

Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery

More people are enslaved now than ever before in human history. Human Trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation, and forceful detention of people for their cheap or unpaid labor or for sexual exploitation. Threats, force and deception are routine. People are being trafficked in increasing numbers across international borders and within countries. The United States is a destination for many trafficking victims, and many are trafficked within US borders. Every state is involved, and victims include men, women and children.

Trafficking is so pervasive that it is difficult not to be part of the problem when purchasing things, since resources or manufactured items often have been produced by those who are either poorly paid, working in abysmal conditions or not paid at all. Products include food, clothing, cars, housing, electronics, sugar, chocolate, toys and much more. In addition, there is the use of mostly women and children for sexual exploitation both in the US and around the world.

Human Trafficking Prayer

Oh God, Great Healing One, please comfort each of Your children who are hurting because of the powerful greed of those who hold them in bondage, and help them become free of these hideous bonds. Please heal all the wounds and scars they bear from their horrendous treatment and lead them to healing people and places.

In addition, Dear God, move among those who hold others in bondage or in any way profit from it, to change their hearts and minds, so they do this no longer. Also, please enlighten those who are unwitting participants in this use of people.

St. Eugene, you loved and served the poorest of the poor, please pray for all those held captive by others and for those who hold them captive. Amen.

Suggested Resources:

The **JPIC Office** of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate has frequent trafficking updates on its website:

<http://omiusajpic.org>

Breaking the Snares

A comprehensive resource for parishes to use in combating Human Trafficking by the Sisters of the Divine Savior (Salvatorian Sisters)

http://www.sdsisters.org/slavery/Parish_Packet07.pdf

Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Health and Human Services funds The National Trafficking Resource Center implemented by Polaris Project and provides a toll-free hotline 1-888-373-7888. Visit:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/> and <http://www.polarisproject.org/>

ECPAT International

Stands for End Child Prostitution, Child Prostitution and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) <http://www.ecpat.net>

Slavery Footprint

An interesting website has been created to help us find how many slaves it takes to support our particular lifestyle.

www.slaveryfootprint.org

Website for Stop Trafficking!

A remarkable monthly newsletter sponsored by the Sisters of the Divine Savior

<http://www.stopenslavement.org/index.html>

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