

MISSIONARY OBLATES JPIC



Ending Human Trafficking

Human trafficking generates more revenue than Google, Starbucks, Nike and the NFL combined. (International Labor Organization - ILO, 2014)



Human Trafficking

Modern slavery, also known as human trafficking is 'the illegal trade in people for exploitation or commercial gain.' It is the second largest criminal activity today, second only to the illegal drug trade, and it is growing. The ILO estimates 20.9 million people worldwide are trafficked at any given time. The two primary forms of trafficking are labor and sex. Common industries that hire labor trafficking victims include agriculture, food processing, construction, manufacturing and domestic work.

The Oblate JPIC Office engages with corporations through the [Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility \(ICCR\)](#) to create awareness of the problem and press for helpful policies. We are committed to educating our network and the general public on this issue. Each year leading up to February 8, the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita who was trafficked as a child, we join other groups to promote and observe the National Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Human Trafficking. We also provide resources and action alerts on human trafficking during Lent and at various other times throughout the year.

Reflection

In his 2016 address to *Religious in Europe Networking against Trafficking and Exploitation*, Pope Francis asserts that, "In this season of grace, all of us are invited to enter more deeply into the mystery of God's mercy and, like the Good Samaritan, to bring the balm of that mercy to so many open wounds in our world. One of the most troubling of those open wounds is the trade in human beings, a modern form of slavery, which violates the God-given dignity of so many of our brothers and sisters and constitutes a true crime against humanity. While much has been accomplished in acknowledging its gravity and extent, much more needs to be done on the level of raising public consciousness and effecting a better coordination of efforts by governments, the judiciary, law enforcement officials and social workers.

TAKE ACTION

- The [Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking](#), under the auspices of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, is conducting a 2017 Lenten campaign to create awareness about exploitation in the global seafood supply chain. Visit www.omiusajpic.org to read more about the *Labeling for Lent* campaign and help compile valuable data by taking the survey: bit.ly/labelingforlent
- U.S. Conference of **Catholic Bishops' Anti-Trafficking Program** (ATP) provides extensive advocacy and education materials on sex and labor trafficking: <http://www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/index.cfm>
- **Catholic Relief Services** (CRS) shares stories from their work overseas serving victims of slavery and human trafficking: <http://www.crs.org/slavery-human-trafficking/>
- Visit the **U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking's** website to learn more about the issue: <http://www.sistersagainsttrafficking.org/>
- For a **very comprehensive list** of Human Trafficking signs, visit: [Polaris Project](http://polarisproject.org/) (<https://polarisproject.org/>). Report suspicious activity to the National Human Trafficking Hotline at **1-888-3737-888** or to your local law enforcement.