

## A Toolkit for Action: Modern Slavery

*In the fields . . . in the mines . . . in raw materials processing . . . in hotels . . . in the supply chain . . . across the street, in the U.S. and around the world, slavery is flourishing. Our church is working to stop it, and you can help.*

### Pray and Worship

#### 1. Pray for

- men, women and children being trafficked for forced labor or for the sex trade both here and around the world;
- the families of trafficked persons, who may not know where family members are, or who may live in fear of physical harm or intimidation from the traffickers;
- the traffickers themselves, who use force, fraud or coercion in order to make huge profits, or who traffic their own family members for survival;
- governments that ignore the slavery taking place within their borders and beyond;
- corporations and industries that benefit from forced or exploitative labor; and
- ordinary people like you and me who unwittingly feed the problem of human trafficking because of our lifestyle choices, consumption and lack of awareness.

**2. Plan to observe Human Trafficking Awareness Day (January 11)** with a service of worship. See [www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking](http://www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking) for liturgical resources. Use the bulletin inserts found in this kit and add a Minute for Mission to the service. Place a basket of orange ribbons in the narthex and ask each man, woman and child to take one to raise awareness of violence against women and children, especially the violence of human trafficking.

**3. Join Presbyterian Women in a week of action around Human Trafficking Awareness Day.** Plan a week of events in January, including workshops, hands-on activities, Sunday worship, studies and more. For additional ideas, see the materials in this kit, suggestions below and on the PW web page, [www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice).

### Learn More

(Items in toolkit)

- 1. Read “The New Face of Slavery”** by Noelle Damico, former PC(USA) associate for fair food (reprinted from the May 2011 issue of *Presbyterians Today*).
- 2. Engage in a one-session study,** “Understanding Human Trafficking 101.”
- 3. Take a true/false quiz** on human trafficking.
- 4. Get a brief explanation of the human-rights framework** in “A Human Rights, Victim-Centered Approach to Human Trafficking.”
- 5. Find out about federal and international laws** in “Human Trafficking: U.S. Law and International Legal Framework.”
- 6. Learn how the church has spoken out** by reading “Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Policy on Human Trafficking.”
- 7. Get a theological perspective.** Read Thelma Burgonio-Watson’s article “Let My People Go,” which explores what our denominational confessions and the Bible’s first story about trafficking tell us about how God would have us respond to trafficking (reprinted from the

March/April 2010 issue of *Horizons* magazine, which is entirely devoted to the issue of human trafficking.)

8. **Explore biblical narratives through the lens of modern-day slavery** using the process described in “Using the Stories of Our Faith” by Nancy Troy.
9. **Find out how your lifestyle choices and consumer habits impact modern slavery.** Visit [www.slaveryfootprint.org](http://www.slaveryfootprint.org) and take the survey. Encourage members of your congregation or group to take the survey. Once you have an idea of your group’s combined footprint, decide on some steps to take together to reduce it.
10. **Read what one Presbyterian woman is doing.** See “Trafficking Young Girls for Sexual Exploitation,” by Nadine Hill, reprinted from the January/February 2014 issue of *Horizons* magazine.
11. **Print and distribute “Together in Action,”** a four-page resource you can use for a Sunday School class, congregational study, community event or other training event. Use the two-page version as a bulletin insert, and pull a portion of either resource for a Minute for Mission during worship.

### Dig Deeper

1. **Find out what the PC(USA)’s Human Trafficking Roundtable is doing to address modern slavery.** Go to [www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking](http://www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking)
2. **Read the January/February 2015 issue of *Horizons* magazine,** which addresses the problem of human trafficking in the Caribbean.
3. **Download the annual *Trafficking in Persons Report*** from the U.S. Department of State to use as a resource for information about the current status of human trafficking and work to counter it globally ([www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/](http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/)).
4. **Read some of the documents** from the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women ([www.gaatw.org](http://www.gaatw.org)) and The International Labour Organization ([www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org)).
5. **Click on the link to the website of the Freedom Network USA** to find many good resources (<http://freedomnetworkusa.org/>).
6. **Invite someone from the Human Trafficking Roundtable** to preach or teach in your congregation or mid-council.
7. **Engage in a four-session study, “Sex Trafficking,”** by Martha Bettis Gee, available as a download from The Thoughtful Christian ([www.thoughtfulchristian.com](http://www.thoughtfulchristian.com)) .
8. **Arrange to have a seminar on human trafficking** for your congregation or group through the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations. Contact Mark Koenig ([mark.koenig@pcusa.org](mailto:mark.koenig@pcusa.org)) or Ryan Smith ([ryan.smith@pcusa.org](mailto:ryan.smith@pcusa.org)).
9. **To find out more about the intersection of domestic violence and human trafficking,** go to [www.pcusa.org/phewa/padvn](http://www.pcusa.org/phewa/padvn) and download the 2014 Domestic Violence Congregational Packet produced by the Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network (PADVN), a network of the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA).
10. **To learn about what the United Nations is doing to end modern slavery through UN GIFT** (UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking), visit [www.ungift.org/knowledgehub](http://www.ungift.org/knowledgehub).
11. **Find out if your community has a government-sponsored anti-human trafficking task force.** If so, consider joining to advocate for a human-rights-based approach.
12. **Connect with the PC (USA)’s Office of Public Witness** to receive advocacy updates and information about the reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims’ Protection Act (TVPA), the

federal legislation on human trafficking that includes monitoring compliance with the law's provisions. Contact J. Herbert Nelson at [JHerbert.NelsonII@pcusa.org](mailto:JHerbert.NelsonII@pcusa.org).

- 13. To find out what laws your state presently has to combat modern slavery,** check the human trafficking website ([www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking](http://www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking)).

## Take Action

- 1. Contribute to the Human Trafficking Extra Commitment Opportunity** at [www.pcusa.org/give/E052101](http://www.pcusa.org/give/E052101). The fund facilitates the work of the Human Trafficking Roundtable to lift up the issue of modern slavery, provide resources and advocate for further action to eradicate human trafficking.
- 2. Read “Hosting a Human Trafficking Awareness Training”** (part of the toolkit) to find out how to host a training for social service providers, law enforcement, and pastors in your presbytery, offered free of charge by our partner Freedom Network USA.
- 3. Post the “End Modern Slavery” poster** (in the toolkit) **with the toll-free hotline number** in a prominent place in your church. Refer to “Identify and Assist a Trafficking Victim” (from the website of the U.S. Department of State) to learn more about the indicators of human trafficking and how to assist.
- 4. Use the “Human Trafficking=Modern Slavery” bulletin insert** (in the toolkit) (to order multiple copies, contact [HTRoundtable@pcusa.org](mailto:HTRoundtable@pcusa.org)).
- 5. Use the “Together in Action” bulletin insert and four-page educational resource** (included in the toolkit).
- 6. Participate in the Red Hands Initiative against the use of children in armed conflict.** Create your own Red Hands image and send to the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, to be used in the PC(USA)'s advocacy work to stop the use of children as soldiers. Mail to 777 United Nations Plaza, Suite 7A New York, NY 10017. Email the image to Presbyterian Women ([yvonne.hileman@pcusa.org](mailto:yvonne.hileman@pcusa.org)) for use on PW's Facebook page.
- 7. Participate in the campaign to implement the Code of Conduct supported by PC (USA) and ECPAT-USA** (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes). The Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct is the only voluntary set of business principles travel and tour companies can implement to prevent child sex tourism and trafficking of children. Find out more about the Code, and order cards to distribute to tourism businesses from the Presbyterian Ministry at the UN. Contact Ryan Smith ([ryan.smith@pcusa.org](mailto:ryan.smith@pcusa.org)).
- 8. Support the Campaign for Fair Food against modern slavery in the fields.** Learn more by reading “Campaign for Fair Food” at <http://ciw-online.org/campaign-for-fair-food>. Order postcards to send to the CEO of the corporation whose grocery store is in your neighborhood (Kroger, Ahold or Publix) by contacting Bryce Wiebe at [Bryce.weibe@pcusa.org](mailto:Bryce.weibe@pcusa.org). Read “Slavery in the Fields and the Fast Food We Eat” ([www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/hunger/pdf/12slaveryinthefields.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/hunger/pdf/12slaveryinthefields.pdf)). Learn more about the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and the Fair Food Program; read “The Coalition of Immokalee Workers and the Fair Food Program: Bringing Dignity and Justice to Florida's Tomato Fields” (<http://ciw-online.org/wp-content/uploads/FFP-brochure-Nov-2012.pdf>).
- 9. Participate in Orange Days** (the UNite to End Violence Against Women campaign; [www.un.org/en/women/endviolence](http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence)). Human trafficking is a form of violence against women (and children and men).
- 10. Support [www.ecpatusa.org](http://www.ecpatusa.org) with PR and the promotion of the Tassatags,** sold by ECPAT

11. Join one of the **coalitions being led by Presbyterian women** in Indiana, Florida, California, Ohio and other states. Or start one yourself. See <http://thelifeboatproject.org/> for an outstanding example of the world being done by Presbyterian women.
12. Advocate for **Safe Harbor laws** in states that do not have them. See [www.polarisproject.org/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/assisting-victims/safe-harbor](http://www.polarisproject.org/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/assisting-victims/safe-harbor) for information on these laws.
13. Support **On Eagle's Wings**, a PW USA Mission Experience mission partner in North Carolina; [www.oewm.net](http://www.oewm.net).
14. Support the **Ecumenical Women's Coalition Against Human Trafficking**, begun by a Presbyterian woman, Nadine Hill, in Indianapolis, Indiana; [www.facebook.com/ewcahumantrafficking](http://www.facebook.com/ewcahumantrafficking). See article reprint in kit.
15. Schedule a **S.O.A.P.** hands-on activity, in which you prepare soaps with the national trafficking hotline number for hotel rooms so that trafficked women and girls might see and call for help. The activity was designed by **Theresa Flores**, author of *The Slave Across the Street*; see [www.traffickfree.com](http://www.traffickfree.com).
16. **Hold a free movie screening** of *Not My Life* or another excellent film (see a list at [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org)).
17. **Distribute "Identify and Assist a Trafficking Victim"** on how to recognize signs of human trafficking (additional information available at [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org) and in the "Together in Action" resource, which is included in the toolkit).
18. **Share information from [www.endslaveryandtrafficking.org](http://www.endslaveryandtrafficking.org)**, another source for education, resources and ideas for action.
19. **Publicize the national hotline number, 888.3737.888**; learn more at [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org)
20. **Ask lawmakers to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**. Postcards are available from Presbyterian Women ([www.pcusa.org/store](http://www.pcusa.org/store); item PWR11227). Presbyterian groups might want to lead their communities in starting a Cities for CEDAW coalition in their area; see <http://citiesforcedaw.wordpress.com>.



# The new face of slavery

Slavery exists today—right in our own communities. But efforts to help those caught in the vicious web of human trafficking must go beyond good intentions.

By Noelle Damico

**F**rom boys sold into the fishing industry in Ghana to domestic workers enslaved and tortured in a Long Island home—slavery is alive and well today in a new form: human trafficking.

Though human trafficking is illegal under both federal and international law, a 2009 report by the International Labour Organization estimated that 12.3 million people were in forced labor around the world, 56 percent of them women and girls. Poverty, gender discrimination, violence, lack of free migration and conflict create the breeding ground for this vicious and profitable phenomenon.

**LOST CHILDHOOD:** This 9-year-old girl, sold to the owner of a brick-making factory in India, toils under the hot sun, making bricks from morning to night, seven days a week.

Girls are trafficked into the brothels of Thailand; farmworkers are locked in a truck, chained, beaten and forced to harvest tomatoes in Florida fields. Last fall a group of men from Latin America were freed after being trafficked for labor as line cooks in New York City. While working, the men were unable to leave the premises and were not given lunch or bathroom breaks. They were required to work 17-hour days at less than minimum wage. The men were denied medical treatment when sick and lived in run-down trailers with no access to hot water or food.

