP THIS CRIME TOGETHER. SOCIETY, GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS MUST WORK TOGETHER TO GENEROUSLY SHARE KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND RESOURCES THAT CAN BE USED TO EMPOWER VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES, MAKING THEM SAFE, AND TO DISRUPT AND ULTIMATELY STOP THE TRAFFICKERS' TRADE.

FAITH COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD HAVE A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY!

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE - WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN.

Christians believe that human beings have a unique place in God's creation. Created in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27), humanity reflects the glory of God and is given dignity and worth. We are also gifted with individuality, autonomy, reason and creativity and with the capacity for knowledge and moral awareness (Romans 2:14-15). Reflecting the nature of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we seek for relationship and fellowship both with God and with each other. We are created with an innate longing for deep spiritual communion with our Creator (Psalm 42:1).

God's creative purpose for humanity also brings responsibility. Humanity is entrusted with the care of the rest of God's creation (Genesis 1:28 -30). We are also called to value all people, since every individual is created, known and precious to God (Psalm 139:13-17).

HOW OUR WORLD AND OUR RELATIONSHIPS HAVE BECOME DISTORTED.

Often our attitudes, choices and behaviours fall far short of God's creation plan for humanity (Romans 3:23). In conflict, hostility and division and in the mistreatment of people it is evident that relationships with God and with each other have become fractured and distorted. The use of power to abuse and exploit is further evidence of a broken world.

WHY HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS EVIL.

Human trafficking strikes at the heart of what it means for humanity to be created in God's image. It dehumanises those who are trafficked, denying them their God given value and worth and robbing them of their dignity and autonomy. Motivated by profit and greed, traffickers makes commodities of human beings.

They prey on people in vulnerable situations such as poverty, desperation or debt bondage. Trafficked people are oppressed and trapped, losing their freedom through coercion, fear, false promises or deception. Body, mind and spirit are affected.

GOD'S CONCERN FOR JUSTICE FOR THE VUNERAVLE AND THE OPPRESSED IN OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES.

Trafficking of fellow human beings is not new. The Bible tells the story of Joseph who was sold by his own brothers (Genesis 37:28). Joel records how the defeated nation of Israel was scattered and its people traded (Joel 3:3). Amos describes poor people being sold, trampled on, denied justice and oppressed by their own people (Amos 2:6-7).

Yet God's concern for justice is also made abundantly clear in the Bible. Set free from slavery in Egypt, the Israelites were called to live differently from surrounding nations – as God's covenant people. They were never to forget what it was like to be enslaved (Leviticus 19:33-34). The Levitical code set out God's instructions to ensure protection and provision for disadvantaged, poor and vulnerable people such as aliens, widows or people with a disability (Leviticus 19:9-18).

The Psalmist testifies that God upholds the cause of the oppressed, the hungry, prisoners, those bowed down, aliens, the fatherless and the widow (Psalm 146:7-9). The prophets insist that God loves justice (Isaiah 61:8), and call for it to 'roll on like a river' (Amos 5:24). The obligation is clear to 'act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God' (Micah 6:8).

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL.

God went far beyond the call for justice and mercy. In Jesus the Word became flesh (John 1:14). In self-emptying love and humility, God entered our world, making possible life 'to the full' for all people (John 10:10). The stated mission of Jesus, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 61:1-2, makes clear God's redemptive purposes – particularly for the poor, those deprived of freedom, the suffering and the oppressed (Luke 4:18-19). Restoration, renewal and reconciliation are offered to everyone through Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection (Ephesians 2:14-18). This powerfully demonstrates God's love for us and the value placed on humanity. In Jesus, God was prepared to make this self-offering in order to re-create, renew and restore all of creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

GOD'S KINGDOM ON EARTH.

When we respond to God's love we begin to live with different values – God's values. We live the prayer 'Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10). We learn that to love God is to love our neighbour as well (Mark 12:30-31). As people who have been reconciled to God we join in God's reconciling work in creation (2 Corinthians 5:19). Like Jesus, we learn to care for the least and the lowest (Matthew 25:40). In such ways, we strive to make God's kingdom here on earth a visible reality. This is a struggle – a spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:12).

PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN RESPONSES TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Our response to human trafficking is based on what we believe about God and God's purposes for humanity. We also have an obligation to listen and to learn from survivors of human trafficking. Their voices are central to shaping and transforming both our theological and our practical responses to trafficking. Their plight cannot be ignored. Their needs are urgent.

Underlying causes of trafficking should be acknowledged – such as the demand for cheap labour, cheap services or cheap products. If we have been complicit or unheeding in these areas we need to be challenged to change and to work for a world where there is equity and enough for everyone.

Both individually and as the Body of Christ, we are called to respond in prayerful and practical ways. Our first priority is to pray for people who have been trafficked. Also, where possible, Christians can be actively involved in initiatives which seek out the suffering and provide places of refuge and sanctuary. Freedom and dignity must be restored to those who have been oppressed.

The church seeks to stand alongside people who have been trafficked by protecting them & preventing this crime through speaking out to the powerful systems that enable this crime to thrive, systems that we are all a part of in some way. In conjunction with other concerned groups, the church has a duty to press for societal and structural changes, alongside legal changes where these may benefit those who are trafficked. It should also support moves to hold human traffickers to account while believing for and working towards the transformation of the lives of both those who are trafficked and their traffickers.

**INTERESTED IN READING A MORE IN DEPTH THEOLOGICAL PAPER ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING?
PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#).**

“OUR MISSION, AS THE CHURCH AROUND THE GLOBE, IS TO PROCLAIM LIBERATION; TANGIBLY DEMONSTRATING GOOD NEWS TO AN OFTEN HURTING WORLD. FREEDOM SUNDAY IS A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO GET OUT OF OUR PEWS AND PRACTICE WHAT WE PREACH, AS WE SEEK TO END THE APPALLING INJUSTICE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING. THESE ACTION-PACKED RESOURCES ARE FILLED WITH GREAT PRACTICAL IDEAS AND TOOLS FOR OUR CHURCHES TO USE AS WE WORK TO END THIS HEINOUS CRIME BOTH IN OUR LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOODS AND IN COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD.”

**REVEREND STEVE CHALKE, UN GIFT SPECIAL ADVISOR ON
COMMUNITY ACTION AGAINST TRAFFICKING**

STORIES BEHIND THE STATISTICS IN OUR REGION

THE MOST REMOTE STOP THE TRAFFIK GROUP IN THE WORLD

Bormukuli is a tiny, pretty little village situated near the mountains bordering Bhutan. Bormukuli is over 37 kilometres from the nearest town, Udalguri. It is also the place where the most remote STOP THE TRAFFIK group operates. Travel to town is rare and the main occupation of the people is subsistence agriculture. Attracted by the lure of a different future and the possibility of money and education, a number of young people from the village had 'migrated' and never returned. 'Agents' had come to the village and tempted these families into the trap, which we know as human trafficking. These people were not migration or job agents but human traffickers.

The team at STOP THE TRAFFIK India ran some workshops to raise awareness about human trafficking in the Bormukuli area. When the church leaders in the Catholic Church realized what was happening they started monitoring migration and acting as a vigilance body to prevent trafficking. They then organized themselves into a Village Child Protection Committee, and organised clubs for children in school, and school drop-outs. If young people want to leave Bormukuli, there are now workshops and counselling sessions so that they will be fully aware of traps and difficulties.

IN A MATTER OF A COUPLE OF YEARS, BORMUKULI HAS STEMMED THE STREAM OF YOUNG PEOPLE BEING TRAFFICKED FROM THEIR VILLAGE.

