

# National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month & Day of Prayer

## TOOLKIT 2022



*Original photo  
courtesy of Lisa Kristine*



Created by

**U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking**

[www.SistersAgainstTrafficking.org](http://www.SistersAgainstTrafficking.org)

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# U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

## About U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

### Our Mission

U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking (USCSAHT) is a collaborative, faith-based national network that offers education, supports access to survivor services, and engages in advocacy to eradicate modern-day slavery. We work to inform the public, prevent this assault on human dignity, and assist survivors to live fulfilling lives.

### Our Vision

U. S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking envision a world without slavery with a network of services and resources to inform the public, prevent the crime and assist survivors to achieve a fulfilling life.

### Our Core Values

Our anti-trafficking efforts reflect the core values of our faith:

- Belief in the inherent dignity of every human person;
- Commitment to those who are poor and vulnerable;
- Establishment of right relationships to promote the common good;
- Defense of the basic rights of workers;
- Solidarity with one another and the willingness to enter into another's joys and sorrows.

### Our Members

Our members include 100+ congregations of Catholic Sisters, coalitions working against human trafficking and individuals who share our mission. *Ending slavery is everyone's work!* Anyone who believes in this mission and shares these values is welcome to join USCSAHT as a Member.

Learn more about [member benefits and apply here.](#)



# Understanding Human Trafficking

## What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking violates the sanctity, dignity, and fundamental rights of the human person. The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines it as “the recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of persons by means of force, fraud or coercion... for the purpose of exploitation.” According to the U.S. State Department, human trafficking appears in “many guises”, often taking the form of commercial sexual exploitation, the prostitution of minors, debt bondage, and involuntary servitude. The United States government, and increasingly the international community, utilize the umbrella term “trafficking in persons” to define all forms of modern slavery.

Every year, millions of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers in their own countries and abroad. No sector or industry is immune from human trafficking. Victims may be workers in food processing factories, waiters or cooks at restaurants, construction workers, agricultural laborers, fishers, housekeeping staff at hotels, domestic help in private residences, or sex trafficked women and men in brothels, spas and massage parlors. According to the United Nation’s International Labor Organization’s (ILO) 2016 “Global Estimates of Modern Slavery,” nearly 40.3 million people are victims of modern slavery, of whom 24.9 million are entrapped in forced labor and sexual slavery and 15.4 million subjected to forced marriage. Through coercion, deceit, or force, they are trapped in jobs and situations from which they cannot escape.

Traffickers lure men, women, and children with false promises of good jobs, education, economic security, and love. Once enticed, traffickers keep their victims from seeking help through means such as confiscating identification documents, threats of violence against the victim or their family, and physical or psychological abuse.

## The Facts

- Calculated as a 150-billion-dollar industry, trafficking in persons has become the fastest growing source of illicit profit for criminals worldwide.
- There are an estimated 40.3 million victims of human trafficking worldwide. Of these, 25 million are victims of labor or sex trafficking and 15 million are people trapped in forced marriages. Nearly 30% of all victims are men and boys, and an astounding 1 in 4 victims are children.
- Trafficking cases are increasing under COVID-19, as traffickers prey upon people experiencing heightened vulnerabilities linked to pandemic-related lock downs, stay at home orders, job loss, and increased time online.
- Two decades have passed since the United States adopted landmark legislation to combat trafficking. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, and its several reauthorizations, defines what constitutes trafficking in the U.S., establishes trafficking as a federal crime, and offers protection for victims and survivors.



- Every year, the State Department issues the Trafficking in Persons Report, a diplomatic tool used to hold accountable government efforts around the world to address human trafficking. The latest edition underscores the important role of faith-based organizations in eradicating trafficking.

## The Church's Position on Human Trafficking

- The elimination of human trafficking is a priority issue for the Catholic Church. Because every life is a gift from God and is sacred, it deserves to be protected and nurtured. We each have a responsibility to fight against the violation and degradation of our brothers and sisters. The Vatican released a set of guidelines, or **pastoral orientations** to help the Catholic community eradicate trafficking.

- The Catechism of the Church forbids acts that cause the enslavement of humans. During the Second Vatican Council in 1965, the Church further stated "slavery, prostitution, the selling of women, and children, and disgraceful working conditions where people are treated as mere tools for profits rather than free and responsible persons are infamies and supreme dishonor to the creator." (Gaudium et Spes, 1965).

- In 2014, Pope Francis stated during his Declaration on the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery: "[M]odern slavery, in terms of human trafficking, forced labor and prostitution, and organ trafficking, is a crime against humanity. Its victims are from all walks of life but are most frequently among the poorest and most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters."

- Men and women religious play an integral part in the battle against human trafficking. In 2001, 800 women leaders of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) passed a resolution dedicating one million members "to work in solidarity with one another within our own religious communities and in the countries in which we are located to address insistently at every level the abuse and sexual exploitation of women and children..." The U.S. Catholic Sisters against Human Trafficking is the domestic response to this call.

