

Reflection & Prayer to End Human Trafficking

January 11 – February 8, 2017

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. The *International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking* is observed on her feast day, February 8.

Daily Prayer

God of hope and peace, touch our hearts and energize our ongoing efforts in abolishing this crime against humanity so that every victim is freed and every survivor’s life rekindled. You blessed St. Josephine Bakhita of Sudan with mercy and resilience. 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 sisters and brothers. Give them compassion, generosity and the courage 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



11 Human Trafficking Awareness Day (U.S.) We pray for the eradication of human trafficking in all its forms. May all victims be freed and come to know your healing and your justice. May all traffickers find and follow the path to repentance and conversion.		12 We pray for immigrants forced into sex trafficking and other forms of servitude to repay debts.	13 We pray for those who work with migrants and refugees to keep them safe and get them the assistance they need.	14 We pray for those enslaved in agricultural fields, mines and factories.
15 We pray for the well-being and welcoming acceptance of all migrants and refugees. May they be protected from all forms of exploitation.	16 We pray in gratitude for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and for the message he shared. May his words inspire us to take action today.	17 We pray for the garment workers who pay the price for our low-priced clothing.	18 We pray for the women and girls enslaved in fake massage parlors.	19 We pray for the women and men lured into labor trafficking with the promise of a better future.
20 We pray the new administration will take a leadership role in addressing human trafficking and promoting the dignity of all life.	21 We pray for the girls and boys who are being prostituted on our streets, and are ignored or shunned by passersby.	22 We pray for victims’ resilience as they hope and pray to be freed from enslavement.	23 We pray for the protection and safety of the unborn and newly born child. May they and their parents receive the support they need.	24 We pray for dishwashers, cooks, domestics and others who are often not properly paid or treated with dignity.
25 We pray that we don’t turn a blind eye to all who are being exploited and fade into the shadows.	26 We pray for those children and adults whose forced labor helps produce goods that benefit us at their great expense.	27 We pray in gratitude for Fair Trade, Fair Food and other initiatives which promote worker dignity and prevent exploitation.	28 We pray for the runaway teenagers who are confused, scared and at risk of being recruited.	29 We pray for children in war-torn countries who are forced to become child soldiers or child brides.
30 We pray for all people who work to create awareness and encourage action to address human trafficking and its various underlying causes.	31 We pray for climate change refugees. May they receive the help they need and may their plight inspire us to take action.	Feb 1 We pray for an end to sexually exploitive advertising and pornography.	2 We pray for men who were brought up to objectify women.	3 We pray for those who provide safe places for runaway youths and others at risk of violence and exploitation.
4 We pray for the girls and boys around the world who are sold by their parents because they don’t believe they can afford to keep them.	5 We pray in thanksgiving for all the efforts to prevent human trafficking around major sporting events like today’s Super Bowl.	6 We pray for the rescued survivors that they receive the support they need to heal and go forward with hope.	7 We pray for the parents of the child who will not come home today.	8 We pray for all victims and for the eradication of all forms of human trafficking. St. Josephine Bakhita

The Facts About Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery

- There are an estimated 20.9 million victims of human trafficking globally
 - 68% of them are trapped in forced labor
 - 26% of them are children
 - 55% are women and girls
- Globally, an estimated 4.5 million people trapped in forced sexual exploitation
- In 2015, it is estimated 1 out of 5 endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children were likely victims of child sex trafficking

Sources: International Department of Labor, International Labor Organization, Polaris Project

How does it Happen?

Sex and labor trafficking doesn't only happen to undocumented workers or people forcibly taken from their home countries. It happens to US citizens too. The Polaris Project tells how through these survivor's stories.

- **Love Lies:** Sarah, a 17-year-old from rural Ohio, ran away from home because her parents drank and neglected her. One day, a 30-year-old man offered to take her out and, flattered, she agreed. They began a relationship and at first he treated her well. They moved in together. But when he couldn't make the rent, he asked her to engage in commercial sex to make money. Sarah felt uncomfortable but agreed because she didn't want to return home and wanted her boyfriend to be happy. One night when Sarah was out on the street, she was raped by a stranger who initially solicited her for sex. She immediately called the police, which led to her rescue.
- **False Advertising:** Kevin was recruited by a salesman who came to his door selling magazines. When Kevin mentioned he was having financial troubles, the man offered him a job and a signing bonus. Every day, Kevin worked from 8 am until after midnight and was required to pay for lodgings and gas, and was only paid if he met daily quotas. If he performed well, he would be paid in drugs. He never saw the signing bonus he had been promised. When Kevin tried to leave, one of the managers threatened to kill him and confiscated his identification documents.

What You Can Do

- Question if the goods you consume are made from enslaved labor
- Promote responsible labor by urging Congress to support the Transparency Act in Supply Chains <http://polarisproject.org/action/support-transparency-supply-chains>
- Visit Polaris website to recognize the signs of a trafficked victim and sign up to get alerts/updates: <https://polarisproject.org/recognize-signs>

**See something
suspicious?**

**Call the National Human
Trafficking Hotline**

888-3737-888