[Source – STOP THE TRAFFIK India and Emmanuel Hospital Association Tezpur Assam]

IT HAPPENS IN AUSTRALIA

SANDRA

Sandra is a Fijian Indian woman who helped by the Salvation Army following her being held in conditions of modern slavery. [You can view her story here.](#)

NING

Ning is 13 years old, she lives with her family on their farm in Thailand. She is used to working long hours in the sweltering tropical sun. She knows that without this work, there will not be enough to eat and get by. Her family would love to see her attend school and become educated, but without her working they are not sure if they can survive. Yes, for Ning and her family life is a struggle, but despite its difficulties it has always been a happy life.

When a very professional looking man came to the farm saying that he had a fantastic job opportunity for Ning, her family was very surprised. The man had friends in Australia who were looking for a nanny to take care of their two young children. If Ning took the job, on top of being paid well she would also receive an Australian education. The family knew that this extra income was their best chance to escape poverty, and an Australian education was Ning's best chance to not return to it. Together, they agreed to send Ning to Australia.

Upon arrival however, things turned ugly. Ning was shuttled straight from the airport to a brothel in Surry Hills, Sydney. Here she was told that it cost \$35,000 Australian to bring her into the country. This was a debt that needed to be repaid. Ning was terrified when told how she was to work it off. She was to have sex with 650 men. Ning had lived a sheltered life and barely knew what sex was. She was alone, away from the people she loved, without money, without contacts and away from anything that was remotely familiar. Ning was very, very scared.

Ning was pushed from man to man during the days, and given only a short reprieve at night to rest. After 10 days of this life, immigration officials discovered Ning during a routine compliance raid and she was liberated. Though Ning was fortunate that it only took 10 short days for her to be rescued, this time was enough for

Ning to be sexually abused more than 100 times.

NING IS NOW FREE, BUT THE PROCESS OF HEALING FROM THE TRAUMA HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.
Source Details derived from Natalie Craig, "Sex Slave Victim Wins Abuse Claim", The Age, May 29, 2007.

SOKHA AND MAKARA'S STORY FROM CAMBODIA

Sokha and Makara are from Poipet in Cambodia. When they were just 14 and 15 years old, their mother was ill with a liver complaint. The family needed money to pay for drugs to treat her. They also hoped to buy some land to build a home. A man promised good jobs for the girls in nearby Thailand, and offered the family some money if they would let them go. Sokha and Makara were excited at the thought of being able to help the family with the money they earned. The reality turned out to be very different. The man was a trafficker. There were no 'good jobs' for the girls in Thailand. Sokha's mother died within a year, and the family couldn't afford to buy the land that they had dreamed of. Sokha, who is now 17, says, 'I felt cheated. The traffickers used us for slave jobs, and while they earned lots of money, we only got enough to feed ourselves each day.'

She explains how she and Makara, 16, were given jobs selling fruit, but it did not pay enough. So they were forced to work even harder and to do work that they didn't enjoy. Sokha and Makara's story has a happy ending because of the Cambodian Hope Organisation (CHO) that works with Tearfund, a relief and development agency. Sokha and Makara's parents met with CHO and gave them photos to pass on to an organisation in Thailand that rescues trafficked girls from prostitution. The girls were found and rescued about a year after their ordeal started. Sokha says, 'It's good to be home. We are grateful to CHO who have brought us back to our home, provided us with counselling, taught us the skill of sewing, and brought us into the church.' When asked what they hope for in the future, Sokha says she hopes to set up her own sewing business and employ and help girls in her situation.

'WE WERE SCARED ALL THE TIME IN THAILAND,' SHE SAYS. 'NOW I'M HAPPY, GETTING SUPPORT, LIVING WITH MY FAMILY AND FREE TO WORK WHEN I WANT.'
SOURCE: TEARFUND, STOP THE TRAFFIK

"OVER 200 YEARS AGO THE ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE ACT WAS PASSED THROUGH BRITISH PARLIAMENT, THANKS TO TIRELESS ADVOCACY OF WILLIAM WILBERFORCE AND OTHER CONCERNED CHRISTIANS. IT IS ALMOST BEYOND BELIEF THAT IN THE 21ST CENTURY MILLIONS OF HUMAN BEINGS ACROSS THE WORLD ARE STILL PRESSED INTO THE HORRORS OF SLAVERY. THIS GROSS INJUSTICE SUMMONS US TO RESPOND AS CHRISTIANS OF OLD DID, WITH OUR PRAYER, ADVOCACY, ACTION, AND PURCHASE CHOICES. SUPPORTING FREEDOM SUNDAY IS ONE WAY TO RAISE AWARENESS OF CONTINUED SCOURGE OF HUMAN SLAVERY, AND TO UNITE CHRISTIANS TO WORK TOWARD ITS ABOLITION."