*(Resource created by the Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking)*



# STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING<sup>1</sup>

To contact the Human Trafficking Hotline: call 1-888-373-7888 or text 233733

- 1  Estimates of 20 to 40 million in modern slavery today<sup>2</sup>
- 2  Annually, \$150 billion in profits for traffickers, \$99 Billion directly from commercial sexual exploitation<sup>3</sup>
- 3  Annually, about 50,000 people trafficked into the US each year, most from Mexico and the Philippines<sup>4</sup>
- 4  Globally, an estimated 71% of enslaved people are women and girls<sup>5</sup>
- 5  In 2018, 51.6% of criminal human trafficking cases in the US were sex trafficking cases involving children<sup>6</sup>
- 6  A growing trend of traffickers using social media to recruit and advertise targets of human trafficking<sup>7</sup>
- 7  The average age a teen enters the sex trade in the US is 12 to 14 years old. Many victims are runaway girls who were sexually abused as children<sup>8</sup>
- 8  About .04% survivors of human trafficking cases are identified, meaning vast majority of cases go undetected<sup>9</sup>
- 9  Exploitation - including forced labor, marriage, and prostitution- is known as "human trafficking," "trafficking of persons," and "modern slavery"<sup>10</sup>
- 10  In 2018, The National Human Trafficking Hotline received more calls from California than any other state in the US, followed by Texas and Florida, respectively<sup>11</sup>

<https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-human-trafficking#:~:q=>

<https://www.modernslavery.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Modern-slavery-fact-sheet.pdf>

<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Trafficking-in-Persons-Report.pdf>

<http://www.ca-seect.org/learn/humantrafficking/>

<https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resources/human-trafficking-numbers>

<https://www.freetheslaves.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Trafficking-and-Slavery-Fact-Sheet-April-2018.pdf>

<https://asee.hhs.gov/report/human-trafficking-and-within-united-states-review-literature#Trafficking>

<https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labor/lang-en/index.htm>

[https://www.unodc.org/documents/research/UNODC-DNR\\_research\\_brief.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/research/UNODC-DNR_research_brief.pdf)

<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Trafficking-in-Persons-Report.pdf>

<https://asee.hhs.gov/report/human-trafficking-and-within-united-states-review-literature#Trafficking>

<https://www.humantraffickinghotline.org/states>

<https://www.humantraffickinghotline.org/states>

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(Infographic created by the Felician Sisters, shared with permission)



## How We End It: By Getting Everyone Involved!

Given that over 51% of people in U.S. attend a faith community, if enough churches synagogues, etc., took effective action, we could end human trafficking. Everyone has a role to play and faith communities can make a big impact. One critical area is being a community for survivors. Many survivors of human trafficking go back “to the life” because they can’t survive financially or have no community that they are part of. Faith communities can invite them to be part of their singles groups, their bible studies, women’s groups etc. where they can make friends. The faith community can help them find jobs, a sitter for their children, etc. There are lots of creative ways to engage our communities as welcoming, supportive spaces for survivors.

### Women’s Groups

What if the women’s group in every faith community made it a point to invite someone from a foster care and mentoring agency to come speak at the service and have a table outside to answer questions. Many people are called to be foster/adoptive parents but they have incorrect ideas that are preventing them from acting. Single people think they have to be married (not true). Or people think they can’t work or be a renter and still be a foster parent (neither are true). Or they really want to adopt and add to their family but they can’t afford more children and they think the money stops once they adopt. Once their concerns are addressed, people will often take the next step to foster parent. Given that foster children are a significant percentage of human trafficking victims, foster care parent recruitment is one important action a community can take.

### Men’s Groups

Men’s Groups can invite speakers to teach men how to be leaders in the fight. Given how many homes today are without a father figure, male mentors are badly needed. Men can volunteer for their faith community’s youth group and share with both young boys and young women what respect looks like between the sexes. Men’s groups can take on equipping men to be good husbands and fathers. This often takes the form of a support group which men find invaluable.

### Youth Groups

The youth love raising awareness. They could host a Fair Trade table that people could visit after the service with products people buy all the time like coffee, tea and chocolate and tell people where they can buy them. If they did this once per year, eventually that faith community would be a fair trade church/synagogue. The youth group could also invite other youth to their meetings. This would make a huge difference for at risk youth. They could engage in community service projects together including raising money or collecting goods for a local survivor shelter. The youth pastor can set up both parent and teen trainings at their church about online safety and how to prevent human trafficking.



## Senior Groups

Senior groups often have people in them that are former executives or other business professionals. As a result, they often possess many skill sets that can be used to create a fundraiser for a non-profit or organize other types of programs and awareness raising events. They could host a letter-writing Sunday on a topic connected to human trafficking. It empowers people to provide an opportunity for them to make a difference.

*(Resources shared from [www.togetherwecanendht.org](http://www.togetherwecanendht.org) and <https://throughGodsgrace.com>)*

## Demand: What Men Can Do to Stop Sex Trafficking

Check Out USCSAHT's Educational Modules and engage in courageous conversations with other men about ending the demand for sex trafficking:

[Human Trafficking: Objectification of Women](#)

[Human Trafficking: Reducing Demand](#)

[Human Trafficking and Pornography](#)

[Human Trafficking and Major Sporting Events](#)

### Engaging Men is the Key to Ending Sex Trafficking

Men are the main buyers of sex. If there was no more sex buying, there would be no more sex trafficking! What it will take to have men stop buying sex is to engage them so that they educate each other that the majority of prostituted people are victims of sex trafficking. Check out this video on the topic and hear from men who are leading this work: <https://youtu.be/aKYJI2KhSU8>

Men need to hold one another accountable to end the demand. Through God's Grace hosts discussion/work groups for Engaging Men in the Fight Against Human Trafficking. This is a work group for men who are leaders in engaging other men in the fight against human trafficking or for men who want to become leaders. [Learn more at: www.throughGodsgrace.com](http://www.throughGodsgrace.com)



## TAKE ACTION – Advocacy Alerts

### Renew the Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2021

Please urge your Representative to co-sponsor the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victim Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2021 (TVPPRA) HR 5150 bill. Programs that are currently being funded by the previous TVPA are set to expire soon. It is critical that this legislation is brought to Congress before survivors lose access to these much-needed services.

