

5 Ways to work toward ending Human Trafficking

1. **Learn:** Educate yourself on issue. Consult the most recent information and explore the outcomes of real cases and efforts to help trafficked persons. (See resource list for recommended sources)
2. **Pray:** As people of faith we recognize the profound power of prayer. Pray for trafficked persons, all who work to assist trafficked person, for those who work to prevent human trafficking, and for traffickers to cease their practice and for a global economy that promotes human well-being. As a congregation observe National Human Trafficking Awareness Day on January 11th each year.
3. **Educate:** Plan an educational workshop, show a movie on trafficking, start a book group or invite a speaker to your church or a community gathering.
4. **Engage in efforts at the local, state and national level.** Develop and coordinate your efforts to assist trafficked persons collaboratively with *experienced* social service, legal and government entities (don't do it alone, you can be more harmful than helpful). While supporting national and international efforts, find out what's going on in your own community and your state's efforts and laws on human trafficking.
5. **Keep trafficked persons involved in the decisions-making.** Work with organizations who understand how best to work with persons who are or have been trafficked in ways that put their needs at the center of decision-making. There is no "one size fits all" approach to assisting victims/survivors of modern day slavery.

Resources and Reports:

- UCC 27th General Synod Resolution of witness, "A Call to Awareness and Action to End the Practice of Trafficking in Persons" <http://www.ucc.org/justice/womens-issues/pdfs/GS-full-text-res-trafficking-final.pdf>
In the call to action, congregations of the UCC are encouraged to observe the Sunday closest to January 11 (Human Trafficking Awareness Day) as a day of prayer, education and action.
- Ecumenical resources are posted online at the Women's Ministries program of the National Council of Churches: <http://www.nccusa.org/womensministry/humantrafficking2.html>
- The Presbyterian Church (USA) has a great action toolkit available for download: <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/toolkit-action-modern-slavery/>
- Polaris Project <http://www.polarisproject.org/> is an excellent resource center for all kinds of information on human trafficking and modern day slavery, and state-by-state information.
- US Department of State, Trafficking In Persons Reports: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/index.htm> ; and additional State Department resources: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/>
- State Department Indicators of human trafficking <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/id/index.htm>
- Call the **National Human Trafficking Resource Center**, a 24 hour, toll-free, multilingual anti-trafficking hotline: **1-888-3737-888** to report suspicious activity (do not investigate yourself), and to connect with anti-trafficking services in your area or request training and technical assistance, general information or specific anti-trafficking resources.
- 10 Ways You Can Help Fight Modern Slavery: <http://blogs.state.gov/stories/2013/02/01/ten-ways-you-can-help-fight-modern-slavery>
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html?ref=menuside>

- United Nations special report on human trafficking: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/trafficking/index.htm> and the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking: <http://www.ungift.org/knowledgehub/?lf=162&lng=en>
- Calculate your “slavery footprint” and find out how your habits might be related to forced labor: <http://slaveryfootprint.org/>
- US Department of Labor “List of goods produced by child labor or forced labor”: <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/programs/ocft/PDF/2010TVPRA.pdf> Don’t just boycott products, but get involved in campaigns attacking the corporate supply and demand (more information from the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility here: <http://www.iccr.org/resources/2012/CelebrationWithoutExploitationToolkit.pdf>)
- The Coalition of Imokalee Workers <http://ciw-online.org/> has several grassroots campaigns related to fair food, worker justice, modern slavery, and labor trafficking
- Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women is made up of 105 non-governmental organizations worldwide that take a human rights, victim centered approach: <http://www.gaatw.org/>
- Freedom Network USA provides excellent trainings all around the country: <http://www.freedomnetworkusa.org/>

Remarks

- “A Decade in Review: A Decade Before Us – Celebrating Successes and Developing New Strategies at the 10th Anniversary of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act,” Luis CdeBaca, March 18, 2010 <http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/humantrafficking/pdfs/cdebaca.pdf>
- “Advancing a Human Rights Based Approach to Addressing Human Trafficking,” Keynote address at the Freedom Network USA National Conference by Rev. Noelle Damico (2009): <http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/humantrafficking/pdfs/ndamico031809.pdf>

Books

- *A Crime So Monstrous: Face-to-Face with Modern Day Slavery*, Benjamin Skinner (2008)
- *Enslaved: True Stories of Modern Day Slavery*, Jesse Sage and Liora Kasten (2008)
- *Half the Sky: Turning oppression into opportunity for women worldwide*, Nicolas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, Random House (2009)
- *Human Trafficking: A Global Perspective*, Louise Shelley (2010)
- *Nobodies: Modern Slave Labor and the Dark Side of the New Global Economy*, John Bowe, Random House (2007)
- *The Slave Next Door: Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today*, Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter, University of California Press (2010)
- *The War on Human Trafficking: US Policy Assessed*, Anthony M. DeStefano, Rutgers University Press (2007)

Films

- *Born Into Brothels* (2004): a documentary about Kids With Cameras, a non-profit foundation which teaches photography skills to children in marginalized communities, featuring NY-based photographer Zana Briski and children in the red-light district of Calcutta. <http://www.kids-with-cameras.org/bornintobrothels/>
- *Not My Life* (2011): a documentary depicting the global scale of modern slavery. Filmed on five continents over a four-year period and shows the practices of a multi-billion dollar global industry whose profits, as the film’s narration says, “are built on the backs and in the beds of our planet’s youth.” www.notmylife.org
- *What I’ve Been Through Is Not Who I Am*: <http://ecpatusa.org/what-we-do/helping-children-in-america/witness-video-project/> a 21-minute documentary about teens who have been sex

trafficked, by End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes USA: <http://ecpatusa.org/>

- *Whistleblower* (2011): Based on the true story of a Nebraska cop serving as a peacekeeper in post-war Bosnia who outs the U.N. for covering up a sex scandal.

What can you do?

- Research your own state laws on human trafficking. There are still states without legislation on human trafficking and many laws are in need of reform. Ask if those laws are set up to protect the rights of people who have been trafficked. Contact your state representative or senator and let them know that you care about this issue, and advocate support for social service programs and adequate law enforcement.
- Work with your local US Department of Justice Human Trafficking and other organizations in your area to create safe, emergency housing and support for victims/survivors of trafficking. *Do not do this alone but work with trained professionals. Do not “rescue” victims yourself – you can cause further harm to them. This is what trained professionals are for.*
- Support social service organizations working in your community to prevent human trafficking or support survivors, such as shelters for homeless youth and women.
- Support local and national advocacy campaigns on the issue.
- Invite a speaker to come to your church to start discussing the issue in your community.

United Church of Christ – Justice & Witness Ministries

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