REV'D JANET WOODLOCK, FEDERAL COORDINATOR CHURCHES OF CHRIST, AUSTRALIA

RESOURCES FOR WORSHIP

YOU WILL FIND A SELECTION OF HOMILY / SERMON OUTLINES, PRAYERS, SUGGESTED SONGS AND CHILDREN'S RESOURCES [HERE](#)
THE STYLE OF SERMON OR HOMILY YOU WILL WANT TO DELIVER IN YOUR FREEDOM SUNDAY SERVICE WILL VERY MUCH DEPEND ON YOUR STYLE OF WORSHIP AND CONGREGATION. BELOW YOU WILL FIND A SELECTION OF RESOURCES WHICH WE HOPE YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL ELEMENTS IN YOUR PREPARATION.

BIBLE PASSAGES

Here are a range of bible passages that you may like to use within your Freedom Sunday service:

Psalm 82:1-4

Proverbs 31:8,9

Isaiah 58:6-8

John 10:7-10

Luke 4: 16-19 (Isaiah 61)

Luke 10:25-37

Ephesians 6:9

SERMON OUTLINES

Looking for further inspiration? We have created two full Freedom Sunday sermons one of which uses the gospel readings from the Revised Common Lectionary and Catholic Lectionary for Sunday 18th October.

[Please download here.](#)

SONG SUGGESTIONS

As it was for all those enslaved throughout history, singing songs of freedom calls freedom into reality. The world faith communities hold a wealth of resources for sung worship, please feel free to choose songs/hymns which are most appropriate for yours.

LOOKING FOR SOME INSPIRATION TO GET YOU STARTED? STOP THE TRAFFIK HAS SELECTED AS THE TOP 10 FREEDOM AND JUSTICE SONGS FROM ACROSS THE AGES.

HYMNS

- Amazing Grace (John Newton)
- And Can it be that I should gain (Charles Wesley)
- God of Freedom, God of Justice (Shirley Murray tune Picardi)

SONGS

- Comfort, Comfort (Robin Mann tune Dorothea)
- Brother Sister let me serve you (Richard Gillard)
- Jesus Christ is Waiting (John Bell)

AFRICAN

- Freedom is Coming (VID: www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DNNdAROixI)

CONTEMPORARY

- Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone) (Chris Tomlin)
- Let My People Go (Matt Redman from the Album (Your Grace Finds Me)
- God of Justice (We Must Go) Tim Hughes

AKASH AND THE PIGEONS

Award winning children's author Penny Reeve, has written a beautiful story inspired by her trip to India with STOP THE TRAFFIK in 2013. Tell this story in your children's group.

TO DOWNLOAD THE STORY AND FLASHCARDS [GO HERE](#)

WORSHIP & ACTION

WE ARE ALL CALLED TO ACTION. EVERY ONE OF US. OUR WORSHIP TOGETHER IS IMPORTANT AND CALLS US TO CONTINUE OUR LIFE OF FAITH BY TAKING ACTION TOGETHER IN OUR COMMUNITIES. WE ALL LIVE IN COMMUNITY AND COMMUNITIES HOLD THE ANSWER TO UNDERSTANDING WHAT'S GOING ON AND TAKING ACTION TO DISRUPT THE GLOBAL CRIME OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

RAISE AWARENESS LOCALLY.

SHOW A SIGN ON FREEDOM SUNDAY

Put a message on your church sign. Following are a few suggestions to get you started.