The bill will reauthorize vital programs across a wide coalition of U.S. government departments that address human trafficking at an estimated cost of 1.6 billion dollars. The TVPPRA 2021 will enhance successful programs such as prevention of online child trafficking, it will strengthen laws to convict sex traffickers domestically and internationally, protect victims and witnesses during investigations, provide restitution for survivors, prevent unfair sentencing of youthful offenders who were victims of trafficking, and provide stricter sanctions for countries on Tier 3 of the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. The bill also adds accountability for the U.S. and Federal and foreign governments, hotels, and airlines through anti-trafficking training and codes of conduct for their staff; transparency in anti-trafficking expenditures, and permanently incorporates the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking as part of the U.S. commitment to survivor informed policy. You can easily send a letter to your Representative through our online campaign here:

<https://sistersagainsttrafficking.salsalabs.org/TVPPRAReauthorization/index.html>

### Connect With Your Legislators

Reach out to your local and national legislators to let them know you care about ending human trafficking and supporting survivors! You can use our helpful intro packet that explains the connections between human trafficking and other justice issues like gender equality, economics, racism, climate change, and immigration. You can also use our website to look up the contact information for your local and national legislators if you don't already know it! Find these great advocacy resources and more here:

<https://sistersagainsttrafficking.org/advocacy-resources/>

### Write a Letter to the Editor or Op-Ed about Human Trafficking

Writing a letter to the editor (also known as an LTE) is a great way to offer a rebuttal, add another perspective, or just express your appreciation for an already-published article or commentary piece that relates to human trafficking. Both local and national legislators also read LTEs to keep their finger on the pulse of their community. A well-written LTE can not only inform your neighbors about human trafficking, but can also influence your legislators.

Or write an Op-Ed. These articles generally come from an author not affiliated with the publisher and present an opinion that is meant to create thought and discussion among readers. Op-Eds are usually longer than letters to the editor and are written by an expert or otherwise notable person with the qualifications to have an opinion on that subject matter. Find tips for writing LTEs and Op-Eds here:

<https://sistersagainsttrafficking.org/writing-a-letter-to-the-editor-or-op-ed-on-human-trafficking/>



# Ethical Shopping to Combat Slavery & Promote Creation Care

*When we shop are we supporting slavery? Are we creating a burden on the environment?*

These are questions that are starting to weigh on many of us as we hear more about the prevalence of slavery in our world. Think about the hands that created your clothes or harvested your food. Were they children? Did they suffer? How much pollution and waste was produced in the manufacturing process?

In order to produce goods cheaply and quickly, companies may be giving up ethical and environmental measures to meet the demand for cheaper products. Ethical or Fair Trade represents an employment or trade relationship based on the treatment of workers, artisans and farmers, providing fair wages, safer working conditions and consideration to the community and environment. Fair Trade certification and the adoption of ethical standards secures the rights of workers, reduces poverty and promotes sustainable development. When consumers choose fair trade or ethically sourced products, they create demand for more products that do not involve child labor and instead support the workers while providing safe and sustainable employment.

These are things we want to consider as conscientious consumers. We have the power to support greater causes through our purchases. Below are ways to shop ethically to support people and the earth.

## How to Shop & Consume Ethically

### READ LABELS

To ensure the product you purchase is not made by child labor or slave trade, reading labels can guide you in seeking ethically sourced products that support the people and the environment where the item originates. Although a number of fair trade certification agencies and standards exist, you can simply google most companies to find out more about their specific standards with respect to the environment and child labor practices even if they are not fair trade certified. Look for the company's 'sustainability' report.

Here are some third-party organization labels that indicate ethical policies are in place:



### LOOK FOR PRODUCTS MADE BY SURVIVORS

By purchasing items created by survivors of violence and human trafficking, you provide survivors a head start on a new life and from falling back into the hands of traffickers or their abuser. Many victims are exploited as children and have little formal education, so they must build skills to gain sustainable income. Survivors often do this through the creation and sale of hand-crafted goods.



Find a list of survivor made products on the USCSAHT website here:

<https://sistersagainsttrafficking.org/education/survivor-made-products/>

### SHOP WITH HELPING ORGANIZATIONS

*SERRV International* is a nonprofit online store dedicated to fighting global poverty through ethical trade. More than 8,000 artisans and farmers in 25 countries are empowered by sustainable employment, fair wages and safe working conditions where they find security and dignity in their work and are able to send their children to school.

To learn more about purchasing fair trade items or hosting a fair-trade sale or market at your church or organization, go to: <https://www.serrv.org>

*(Resource created by USCSAHT Member Kara Griffin)*



## Important Dates and Events

### National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Since 2010, January has been declared *National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month* by presidential proclamation. This is an excellent opportunity for all of us to raise awareness about human trafficking, particularly how this crime can be prevented.

In the upcoming weeks, we encourage you to undertake efforts to educate communities on human trafficking. In doing so, you can also promote promising practices to help advance anti-trafficking initiatives in your own neighborhood, town, or city.

#### JANUARY 5: USCSAHT Webinar on Cyber Safety

Cyber Safety: More than meets the eye – an online webinar via Zoom at 1:00pm EST. Help USCSAHT kick off National Human Trafficking Awareness Month by getting informed on Cyber Safety. A great webinar for parents, teachers, and grandparents! Technology is not the enemy. But the reality is that our kid's vulnerabilities can and are being exploited online. The worst-case scenarios have led to the crime of domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST). This presentation is designed to impact your personal and professional life. Together we will become increasingly educated and empowered for the sake of children we care about.