In modern slavery, men, women and children are held against their will through fraud or coercion and forced to labor in agriculture, construction, prostitution, manufacturing, begging or domestic service, or to enter into marriages. People are even trafficked for body parts. Trafficked persons in the United States may be U.S. citizens or foreign nationals (with or without work authorization). The law considers any person under the age of 18 engaged in commercial sex acts to be a victim of trafficking, regardless of the use of force, fraud or coercion.

### Understanding the problem

Modern slavery does not happen in a vacuum; it occurs in those industries where human rights are degraded. For example, while slavery is not the norm within U.S. agriculture, it occurs along a continuum of abuse that can best be characterized as sweatshop conditions. These conditions can tip over into slavery as unscrupulous bosses squeeze a little more profit out of already desperate people by holding them against their will.

This “tip over” factor is central to understanding how people end

up enslaved in the first place. As Luis CdeBaca, director of the U.S. State Department’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, explains, “There is less duping and kidnapping of naive victims than there is coercion of people who initially agreed to do the work.”

Several factors make it difficult to identify cases of modern slavery: cultural and linguistic barriers, the level of coercion experienced by trafficked persons and the fact that enslaved workers are often mixed in among other exploited (but not enslaved) workers.

In November 2007, on the very day an independent monitor certified Florida growers’ fields as “slavery

free,” an enslaved farmworker punched his way out of a truck in which he had been locked and ran to the authorities. There are many accounts of raids on brothels where trafficked women were misidentified as prostitutes, jailed and then released back to their traffickers. Undocumented workers have been rounded up, jailed and deported, even though some had been trafficked into the United States. The trauma of raids makes it less likely that trafficked persons will identify themselves to law enforcement officials.

The people in the best position to help identify and assist trafficked persons are other workers who are not trafficked (though they

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**LOOKING FOR A BETTER LIFE:** Escaping desperate conditions of forced labor and political repression at home, many Burmese laborers flee to Thailand to work in the commercial fishing industry. But they are prey to traffickers who sell them to greedy ship captains and exploiters.



**SEX FOR SALE:** Bar girls, like these young women in Southeast Asia, are typically trafficked from rural communities and neighboring countries. They entice male patrons to buy drinks and may be beaten if they don't meet their quota. Other girls work in discos and massage parlors.

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may be exploited). They know the relationships and people involved. Empowering people working in vulnerable labor sites has been one of the most effective ways to identify trafficked persons and get them the assistance they need.

### No heroes necessary

In evaluating campaigns to combat human trafficking, it is important to ask: (1) How will this effort advance human rights for people who are both exploited and enslaved? (2) Are the people this effort is designed to help involved in its conception and implementation? An approach that respects human rights allows a trafficked person to choose whether, how and when to receive assistance. It ensures that assistance is extended in ways that respect a person's decisions, culture, religion and language.

In Mark 10:46–52, Jesus does not rush in and heal the blind man Bartimaeus, even when Bartimaeus begs, “Have mercy on me!” Instead, Jesus asks, “What do you want me to do for you?” He directs the question to Bartimaeus himself, not to his disciples or the crowd around him.

Renegade actions by groups that have made it their mission to rescue trafficked persons can disrupt evidence trails, make prosecuting traffickers more difficult and free enslaved people without certifying them to receive services and legal assistance to which they are entitled. In the United States, law enforcement and certified government agencies are best situated to investigate situations and free trafficked people, while ensuring their safety and rights. In nations where governments are negligent in addressing

human trafficking, the United Nations has established networks to assist trafficked persons. There is something appealing about imagining oneself as “the hero” who swoops in to condemn slavery and save its “helpless victims.” But this approach simply replicates the violation that trafficked persons have already experienced, this time, purportedly, in the name of good.

Nor do people caught in modern-day slavery need us to be their saviors. Faith in Christ saved many of us at the worst moments of our lives and we want to share God's grace with others. Our Christian faith can be a powerful healing resource for trafficked people. But resources of faith should be offered with care and only when requested, rather than required or imposed.

People who have been trafficked have experienced severe trauma. Their captors may have manipulated the language and symbols of faith to hold them against their will and keep them compliant. In one case cited at a recent U.S. Department of Justice conference, a woman freed from domestic servitude ran from a safe house because it had a prayer room with a visible cross. She had been repeatedly beaten and raped beneath a cross by her trafficker, who proclaimed himself a Christian and took her to church each Sunday.

### How Presbyterians are helping

As awareness of human trafficking spreads, Presbyterians are looking for ways to get involved. Many congregations have collected emergency supplies for trafficked persons. But collaboration is important to ensure that agencies receiving the supplies are not overwhelmed with donations and that trafficked persons get exactly what they need, not what we *think* they might need. In Houston, St. John's Presbyterian Church and other congregations coordinate their efforts with a government agency so that necessary items can be collected

quickly on an as needed basis.

Old Stone Presbyterian Church, just outside Columbus, Ohio, is supporting a home for trafficked children. To learn about best practices in assisting trafficked persons, the church joined Scioto Valley Presbytery in sponsoring free training offered by the Human Trafficking Roundtable, a group of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) staff representing various ministry areas of the General Assembly Mission Council (see “How to Make a Difference,” page 20). More than 100 professionals from area law enforcement, social services and congregations attended the training last fall. In February Presbyterian Women of Scioto Valley Presbytery hosted a panel discussion on human trafficking so members could become educated and active on the issue.

The Presbytery of Charlotte sponsored human trafficking awareness training for the community surrounding Charlotte, N.C., in 2009. Since then the presbytery has organized its own task force on issues of domestic violence and human trafficking and is working with a larger Charlotte-area task force to address human trafficking.

Jesus grounded his ministry in the Hebrew Scriptures’ call to repair economic and social relations—“to proclaim release to the captives . . . , to let the oppressed go free” (Luke 4:18–19). So followers of Jesus today are called to address the violations of human rights that cause human trafficking. But it is vital that our efforts go beyond good intentions, lest our actions be ineffective or cause harm to the very people we wish to help.

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*Noelle Damico, an associate for the Presbyterian Hunger Program, coordinates the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s Campaign for Fair Food and is a member of the Human Trafficking Roundtable of the PC(USA)’s General Assembly Mission Council.*



**LONG HOURS FOR LITTLE OR NO PAY:** Young men sew beads and sequins in intricate patterns onto saris and shawls at a shop in Mumbai, India. The boys, who arrive by train from impoverished villages across the country, often work from 6 a.m. until 2 a.m. the next day.

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*Jesus does not rush in and heal the blind man Bartimaeus, even when Bartimaeus begs, ‘Have mercy on me!’ Instead, Jesus asks, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’*

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**FORCED TO BEG:** Street kids, runaways and children living in poverty can fall under the control of traffickers who force them into begging rings. Children are sometimes intentionally disfigured to attract more money from people passing by. The children are also vulnerable to sexual abuse.





**HELPING CHILDREN AT RISK:** A program near the Thai-Burmese border provides a day school for children from surrounding villages, a boarding school and an emergency shelter. It works closely with teachers, village leaders and religious leaders to identify families who are vulnerable to the networks of traffickers.

## HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

### 3 key practices

1. **Learn.** We know more about human trafficking now than we did 10 years ago. Explore the real outcomes of efforts to help trafficked persons and consult the latest information.
2. **Don't go it alone.** Develop and coordinate your efforts to assist trafficked persons with experienced social service, legal and government entities.
3. **Keep trafficked persons in the decision-making seat.** Explain the options available and do not coerce them into help they don't want. Do not allow your desire to protect trafficked persons to override their ability to make choices about their own lives and situations.

### Ways to get involved

- » Pray for trafficked persons, for all who work to assist trafficked persons, for work to prevent human trafficking, for traffickers to cease their practice and for a global economy that promotes human well-being.
- » Make discussions about modern slavery a part of your congregation's worship and educational life.
- » Observe National Human Trafficking Awareness Day each year on January 11.
- » Support advocacy campaigns, such as the Campaign for Fair Food (see pages 24–29), that are effective in addressing slavery and the conditions in which it flourishes.
- » Sponsor an all-day human trafficking awareness training session provided by the Human Trafficking Roundtable of the PC(USA)'s General Assembly Mission Council. For more information: [www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking](http://www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking)
- » Collect emergency supplies for trafficked persons at the direction of service providers who are authorized to work with trafficked persons by the state or federal government.
- » Become a conscientious consumer and investor. Learn as much as possible about the products you purchase, the corporations in which you invest and the condition of

employees and laborers in corporate supply chains.

- » Help provide emergency housing or jobs for survivors of human trafficking in collaboration with government agencies such as the U.S. Department of Justice or Rescue & Restore that have human trafficking initiatives in your area.
- » If you are a pastoral counselor with training in trauma, consider offering your services to the U.S. Department of Justice human trafficking task force in your area.
- » Hold a fund-raiser or collection to support the human trafficking work of the PC(USA) or give a donation: [www.pcusa.org/give/E052101](http://www.pcusa.org/give/E052101)

### Resources and contacts

- » PC(USA) resources on human trafficking: [www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking](http://www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking)
- » To learn about signs that a person has possibly been trafficked: [www.state.gov/g/tip/id](http://www.state.gov/g/tip/id)
- » National Human Trafficking Hotline: (888) 373-7888. Call to report a suspected incident of human trafficking.
- » UNICEF guidelines on respecting the human rights of children: [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)
- » Rescue & Restore (The Campaign to Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking), an initiative of the Administration for Children & Families (of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services): [www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking)
- » Mission Responsibility Through Investment, a committee of the PC(USA) involved in efforts to end slavery in the travel and tourism industries and to hold corporations accountable for safe and fair conditions in their supply chains: [www.pcusa.org/mrti](http://www.pcusa.org/mrti)
- » Human Rights Update 2010, compiled by the PC(USA) Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy: [www.pcusa.org/resource/human-rights-update-2010](http://www.pcusa.org/resource/human-rights-update-2010)
- » **More resources at [www.pcusa.org/today](http://www.pcusa.org/today)**

## What Do You Know about Human Trafficking?

*Answer true or false for each of the questions below:*

1. Modern slavery is hyperbole for poverty-level wages and bad working conditions. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Twenty-two million people around the world are currently enslaved. \_\_\_\_\_
3. To meet the definition of trafficking, there must be physical force or coercion involved. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Human trafficking is the same as smuggling. \_\_\_\_\_
5. There is no requirement for “force, fraud or coercion” when the commercial sex act involves a person under the age of 18. \_\_\_\_\_
6. People are trafficked within the United States as well as globally. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Only undocumented migrants are trafficked. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Only women and girls are trafficked. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Not all prostitution can be classified as human trafficking. \_\_\_\_\_
10. After being freed from slavery, people are finally safe and are happy. \_\_\_\_\_

## Answers

**1. Modern slavery is hyperbole for poverty-level wages and bad working conditions.**

**False.** It is in fact a new form of slavery in which people are held against their will and forced to work through violence, fraud or threats. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act defines this crime in the United States.

**2. Twenty-two million people around the world are currently enslaved.**

**False.** Although there are many estimates in the millions, we do not know the exact number of people who are trafficked.

**3. To meet the definition of trafficking, there must be physical restraint or violence involved.**

**False.** The legal definition of trafficking (“force, fraud or coercion”) does not require physical restraint. Psychological means of control are sufficient elements of the crime.

**4. Human trafficking is the same as smuggling.**

**False.** In smuggling, people consent to being transported across a border, typically for a fee. In trafficking, people are recruited, transported, and forced to labor against their will.

**5. There is no requirement for “force, fraud or coercion” when the commercial sex act involves a minor under the age of 18. \_\_\_\_\_**

**True.** Even if a minor child claims to be willingly engaged in prostitution, he or she is considered to be under the age of consent.

**6. People are trafficked within the United States as well as globally.**

**True.** People are trafficked within the borders of the United States as well as to, from and through the U.S. (across borders).

**7. Only undocumented persons are trafficked.**

**False.** Trafficked persons may be citizens, documented migrants (with temporary work, cultural, diplomatic or student visas) or undocumented persons. The common denominator is vulnerability, not residential status.