“You may choose to look the other way but you can never say again that you did not know.”
William Wilberforce

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”
Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

“In a new country there will be no slavery and hence no slaves.”
Captain Arthur Phillip 1st Governor of Australia

CAMPAIGN GLOBALLY.

We live in a global village. Each day we are connected to countless individuals, communities and countries through the products that we buy, wear and consume. Trafficking is a global problem that takes place within many business's supply chains. This challenges us to consider our own buying power and consumer habits. As the faith community we can also raise our voice to campaign for an end to this injustice.

To find imaginative ways that your faith community can engaging in campaigning to end trafficking through engaging with one of our STOPHETRAFFIK members or joining in one of our campaigns www.stophetraffik.org/australia.

EXTRA RESOURCES.

[Download here](#) a few extra resources to help you plan and promote your Freedom Sunday service.

- Freedom Sunday Powerpoint template
- Freedom Sunday Poster
- Freedom Sunday Images

SHARE YOUR STORY.

Whatever Freedom Sunday looks like for your community - we'd love other groups to be encouraged! Make sure you take a few photos of your worship service, bible study or any other action that takes place in your faith community. Afterwards post them up on social. When you post, the best way to connect your post with the rest of the world is by including hash tags.

SOME SUGGESTED HASHTAGS YOU COULD USE: #FREEDOMSUNDAY #HUMANTRAFFICKING

SAVE THE DATE FOR 2016.

Join this day of prayer and action in 2016.

Next year Freedom Sunday will take place on Sunday 16th October 2016.

Book it into your faith community calendar now!

“BAPTISTS DRAW INSPIRATION FROM WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT GOD AS A GOD OF JUSTICE AND JESUS’S LIBERATING MINISTRY. CONSISTENT WITH BROADER ECUMENICAL AND EVANGELICAL TRENDS, WE INCREASINGLY SEE MISSION AS HOLISTIC; BRINGING WORD AS WELL AS DEED, MERCY AND ADVOCACY, JUSTICE FOR THE MARGINALISED, LIBERATION FOR THE OPPRESSED, TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIETY AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL. WE JOIN WITH THE STOP THE TRAFFIK AUSTRALIA COALITION ON FREEDOM SUNDAY IN PRAYING AND ACTING TOWARDS AN END TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING.”

**REV DANIEL BULLOCK
DIRECTOR OF MISSION AND MINISTRIES, BAPTIST UNION OF VICTORIA**

“JESUS’ INCARNATION GIVES DIGNITY TO ALL HUMANITY AND HIS SELF-GIVING SHOULD INSPIRE US TO SEEK FREEDOM FOR ALL”

BISHOP JOHN HARROWER, BISHOP OF TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA

“WE BELIEVE HUMAN BEINGS ARE CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD, AND THAT EVERY PERSON IS PRECIOUS AND ENTITLED TO LIVE WITH DIGNITY. THROUGH THE PROPHETS AND THE LIFE AND WORDS OF JESUS, GOD CALLS PEOPLE TO WORK FOR JUSTICE FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE. THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS MOTIVATES US TO LIVE OUT THIS CALLING AND TO AFFIRM THE DIGNITY OF ALL PEOPLE. WE AFFIRM THE RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE TO LIVE FREE OF PERSECUTION AND VIOLENCE. WE INVITE ALL CONGREGATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN FREEDOM SUNDAY THROUGH AWARENESS, FUNDRAISING, WORSHIP, PRAYER AND ACTION.”

REV’D DAVID BAKER, MODERATOR UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

THANK YOU
TO EVERYONE WHO HAS
CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS THE
MATERIALS WITHIN THIS RESOURCE

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IT WOULD BE GREAT TO HEAR HOW YOU AND YOUR FAITH
COMMUNITY HAVE USED THESE MATERIALS AND HOW YOU ARE
TAKING ACTION. PLEASE DO SEND YOUR STORIES AND FEEDBACK
TO AUSTRALIA@STOPTHETRAFFIK.ORG