

PRAYER TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING and SLAVERY

Loving God, we believe that each person is made in Your image and likeness and that Your desire is that each one will 'have life and have it in all its fullness'.

We are filled with anger whenever we learn that the rights and dignity of others are violated by threats, deception or force.

Today, we pray for an end to all forms of exploitation and human trafficking in Australia and in the global community.

May all discrimination, especially discrimination and violence against women and girls, be brought to an end.

May those stripped of their rights and trafficked into abusive work situations in fields, market gardens, mines and factories be given the respect and support they deserve.

May our demand for cheap goods and services be so reduced that workers' conditions and payments will reflect their dignity and their efforts.

May we have the courage to join Pope Francis and other religious and civic leaders to speak out against human trafficking and to take practical action in our own lives and communities to help eradicate it.

We make this prayer in Jesus' name. AMEN

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*



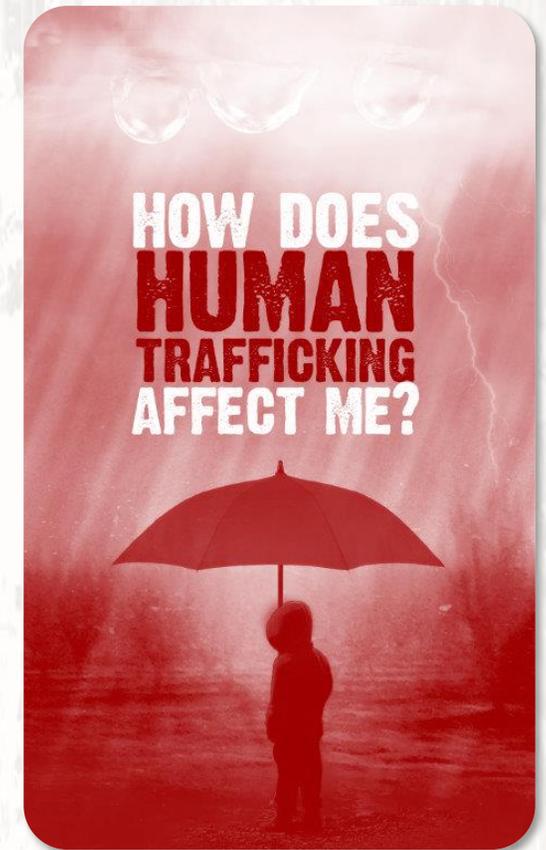
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A RESOURCE FOR COMMUNITIES, PARISHES, SCHOOLS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUPS



To integrate into their yearly programs: awareness raising, prayer and action to help eliminate human trafficking and slavery



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People are NOT for sale

JANUARY: Each year set yourself and your community a goal to learn more about human trafficking. Take time to learn about and prepare with your priest and liturgy 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 an ethically sourced Easter chocolate campaign in your parish, school and community. Use the Parish and School Bulletin notices to invite others in your community to join the slavery-free Easter campaign.

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

MARCH 8: International Women's Day. Invite someone to speak about current factors which make women so vulnerable to being trafficked into slavery. Women and girls make up 80% of the approximately 40 million people who have been trafficked. Pray for vulnerable women and girls when you gather for the weekend Eucharist.

APRIL: As part of Easter reflections in your parish or community, arrange a reflection time at which people are invited to consider Pope Francis' words - *"It is not possible to remain indifferent before the knowledge that human beings are bought and sold like goods!"* What challenge or invitation to life does this offer you?

MAY 13 FAIRTRADE Day: Review whether your parish/school/ workplace staffroom serves only ethically sourced tea, coffee and chocolate. This is one practical way of ensuring you buy and enjoy products produced without any trafficked, forced or child labour.

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.

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. Go to <https://acrath.org.au>. Include a prayer at weekend Masses for all working 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 goods in the fashion industry. A fashion parade of ethically produced clothing could be included 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.

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 cut Australia's aid to impoverished 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>.

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. Tell at least five other people why you are making choices such as these.