**8. Only women and girls are trafficked.**

**False.** Men, women and children are trafficked. Men are often trafficked into such industries as agriculture, mining and fishing worldwide.

**9. Not all prostitution can be classified as human trafficking.**

**True.** While adult prostitution is illegal, under U.S. law it is only trafficking if there has been force fraud or coercion. Some men and women voluntarily choose to be sex workers.

**10. After being freed from slavery, people are finally safe and are happy.**

**False.** Not always. Persons who have been trafficked may end up in detention centers or be incarcerated. They may be deported. They may not receive the services to which they are entitled. They may be revictimized by those who consider themselves to be their helpers. Or they may struggle with addiction or low self-esteem or the effects of trauma.

# Understanding Human Trafficking 101

*A one-session study to introduce human trafficking—modern slavery*

## Goals

- To be introduced to human trafficking—modern slavery
- To explore appropriate ways to respond to modern slavery, as well as what **not** to do
- To make plans to take action as people of faith

## Preparation

- Pray for participants and for all those affected by modern day slavery.
- Have available the Human Trafficking Toolkit. Make copies of these resources for participants: “The New Face of Slavery”; “True/False Quiz”, “A Human-Rights, Victim-Centered Approach to Human Trafficking” and “A Toolkit for Action”. You may want to copy the questions and answers for the true-false quiz on separate sheets of paper. Display on a bulletin board or on a table the cards, flyer and poster from the Toolkit.
- On a large sheet of newsprint paper or a white or chalk board, print the following open-ended prompt: “Slavery is. . .”
- On another sheet of newsprint, print the facts under the heading “Did You Know?” on the human trafficking flyer. Fold it up or cover it up with another sheet of paper, or place it where you can post it later in the session.
- Locate a hymnal with the hymn “Live into Hope”
- It would be helpful (although not essential) to have access to the Internet for this session.

## Gather Together

### 1. Take a true-false quiz.

As participants arrive, distribute copies of the question portion of the true-false quiz and pens or pencils and invite them to complete the quiz. Say that by the end of the session, the group should have discovered the answers to the questions and that they will revisit the quiz then.

### 2. Sing a hymn.

Sing “Live Into Hope” (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, #332; also in *Glory to God*, the 2013 Presbyterian hymnal).

### 3. Hear scripture.

Ask two volunteers to read aloud Isaiah 58: 1-7 and Luke 4: 18-19.

#### 4. Pray together.

Pray the following 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, or 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.

- The Rev. Noelle Damico, Associate for Fair Food,  
Presbyterian Hunger Program

### Explore Together

#### 5. Introduce modern slavery.

Call participants' attention to the open-ended prompt you posted. Invite them to respond by calling out the first thing that comes to mind when they read that phrase. Print their responses on the sheet or board. Ask for a show of hands in response to this question:

- **Does slavery still exist today?**

Distribute copies of "The New Face of Slavery". Divide the group into smaller groups of three. Ask participant to take a few minutes to read the first four paragraphs of the article silently. Then ask one person in each group to look for a definition of human trafficking, another to identify types of trafficking described in the article, and the third to focus on the examples of trafficking cited in the article. After allowing time to read, have persons discuss in their small groups what they found.

In the total group, invite participants to report what they found out about the definition, types, and examples of trafficking. List these on another sheet of newsprint. Discuss:

- **How would you respond to the question about the existence of slavery now?**

Uncover or put up the statistics and facts from the human trafficking flyer. Discuss:

- **What information here is new to you or surprising?**

Note that while the term “trafficking” may not be familiar, it is helpful to consider what else is trafficked: arms and drugs. Human trafficking is about commodification, too: human beings are bought and sold for huge profits.

Call the group’s attention to the sentence in the fourth paragraph they read about how trafficked persons can be U.S. citizens or foreign nationals, including both documented migrants and undocumented persons. Ask:

- **Do you think smuggling and trafficking are the same?**

Point out that undocumented persons may pay a fee to a smuggler to be voluntarily brought into the United States, but that after arriving here, they may be trafficked—that is, enslaved by force, fraud or coercion.

## **6. Discuss a human right-based approach.**

Distribute copies of “A Human-Rights, Victim-Centered Approach to Human Trafficking.”. Ask participants to silently read the information in this resource as well as in the article under the headings “Understanding the Problem” and “No Heroes Necessary.”

After allowing time for the group to read, read aloud Mark 10:46-52. Call attention to the question Jesus asked, “What do you want me to do?” Based on the information they read, what do participants think persons who are trafficked would want people of faith to do? What would they not want us to do?

## **Respond Together**

### **7. Revisit the true/false quiz.**

Read over the questions for the true/false quiz. Distribute the answer sheet and go over the answers. If participants are still uncertain about a response or have further questions, discuss how they might find additional information. One source is the PC (USA) human trafficking website at [www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking](http://www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking).

### **8. Make Plans to Take Action.**

Invite the group to take time to read over the suggestions for action on the “A Toolkit for Action” sheet as well as the suggestions in “How to Make a Difference” (p. 20 of the article). Also call attention to the examples of human trafficking trainings under the heading “How Presbyterians are helping.” Point out the cards, flyer and poster you displayed. If you have Internet access, participants can explore some of the websites listed on the sheet. Call attention to the site [www.slaveryfootprint.org](http://www.slaveryfootprint.org). Ask participants to jot down actions they are particularly interested in pursuing. In the total group, invite persons to name actions they are interested in, and list on newsprint. Keep a tally of those most often named, putting a check mark beside the action for each person who names it. Then discuss:

- **What are some simple actions we might begin with?**
- **Which actions are named most often that we might take as a group? Which ones are realistically within our capacity to do?**

If there are only two or three participants with a high interest in pursuing an action, you may want to also form small action groups.

## **9. Close with prayer.**

Regardless of what other actions individuals or the group as a whole decide to take, one important action we can all commit to is to pray for an end to modern slavery and for those whose lives are impacted by it. Invite the group to join in a bidding prayer.

Loving God, you created us in love for life together. Your intention for all humankind is for life abundant. And so on this day, let us pray for:

-Men, women and children being trafficked for forced labor or for the sex trade both here and around the world. . . . (time of silence)

**In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

-The families of trafficked persons, who may not know where family members are or who may live in fear of physical harm or intimidation from the traffickers. . . (time of silence)

**In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

-The traffickers themselves, who use force, fraud or coercion in order to make huge profits. . . (time of silence)

**In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

-Governments that ignore the modern slavery taking place within their borders and beyond. . . (time of silence)

**In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

-Corporations and industries that benefit from forced or exploitative labor. . . (time of silence)

**In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Ordinary people like us, who unwittingly feed the problem of human trafficking because of our lifestyle choices, consumption, and lack of awareness. . . (time of silence)

**In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

By your spirit, trouble us, stir us up and energize us for action. Amen.



# Human Trafficking: US Law and International Legal Framework

## US Federal Law

### The Trafficking Victims Protection Act, its Reauthorizations and Reports

*The Trafficking Victims Protection Act defines human trafficking as:*

- A. *Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained eighteen years of age.*
- B. *The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.*

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) was first passed in 2000 and subsequently reauthorized in 2003, 2005 and 2008. See a full history and links to the law and its reauthorizations at [http://www.freedomnetworkusa.org/trafficking\\_us/index.php](http://www.freedomnetworkusa.org/trafficking_us/index.php).

The law established the T visa for foreign nationals who are victims of trafficking. This allows victims to remain in the United States provided they assist law enforcement authorities in the investigation or prosecution of the trafficking case. Children under the age of 18 are not required to cooperate with law enforcement in order to receive assistance. All victims, regardless of cooperation and regardless of whether they are U.S. citizens or foreign nationals, are entitled to emergency social services.

The TVPA further mandates the following reports.

**Trafficking in Persons Report, U.S. Department of State, published June 2011.**  
<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2011/index.htm>

This annual report assesses foreign governments' anti-trafficking efforts worldwide. Since 2010, the Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP) has included a section on modern day slavery within the United States. Access reports from prior years from the U.S. Department of State's website.

**U.S. Department of Labor's List of goods produced by child or forced labor, published in September 2009.**  
<http://www.dol.gov/ilab/programs/ocft/PDF/2009TVPRA.pdf>

This is a list of 122 goods from 58 foreign countries that the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of International Labor Affairs has reason to believe were produced with child or forced labor. The report was mandated by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Acts of 2005 and 2008. It does not cover goods produced using child or forced labor in the United States as that was not part of the TVPRA mandate. However, forced labor and child labor in the United States are briefly discussed in Section 5.4 of

the report. It notes that the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor, “specifically targets low-wage industries, such as restaurants, janitorial services, hotels and motels, and agriculture, where forced labor is most likely to be found.”

## International Legal Framework

### The “Palermo Protocol”

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol), came into force on December 25, 2003.

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/protocoltraffic.htm>

Referred to as the “Palermo Protocol,” it is the main legal and normative framework to combat human trafficking. It defines trafficking in persons in article 3 (a) as follows:

“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include at minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”

As of September 2008, 119 states have ratified the Palermo Protocol. Like the United States, many states have passed their own human trafficking/modern-day slavery laws. Numerous regions and sub-regions have also passed their own instruments, such as the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings which entered into force in February 2008.

### The Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is a comprehensive framework for the rights of children and the most widely adopted human rights instrument in the world- only the United States and Somalia have not ratified the Convention. The comprehensive array of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights is best summarized under the categories of **survival, development, protection, and participation**.

Article 25 on the abduction, sale and trafficking of children (augmented by the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, see below) speaks explicitly to a child’s right not to be trafficked. Other articles that address the threat trafficking poses to a child’s rights are Article 19, protection from all forms of violence; Article 20, children deprived of a family environment; Article 22, the right to special protection and help for refugee children; Article 32, protection from work that is dangerous or may harm health; Article 34, protection from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse; Article 38, protection and care of children

affected by war and armed conflict (augmented by the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict; see below); and Article 39, the right of children who have been neglected abused or exploited to be rehabilitated.

## **Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

A protocol is a legal instrument that complements and adds to an existing treaty. A protocol is optional because states that have ratified the original treaty have the option of signing and ratifying the additional protocols. The Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child address the involvement of children in armed conflict as well as the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

### **The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the use of children in armed conflict, entered into force in February 12, 2002.**

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc-conflict.htm>

UNICEF explains:

The Protocol requires States who ratify it to “take all feasible measures” to ensure that members of their armed forces under the age of 18 do not take a direct part in hostilities. States must also raise the minimum age for voluntary recruitment into the armed forces from 15 years but does not require a minimum age of 18. The Protocol does, however, remind States that children under 18 are entitled to special protection and so any voluntary recruitment under the age of 18 must include sufficient safeguards. It further bans compulsory recruitment below the age of 18. States parties must also take legal measures to prohibit independent armed groups from recruiting and using children under the age of 18 in conflicts ( [http://www.unicef.org/crc/index\\_30203.html](http://www.unicef.org/crc/index_30203.html)).

### **The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography**

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc-sale.htm>

UNICEF explains:

The Protocol provides definitions for the offences of ‘sale of children’, ‘child prostitution’ and ‘child pornography’. It also creates obligations on governments to criminalize and punish the activities related to these offences. It requires punishment not only for those offering or delivering children for the purposes of sexual exploitation, transfer of organs or children for profit or forced labour, but also for anyone accepting the child for these activities. The Protocol also protects the rights and interests of child victims.