Register here: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_IZ9iW1NfRA-Bux6mZR6-0w](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IZ9iW1NfRA-Bux6mZR6-0w)

#### JANUARY 9: Virtual Prayer Vigil

The Boston Anti-Trafficking Coalition is hosting their annual Prayer Vigil on January 9, 2022 in support of National Human Trafficking Awareness Day and Month. Because of the continued uncertainty regarding Covid-19 and the new variant, and cautions about in-person gathering, we are once again hosting a virtual prayer service to be held at 1:00 pm EST on January 9 via ZOOM. Although we will not gather in person, we will post the STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING banner for the entire month of January outside the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph on Cambridge Street. We are very grateful to the Sisters of St. Joseph for posting this sign as a witness to our collective prayers and advocacy! More information about this event will follow in early January, with a link to the Zoom account for participating. For more information closer to the event, watch the USCSAHT calendar: <https://sistersagainsttrafficking.org/join-an-event/>.

#### JANUARY 11: National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

This day seeks to increase understanding among Americans that human trafficking happens in states and communities across the United States. Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery and occurs when a trafficker uses force, fraud or coercion to control another person for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or soliciting labor or services against his/her will. One easy way to raise awareness today is to wear blue and post a photo of yourself on social media with the hashtag #WearBlueDay!



## JANUARY 22: Virtual Walk for Freedom

LITTLE STEPS TO BIG CHANGE: the 2022 (virtual) Walk For Freedom! Online beginning at 9am Pacific Time. As the 11th anniversary walk in L.A., it is truly a movement to end human trafficking. This year we will gather together online again, raise our voices, and let our fingers do the walking!

- Hear from activists and advocates
- Journey with survivors and community members, students and social workers, law enforcement and religious leaders
- Save the date to protest modern day slavery

### FOUR STEPS TO FULLY PARTICIPATE:

1. PRE-REGISTER at <https://bit.ly/2022walkforfreedom>.
2. CREATE a zoom background or a sign you can display during our virtual walk. We also have options you can download from [Facebook](#).
3. INVITE your friends.
4. WATCH your email for more information (we will share a Zoom link closer to the date of the walk).

## JANUARY 29: The Impact of Legalizing Prostitution on the Black Community

Hosted by the National Black Faith Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Several U.S. States have bills that are being discussed to decriminalize prostitution. Those in the anti-human trafficking community are against this because when prostitution is decriminalized, sex buying explodes creating a vacuum that the human traffickers fill by finding more victims. The panel of black leaders will equip the audience on what they can do to raise awareness and to be effective advocates to stop this trend to decriminalize prostitution that will have devastating consequences for the black community. Please join on January 29th at 11am EST for this all important topic.

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-impact-of-decriminalizing-prostitution-on-the-black-community-tickets-174560634557>

## FEBRUARY 8: Talitha Kum Global Prayer Marathon:

The theme for the 2022 World Day of Prayer Against Human Trafficking is "The Power of Care - Women, Economics, Human Trafficking." You can read more about the theme on the following pages. Networks of religious life around the world working to end human trafficking will join together on February 8th for a global prayer marathon. U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking will be coordinating the participation of the United States.

You can stay informed and find the latest information on the website for the day of prayer here: <https://preghieracontrotratta.org/>



## FEBRUARY 8: Cleveland Diocese: Lunch, Pray, and Learn

The Cleveland Diocesan Social Action Office will conduct a Lunch, Pray and Learn session on Tuesday, February 8, 2022. The session coincides with the Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita, the patroness of Human Trafficking Survivors and will include a prayer service and ways to get involved through community and advocacy. Participants will receive a Zoom link on the day of the event.

For more information, or to register for the event, contact Deacon Paul Kipfstuhl at: [pjkipfstuhl@ccdocle.org](mailto:pjkipfstuhl@ccdocle.org).

## February 8: World Day of Prayer, Reflection, and Action Against Human Trafficking & the Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita

### Background:

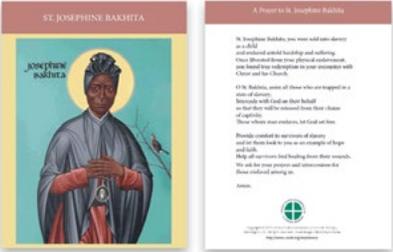
With encouragement from Pope Francis, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General designated February 8th as an annual day of prayer, reflection, and action against human trafficking. On this day, we remember and pray for survivors and victims of modern-day slavery. We pray that we may work together to remove the causes of this disgraceful scourge that is present in all our cities and neighborhoods. This day is also one of awareness and action: our prayers are strengthened three-fold when we accompany them with a willingness to become aware of the problem and become involved in erasing this evil.

February 8th is also the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita. Born in the Darfur region of Sudan in 1869, St. Bakhita was kidnapped and enslaved as a child. Eventually she was sold to an Italian diplomat and taken to Italy, where she valiantly asserted her freedom with the help of the Cannossian Sisters of Venice. Through her faith, St. Bakhita realized the promise of liberty inherent in the human spirit. She lived out the rest of her life as a Cannossian sister, sharing her empowering testimony of human freedom and dignity. In 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized Josephine Bakhita, noting that in this saint, *"we find a shining advocate of genuine emancipation."*

On February 8th, Catholics around the world are encouraged to host or attend prayer services to generate greater awareness about human trafficking. Through prayer, we not only reflect on the experiences of those that have suffered through this affront to human dignity but also comfort, strengthen, and help empower survivors. As Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle stated, *"On [February 8th], we will lift our voices loudly in prayer, hope, and love for trafficking victims and survivors. If just one person realizes from this day that they or someone they know is being trafficked, we will have made a difference."*

Download a St. Bakhita Prayer Card:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1vSMYWulWiEkVuzmTVHcrqLQwZKwsLu6Z>



## February 8: 8th International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Trafficking in Persons



### The Power of Care

Women, Economics, Human Trafficking

The theme of the eighth International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Trafficking in Persons is “The Power of Care - Women, Economics, Human Trafficking”.

