

Seven Days of Prayer and Action to End Human Trafficking

January 5–January 11, 2016

Day One—Building Awareness

- **Action:** Educate yourself and your community. Share information from the [Trafficking in Persons](#) report, and consult the following resources.
 - **Resources**
 - [“What Is Modern Slavery?”](#)
 - [“Confronting the Horrors of Human Trafficking”](#)
 - [PC\(USA\) Campaign to Stop Sexual Violence](#)
 - [Trafficking: Facing the Human Commodity](#)
 - **Consider:** Whose problem is it? See [“Sex Trafficking: It's Their Problem, Not Ours”](#)
 - **Join the conversation** on Twitter: [#humantrafficking](#)
 - **Prayer:** God of love and mercy, you see every trouble, every cause for grief; you hear the desires of the vulnerable and strengthen their heart. Now, incline your ear to do justice for the exploited and objectified, so that your people will no longer strike terror on your—and our—earth. Amen.
—Based on Psalm 10, adapted from a prayer of the Interfaith Community and Justice Center, Seattle
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Day Two—Thinking Ahead

- **Action:** Today, [plan for prayer and action](#) in your worshiping community this Sunday, January 10 (the day before National Human Trafficking Awareness Day).
 - **Resources**
 - [Office of Theology and Worship](#)
 - [A Toolkit for Action 2015: Modern Slavery](#)
 - [Together in Action to End Human Trafficking](#)
 - **Consider:** Does it make a difference where trafficking occurs? As we are God's beloved community, is it ever “not our problem”?
 - **Join the conversation** on Twitter: [#endtrafficking](#)
 - **Prayer:** Gracious God, we can hardly bear to read the headlines. We now know that human trafficking happens in our hometowns, at our truck stops, in our hotels, restaurants and nail salons. And there is more . . . so much more that we have not seen because of ignorance and because we want to believe that the evil of human trafficking is elsewhere. Forgive us, gracious God, for we see the world through a tiny lens in which we are good and “they” are bad. Make us wise and incisive in responding to the needs of the world. Empower us to work both in and outside of our borders to break the bonds of injustice. Amen.
—Prayer by Shannon Beck
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Day Three—Those At Risk

- **Action:** Learn to identify signs of trafficking and what you can do about them. Learn more at [www.polarisproject.org](#).
- **Resources**
 - [“Confronting the Horrors of Human Trafficking”](#)
 - [Together in Action to End Human Trafficking](#)
 - [“Identify and Assist a Trafficking Victim”](#)
- **Consider:** What puts people (especially children) at risk for human trafficking?
- Join the conversation on Twitter: [#trafficking](#)
- **Prayer:** Holy God who hears the cries of the oppressed, we come to you as if we were the ones held in slavery. There seems to be no light in this darkness, no hope for our future. Allow someone to see me, to look beyond my outward appearance and into my eyes. Give them the courage to ask, to help, to save me from this captivity. In the name of One love, One hope, we pray. Amen.*
—Excerpted from “Human Trafficking: The Sale and Trade of God's Children,” PC(USA) Office of Immigration



Day Four—Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

- **Action:** Participate in the work of ECPAT–USA. Use travel services that have signed on to the Code of Conduct for the travel industry. If you see children being checked into a hotel or flight who seem confused or disoriented, or don't know where they're going, alert hotel or airport staff. Screen the documentary [What I've Been Through Is Not Who I Am](#).
- **Resources**
 - www.ecpatusa.org
 - www.thecode.org
 - ["In Los Angeles, sex trafficking doesn't look like it does in the movies"](#)
- **Consider:** How can we reach at-risk children and youth? What role does poverty play? In what ways are we as U.S. citizens complicit in the international crisis of human trafficking?
- Join the conversation on Twitter: [#childsextrafficking](#), [#ecpatusa](#)
- **Prayer:** Let us join the psalmist in Psalm 106, who asks, "Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the LORD or fully declare his praise? Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right. Remember me, Lord, when you show favor to your people; come to my aid when you save them . . ." Lord, we know that it is from you that all goodness comes. May you work through us, and may we work together, to share your love.
—Ryan Smith, Presbyterian Representative to the United Nations

Day Five—Child Soldiers

- **Action:** Work to end the use of child soldiers. Have your congregation or circle make red hands to take a stand against the use of child soldiers.
- **Resources**
 - ["Presbyterians Say 'No Child Soldiers'"](#)
 - [Red Hand Day](#)
 - ["For a World Where Children Are Children"](#)
- **Consider:** What is a child soldier? What can be the future for children who are forced to kill?
- Join the conversation on Twitter: [#childsoldiers](#)
- **Prayer:** Loving God, who welcomes children as honored members of your family, turn the hearts of those who would crush tender spirits, forcing them to do what no child should ever have to do. Help us restore balance in your world and bring equity and justice to all corners of the globe. Be with children in war zones who face the unthinkable. Shield their souls and deliver them from the horrors that surround them. We ask this in the name of your Son, who said "'Let the little children come to me . . . for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs'" (Mat. 19:4).
—Yvonne Hileman, staff, Justice and Peace Committee, Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc.