**For more information visit [www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking](http://www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking)**

## **Presbyterian Church (USA) Policy on Human Trafficking**

### **On Condemning International Trafficking in and Sexual Exploitation of Children,” 217th General Assembly (2006)**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Synod of the Northeast respectfully overtures the 217th General Assembly (2006) to do the following:

1. Condemn international trafficking in and sexual exploitation of children, which affects 2 million children annually.
2. Direct the General Assembly Council, through its National Ministries Division, its Justice and Compassion mission area, and the associate for Child Advocacy to raise awareness within our presbyteries and local churches and to
  - provide educational resources and reference lists, and
  - network with other groups advocating on this issue, including ECPAT.
3. Direct the General Assembly Council, through its Worldwide Ministries Division,
  - to educate mission workers about the issue of international trafficking in children and sex tourism;
  - to familiarize staff and personnel with this issue.
4. Recommend to synods and presbyteries that their members become educated on this issue and engage in advocacy and action to end exploitation of all children around the world
  - providing resource centers with resources and reference lists;
  - conducting seminars such as the Presbyterian U.N. Seminar on this topic sponsored by the Synod of the Northeast in August 2005.
5. Direct the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly and the Moderator of the General Assembly to send a written communication to the members of U.S. Senate urging that the U.S. ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.
6. Direct the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly and the Moderator of the General Assembly to send a written communication to the members of U.S. Congress supporting federal legislation “End Demand for Sex Trafficking” (H.R. 2012 and S.937), which has already been introduced.
7. Direct the Stated Clerk of General Assembly and the Moderator of the General Assembly to send a written communication to the general secretary of the United Nations

commending the High Office on Human Rights and UNICEF for their diligent global efforts to protect children from international trafficking and sexual exploitation;

supporting ratification and enforcement of international laws that protect children, such as the International Labour Organization's (ILG) Convention No. 182 that prohibits the worst forms of child labour, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, and the Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography; requesting the World Health Organization to consider the impact of international trafficking of children and sexual exploitation of children as they consider and deal with health issues related to the HIV/AIDS global pandemic.

8. Urge members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) not to do business with companies in the travel and tourism industry that have not signed the "Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Commercial Exploitation in Travel and Tourism," seeking ethics to be linked with economics, as in the boycotting of South African products and companies during Apartheid<sup>3</sup> or the "Nestle Boycott" during the 1980s.

9. Request the General Assembly to continue to provide support of and funding for EPCAT in its work of advocating on behalf of children who are sexually exploited and in caring for child victims of sex tourism. [Presbyterian Women and PCUSA entities in the Synod of the Northeast have previously given grant funds to EPCAT.]

10. Direct the Stated Clerk of General Assembly and the Moderator of the General Assembly to send letters of appreciation to the three U.S. companies who have signed the Code of Conduct: The Carlson Corporation and Radisson for their courage and leadership in signing the Code of Conduct, as well as the travel agencies in Boston and Philadelphia, which have also signed.

## **Resolution in Support of Ongoing Partnership Work with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and the Campaign for Fair Food (2006)**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

In light of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s theology and practice, the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns recommends that the 217th General Assembly (2006) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) do the following:

1. Reaffirm the use of consumer action (e.g. boycotts and public protest) in the struggle for economic justice.
2. Acknowledge that such action may be called for in the ongoing Campaign for Fair Food.
3. Authorize the General Assembly Council to approve Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) participation in such consumer actions if it is taken in accord with existing Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) criteria and in concert with our partners in the Alliance for Fair Food.

4. Promote this resolution through preaching, education, and participation in the Campaign for Fair Food by all settings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) through periodic mailings to congregations and the use of resources available on [www.pcusa.org/fairfood](http://www.pcusa.org/fairfood).

## **On Preventing the Trafficking of Women, Internationally and Nationally 218th General Assembly (2008)**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Presbytery of Plains and Peaks respectfully overtures the 218th General Assembly (2008) to remind the government of the United States of America of the provisions of its own Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) signed into law by President Clinton in 2000, and to request that it be conscientiously enforced by doing the following:

1. Instructing the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly to communicate with the United States Justice Department
  - a. to urge law enforcement agencies to work together to close loopholes in the investigation, arrest and prosecution of human traffickers;
  - b. to urge the targeting of exploiters, not their victims;
  - c. to urge the development of more efficient law enforcement training programs to aid in identifying human traffickers and their victims.
2. Instructing the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly to communicate with the United States Department of Homeland Security
  - a. to urge the development of methods to recognize and arrest traffickers;
  - b. to urge the development of methods to identify forged passports and visas in order to limit the number of trafficked victims brought into the United States.
3. Instructing the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly to find ways to urge agencies in other countries to stop traffickers from enticing women with the promise of good jobs in other countries, and by promoting false marriage.
4. Instructing the General Assembly Council to direct the appropriate offices of the General Assembly Council (GAC) to work to strengthen laws that prohibit trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and children.
5. Instructing the General Assembly Council to direct and promote the appropriate offices of the General Assembly Council (GAC) to create educational materials on the trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and children for use by presbyteries and congregations, and to promote the use of the adult curriculum entitled *Sex Trafficking* by Martha Bettis-Gee (available at <http://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com>).” Instructing the Executive Director of General

Assembly Council to direct the Office of Relief and Development to work to strengthen laws that prohibit trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and children.

## **A Resolution to Expand the Church's Ministry with and Advocacy Against Human Trafficking" 218th General Assembly (2008)**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns (ACWC) recommends that the 218th General Assembly (2008) do the following:

1. Direct the General Assembly Council and the Office of General Assembly to expand their ministry with and advocacy against human trafficking to include adults, especially women, by supporting the Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women ministry area to work with the ministries of Compassion, Peace, and Justice in providing resources to the wider church for education and advocacy.
2. Urge the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) to regularly include trafficking of persons in its human rights updates.
3. Encourage the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Women, and other grant making entities in the PC (USA) to fund partner congregations, presbyteries, and synods, in order to
  - a. provide safe housing, medical and psychological help for trafficked persons;
  - b. support efforts to obtain appropriate documentation; and/or,
  - c. assist trafficked persons, especially women, in safely returning to their country of origin.
4. Direct the Presbyterian Washington and the United Nations Offices to
  - a. express concern for the escalation of trafficking within the U.S. and use the public witness channels available to them to raise issues with appropriate national and international representatives; and,
  - b. partner with ecumenical and interfaith entities to build coalitions against trafficking and participate in activities such as the National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness (January 11) and the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN).
5. Direct the General Assembly Council ministries of World Mission and Compassion, Peace, and Justice, in consultation with Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries, to work with appropriate offices and partners, to

- a. gather data on initiatives that respond to the terror of human trafficking and provide materials on the Web or in its interpretation resources, which lift up the PC(USA) efforts to combat trafficking systemically, in the United States and around the world; and
- b. report its findings to the 219th General Assembly (2010).

**Other General Assembly Actions Addressing Human Trafficking:**

- Presbyterian Policy on Immigration from the 217th General Assembly (2006) urges presbyteries to develop and implement strategies, policies, and protocols: to educate their congregations and membership about women and children trafficked into the U.S.A. [13.3]
- A resolution (2010) recommended that the PC(USA) urge the US to ratify the UN Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), including Article 6, which ensures that governments take all measures to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of women.



# Let My People Go . . . \*

BY THELMA BURGONIO-WATSON

Celso Junior/Agência Estado/AE (Agencia Estado via AP)

**Exploitation of people who are powerless continues from Joseph's time to present day. The Brazilian Census Bureau reported in 2006 that child labor had increased 10 percent nationally; in Alagoinhas, Bahia, children work in coal pits, enduring long hours and dangerous working conditions.**

It can be argued that the Bible's core story is the story of the exodus—God reaching out with a mighty hand to redeem and liberate God's particular people from oppression in Egypt. Even the messages in the Gospels largely depend on understanding the paradigms in the exodus story for us to begin to appreciate what God has wrought in Jesus Christ.

The story of the exodus recounts the Israelites' slavery in Egypt, their escape into the wilderness and their entry into the promised land. The events of this particular drama are set in motion by one act of human trafficking—Joseph being sold by his brothers.

## Joseph, Bought and Sold

At its heart, Joseph's story is one of tragedy, an exposé of how we human beings exploit one another. Resentful of Joseph's standing in their father's eyes and of

Joseph's dream that predicts them bowing to him, the brothers decide they can no longer tolerate the pesky upstart. Realizing there is no profit in killing Joseph, they sell him into slavery, to a caravan on its way to the marketplaces of Egypt. Once in Egypt, Joseph is put on the auction block, and he is bought and sold as a bill of goods.

The story temporarily turns for the better, as Joseph rises to a position of great authority and relative freedom within the household that purchased him (*Gen. 39:2–6*). But the reality of Joseph's fettered status reemerges when the mistress of the household tries to initiate sex with him. He resists, deeming it a sin against God and a violation of his master's trust. Angered, the mistress claims Joseph propositioned her, and Joseph ends up in prison (*Gen. 39:7–20*).

## The same radical equality and freedom we are called to model within the church must be in place outside of the church's walls.

The underlying lesson in Joseph's story is that no matter how well things seem to be going, the baseline reality for Joseph is that he belongs to someone else—someone who can shower benefits on him or dispose of him on a whim. Even after Joseph becomes Pharaoh's second-in-command over all Egypt, we implicitly understand that Pharaoh has the power to cast Joseph back into the pit where he was found.

At the end of *Genesis*, Joseph condemns his brothers' actions toward him. "Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good" (50:20a). We should not read into that statement that the evil perpetrated on Joseph is excused, or that the evil of human trafficking is acceptable because God's will becomes apparent. Human trafficking is roundly rejected. The wonder that lies in the text is that God could redeem anything out of such dehumanizing treatment. Nevertheless, by the time *Exodus* begins its tale, the paradigm of Joseph's life as a victim of human trafficking is now writ large and its consequences overlie all Hebrews living in Egypt. And it needs an act of God to end it.

### No Longer Slave or Free

In the New Testament, Paul makes a radical statement about the social structure inherited from Joseph's time. "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in

Christ Jesus" (*Gal. 3:28*). To be sure, context for his words is important. Until the advent of Christ, Paul argues, the "law" functioned as a disciplinarian on wayward humanity. But, he claims, through Christ, humanity has matured to the point that we now know how to behave as responsible adults before God and each other.

Paul suggests that the distinctions the "law" made between classes of people are largely irrelevant, and that the "law's" function as a brute disciplinarian is no longer needed. We are emancipated. Further, in the radical freedom that Christ offers, distinctions between in and out, privileged and outcast are dissolved of force and meaning. All are incorporated into Christ without partiality.

One could argue that this is all merely a theological concept—a lens for how we are to relate to one another within the spiritual fellowship of the church. But what a travesty of Christian ethics to relate as an equal with one person of differing social status *within* the church, and then revert to a relationship based on power and coercion with them *outside* of the church. To do so would be the height of hypocrisy.

The same radical equality and freedom we are called to model within the church must be in place outside of the church's walls. We cannot tolerate any form of human relationship in which one person is held or trafficked in bondage to another.

### Confessing Our Stance

In a sense, the concept of trafficking is the underlying issue in The Theological Declaration of Barmen (*Book of Confessions*, pp. 245–250). Only in this case, what was being trafficked was the entire church! The Declaration objects to the trend in Germany in the 1930s of churches viewing Hitler's regime as God's plan. This confession protests the sovereignty of Christ in the church being replaced by the state as the "single and totalitarian order of human life" (8.23).

The core principle of the Declaration as stated is: "We reject the false doctrine, as though the church, apart from this ministry, could and were permitted to give itself, or to allow be given to it, special leaders vested with ruling powers" (8.21). In the view of those assembled at Barmen, a "special leader" abrogated equality in Christ, threatening to take the church captive and force it to serve alien ends.

The church has been given freedom through Christ (2 *Cor. 3:17*). So how, in good conscience, could the church in Germany stand by while Hitler oppressed and killed entire classes of people? How can the church today stand by while individuals and systems traffic and exploit not just individuals, but whole classes of people?

Another confession, *The Confession of 1967*, protests not only inhumane behavior, but also the consequences of humanity's inhumanity. "... In sin, men claim

mastery over their own lives, turn against God and their fellow men, and become exploiters and despoilers of the world. They lose their humanity in futile striving and are left in rebellion, despair, and isolation” (9.12). Human trafficking diminishes the humanity of both the one trafficked and the one trafficking. It is sinful and evil, and begets nothing but more sin, evil and suffering. It charts a path diametrically opposed to God’s unswerving liberation, reconciliation and healing for the world.