Trafficking is one of the deepest wounds inflicted by the current economic system. Wounds that affect all dimensions of life, personal and community. The pandemic has increased the “business” of human trafficking and has exacerbated the pain: it has favored the opportunities and socio-economic mechanisms underlying this scourge, worsening the situations of vulnerability that involved the people most at risk—disproportionately women and girls. The latter, particularly penalized by the dominant economic model. The gap between men and women has thus grown.

According to the United Nations Strategic Plan 2022-2025 “Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)”<sup>1</sup> with a general improvement in the condition of women globally, until the arrival of the pandemic, inequalities in all the most important areas of life: health, work, education and politics remain significant. Below, some unequivocal data:

- the participation rate, between the ages of 25-54, in the workforce is 90% for men and just under two thirds for women;
- for 2.7 million women there are important legal obstacles, as well as cultural, to equal employment opportunities.
- the global wage gap between women and men is estimated at 23%;
- women do three times more unpaid domestic and care work than men;
- women aged 25-34 have a much higher risk of poverty than men. The economic fallout is expected to push an additional 47 million women and girls into extreme poverty in 2021, reversing decades of progress.
- in parliaments, on average, women represent only a quarter of the seats;
- 30% of young women do not study, do not work, do not follow any training courses (while for young men it is 13%); two thirds of illiterate people in the world, are women;
- 245 million women and girls over 15 have suffered physical and/or sexual violence by their partner in the last year;



- only 13% of the anti-COVID fiscal, labor and social protection measures concerned the economic security of women.

According to the United Nations statistics on trafficking in persons (2020 UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons) women and girls represent 72% of identified victims of trafficking and the percentage of women and girls increases significantly in the context of trafficking for sexual exploitation; a market that represents 2/3 of the profits generated by exploitation.<sup>2</sup>

Faced with the failure of economic models based on exploitation, women are called to take on a leading role as agents of change to create an economic system based on caring for people and the common home, involving everyone. Care is a lifestyle and is Jesus' way of loving, as he proposes to us in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10: 25-37), taken up by Pope Francis in his Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti*. We have to take care to transform our relationship with nature and social and economic relationships, which too often are centered on an aggressive competition that impedes all forms of cooperation and respect for human dignity.

The empowerment of women is not only a question of justice in terms of equal opportunities, but also of expanding the capacity of human resources. With a greater involvement of women, new social and economic processes can be fostered: various development agents open new horizons to development itself. A system that excludes women, and other vulnerable social groups, is not only an "inequitable" system, but also an "inefficient" one, because it does not maximize its capacity to promote integral human development.

With the pandemic, the society and institutions have rediscovered the value of caring for people as a pillar of security and social cohesion and the commitment to care for the common space in order to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation, which mainly affects the poorer.

The power of care is the only way to tackle human trafficking and all forms of exploitation.

Rome, 2 December 2021

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<sup>1</sup> "Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)", *Strategic Plan 2022-25, pages 3-4*

<sup>2</sup> *Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour*, International Labour Organization, 2014.



## Additional Prayer and Faith Resources

U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking has many prayer and faith resources posted on our website which you can find here: <https://sistersagainsttrafficking.org/faith-resources/>

### Scripture

- Genesis 1:27 *"...in the image of God they were created; male and female God created them."*
- Matthew 25:35-40 *"Whatever you did to one of the least of these, you did to me..."*
- Matthew 19:13-15 *"...Jesus said, Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."*
- Mark 12:31 *"...You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*
- 1 Corinthians 3:16 *"...the Spirit of God dwells in you."*
- Galatians 3:28: *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free..."*

### Catholic Social Teaching

*"One of the most troubling of those open wounds (in the world) is the trade in human beings, a modern form of slavery. It violates the God-given dignity of so many of our brothers and sisters and constitutes a true crime against humanity." — Pope Francis, November 7, 2016*

*"It is a sin against the dignity of persons and their fundamental rights to reduce them by violence to their productive value or to a source of profit." — Catechism, pp 2414*

*"Whatever insults human dignity, such as... slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed... they are supreme dishonor to the Creator." — Gaudium et Spes, 1965*

*"Human trafficking is a horrific crime against the basic dignity and rights of the human person. All efforts must be expended to end it. In the end, we must work together—Church, state, and community—to eliminate the root causes and markets that permit traffickers to flourish; to make whole the survivors of this crime; and to ensure that, one day soon, trafficking in human persons vanishes from the face of the earth." — USCCB, On Human Trafficking, 2007*

*"How I wish that all of us would hear God's cry: "Where is your brother?" (Gen 4:9). Where is your brother or sister who is enslaved? Where is the brother and sister whom you are killing each day in clandestine warehouses, in rings of prostitution, in children used for begging, in exploiting undocumented labour? Let us not look the other way. There is greater complicity than we think." — Evangelii Gaudium, Pope Francis*



# Reflection & Prayer to End Human Trafficking

## January 11 – February 8, 2022



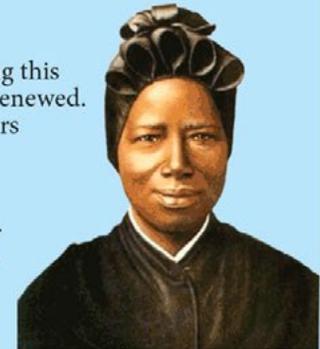
St. Josephine Bakhita was born in southern Sudan in 1869. As a young girl, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. She was treated brutally by her captors as she was sold and resold. She did not remember her name; Bakhita, which means “fortunate one,” was the name given to her by her kidnappers.