Day Six—Working with Partners

- **Action:** Learn about [Freedom Network USA](#), a national alliance of experienced advocates working with survivors of all forms of human trafficking to ensure that trafficked persons have access to justice, safety and opportunity.
- **Resources**
 - [Freedom Network USA](#)
 - Social service agencies, universities, task forces, coalitions in your community
- **Consider:** How can experts help your community more effectively address human trafficking?
- **Join the conversation** on Twitter: [#humantrafficking](#)
- **Prayer:** God of life, truth and freedom, we ask you to hear us as we pray for child laborers, child soldiers and children exploited in pornography. Liberate them from oppression. We pray that the perpetrators and organizers of human trafficking turn away from their unjust ways. We pray that government leaders, corporate directors and all that serve the public will address the systems



that make human trafficking possible. We come as a people of hope. We believe that in working together as a community, we can stop the demand for human trafficking. Lead us into justice. God, give us the wisdom and courage to stand in solidarity, so that together we will find ways to the freedom that is your gift to all of us. Amen.

—Adapted from a prayer of the Interfaith Community and Justice Center, Seattle

Day Seven—Labor Exploitation

- **Action:** Learn how all of us are part of unjust systems of commerce and exploitative patterns of life that feed human trafficking. Join the [Campaign for Fair Food](#) and support just labor practices. Find out how many exploited workers work for you at www.slaveryfootprint.org.
- **Resources**
 - www.slaveryfootprint.org
 - [Coalition of Immokalee Workers](#)
 - [The Freedom Commons](#)
 - [“Global Supermarkets Selling Shrimp Peeled by Slaves”](#)
- **Consider:** With knowledge of your slavery footprint, what behaviors or purchases could you change to decrease your footprint?
- Join the conversation on Twitter: [#labortrafficking](#), [#fairfood](#)
- **Prayer:** Loving God, you created us in love for life together. And yet we have turned away from you and from our neighbor. As we remember the women, children and men who have been trafficked for profit, production and pleasure, we realize we know little about the circumstances under which our food, our clothing, our jewelry, our lumber or our toys have been produced. And we confess that there is a part of us that would rather not know. People harvest crops, serve us food, clean our homes and yards, paint our nails, service our hotel rooms; but we confess that too often we reduce them to the service they provide and so they remain hidden in plain sight. Children here and around the world are sold, pimped and forced to labor out of desperation, for the comfort or convenience of those who can pay. We are ill at the thought and ill-equipped to respond. Forgive us God. And help us join with our sisters and brothers who have been trafficked to create life-giving patterns of community and commerce. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who came that we might have life in all its fullness. Amen.

—Rev. Noelle Damico

The Next Seven Days—Together in Action to End Trafficking

- **Action:** Participate in Presbyterian Women's Together in Action Days, January 11–17.
- **Resources:** www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice

The Next 351 Days—Work Without Ceasing for the Realm of God

- **Action:** Continue to learn, raise awareness, advocate and heal. Sponsor centers for survivors, like [The Lifeboat Project](#) in Central Florida Presbytery. Participate in programs that provide opportunities for survivors to build a better future, like the [Community of St. Therese of Lisieux](#) in Memphis. Advocate for systemic change at the national and international level, through the U.S. government and the UN. For example, visit www.endslaveryandtrafficking.org to act in support of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act. See the resources listed below for many more ways you can work to end human trafficking.
- **Resources**
 - www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/human-trafficking
 - www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/pw/justice
 - www.pcusa.org/resource/toolkit-action-2015-modern-slavery
 - www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today
 - www.pcusa.org/washington
 - www.pcusa.org/un



- Continue the conversation on Twitter: [#humantrafficking](#); [#endtrafficking](#); [#trafficking](#); [#traffickingprevention](#); @presbyterian; @pwpcusa
- **Prayer:** You asked for my hands that you might use them for your purpose. I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them for the work was hard.

You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice.
I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty.
I closed them for I did not want to see.

You asked for my life that you might work through me.
I gave a small part that I might not get too involved.

Lord forgive my calculated efforts to serve you only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so.

Lord, forgive me, renew me, send me out as a usable instrument that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross.

Amen.

—Prayer by Joe Seremane, South Africa