### Responding in Faith

It seems absurd for it to be necessary to elucidate what should be plainly self-evident about the wrongs of human trafficking. Yet it is a reality in our current social fabric, and the articles in this issue witness to the pervasiveness of human trafficking—modern day slavery—in our world today.

Women, children and men who are made vulnerable by poverty, natural disasters, civil conflict or a basic desire for a better life find themselves trafficked across international borders or within their own countries. Lured by promises of a brighter future, young women come from developing countries and are pressed into sexual slavery. Migrants on our southern border who cannot afford to pay a coyote’s



Photo courtesy of UNICEF

**Children living on the street or in slums are more vulnerable to being exploited or trafficked. In Gonaives, Haiti, a 14-year-old girl living on the street works as a prostitute to earn money for food and clothing.**

crossing fee are held captive, used as forced labor in a variety of settings from tomato fields to sweatshops. Children from developing countries in Asia, Africa, Central and South America, and Central and Eastern Europe are trafficked to the United States for the sex trade, child labor and pornography. American children and youth also are trafficked within this country for sexual exploitation.

We dare not, as the church, remain deaf to the cries of those in bondage, cries which God surely hears. It is time for us to hear and respond to God’s speaking to us

once more, urging us to echo Moses in proclaiming to those who hold others in bondage: “Let my people go!” (Ex. 5.1) Let us now put an end to this sin among us. 🍷

Thelma B. Burgonio-Watson is an ordained member at large of Plains and Peaks Presbytery.

\*This article is to honor the spirit of the late Susana Remerata who came to this country as a mail-order bride and was murdered by her ex-husband when she was about to obtain her independence from him. It also honors women and men like her, who would resist domination and oppression, such as human trafficking.



#### Learn More

Consider having a personal or group study of The Theological Declaration of Barmen or The Confession of 1967, focusing on human rights and the role of the church in the world. Both statements may be found in *The Book of Confessions, Part I of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)* (Louisville, Ky.: Office of the General Assembly, 1999).

Visit [www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking](http://www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking) for more denominational resources, including bulletin inserts, General Assembly policy papers and updates.

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## Using the Stories of Our Faith

Sometimes we become so familiar with the stories of our faith that we fail to recognize that many contain elements of human trafficking. Rather than being just a modern-day tragedy, violence against persons has always been part of the human community—a part that God abhors. Using some of the scriptures below, read them again through the lens of “modern day slavery.”

### Bible Study Methodology (individual or group)

1. Read the biblical story slowly and try to imagine hearing this story for the first time. Sit silently for a few minutes, perhaps with closed eyes, visualizing the story as it unfolds in your mind.
2. Are there aspects of the story that tend to “jump out” to you in new ways; things you are seeing for the first time?
3. Who has the power in the passage? Who acts? Who is acted upon?
4. Where do you see tactics used by abusers or traffickers in the biblical narrative?
5. Can you identify different kinds of slavery, both ancient and modern: sexual slavery, forced labor, chattel/property slavery, debt bondage?
6. Does someone in the story right the wrong or bend the situation toward righteousness? Where is God in the narrative?

### To Dig Deeper:

1. Check out information at [www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking](http://www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking) to see how Presbyterians are involved in helping to stop human trafficking.
1. Choose one of the books on the website to read and study as a group.
2. Using the newspaper, note the articles that reflect one of the forms of modern-day slavery. Are there parallels to the biblical stories? What has changed? Not changed?
3. Look into the resources in your local community to see how your community is addressing these issues. Consider inviting a speaker to your church.
4. Pray, preach, and teach about the violence that children, women and men face as victims of modern day slavery. Use stories of survivors to counteract the feeling that this is too overwhelming to address.

### Biblical Stories

Abraham & Sarah in Egypt [Genesis 12:10-20]  
Sarah, Abraham’s Wife & Hagar, his Concubine [Genesis 21:1-21]  
Joseph & his Brothers [Genesis 37-50]  
Hebrews as Slaves in Egypt [Exodus 1:1-14]  
Moses’ mother and Sister Miriam [Exodus 1:8-2:10]  
A Concubine’s Killing [Judges 19]  
Book of Ruth  
Book of Esther  
Onesimus [Letter of Paul to Philemon]

-Slightly adapted from “Using the Stories of Our Faith”, by the Rev. Nancy Troy, a part of the 2011 Domestic Violence Congregational Packet produced by Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network (PADVN), a network of the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA). [www.pcusa.org/phewa/padvn](http://www.pcusa.org/phewa/padvn)

## A Human-Rights, Victim-Centered Approach to Human Trafficking

*Human trafficking—modern slavery— is a grave violation of human rights. Adopting a human rights, victim-centered approach to addressing modern slavery means understanding that human rights violations are both a cause and a consequence of trafficking. It means working to address violations and putting the rights of trafficked persons at the center of all advocacy and assistance efforts.*

### Human Rights Violations: Cause and Consequence

**Modern-day slavery is a cause of human rights violations.** The right to liberty and not to be held in involuntary servitude is the primary human rights violation experienced by a trafficked person. But trafficking leads to the violation of a range of other human rights— the right to be free from cruel and inhumane treatment, the right to health and other basic human rights.

**Modern-day slavery is a consequence of human right violations.** The widespread lack of basic economic rights (such as the right to food, to housing, to sustainable-wage jobs, and the right to safe migration) all foster an environment ripe for modern slavery. Women and children are particularly vulnerable because of the multiple violations of rights that they experience.

### Putting the Rights of Trafficked Persons at the Center

The human rights-based approach has successfully transformed national and international law from treating trafficked persons as criminals to treating them as victims. While this is the standard under US law, there are still challenges. The full implementation and promotion of this approach globally as well as with a wide variety of non-profits has a long way to go. Trafficked persons are not simply victims: they are people with rights, dignity and agency.

**A human rights approach insists on respecting trafficked persons' choice and culture.**

Care must be taken that services provided to trafficked persons should be at their request and be culturally and linguistically appropriate. In some cases, trafficked persons who have been freed have been locked in safe houses in the name of protection, eliminating their freedom to leave if they should so choose. Further, trafficked persons' agency and choices should be respected even and especially when they make decisions with which we disagree. For example, a woman may voluntarily choose to return to sex work after being freed from forced prostitution.

A human rights approach insists that trafficked people are entitled to assistance because their human rights have been grossly violated. There should be no strings attached to assistance. The UN's Special Rapporteur on Human Trafficking has critiqued the US federal law (Trafficking Victims Protection Act) because it requires that trafficked persons cooperate in the prosecution of their traffickers in order to receive ongoing services or a T-visa.

**A human-rights based approach does not label a trafficked person as an object to be rescued or helped.** Rather trafficked persons are human beings— people whose rights are intimately intertwined with the rights of those who seek to help them. In all efforts to help persons who have been trafficked, it is essential to have their consent.

# Hosting a Human Trafficking Awareness Training

## General Information

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Human Trafficking Awareness Trainings are offered to presbyteries by the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Human Trafficking Roundtable, facilitated by the Freedom Network Training Institute, a partner of the Roundtable.

The Freedom Network Institute is the educational arm of the Freedom Network USA ([www.freedomnetworkusa.org](http://www.freedomnetworkusa.org)). Leaders from the Freedom Network have trained participants from the FBI, the US Department of Justice, the US Department of Labor, and countless social service providers and law enforcement professionals (as well as people of faith!). Their background includes working on hundreds of cases with victims of trafficking and in resourcing the US government on the development of legislation and institutional practices.

### Purpose and Participants

This training is designed to foster collaboration and communication among professionals who are a critical part of a community-based response to human trafficking. It is not intended for the general public and should not be advertised widely in your community. It is designed specifically for professionals who are often on the front lines of encountering trafficked persons. While anyone could potentially be in the position of encountering a possible victim, this training is specifically for social service, law enforcement, US government investigators, FBI, immigrant rights professionals, teachers, clergy and other religious leaders who have a particular role in helping to properly identify and assist trafficked persons. It is a day-long, in-depth course for which law enforcement officers as well as social service providers can receive professional education credit (comparable to continuing education for clergy).

### Methodology

The training employs a best practices approach utilizing actual case studies that help professionals understand important ways to identify and address suspected incidences of human trafficking. The rationale for training persons from a variety of disciplines and professions together is to increase connections and ensure proper collaboration. Professionals from many fields can serve as resources to one another in an ongoing basis. Clergy and the lay leaders who have attended these trainings have been overwhelmingly positive in their response to them.

The training itself does not introduce theological or biblical material because it is designed for professionals beyond the church. However, if a presbytery would like to offer biblical/theological discussion as well, that could be done as an add-on in a separate session.

### Read About Past Trainings

In September 2009, the Presbytery of Charlotte offered training to its members and professionals in the Charlotte area. The following article will give you a sense of what the training is like and the impact it had on participants from the church and wider community. <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/human-trafficking/news-archive/>

*For more information please contact the Rev. Noelle Damico at [noelle.damico@pcusa.org](mailto:noelle.damico@pcusa.org) or 631-371-9877 and visit [www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking](http://www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking) .*

## Hosting a Training

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**Hosting training is EASY!** It is similar to planning any other congregational or presbytery event, except for doing outreach to social service organizations and members of the law enforcement community. A real plus is that the presbytery planners are only responsible for outreach, advance planning and on-site logistics—the actual leadership is provided by the Freedom Network trainers.

1. **The training is free of charge**, including materials for participants that they can take home with them. Hosts may decide to provide lunch free of charge. But if the site where the training is held is in walking distance or near restaurants, people often like to get out to provide a break from the full- day training (8:30-5:00 p.m.).
2. **There are no media representatives at the training.** This is essential for the full participation all participants, but especially for law enforcement personnel. They may have very specific questions or scenarios. This also allows for the fullest protection for the victims whose stories will be examined. If planners desire to have media coverage, trainers can be available to speak to members of the press about human trafficking, the point of the training, and so forth.
3. **The key to the success of the training is OUTREACH.** Look at the connections you know of within your community. Trainers can provide specific connections to the US Department of Justice, the US Department of Labor, and in some instances the FBI and law enforcement so that planners can extend specific invitations to professionals in the area. Because this is not a training designed for the general public, posting flyers or making radio announcements is not appropriate. This is a targeted invitation.
4. **Aim for 75-100 participants.** While trainings have been done with a larger group, it's best for networking, conversation and small group work to have between 75 and 100 persons. If you receive an overwhelming response to the invitation, it may be best to plan for two separate trainings. The deadline for registration should be no later than one week before the training event so that the Freedom Network will have ample time to prepare information (and to allow you to know what to prepare for). We must reach 70 participants to be able to offer the training.
5. **Identify a site.** Recent trainings have taken place in churches that were centrally located, had good amplification systems and were capable of being set up to show PowerPoint, video and DVD clips on a large screen. Most presbyteries have some sort of projector/screen/system that can be borrowed for such events. It's helpful if the site has a large room where people can periodically be divided into small groups, as small group dialogue is a central learning tool in the case-study portion of the training.
6. **Form a planning team.** Form a planning team of members from the sponsoring entity (presbytery) or co-sponsors (e.g. presbytery + individual congregations + US Department of Labor +social service agencies). This will ensure maximum input as well as breadth of reach for inviting professionals and breadth of connections for carrying out the event. But the training can also be accomplished with a handful of people who do extensive outreach, so don't let forming a planning team become an impediment to moving forward.

