



Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City Prayer and Action Network

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH: January is human trafficking awareness month. The United Nations Protocol on Human Trafficking defines it as "the "recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of persons by means of force, fraud or coercion." According to the U.S. State Department, every country in the world is affected by trafficking. The United States is no exception, serving as a source, transit and destination country for men, women and children - both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals.

Human trafficking has become one of the fastest growing sources of profits for criminal enterprises worldwide. Traffickers lure vulnerable men, women and children with false promises of good jobs, an education, economic security and even love. Once lured, the traffickers are able to keep their victims from seeking help by confiscating identification documents, using threats of violence against the victim or their family, as well as subjecting the victim to physical, psychological and/or sexual abuse.

No sector or industry is immune from human trafficking. Victims have been identified in factories, restaurants, construction work, agricultural fields, hotels, spas, nail salons, and even private residences.

The Catholic Church's vehement opposition to human trafficking is rooted in principles of Catholic social teaching, central to which is the sacredness and dignity of human life, and in the [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#) which "forbids acts or enterprises that, for any reason, lead to the enslavement of human beings – to their being bought, sold, and exchanged like merchandise, in disregard for their personal dignity."

What can you do? Learn more about human trafficking, church teaching on the issue and action items at <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/human-trafficking/index.cfm>. And Become a Shepherd in the USCCB anti-trafficking program by using this resource <http://www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/become-a-shepherd-tool-kit.cfm>

Call your congressmen and ask them to support each of the following bills:

HR 1732: Strengthen the Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act

HR 2283: Human Trafficking Prioritization Act

S. 1249: To rename the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking

Find contact information for your representative and senators at

<http://governor.utah.gov/goca/representatives.html>

Join with the School Sisters of Notre Dame to combat trafficking at the Super Bowl. View and post this flyer <https://franciscanaction.org/sites/default/files/Human%20Trafficking%20SSND.pdf>

NINE DAYS FOR LIFE: On January 22 our nation will mark the 41st anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal throughout the U.S. Since that tragic decision, more than 55 million children's lives have been lost to abortion, and many suffer that loss -- often in silence. Join thousands of Catholics across the country coming together in prayer for a "culture of life" from Saturday, January 18 - Sunday, January 26!

What can you do? Visit <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/january-roe-events/nine-days-of-prayer-penance-and-pilgrimage.cfm> to join in a national novena for life.

GREEN TIP OF THE WEEK: The average U.S. office worker can use 10,000 pieces of copy paper per year. To reduce your number, print double-sided whenever possible. Avoid color printing (hues are more likely to be toxic) and use recycled paper. Better yet, really think about whether you need that information down on sheets of dead trees, or whether having it on your computer is good enough.

PRAYER: God, you do see; you see every trouble, every cause for grief; you will hear the desire of the meek; you will strengthen their heart, you will incline your ear to do justice for the orphan and the oppressed, so that those from earth may strike terror no more. ~ Psalm 10

God of life, truth and freedom, we come into your presence and ask you to hear us as we pray:

f For child laborers, child soldiers and children exploited in pornography,

f For young girls and women exploited on the streets

f For all men, women and children enslaved, betrayed and abandoned.

We pray:

f That the perpetrators and organizers of human trafficking turn away from their unjust ways,

f That the millions of people trafficked will experience freedom

f That government leaders, corporate directors and all that serve the public will address the systems that make human trafficking possible.

We believe in hope that working together as a community we can Stop the Demand for human trafficking.

We are strengthened by what we have learned and commit to act on behalf of justice.

We are chosen, we are called and we are committed to Stop the Demand and end human trafficking.

God, give us the wisdom and courage to stand in solidarity, so that together we will find ways to the freedom that is your gift to all of us. Amen.

Source: Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center