### Daily Prayer

God of hope and peace, touch our hearts and energize our ongoing efforts in abolishing this heinous crime against humanity so that every victim is freed and every survivor’s life renewed. You blessed St. Josephine Bakhita of Sudan with compassion for others. May her prayers comfort and strengthen the women, men and children who are in search of freedom. (Say appropriate daily prayer)

We ask for transformation of heart for those who inflict pain, anguish and grief on our vulnerable sisters and brothers. Give us generosity to stand in solidarity with others so that together we heal the hearts and lives of all Your people.

*Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, Forever and ever. Amen.*



<b>11 National Human Trafficking Awareness Day</b> We pray for the women, men and children who have been dehumanized through abuse, degradation and exploitation.		<b>12</b> We pray for the vulnerable migrants at our borders who are exposed to the danger of being trafficked.	<b>13</b> We pray for those who commit collectively and tirelessly to end the enslavement of women, men and children.	<b>14</b> We pray for the young women who are offered waitressing jobs in the city, but instead are sent to night clubs and coerced into sex slavery.
<b>15</b> We pray leaders employ migration policies that grant migrants their fundamental and human rights.	<b>16</b> We pray for the children and young adults in foster care as they are highly vulnerable to being trafficked.	<b>17</b> We pray for women in Central America and the Caribbean where girls are victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation.	<b>18</b> We pray for African boys as young as 12 who are enslaved in dangerous work in cocoa farms in the Ivory Coast.	<b>19</b> We pray for the innocent young victims who are dropped off at shopping malls to meet with their friends.
<b>20</b> We pray that today we start questioning who makes the clothes we wear and where they come from.	<b>21</b> We pray for parents who think their kids are safe and protected just because they are home with their electronic devices.	<b>22</b> We pray for those who work excessively long hours and are forced to live at their place of work.	<b>23</b> We pray for the young victims of armed groups who traffic children for armed combat, forced marriage and sexual exploitation.	<b>24</b> We pray for that young woman who is coerced by her boyfriend to take the suspicious job she was offered.
<b>25</b> We pray for the predators. May they be touched by God’s love and their hearts transformed.	<b>26</b> We pray that chocolate companies move forward to eradicate child labor from their West African cocoa suppliers.	<b>27</b> We pray for nannies and domestic workers who often work for very low wages under abusive working conditions.	<b>28</b> We pray for the victims who are brainwashed and see their trafficker as a protector from their families and law enforcement.	<b>29</b> We pray for the victims of forced labor or sexual slavery who live in isolation and feel ashamed to tell someone.
<b>30</b> We pray for girls and young women in the Middle East and Africa who are forced to marry and subjected to sexual exploitation.	<b>31</b> We pray for the men who are hired in restaurants and are forced to work excessive hours, few breaks and no pay.	<b>1</b> We pray for the parents of the missing child who was taken by a stranger he met through online gaming.	<b>2 Super Bowl Sunday</b> We pray that people attending the Super Bowl call to report any suspicious behavior.	<b>3</b> We pray for those who work to eliminate the social and economic factors that contribute to human trafficking.
<b>4</b> We pray for the women and men who have been raped and are afraid to come forward in fear of being judged and/or blamed.	<b>5</b> We pray that the neighbor who witnesses children doing mostly housework and not attend school to contact the authorities.	<b>6</b> We pray for the vulnerable victims who are enslaved by their romantic partners or spouses.	<b>7</b> We pray for migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families who are often victims of labor trafficking in harvesting crops.	<b>8 Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita</b> We pray for the freedom of all who are enslaved. May they find courage and hope in their lives.

Designed by Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange - Dec. 2019

National Human Trafficking Hotline: 888-3737-888



# Suggested Intercessions for the Prayer of the Faithful

*(Created by the Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking)*

**Please choose some of the following to be included among the intercessions in your parish during January, or for the February 8th *World Day of Prayer, Reflection, and Action against Human Trafficking*.**

Response: *God of Love, Hear our Prayer.*

## The Pope, Bishops, and Catholic Faithful

For Pope Francis, that our Heavenly Father may gift him with wisdom as he calls the Church to reject the inherent evil of human trafficking, we pray to the Lord.

For our bishop, [name here], that he may be encouraged by our prayers to lead God's people in building a culture that respects human dignity, we pray to the Lord.

For the bishops, that they continue to be leaders in the fight against modern-day slavery, both domestically and abroad, we pray to the Lord.

For our priests and deacons, that they may boldly proclaim Church teaching on human dignity and the Church's teaching on human trafficking, we pray to the Lord.

For our religious sisters and brothers, that God inspire them with the continued commitment to fight the evil of human trafficking, we pray to the Lord.

For all Catholics, that God inspire them to take action in their local communities to support and protect survivors of human trafficking, we pray to the Lord.

## Victims and Survivors of Human Trafficking

For everyone who is trapped in a situation of slavery, that God will help to liberate them from their chains, we pray to the Lord.

For an end to human trafficking, that the dignity of all of God's children will be protected, we pray to the Lord.

For those caught up in a situation of human trafficking, that their perpetrators be brought to justice and that they might find a path to healing, we pray to the Lord.

For survivors of traffic, that God guide them to a path down which they might find wholeness and peace, we pray to the Lord.

For survivors of human trafficking, that they might find the support they need to start a new life, we pray to the Lord.