## Three Month Timeline

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### MONTHS 1 AND 2

- Secure approval from the presbytery for sponsorship of this event. Contact any other sponsors.
- With the facilitation of a point person from the PC(USA) Human trafficking Roundtable, set up a conference call with the Freedom Network trainers and three people from the planning team to discuss the program and determine specific needs (flip charts, video, seating).
- The Freedom Network and the Human Trafficking Roundtable will provide additional contacts for outreach and help connect you with the local US Department of Justice Taskforce on Human Trafficking as needed.
- Establish a date, time (8:30 gathering and program from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm) and location.
- Put together the flyer and email / letter for promoting the event to appropriate professionals within the community (sample flyer, email blurb and registration materials are available from the Roundtable).
- Put together a registration form and set a deadline for registration (no later than one week prior to the event so that the Freedom Network has time to prepare materials for participants).
- Begin outreach. In advance of sending materials to organizations, place some phone calls to ensure the invitation to the training is targeted to key people who will get it to appropriate persons in their organization.
- Work with appropriate local institutional sponsors to apply for continuing education credit (state bar association for CLUs, local hospital for CEUs for medical professionals, local non-profits or a university for social worker CFUs, local sheriff's office for CEUs for law enforcement). Freedom Network materials should have all the information necessary to complete the applications (length of training, subject matter covered, and so forth).
- Contact a caterer or schedule a meeting of the "lunch making team" if you're providing lunch. If you plan to suggest nearby restaurants for participants to get lunch on their own, create a flyer listing names and locations. Don't forget coffee and other regular beverages) and a light snack (some bagels or cookies or fruit) to offer as hospitality as people arrive and during the break).

### MONTHS 2 AND 3

- Call organizations to follow-up on invitations to the event.
- Track registrations. Often people don't respond until two to three weeks prior to the event. If a lot of registrations are coming in early, that may signal a larger response. Place some phone calls to organizations that haven't responded to make sure they know the training is filling up (and to see if you might need to schedule two trainings).
- Finalize plans for food, site, and resources and needs (flip charts, video, screens, sound system and so forth).
- Identify "go to" persons for the day of the event; often these are church members who have a key to the building and the authority to move a table or trouble-shoot issues. Having one or two persons "floating" on the day of the event will help with any last minute needs that may arise.
- Establish a registration table and people to staff it so that as participants arrive they can sign in and get their materials quickly. Having five people or so working this table makes it go quickly and easily.



- If needed, schedule a second conference call with Freedom Network trainers.
- One week before the event, tally all registrations and forward that information to the Freedom Network.
- Touch base with all the facilitators the day before the event.

**1-2 WEEKS AFTER THE TRAINING**

- Send out contact information to participants in the training as well as any other material or information from the meeting that needs dissemination.
- Schedule a follow-up phone call with the point person from the Roundtable to evaluate and to offer suggestions for future trainings.

# Human Trafficking = Modern Slavery

Down your street,  
in the U.S. and around  
the world, slavery is  
**flourishing in a new**  
form.

- Your smart phone
- Your t-shirt
- Your computer
- That morning cup of coffee
- The tomato on your sandwich

All these could come from  
slave labor.

**Our church is working to stop it.**

Learn how at

[www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking](http://www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking)



Learn the signs of human trafficking

[www.state.gov/j/tip/id/index.htm](http://www.state.gov/j/tip/id/index.htm)

Report suspected cases of  
trafficking by calling the Trafficking  
Information and Referral Hotline:

1.888.3737.888

**(National Trafficking  
Resource Center)**

[www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking)



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All these could come from slave labor.

In fields, in mines, in raw materials processing, in hotels, in supply chains. Down your street, In the U.S. and around the world, slavery is flourishing in a new form.

Our church is working to stop it.

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Learn the signs of human trafficking  
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## Identify and Assist a Trafficking Victim

From the website of the U.S. Department of State

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/id/index.htm>

Everyone has the potential to discover a human trafficking situation. While the victims may sometimes be kept behind locked doors, they are often hidden right in front of us at, for example, construction sites, restaurants, elder care centers, nail salons, agricultural fields, and hotels. Traffickers' use of coercion – such as threats of deportation and harm to the victim or their family members – is so powerful that even if you reach out to victims, they may be too fearful to accept your help. Knowing indicators of human trafficking and some follow up questions will help you act on your gut feeling that something is wrong and report it.

### Human Trafficking Indicators

While not an exhaustive list, these are some key red flags that could alert you to a potential trafficking situation that should be reported:

- Living with employer
- Poor living conditions
- Multiple people in cramped space
- Inability to speak to individual alone
- Answers appear to be scripted and rehearsed
- Employer is holding identity documents
- Signs of physical abuse
- Submissive or fearful
- Unpaid or paid very little
- Under 18 and in prostitution

### Questions to Ask

*Assuming you have the opportunity to speak with a potential victim privately and without jeopardizing the victim's safety because the trafficker is watching,* here are some sample questions to ask to follow up on the red flags you became alert to:

- Can you leave your job if you want to?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you been hurt or threatened if you tried to leave?
- Has your family been threatened?
- Do you live with your employer?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Are you in debt to your employer?
- Do you have your passport/identification? Who has it?

## Where to Get Help

If you believe you have identified someone still in the trafficking situation, alert law enforcement immediately at the numbers provided below. It may be unsafe to attempt to rescue a trafficking victim. You have no way of knowing how the trafficker may react and retaliate against the victim and you. If, however, you identify a victim who has escaped the trafficking situation, there are a number of organizations to whom the victim could be referred for help with shelter, medical care, legal assistance, and other critical services. In this case, call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center described below.

### 911 Emergency

For urgent situations, notify local law enforcement immediately by calling 911. You may also want to alert the National Human Trafficking Resource Center described below so that they can ensure response by law enforcement officials knowledgeable about human trafficking.

### 1-888-3737-888- National Human Trafficking Resource Center

Call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, a national 24-hour, toll-free, multilingual anti-trafficking hotline. Call 1-888-3737-888 to report a tip; connect with anti-trafficking services in your area; or request training and technical assistance, general information, or specific anti-trafficking resources. The Center is equipped to handle calls from all regions of the United States from a wide range of callers including, but not limited to: potential trafficking victims, community members, law enforcement, medical professionals, legal professionals, service providers, researchers, students, and policymakers.

### 1-888-428-7581 U.S. Department of Justice Worker Exploitation Complaint Line

Call the U.S. Department of Justice's dedicated human trafficking toll-free complaint line at 1-888-428-7581 (weekdays 9 AM - 5 PM EST) to report suspected instances of human trafficking or worker exploitation or contact the FBI field office nearest you. This call is toll-free and offers foreign language translation services in most languages as well as TTY. After business hours, the complaint line has a message service in English, Spanish, Russian, and Mandarin.

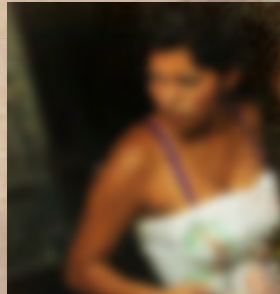
Also at this site, <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/id/index.htm> view a video clip featuring Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador-at-Large, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking In Persons. In May 2009, Ambassador CdeBaca was appointed by President Obama to coordinate U.S. government activities in the global fight against contemporary forms of slavery. He serves as Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State and directs the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which assesses global trends, provides training and technical assistance, and advocates for an end to modern slavery.

# Together in Action

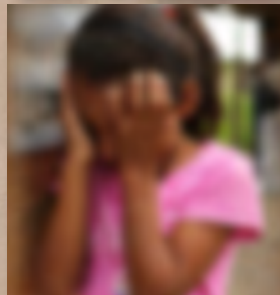
to end human trafficking

Rise up, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand; do not forget the oppressed.  
—Psalm 10:12

Nadine Hill was volunteering at a community center on the east side of Indianapolis when a 9-year-old girl disappeared from the playground. The police later learned that she had been sold by her 14-year-old cousin to a pimp for \$1,200. The girl has never been found. Police believe she was trafficked out of state. Imagine if this were your child or grandchild.



Tens of millions of vulnerable children, women and men are captured, sold and held against their will worldwide for forced labor, including sexual services. This is human trafficking, which is the **second largest** and **fastest growing** criminal industry in the world, generating roughly \$32 billion per year.<sup>1</sup> Human trafficking occurs when people are recruited through force, fraud or coercion to work or provide services. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 describes two types of trafficking: sex trafficking and labor trafficking.<sup>2</sup>



What makes victims vulnerable? Poverty, low self-esteem, innocence, few or no alternatives, substance abuse, lack of security, homelessness, displacement, marginalization . . . What happens to them? False promises, isolation, enslavement, beatings, prostitution, addictions, a life of servitude, many of them killed. None of God's children deserve this.



## Myths about human trafficking

- It only happens in other countries, not the United States.
- It only happens to people who are impoverished.
- Human trafficking is only sex trafficking.
- Prostitutes choose their lifestyle.
- Individuals must be forced or coerced to be a victim.
- Trafficking victims are able to seek help when in public.

## Facts about human trafficking

Human trafficking is modern slavery and takes many forms—sexual exploitation and forced labor, including the use of children as soldiers. Victims may be held by coercion or by force, or be trapped in unjust systems. Millions are moved around to escape discovery and satisfy markets.

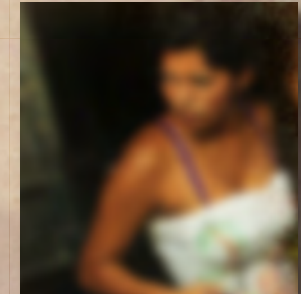


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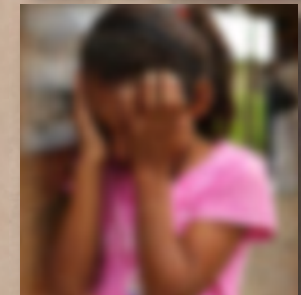
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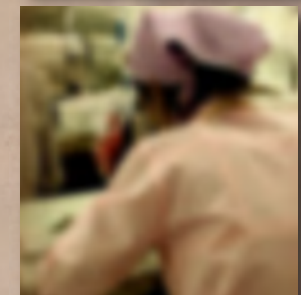
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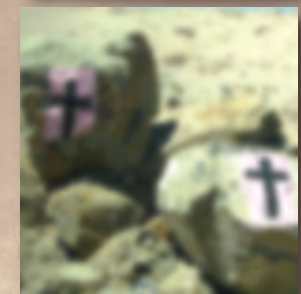


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- Anyone under the age of 18 performing commercial sex acts is considered a victim.
- Victims are usually afraid to come forward, or they lack documents that identify them.
- Most women in prostitution were either coerced, duped, beaten and/or drugged.
- Forced labor happens not just in the sex trade; it is found in sweatshops, agriculture, restaurants, hotels and domestic service.
- An estimated 27 million people are considered to be victims of human trafficking at any given time.<sup>3</sup> The International Labor Organization says 5.5 million of them are children.<sup>4</sup>
- Human trafficking happens in 161 of the world's countries; 104 have no laws or regulations prohibiting human trafficking.<sup>5</sup>
- The average age of entry into sex trafficking in the United States is 12–14.<sup>6</sup>

### How do we participate?

Most of us are part of unjust systems of commerce that feed human trafficking.

- We buy clothing that is inexpensive because garment workers are held in slavery.
- We eat fast food that is inexpensive because farmworkers are trapped by very low wages and cultural isolation.
- We use landscaping and domestic services that are affordable in many areas because workers are virtual slaves to bosses who threaten deportation if there are complaints.

Recognizing our complicity can give us a place to begin working with God to build relationships, policies, and practices that make us accountable to one another and help us love our neighbor in all that we do.

### For prayer and study<sup>7</sup>

The spirit of the LORD God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners (Is. 61:1).

### Notes

1. International Labor Organization (ILO), "A Global Alliance Against Forced Labor," 2005.
2. "Human Trafficking: It Happens Here," Indianapolis Protection of Abused and Trafficked Humans (IPATH), 2011.
3. U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report 2013*.
4. ILO, "Global Estimate of Forced Labor," 2012.
5. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
6. Heather J. Clawson, et al, "Human Trafficking Into

Why, O LORD, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? In arrogance the wicked persecute the poor—let them be caught in the schemes they have devised. For the wicked boast of the desires of their heart, those greedy for gain curse and renounce the LORD (Ps. 10:1–3).

