

PRAYER TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING and SLAVERY

Leader: Let us pray that God's freedom and justice will come for all.

We pray for women and men trapped in forced labour in paddocks, factories and in domestic service; through the work of justice may they be respected as human beings rather than reduced to commodities and tools of production. God of life, hear us.

Response: God of life hear our prayer.

We pray for an end to all discrimination but especially discrimination against women and girls who are disproportionately affected by trafficking, so that all may live with dignity and respect. God of life, hear us.

Response: God of life hear our prayer.

We pray that wealthy countries such as our own will be generous in supporting developing countries so that all people have a decent standard of living and escape the desperate circumstances that make them vulnerable to human trafficking. God of life hear us.

Response: God of life hear our prayer.

We pray for Pope Francis who describes human trafficking as a scourge and whose strong leadership calls for an end to all forms of exploitation and human trafficking. God of life, hear us.

Response: God of life hear our prayer.

People are NOT for sale

"I invite everyone, citizens and institutions, to join forces to prevent the slave trade and to guarantee protection and assistance for the victims."

*Pope Francis
March 2018*



ACRATH National Office

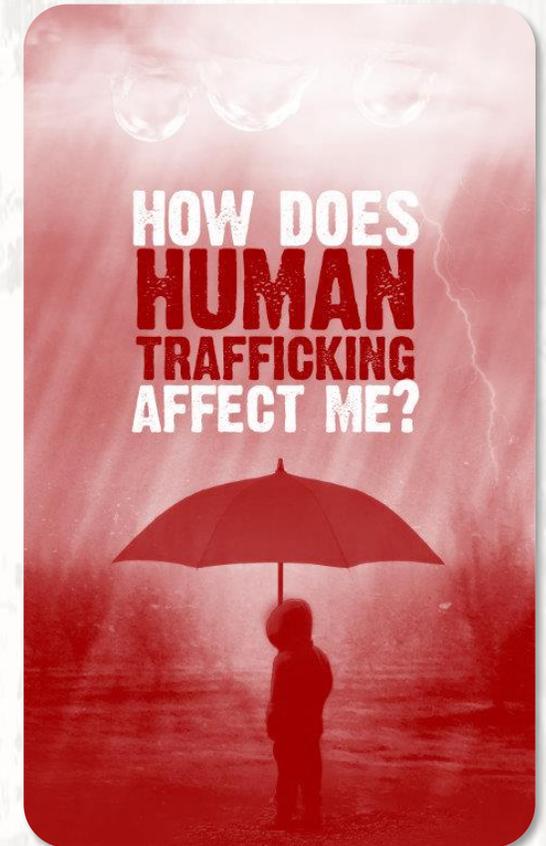
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12 MONTHS OF IDEAS FOR COMMUNITIES, PARISHES, SCHOOLS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUPS



A resource for yearly programs:
awareness raising, prayer and action
to help eliminate human trafficking
and slavery



www.acrath.org.au

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JANUARY: Each year set yourself and your community a goal to learn more about human trafficking. Take time to prepare with your leadership team to celebrate **St Josephine Bakhita's Day** on 8 February. St Josephine Bakhita is the patron saint of all people trafficked into slavery.

<https://acrath.org.au/take-action/world-day-of-prayer-against-human-trafficking>

FEBRUARY: Gather a few others to help organize a slavery-free Easter chocolate campaign in your parish, school and community. Use parish and school bulletins and social media to invite others to join the slavery-free Easter campaign. Post feedback to suppliers' websites letting them know why you are purchasing slavery-free chocolate.

<https://acrath.org.au/take-action/slavery-free-easter>

MARCH 8: International Women's Day. Invite someone to speak about current factors that make children and women vulnerable to being trafficked. We know that 1 in 4 victims of modern slavery are children and that women and girls are disproportionately affected by human trafficking.

APRIL: As part of Easter in your parish, school or community, arrange a reflection time inviting people to consider Pope Francis' words - *"It is not possible to remain indifferent before the knowledge that human beings are bought and sold like goods!"* Consider the challenges these words offer you?

<https://acrath.org.au>

MAY 13 FAIRTRADE Day: Check that the staffroom in your parish, school and workplace serves only ethically sourced tea, coffee and chocolate. Check that uniforms and sports equipment are slavery-free. This is one practical way of ensuring you buy and enjoy products made without any trafficked, forced or child labour. <https://acrath.org.au/make-your-staffroom-slavery-free>

JUNE 12 World Refugee Day: Asylum seekers and refugees forced to leave their homes due to war, persecution or natural disasters are most vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking. Remember these people when you pray together. Support ACRATH's June/July fundraising campaign by making a donation to its work. <https://acrath.org.au/donate>

JULY 30 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons: Arrange a display or forum to inform others and raise awareness about the crime of human trafficking for forced labour and sexual exploitation. Include a prayer at weekend liturgies for all who work to eliminate human trafficking.

AUGUST: During this month organize a simple lunch of soup and bread with a guest speaker sharing how using one's purchasing power can help prevent slavery in the supply chains of clothes we buy. Include a display or parade of ethically produced clothes as part of this event.

SEPTEMBER: With **Social Justice Sunday** occurring in September, talk with 5 - 6 others about the possibility of setting up a Social Justice Group in your parish to keep before parishioners the call of the Scriptures and the Church's social teaching to act justly. Contact the ACRATH Office (see over) and order ACRATH calendars to sell for next year.

OCTOBER 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Given that poverty makes millions of people vulnerable to being exploited and trafficked, organize a letter-writing campaign asking federal politicians to increase rather than continuing to cut Australia's aid to developing nations.

NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 10: Invite others to join ACRATH and the international community's **16 Days Campaign Against Gender-based Violence**, aware that human trafficking is one of the greatest forms of violence against women and girls. Use the reflection sheet and poster from <https://acrath.org.au/take-action/16days>

DECEMBER: Make this a slavery free Christmas! Shop ethically when purchasing Christmas gifts such as chocolates, sporting goods, clothing or other cotton products for family members and friends. For ideas check out <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/>. Tell five other people why you are making choices such as these.

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