## Government Officials

For the President of the United States, and government leaders, that they continue to work tirelessly to end the slavery that continues to exist in our communities, we pray to the Lord.

For the President of the United States and all government officials, that they may support legislation that better protects vulnerable populations in our midst, we pray to the Lord.

For policy makers in our nation, that God grants them the wisdom to enact laws that provide greater protection for victims and survivors of human trafficking, we pray to the Lord.

## Additional Intercessions

For law enforcement, that God grants them the wisdom to recognize situations of forced labor and sexual slavery, while working to protect its victims and punish its perpetrators, we pray to the Lord.

For men and women who serve those exploited by human trafficking, that God will grant them the strength and commitment to accompany survivors on their path to healing and wholeness, we pray to the Lord.

For perpetrators of slavery, that they repent of their evil ways and turn to God for forgiveness, we pray to the Lord.

For all people of God and of good will, may we increase our courage to publicly address the systemic causes of human trafficking, we pray to the Lord.

For our neighbors, coworkers, friends, fellow Christians, and all people, that they may increase in their awareness of the problem of human trafficking and become a voice in the public square calling for its abolition, we pray to the Lord.



## USCSAHT BULLETIN INSERTS – 2022

(Written by Sr. Margaret Nacke, CSJ)

### January

Respect for the Dignity of persons is a principle of Catholic Social Teaching and one ignored by traffickers who treat people as commodities. Join us in abolishing this horrific crime. *U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a 501 c (3) organization, 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 (sistersagainsttrafficking.org).*

### February

February 8 is the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita, patronness of kidnapped and trafficked children. Situations caused by Covid-19 have pushed traffickers online and out of sight, making the exploitation of children more convenient. *U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a 501 c (3) organization, 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 (sistersagainsttrafficking.org).*

### March

Learn about *Labeling for Lent*, a national initiative to help prevent human trafficking in the fishing and seafood industry. Remember to include human trafficking issues in your prayers in church and with other groups; contribute to help abolish this crime. *U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a 501 c (3) organization, 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 (sistersagainsttrafficking.org)*

### April

Slavery is far from over as pimps and traffickers sell people and buyers continue to buy. It is a worldwide, criminal business of which we all need to work to end. *U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a 501 c (3) organization, 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 (sistersagainsttrafficking.org).*

### May

Catholic Health Association, St. Louis, offers a variety of free resources that may be of interest to the parish; Don't forget the toll-free human trafficking help line: 888-3737-888. *U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a 501 c (3) organization, 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 (sistersagainsttrafficking.org).*

### June

Trafficking is a crime that can happen in front of our eyes and traffickers are never on vacation. Be alert to children who may be potential targets for traffickers. *U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a 501 c (3) organization, 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 (sistersagainsttrafficking.org).*



## July

Check to see if there are residences around you that serve survivors of trafficking. Staff in these residences help to restore the lives of survivors and can use your support. *U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a 501 c (3) organization, 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 (sistersagainsttrafficking.org).*

## August

Are you aware of trafficking in your state? Do you know your state laws that protect victims? Invite a member of your state legislature to talk about laws or a state patrolman to share his/her experiences with trafficking. *U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a 501 c (3) organization, 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 (sistersagainsttrafficking.org).*

## September

Many underage victims of human trafficking are students. No community, school, socioeconomic group is immune. Cases of child trafficking are found in every area of the country- rural, suburban, and urban settings alike. Be alert. *U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a 501 c (3) organization, 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 (sistersagainsttrafficking.org).*

## October

It's Trick or Treat Time and the sweetest treats are Fair Trade chocolates and other goods. Many children are forced into labor trafficking in West African cocoa fields to supply major retailers like Hershey, Nestle, and Mars. *U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a 501 c (3) organization, 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 (sistersagainsttrafficking.org).*

## November

Give thanks that there are many organizations working to abolish human trafficking and that we, as a church are one of them, and can share resources with one another. *U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a 501 c (3) organization, 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 (sistersagainsttrafficking.org).*

## December

A gift to U.S. Catholic Sisters can make a difference in our efforts to confront the Human Trafficking pandemic. *U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a 501 c (3) organization, 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 (sistersagainsttrafficking.org).*



## Social Media Shareables

### Posts for National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month (all of January):

- January is national slavery & #humantrafficking prevention month. Learn more about human trafficking through @USCSAHTraffic website: [www.sistersagainsttrafficking.org](http://www.sistersagainsttrafficking.org)
- In January, we draw attention to #slavery & #humantrafficking. Learn how you can help victims of #trafficking by visiting: <https://sistersagainsttrafficking.org/survivor-services/>
- January has been designated as *National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month*. There are more than 40 million people who have been affected by #humantrafficking worldwide. Learn more at *Justice for Immigrant's* anti-trafficking page: <https://bit.ly/3afmGrU>
- In January, and throughout the year, the *Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking* (CCOAH) works to eliminate the plight of trafficked victims. CCOAH advocates for stronger legislation, promotes survivor-centered services for victims, and raises public consciousness through grass roots action. Interested in becoming a member? Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3oVMehO>
- Take action to #SupportSurvivors and #EndHumanTrafficking this January by asking your representatives to co-sponsor the #TVPRA2021 to ensure important funding. Learn more here: <https://sistersagainsttrafficking.salsalabs.org/TVPRAREauthorization/index.html>  
@USCSAHTraffic

### Posts for National Human Trafficking Awareness Day (January 11)

- Today is *National Human Trafficking Awareness Day*. There are an estimated 40 million victims of #humantrafficking and #slavery today. Take time to learn more today and then take action to #EndHumanTrafficking! @uscsahtraffic
- January 11th is *National Human Trafficking Awareness Day*. We pray for all victims of trafficking and work to #endhumantrafficking and #supportsurvivors. @uscsahtraffic



## Participate in #WearBlueDay (January 11)

Blue Campaign's #WearBlueDay raises awareness of human trafficking by inviting the public to take photos of themselves, friends, family, and colleagues donning blue clothing to share them on social media, along with the #WearBlueDay hashtag!