**Pray:** Holy God who hears the cries of the oppressed, we come to you as if we were the ones in 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 the outward appearance and into my eyes. Give them the courage to ask, to help, to save me from this captivity. God, turn the hearts of those responsible for my slavery and help the leaders of countries around the world ensure that this does not happen to another person. In the name of One love, One hope, we pray. Amen.<sup>8</sup>

### Act to end human trafficking

- Support organizations that raise awareness and/or provide education, outreach and services for victims, survivors and those at risk.
- Learn to recognize signs of trafficking.
- If you suspect human trafficking in your community, contact the national hotline at 888-3737-888. Call 888-428-7581 to report suspected instances of worker exploitation.
- Learn about fair food and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' antislavery campaign at <http://ciw-online.org/slavery>.
- Organize a panel of experts in your community to raise awareness. Include a film screening. See [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org) for a list.
- Learn more. Download the PC(USA)'s *Toolkit for Action: Modern Slavery*—[www.pcusa.org/resource/toolkit-action-modern-slavery](http://www.pcusa.org/resource/toolkit-action-modern-slavery).
- Lobby for "Safe Harbor" laws in your state (shifting criminality from victim to trafficker).
- Learn about The Code: [www.thecode.org](http://www.thecode.org).
- Advocate for U.S. ratification of CEDAW (the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women).
- Find more at [www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice).

and Within the United States," 2009.

7. Teresa Stricklen, "Human Trafficking Awareness Worship Resources," PC(USA) Office of Theology and Worship.
8. Office of Immigration Issues, "Human Trafficking: The Sale and Trade of God's Children," [www.pcusa.org/immigration](http://www.pcusa.org/immigration).



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5. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
6. Heather J. Clawson, et al, "Human Trafficking Into

Why, O LORD, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? In arrogance the wicked persecute the poor—let them be caught in the schemes they have devised. For the wicked boast of the desires of their heart, those greedy for gain curse and renounce the LORD (Ps. 10:1–3).

**Pray:** Holy God who hears the cries of the oppressed, we come to you as if we were the ones in 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 the outward appearance and into my eyes. Give them the courage to ask, to help, to save me from this captivity. God, turn the hearts of those responsible for my slavery and help the leaders of countries around the world ensure that this does not happen to another person. In the name of One love, One hope, we pray. Amen.<sup>8</sup>

### Act to end human trafficking

- Support organizations that raise awareness and/or provide education, outreach and services for victims, survivors and those at risk.
- Learn to recognize signs of trafficking.
- If you suspect human trafficking in your community, contact the national hotline at 888-3737-888. Call 888-428-7581 to report suspected instances of worker exploitation.
- Learn about fair food and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' antislavery campaign at <http://ciw-online.org/slavery>.
- Organize a panel of experts in your community to raise awareness. Include a film screening. See [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org) for a list.
- Learn more. Download the PC(USA)'s *Toolkit for Action: Modern Slavery*—[www.pcusa.org/resource/toolkit-action-modern-slavery](http://www.pcusa.org/resource/toolkit-action-modern-slavery).
- Lobby for "Safe Harbor" laws in your state (shifting criminality from victim to trafficker).
- Learn about The Code: [www.thecode.org](http://www.thecode.org).
- Advocate for U.S. ratification of CEDAW (the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women).
- Find more at [www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice).

and Within the United States," 2009.

7. Teresa Stricklen, "Human Trafficking Awareness Worship Resources," PC(USA) Office of Theology and Worship.
8. Office of Immigration Issues, "Human Trafficking: The Sale and Trade of God's Children," [www.pcusa.org/immigration](http://www.pcusa.org/immigration).



# Human Trafficking = Modern Slavery

- Y our smart phone . . . . .
- Y our t-shirt . . . . .
- Y our computer . . . . .
- Y our morning cup of coffee . . . . .
- T he tomato on your sandwich.

All these could come from slave labor.

In fields, in mines, in raw materials processing, in hotels, in supply chains. Down your street, In the U.S. and around the world, slavery is flourishing in a new form.

Our church is working to stop it.

Learn how at [www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking](http://www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking) 

Learn the signs of human trafficking [www.state.gov/j/tip/id/index.htm](http://www.state.gov/j/tip/id/index.htm)

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*“One must never forget that slaves are first and foremost people. Their lives are filled with sorrow and injustice – but also . . . they are touched with humor and joy. Just like regular people. Just like free people.”*

— Ambassador Richard Holbrooke (1941-2010)

Human trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transporting, providing or obtaining, by any means, any person for forced labor, slavery or servitude in any industry or site such as construction, prostitution, manufacturing, begging, domestic service or marriage.

**Did you know . . .**

- After drug dealing, trafficking in persons is the second-largest criminal industry in the world, and is estimated to be the fastest growing? (U.S. Department of Justice)
- Modern slavery around the world claims 20.9 million victims at any time. (International Labour Organization)
- The ILO estimates that 55 percent of forced labor victims are women and girls, as are 98 percent of sex trafficking victims.
- An estimated 1.2–2 million children are trafficked within and across borders? (UNICEF)
- Yearly income lost by people in forced labor worldwide due to unpaid wages and recruitment costs surpasses 20 billion dollars? (ILO)

**And now that you know . . .**

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Human Trafficking | [www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking](http://www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking)

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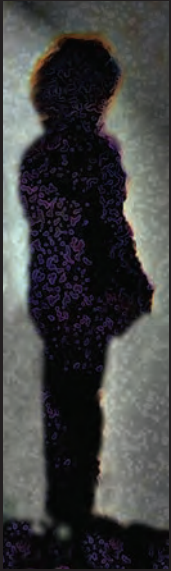
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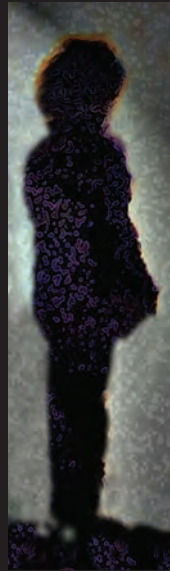
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# A Toolkit for Action: Modern Slavery

**Human Trafficking  
Roundtable**



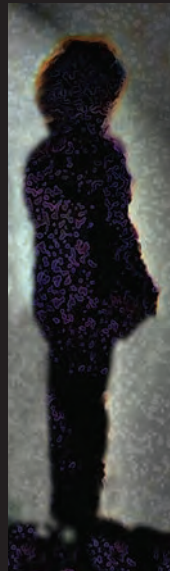
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# Trafficking Young Girls for Sexual Exploitation



BY L. NADINE HILL

May God defend the cause of the children of the world “and crush the oppressors” (Ps. 72:4).

I have been fighting human trafficking since 2004, but it was after I retired in early 2009 from a 30-year career as a legal administrative assistant that I felt the Lord easing me into a repurposed retirement life. That prompting came in August 2011 when I was volunteering at a small after-school ministry in a neighborhood just east of downtown Indianapolis. In that neighborhood, more children live at or below the U.S. poverty level than in any other Indiana neighborhood.

Another volunteer and I were assigned playground duty, caring for about 12 children. One day, I was particularly interested in a group of three girls playing with their Barbie dolls under a large, flowering bush. They reminded me so much of my two young granddaughters. Suddenly, there was a ruckus on the other side of the playground and my colleague and I glanced away for just a moment; when we turned back, one of the little girls was missing. We looked everywhere, asked everyone, to no avail. She was missing. Several months later, we learned that her 14-year-old cousin had taken her and sold her to a pimp for \$1,200. Tamika was nine years old. She has never been found. We believe she was trafficked out of state.

## Remembering Tamika, Restoring Girls

After praying, meditating, discerning and asking a lot of questions, I decided I had to do something about this very real horror in our society. The problem of human trafficking continues to



**Top: Nadine Hill (center) and two ChristCare sisters, Jo Ann Trancik (left) and Laura Menchhofer (right), host trunk shows to raise funds for Ecumenical Women’s Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Bottom: An empty swing recalls the snatching from a playground of a 9-year-old girl sold by her cousin to a pimp in Indiana.**



here's what one PW is doing

Photos courtesy of Nadine Hill

grow at a rapid pace. In February 2012, I founded the Ecumenical Women's Coalition against Human Trafficking, which focuses on the issue of sex trafficking and the rescue of young girls. My goal is to build safe houses where trafficked girls can come to be renewed, restored and one day reintegrated into society as healthy, contributing adults.

Many have said this is a guilt trip for me, but I am way past guilt. This work is an effort on my part to keep the memory of Tamika alive and to help restore trafficked children to a healthy life. There are very few safe places for children to go when rescued from trafficking. In Indianapolis, where I reside, children are taken to a shelter for abused children, processed and put in the foster care system. They need much more than foster care. Everything has been taken from them—their dignity, their identity, their sense of self-worth and, many times, their desire to live. Many return to prostitution; many do not survive. There are few beds in the United States for rescued, sex-trafficked children—boys and girls. I want to give these children the opportunity to live the life God intended for them.

I am grateful to an ever-loving God for giving me this opportunity, and I praise God every day for the blessings bestowed on me for this journey. We must work together as God's hands and feet in the world to overcome the oppression of human trafficking.

## Update

While the ultimate goal is to raise enough to build and operate a safe house, Nadine tells us that this summer (2014), EWCA Human Trafficking—Restoring Hope honed its short-term goals, focusing on what it can achieve with the money donated so far. “We are putting our effort into an outreach center and a therapeutic horse ranch. We believe we can do more by reaching out into the community to help girls who are at risk of being prostituted and possibly trafficked. The safe have continues to be a goal—just not right now.”

Nadine says the outreach center would provide free clothing, food, counselors, tutors, mentors and a safe haven for short-term stay if a girl is in a situation that might be harmful to her well-being. “We need donors and a financial sponsor. We will also need many volunteers to help with renovation of the house and once we are established. We are looking to restore a large house on the near east side of Indianapolis.”

Another mid-range goal is to provide recreation and confidence-building for at-risk girls through a therapeutic horse camp. “Studies have shown that horse therapy, done with love and faith, can help troubled girls develop self-control, empathy, responsibility and affections for themselves and others.” Victoria Hill, who owns an eight-acre horse farm in Clay County, Indiana, will run the camp.

In the meantime, Nadine continues to lobby, speak, hold trunk shows to raise funds, reach out to girls and women in prostitution, and search for donors able to help EWCA Human Trafficking—Restoring Hope realize its goals of preventing and treating victims of human trafficking.

Nadine Hill is founder and board president of Ecumenical Women's Coalition against Human Trafficking, a group based in Indianapolis, Indiana. She is available to speak to your group. Contact her at [hillgrove@comcast.net](mailto:hillgrove@comcast.net) or 317/644-1124.

**Editor's note:** Safe Harbor laws seek a shift from treating prostituted children as criminals to treating them as victims of abuse and exploitation at the hands of their traffickers. Some Safe Harbor laws establish that minors under the age of 16 will not be prosecuted or criminalized for prostitution. Learn more at [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org).



**Vicki Hill**



## Here's What You Can Do

- Go to the PC(USA) Human Trafficking Roundtable's website to learn more about human trafficking and download a toolkit for education and action: [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/human-trafficking](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/human-trafficking).
- Support the work of On Eagle's Wing Ministries, a North Carolina shelter for young women who have escaped trafficking. This project was one that USA Mission Experience participants learned about during their trip and identified as a project for ongoing support. Send your donation to On Eagle's Wings Ministries, PO Box 9737, Asheville, NC 28815. Learn more on the insert of September/October 2013 issue of *Horizons* or by visiting [www.oewm.net](http://www.oewm.net).
- Support the Ecumenical Women's Coalition Against Human Trafficking, based in Indianapolis. Contact her at [hillgrove@comcast.net](mailto:hillgrove@comcast.net) to invite Nadine to speak at your event. Mail donations to P.O. Box 421130, Indianapolis, Indiana 46242.

## Action

In Isaiah 1:17, God calls us to *learn to do good, to learn to rescue the oppressed*. If ever there were a clearly oppressed population in the world, it is those sold into human bondage.<sup>13</sup> What will you do with what you have learned?

