

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING 2023

INTERNATIONAL
SOCIAL JUSTICE
COMMISSION



I HAVE HEARD THEIR CRIES



PRAYER STATION RESOURCE



PRAYER STATION | 1

A Prayer of Understanding

Human trafficking, also known as modern slavery, is the illegal trade in human beings through recruitment, provision or obtaining of a person by means of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of forced labour, debt bondage or sexual exploitation.

DID YOU KNOW?

The number of people experiencing modern slavery and human trafficking globally has increased to an estimated 49.6 million people on any given day. This means worldwide approximately:

- **27.6 million people** are experiencing forced labour and sexual exploitation
- **22 million individuals** are experiencing forced marriages

Source: *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage*, International Labour Organization, Walk Free, and International Organization for Migration, Geneva, 2022

Scripture: 'Years passed, and the king of Egypt died. But the Israelites continued to groan under their burden of slavery' (Exodus 2:23, *New Living Translation*)



PRAYER ACTIVITY

Take one grain of rice and hold it in your hand. Imagine that grain is a person with a name, a family and a story. Use the following prayer points to guide your prayers for understanding:

- Pray for our eyes to be opened to the different forms of human trafficking and modern slavery.
- Pray that we will grow in our understanding of what is modern slavery and human trafficking.
- Pray that governments, organisations, communities and individuals will see, hear and not be silent.

PRAYER STATION | 2

A Prayer for Freedom

People experiencing human trafficking are being controlled by the trafficker through the use of threats and/or the use of violence - whether that is physical or psychological. Their freedom is completely stripped away from them. The trafficker will exert control over every aspect of their lives - their identities, relationships, choices, movement - to the point that the individuals experiencing this injustice truly believe and feel like they don't have any power or the ability to change their situation.

Scripture: 'During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning' (Exodus 2:23-24 *NIV*).



PRAYER ACTIVITY

Take a piece of paper and with scissors or with your hands cut/rip the paper as a symbolic act of cutting/ripping the chains of control. Use the

following prayer points to guide your prayers for freedom:

- Pray for the safety and freedom of those who are experiencing human trafficking both at home and around the globe.
- Pray that God will grip the heart and lives of traffickers resulting in the end of their involvement with this injustice, their involvement in restorative justice and healing in their lives.
- Pray that the demand side of modern slavery and human trafficking is ended.

PRAYER STATION | 3

A Prayer for Healing

Modern slavery and human trafficking have devastating effects on a person's physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual well-being. Those who have lived experience have endured inconceivable abuses that can affect them holistically both in the short- and long-term. Each must work through the unique trauma they have experienced as they work to rebuild their lives.

The good news is that there is HOPE. There is VALUE in every person that is indestructible. No matter how devalued a person has been made

to feel, God's value of a person never diminishes. God valued his people so much that he sent his Son Jesus as a sacrifice on the cross. Through this precious sacrifice, healing and new life is available to all.

Scripture: 'Years passed, and the king of Egypt died. But the Israelites continued to groan under their burden of slavery. They cried out for help, and their cry rose up to God. God heard their groaning' (Exodus 2:23-24 *NLT*).



PRAYER ACTIVITY

Take a plaster as a symbol of healing. Use the following prayer points to guide your prayers for healing. After you finish praying, place the plaster on the black poster.

- Pray for the physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual healing for those that have experienced human trafficking.

- Pray that the people who have experienced trafficking find safe places where they can receive long-term, holistic support and care. Pray that they will find the resources they need to ask for help, particularly those who are in countries where they cannot speak the language.
- Pray for the families that are separated from their loved ones.

PRAYER STATION | 4

A Prayer for Justice

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for justice is 'mishpat'. This biblical concept is based upon the idea that when things have gone wrong with God's original vision of shalom for his people and creation, and because of injustice invading our world, then the action of setting things right and bringing restoration to the situation is needed. Mishpat/justice is about wanting to see a world in which all people and creation are treated rightly and are given what they need to be able to flourish. It is a vision of abundant life rather than the scarcity, disorder and oppression that come out of injustice.

Human trafficking and modern slavery are a violation of human rights where people are exploited, used, abused and treated unjustly.

We are called to be the mediators of God's justice on earth. As mediators, we are called to partner and ally with people who have lived experience to seek God's justice of seeing them treated rightly, to flourish and to live an abundant life.

Scripture: 'The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them' (Exodus 2:23-25 *NIV*).



PRAYER ACTIVITY

Take a pen and write 'END IT' on a link in the paper chain. Use the following prayer points to guide your prayers for justice:

- Pray that justice would be done on behalf of those who are oppressed through human trafficking and modern slavery.
- Pray that the chains and corruption would cease.
- Pray for the individuals on the frontline fighting this injustice.

PRAYER STATION | 5

A Prayer for the Church to Rise Up

The Salvation Army is strategically positioned across the world to pray, prevent, protect, participate, partner and engage in prosecution, policy development and proof (evidence-based research) work. This is not a work that one or two people or organisations can take on. Everyone is needed - the fight is everyone's. Rise up, Church! Rise up, Salvation Army!

Scripture: 'But the Israelites continued to groan under their burden of slavery. They cried out for help, and their cry rose up to God. God heard their groaning, and he remembered his covenant promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He looked down on the people of Israel and knew it was time to act' (Exodus 2:23-25 *NLT*).



PRAYER ACTIVITY

Locate a country on the world map and pray for The Salvation Army and the Church to rise up there. Write a prayer for the Church in that country on a sticky note or piece of paper and

place/tape it on the country on the world map. Use the following prayer points to guide your prayers for the Church to rise up:

- Pray for the empowerment of local churches to rise up and be part of the solution to end modern slavery and human trafficking globally.
- Pray for corporate collaboration among the Church to strategically stand united and support each other as we collectively work to end modern slavery and human trafficking.
- Pray for the Church to provide tangible comfort, support and protection to people who have a lived experience of modern slavery and human trafficking.

PRAYER STATION RESOURCE CREATED BY

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