- Today I Wear Blue to help raise awareness about #humantrafficking. You can learn more about human trafficking and the Blue Campaign here: <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign> #WearBlueDay

## World Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking (February 8)

- Over 70 years ago, St. Bakhita, the Patron Saint of Sudan and victims of trafficking, passed away. Today, we pray for those who have been victims of #slavery & #trafficking.
- Today, we celebrate a Day of #Prayer for victims of #humantrafficking & #slavery as we remember and celebrate the incredible life of Saint Bakhita. @uscsahtraffic
- St. Bakhita survived slavery and persevered. Once she gained freedom, Josephine became a Canossian sister. She dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering. In her honor, we recognize today as a Day of #Prayer for victims of #humantrafficking.

## Participate in a Day Long Prayer Marathon for World Day of Prayer Against Human Trafficking

This virtual prayer service is sponsored by @TalithaKumRome featuring 50+ networks of Catholics and women religious around the world, working and praying to #endhumantrafficking. Follow @USCSAHTraffic (Twitter) or @SistersAgainstTrafficking (Facebook) for the links.

- Today we join together in #prayer to uplift the #PowerofCare in the work to #EndHumanTrafficking and #SupportSurvivors. @TalithaKumRome @USCSAHTraffic
- Today we pray for global cooperation to end the scourge of #HumanTrafficking and exploitative economies and instead work towards an economy of care. #CareAgainstTrafficking #PrayAgainstTrafficking @TalithaKumRome @USCSAHTraffic
- Share your prayer intentions on this World Day of Prayer Against #HumanTrafficking! Today I pray for \_\_\_\_\_ @USCSAHTraffic #PrayAgainstTrafficking



## Additional Resources

### CATHOLICS COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING Resources for Prevention & Education

- The **U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking** have a website full of resources including current news and legislative updates and a monthly *Stop Trafficking* newsletter. To find many resources and updates on human trafficking worldwide go to <https://www.sistersagainsttrafficking.org>. You can also follow them on social media: Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

- The **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)** has a number of human trafficking resources to share on the topic of labor and sex trafficking:  
<https://www.usccb.org/topics/anti-trafficking-program>

- The **Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking (CCOAH)** brings together Catholics from across the country in an effort to put an end to human trafficking:  
<https://www.usccb.org/offices/anti-trafficking-program/coalition-catholic-organizations-against-human-trafficking>

- The **'Become A Shepherd' toolkit** is a parish resource guide to educate and provide handouts, literature, prayers, bulletin posts and more on human trafficking:  
<https://www.usccb.org/committees/administrative/become-shepherd>

**JOIN Become A Shepherd Facebook group** to receive updates and events:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/310606753071561>

- **Become A Shepherd Movie Guide:**  
<http://www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/upload/SHEPHERD-Movie-and-Discussion-Guide.pdf>

- **#EndSlavery** is an initiative of the *Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences* to eradicate modern day slavery, as requested by Pope Francis in 2013. Go to:  
<http://www.endslavery.va>

- **Catholic Health Association (CHA)** provides downloadable screening assessments to identify victims of human trafficking and free posters with the national helpline number:  
<https://www.chausa.org/human-trafficking/how-to-help-identify-victims>  
Free posters: <https://www.chausa.org/store/products/Human-Trafficking>

- The **Amistad Movement**, like the captives aboard the Amistad slave ship who revolted and won their freedom, the Amistad Movement seeks to empower immigrants in at risk communities with the educational tools to protect their own community members from falling victim to human trafficking:  
<http://www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/amistad.cfm>



- **Shop with a Conscience** and buy ethically sourced goods to support justice, not slavery. Many products have slavery in the supply chain. **SERRV**, supports hundreds of fair & ethically traded missions. Purchase food, clothes and gifts at:

<https://www.serrv.org>

- **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)** supports many initiatives to prevent and combat human trafficking with 145 projects worldwide. Go to their website to learn more:

<https://www.crs.org/get-involved/learn/slavery-and-human-trafficking>

**CRS Global Fellows speakers** can come to your parish to share about the work of CRS and provide concrete examples of how to help end poverty around the world. For more info:

<https://www.crs.org/get-involved/participate/crs-clergy-outreach/global-fellows>

- The **Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center** provides a resource library of downloadable prayers and handouts on human trafficking. For the *Pastoral Orientation on Human Trafficking*, the Global Slavery Index and more:

<https://www.ipjc.org/human-trafficking-resources/>

- The **SOAP Project's** mission is to end human trafficking by mobilizing communities, provide prevention education and advocacy, and facilitate restorative experiences for survivors:

<https://www.soaproject.org>



## U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

2039 N Geyer Ave.

St. Louis, MO 63131

Phone: 267-332-7768

Email: [Info@sistersagainsttrafficking.org](mailto:Info@sistersagainsttrafficking.org)

Website: [sistersagainsttrafficking.org](http://sistersagainsttrafficking.org)

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[#SistersAgainstTrafficking](#) [#EndHumanTrafficking](#)

USCSAHT is the U.S. member of Talitha Kum.

[TalithaKum.info](http://TalithaKum.info)

TALITHA KUM   
END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### National Human Trafficking Hotline

Call 1-888-373-7888

or text "BeFree" to 233733