

International Weekend of Prayer & Fasting for the Victims of Sex Trafficking

Prayer Guide

SCRIPTURE

Preparing Our Hearts and Minds:

Remembering the Victims:

*“But this is a people robbed and plundered;
All of them are snared in holes,
And they are hidden in prison houses;
They are prey, and no one deliver;
For plunder, and no one says ‘Restore!’.”*

~ Isaiah 42:22 ~

*“Do not degrade your daughter by making her a prostitute,
or the land will turn to prostitution
and be filled with wickedness.”*

~ Leviticus 19:29 ~

*“They cast lots for My people and traded boys for prostitutes;
they sold girls for wine that they might drink.”*

~ Joel 3:3 ~

Considering the Traffickers and Exploiters:

*Why, O LORD, do you stand far off?
Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?*

*In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak,
who are caught in the schemes he devises.*

*He boasts of the cravings of his heart;
he blesses the greedy and reviles the LORD.*

*In his pride the wicked does not seek him;
in all his thoughts there is no room for God.*

*His ways are always prosperous;
he is haughty and your laws are far from him;*

he sneers at all his enemies.

*He says to himself, "Nothing will shake me;
I'll always be happy and never have trouble."*

*His mouth is full of curses and lies and threats;
trouble and evil are under his tongue.*

*He lies in wait near the villages;
from ambush he murders the innocent,
watching in secret for his victims.*

*He lies in wait like a lion in cover;
he lies in wait to catch the helpless;
he catches the helpless and drags them off in his net.*

*His victims are crushed, they collapse;
they fall under his strength.*

*He says to himself, "God has forgotten;
he covers his face and never sees."*

*Arise, LORD! Lift up your hand, O God.
Do not forget the helpless.*

*Why does the wicked man revile God?
Why does he say to himself,
"He won't call me to account,"?*

*By you, O God, do see trouble and grief;
you consider it to take it in hand.
The victim commits himself to you;
you are the helper of the fatherless.*

*Break the arm of the wicked and evil man;
call him to account for his wickedness
that would not be found out.*

*The Lord is King for ever and ever;
the nations will perish from his land.*

*You hear, O LORD, the desire of the afflicted;
you encourage them, and you listen to their cry,*

*defending the fatherless and the oppressed,
in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more.*

~ Psalm 10 ~

The True Fast

*“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to se the oppressed free
and break every yoke?”*

~ Isaiah 58:6 ~

God’s Purposes

*The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
Because the LORD has anointed me
To preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim freedom for the captives
And release from darkness for the prisoners,
To proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor
And the day of vengeance of our God,
To comfort all who mourn,
And provide for those who grieve in Zion
To bestow on them a crown of beauty
Instead of ashes,
The oil of gladness
Instead of mourning,
And a garment of praise
Instead of a spirit of despair.*

~ Isaiah 61:1-3 ~

Life and Liberty through Christ

“So if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”

~ John 8:36 ~

“I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

~ John 10:10 ~

DEFINING THE PROBLEM:

What is Trafficking in Persons (TIP): The definition of trafficking in persons can be broken down into three separate parts: criminal acts, the means used to commit those acts, and goals for which the acts are committed. At least one element from each of these three groups is required before the definition applies.

“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”¹

Sex Trafficking: Sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.²

What is Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE): Sexual exploitation entirely, or at least primarily, for financial or other economic interests. The economic interests involved may be monetary or non-monetary (i.e., food, shelter, drugs) but in every case, involve the maximum benefits to the exploiter and an abrogation of basic rights, dignity, autonomy, physical and mental well-being of the children involved.³ Distinct yet inter-related elements make up a continuum of abuse in CSE. These include stripping and touch and peep shows, pornography, prostitution, child brides, and trafficking for these purposes.