- Raise funds for, donate to or start a group to raise awareness and/or provide education, outreach and direct services for trafficking victims, survivors and at-risk populations.
- If you suspect human trafficking in your community, contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 888-3737-888, or call 911. Do not try a rescue yourself. Human trafficking situations are often dangerous and unpredictable. Learn more at [www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking).<sup>14</sup>
- Report suspected instances of worker exploitation to the U.S. Department of Justice's toll-free line at 888-428-7581.
- Learn about fair food and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' antislavery campaign at <http://ciw-online.org/slavery>.
- Organize a panel in your community to raise awareness. Include members of law enforcement, lawyers and judges, social service professionals, survivors, health professionals, legislators and nationally recognized experts in trafficking issues.
- Find PC(USA) resources at [www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking](http://www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking), and the *Toolkit for Action: Modern Slavery* at [www.pcusa.org/resource/toolkit-action-modern-slavery](http://www.pcusa.org/resource/toolkit-action-modern-slavery).
- Read *Horizons* and *Presbyterians Today* for articles on human trafficking.
- Connect with anti-trafficking services in your area to request or host a training.
- Support groups that sell products made by survivors (Center for Global Impact and ECPAT-USA, e.g.).
- Lobby for "Safe Harbor" laws in your state (shifting criminality from victim to trafficker).
- Organize a Bible study using the Thoughtful Christian's publication on sex trafficking ([www.thoughtfulchristian.com](http://www.thoughtfulchristian.com)).

- Host a film screening (e.g., *Human Trafficking* or *Not My Life*); [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org) has a list, as well as lots of other resources.
  - Learn about The Code: [www.thecode.org](http://www.thecode.org).
  - Advocate for U.S. ratification of CEDAW (the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women).
  - See [www.notforsalecampaign.org](http://www.notforsalecampaign.org) for action ideas and the documentary *Not for Sale*.
  - The PC(USA)'s Office of Theology and Worship offers a worship resource on human trafficking at [www.pcusa.org/resource/human-trafficking-worship-resources](http://www.pcusa.org/resource/human-trafficking-worship-resources).
  - Watch for a Lenten 2015 resource created by the World Communion of Reformed Churches and the PC(USA)'s Human Trafficking Roundtable; <http://wrcr.ch>.
- \* For example**
- On Eagle's Wings, a PW mission partner in North Carolina, ministering to young women who have been trafficked: [www.oewm.net](http://www.oewm.net)
  - The Lifeboat Project, an initiative of Jill Cohen, PW from Central Florida Presbytery: <http://thelifeboatproject.org>
  - Ecumenical Women's Coalition Against Human Trafficking, founded by Nadine Hill, PW from Whitewater Valley Presbytery: [www.facebook.com/ewcahumantrafficking](http://www.facebook.com/ewcahumantrafficking)

## Notes

1. International Labor Organization, "A global alliance against forced labor" (2005), 55.
2. "Human Trafficking: It Happens Here," Indianapolis Protection of Abused and Trafficked Humans (IPATH), 2011.
3. U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report 2013*, [www.state.gov/i/tip/rls/tiprpt](http://www.state.gov/i/tip/rls/tiprpt).
4. ILO, "Global Estimate of Forced Labor," 2012.
5. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
6. Heather J. Clawson, et al, "Human Trafficking Into and Within the United States," 2009.
7. Teresa Lockhart Stricklen, "Human Trafficking Awareness Worship Resources," PC(USA) Office of Theology & Worship.
8. Greg Zoeller, "Pillars of Hope," Attorneys General Unite Against Human Trafficking, 2011.
9. Zoeller and IPATH.
10. State Dept., "Identify and Assist," [www.state.gov/i/tip/id](http://www.state.gov/i/tip/id).
11. Office of Theology and Worship, "Human Trafficking."
12. Office of Immigration Issues, "Human Trafficking: The Sale and Trade of God's Children," [www.pcusa.org/immigration](http://www.pcusa.org/immigration).
13. Office of Theology and Worship.
14. Office of Attorney General of Indiana, "Human Trafficking 'Red Flags,'" [www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/humantrafficking](http://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/humantrafficking).



# Together in Action

## to end human trafficking

Rise up, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand; do not forget the oppressed.

—Psalm 10:12

Presbyterian woman Nadine Hill was volunteering at a community center on the east side of Indianapolis when a 9-year-old girl was snatched from the playground and sold by her 14-year-old cousin to a pimp for \$1,200. The girl has never been found. Police believe she was trafficked out of state. Imagine if this were your child or grandchild.

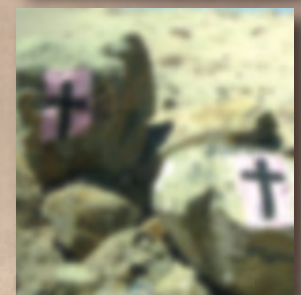
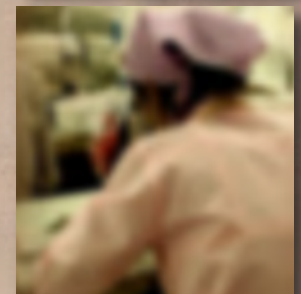
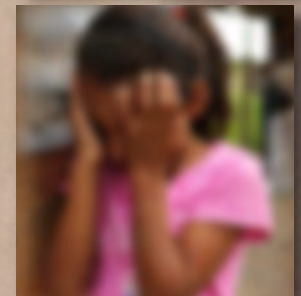
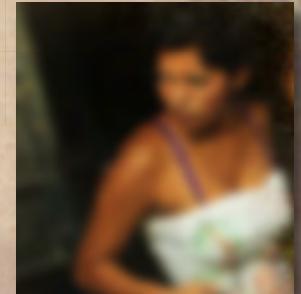
Tens of millions of vulnerable children, women and men are captured, sold and held against their will worldwide for forced labor, including sexual services. This is human trafficking, which is the **second largest** and **fastest growing** criminal industry in the world, generating roughly \$32 billion per year.<sup>1</sup> Human trafficking occurs when people are recruited through force, fraud or coercion to work or provide services. By definition of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, there are two types of human trafficking: sex trafficking and labor trafficking.<sup>2</sup>

## Risk factors

Youth  
Poverty  
Homelessness  
Unemployment  
Desperation and/or a need to be loved  
Residence in a country torn by war, political upheaval or natural disaster  
Family history of violence and abuse  
Immigration status  
Marginalized status (e.g., LGBTQ, indigenous)

What makes victims vulnerable? Poverty, low self-esteem, innocence, few or no alternatives, substance abuse, lack of security . . .

What happens to them? Beatings, prostitution, addictions, a life of servitude, many of them killed. None of God's children deserve this.



## Myths about human trafficking

- It only happens in other countries, not the U.S. **Fact:** It happens in most countries.
- It only happens to people who are impoverished. **Fact:** Victims can be any age, race, nationality, socioeconomic group or gender.
- Human trafficking is only sex trafficking. **Fact:** Forced labor happens not just in the sex trade; it is found in sweatshops, agriculture, restaurants, hotels and domestic service.
- Prostitutes choose that lifestyle. **Fact:** Most women in prostitution were either coerced, duped into service, beaten or drugged.
- Individuals must be forced or coerced to be a victim. **Fact:** Anyone under the age of 18 performing commercial sex acts is considered a victim of human trafficking, according to the U.S. federal government.
- Human trafficking and human smuggling are the same thing. **Fact:** Human trafficking is exploitation-based and does not require movement across borders. Smuggling can become trafficking if the smuggler coerces or holds those being smuggled against their will.
- Human trafficking victims are able to seek help when in public. **Fact:** Victims are usually either afraid to come forward, fearing retribution and violence from their traffickers, or lack documents that identify them and their country of origin.

The fact is, human trafficking is modern slavery and one of the worst forms of violence against humanity. It takes many forms, including but not limited to, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery and the use of children as soldiers. The victims are held by coercion or are trapped in unjust systems and, in millions of cases, are moved around to escape discovery and satisfy markets.

## Tens of millions exploited

- An estimated 27 million people are considered to be victims of human

trafficking at any given time.<sup>3</sup> The International Labor Organization says 5.5 million of them are children.<sup>4</sup>

- Human trafficking happens in 161 of the world's countries (including the U.S.); 104 countries have no laws or regulations prohibiting human trafficking.<sup>5</sup>
- The average age of entry into sex trafficking in the United States is 12–14.<sup>6</sup>
- In countries (*and* states) with laws, the victims are often treated as the criminals, arrested over and over and released to the streets, instead of being rescued.

All of us are part of unjust systems of commerce and exploitative patterns of life that feed human trafficking. Cheap clothing is possible because of garment workers held in slavery, fast food is inexpensive because poorly paid tomato pickers workers are trapped by their poverty, landscaping and domestic services are available in many areas because workers are virtual slaves to bosses who threaten deportation if there are complaints.

Recognizing this can also give us a place to begin working with God to build relationships, policies, and practices that make us accountable to one another and help us love our neighbor in all that we do.<sup>7</sup> Attorneys General are mobilizing to hold traffickers accountable with antitrafficking laws in all 50 states, mobilizing communities to care for victims and reducing demand with public awareness.<sup>8</sup>

## Industries that enslave people

- Sex trade (prostitution, pornography, massage parlors, escort services, adult bookstores, strip clubs)
- Factories, restaurants and hotels
- Health and beauty industries
- Agriculture and construction
- Domestic service (housekeepers, nannies, servants)

## Key indicators<sup>9</sup>

- A victim typically has someone with them at all times who seems very controlling and tries to speak for the victim. If the victim does speak for themselves, their answers appear to be scripted and rehearsed.
- The individual is not free to come and go as he or she wishes, and is not allowed to hold their own personal documents.
- The individual may be fearful of retribution or distrustful of others, and may appear anxious, depressed or submissive, and avoid eye contact.
- The victim may be living at their place of business, and there is usually extra security around a home or place of business where victims are held.
- The victim probably lacks health care and has few or no personal possessions. The victim may not know where they are or why they are there. The victim may have a "brand" or tattoo of the trafficker's name.
- Victims may not admit that they are victims and may not ask for help. "Traffickers' use of coercion—such as threats of deportation and harm to the victim or their family members—is so powerful that even if you reach out to victims, they may be too fearful to accept your help."<sup>10</sup>
- There are signs of physical, sexual or psychological abuse—bruises, broken bones, cuts, burns, scars, malnourishment, fear, mistrust, submissiveness, anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts, post-traumatic stress, or no emotion at all (flat affect).

## Questions to ask

- Can you leave your job if you want to?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you been hurt or threatened if you tried to leave?
- Has your family been threatened?
- Do you live with your employer?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Are you in debt to your employer?
- Do you have your passport/ID? Who has it?

## For prayer and study<sup>11</sup>

The spirit of the LORD God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners. —Isaiah 61:1

Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. —Isaiah 1:17

Why, O LORD, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? In arrogance the wicked persecute the poor—let them be caught in the schemes they have devised. For the wicked boast of the desires of their heart, those greedy for gain curse and renounce the LORD. —Psalm 10:1–3

Review Exodus and reflect on God's desire to liberate God's people from bondage. Read what the Bible teaches regarding the dignity of humanity in these passages and surrounding verses: Genesis 1:27; Galatians 3:28; Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139:15. In what ways does the practice of human trafficking violate the will of God?

Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. —Isaiah 1:17

Love the LORD, all you his saints. The LORD preserves the faithful, but abundantly repays the one who acts haughtily. Be strong, and let your heart take courage . . . —Psalm 31:23–24

**Pray:** Holy God who hears the cries of the oppressed, we come to you as if we were the ones in 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 the outward appearance and into my eyes. Give them the courage to ask, to help, to save me from this captivity. God, turn the hearts of those responsible for my slavery and help the leaders of countries around the world ensure that this does not happen to another person. In the name of One love, One hope, we pray. Amen.<sup>12</sup>