IMPORTANT POINTS:

Sex is an integral dimension of the human being, of the self. When it is treated as a thing to be taken, the human being is rendered into a thing, an objectification that not only violates human rights but also destroys human dignity.⁴

The existence of prostitution is the only reason sex trafficking exists.⁵

[Sexual] trafficking is simply the global form prostitution.⁶

Prostitution is sexual exploitation sustained over time.⁷

Sexual trauma is unique from other forms of trauma. It is a violation of the most intimate and personal aspect of the self. One’s own body becomes the setting in which the atrocities are perpetratedWhen an individual has been beaten into submission, has become passive and accepting of what is done to her because she is a captive, then any sexual encounter she has is rape. Even if she has worked hard to attract the customer, because she has no right to refuse consent, she is being raped.⁸

¹

² H.R. 3244. *Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000*, Division A, Sec. 103 (9).

³ *The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico*. Estes and Weiner. 2001.

⁴ Berry, Kathleen. *The prostitution of sexuality*.

⁵ Hughes, D. (2004). “We News.”

⁶ Farley, M. (Ed.). (2003). *Prostitution, trafficking, and traumatic stress*. Binghamton, NY: The Hayworth Maltreatment and Trauma Press.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Freed, W. (1997). *Commercial sexual exploitation of women and children in Cambodia – personal narratives – a psychological perspective*. Physician for Human Rights.

General Prayer Requests:

Rescue and Restoration

Pray for the rescue and restoration of the countless number of people who have become victims of sexual trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, including the following:

for an end to their exploitation and sexual abuse,
for as many safe and secure shelters as are needed to provide for their material needs,
for loving care takers to provide comfort, solace, and a sense of family,
for training and education to provide these persons with meaningful and productive livelihoods,
for medical treatment to meet their many health concerns;
for the Gospel message to reach their ears and be received in their hearts.

Breakdown of the Sex Industry

Pray for the breakdown of the sex industry which fuels sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of persons:

the demise of pornography industry;
a ban on internet pornography and sex tourism internet sites;
for the closure of clubs with nude dancing and stripping;
strong law enforcement efforts the world over to enforce obscenity laws, fight corruption, and to arrest/convict the pimps, traffickers and “customers”;
permanent closure of brothels.

Reduction of Demand

Pray for efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex, including the following:

the defeat of attempts to legalize prostitution in countries around the world;
the overturn of laws that legalized prostitution in the Netherlands, Germany, New Zealand and certain districts of Australia;
for a repeal of legalized prostitution in Nevada;
for the development in programs known as “johns’ schools” for men convicted of soliciting for sex (aimed at educating men about the harms of prostitution);
for the success and development of additional ministries such as “Faithful and True” and “Avenue” which help people plagued with sexual addictions;
for counter-cultural movements opposing the normalization of pimping and prostitution;
for God to convict the hearts of traffickers, pimps and the “customers” and to transform their lives, as in the example of John Newton who turned from his life as a slave trader after coming to the faith;
for God to intervene in cases of corruption which impede efforts to secure justice for trafficking victims.

Development

Pray for the development of impoverished nations so that the peoples in such countries may know a decent standard of living, have meaningful education and employment opportunities, and thus escape the desperate circumstances that make people vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking.

World Leaders

Pray for world leaders, that they will confront sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation by dedicating their time and energy and national resources to eradicating it.

The Church

Pray for the church and its response to sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, including the following:

- for more missionaries to carry out evangelism;
- for more Christian aid workers to establish and administer recovery homes for survivors of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, as well as programs to rescue victims;
- for an increase in resources – human, financial, and infrastructural – to be dedicated to meeting the needs of survivors;
- for the church, its members and leaders, to remain sexually pure that they not become the perpetrators or consumers of abuse in any form;
- for increased networking and cooperation among Christian groups working on this issue;
- for the strength, fortitude, and vision of Christians working to address this issue.

For more information about sexual trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children contact:

Lisa L. Thompson

Liaison for the Abolition of Sexual Trafficking
The Salvation Army National Headquarters
PO Box 269
Alexandria, VA 22313
ph: 703.519.5896
email: lisa_thompson@usn.salvationarmy.org

Cornelius A. Buller, Ph.D.

The Salvation Army Ethics Centre
203 - 290 Vaughan Street
Winnipeg MB R3B 2N8
Ph: (204) 924-5629
Fax: (204) 957-2418
Email: cornelius_buller@can.salvationarmy.org