

**World Day Against Trafficking**  
**Prayer Service & Toolkit**  
**July 30, 2025**



**ALLIANCE TO END  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Founded and Supported by U.S. Catholic Sisters

***“Evil will not Prevail. We are all in the Hands of God.”***  
***– Pope Leo XIV***



# ALLIANCE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Founded and Supported by U.S. Catholic Sisters

## Introduction



**World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is observed on July 30** and raises awareness of the persistent issue of human trafficking, promotes the rights of victims and encourages global action to combat this serious crime. The United Nations (UN) General Assembly established this day in 2013 as a call to action for governments, organizations, and individuals to work together to prevent and combat human trafficking. This year's theme "Human Trafficking is Organized Crime – End the Exploitation" highlights the vital role of law enforcement and the criminal justice system in dismantling organized trafficking networks while ensuring a victim-centered approach. This campaign highlights the ongoing global challenge of human trafficking and the need for continued efforts to protect vulnerable individuals and to end this crime. Learn more [HERE](#).



# ALLIANCE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Founded and Supported by U.S. Catholic Sisters

## Human Trafficking Background and Overview:

- Human Trafficking is a \$150 billion world market that impacts an estimated 50 million people worldwide.
- According to the UN, from 2020 to 2023, there were more than 200,000 detected victims globally, which is just the tip of the iceberg as many cases go unreported.
- Human trafficking is the fastest-growing criminal industry in the world. It is the second most lucrative and is soon expected to surpass the illegal drug trade. Drugs can be sold once, but people can be sold multiple times, with many victims being sold 15 to 30 times a day.
- Organized criminal networks are driving this victimization and exploitation, using migration flows, global supply chains, legal and economic loopholes and digital platforms to facilitate cross-border trafficking at a massive scale.\*
- They profit from forced labor, sexual exploitation and coercion into criminal activities, such as online scams and drug smuggling.\*
- Sex Trafficking, in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion or where the victim is under 18 years of age, targets vulnerable males and females. In the years since the launch of social media on the internet, child sexual exploitation online has become one of the biggest challenges facing society.
- Child labor is an especially inhumane aspect of labor trafficking as it impairs the development of the child. Work may interfere with the child's education or the child may work in a hazardous situation which may be detrimental to the child's health.



# ALLIANCE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Founded and Supported by U.S. Catholic Sisters

## The Catholic Church's Position on Human Trafficking (USCCB):

- 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 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).
- Men and women religious have played an integral part in the battle against human trafficking. In 2001, nearly 800 women leaders of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) passed a resolution dedicating over 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 Alliance to End Human Trafficking](#) is the domestic response to this call.
- Pope Leo XIV created a commission to help women escape forced prostitution when he was Bishop Robert F. Prevost of Chiclayo, Peru in 2017. The commission, which is still active, brings together lay people, religious men and women and parishes to help defend and provide assistance to vulnerable migrants, refugees and victims of trafficking. \* His predecessor, Pope Francis, was a fervent defender of the vulnerable, calling human trafficking "[a deep and open wound in the body of Christ and in the body of all humanity, which affects each one of us.](#)"



# ALLIANCE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Founded and Supported by U.S. Catholic Sisters

- [Catholic Social Teaching](#) proclaims that “action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world”<sup>1</sup> are a constitutive dimension of preaching the Gospel. In response to this call, **AEHT will faithfully engage in advocacy and education that addresses both the root causes of human trafficking and the needs of victims and survivors.**

## AEHT’s Anti-Trafficking Programs and Initiatives:

### *Education & Outreach:*

- Education and Awareness are key to helping prevent and end human trafficking. If you would like to schedule a presenter to come teach the basics of understanding human trafficking and how to prevent it, or create a customized presentation for your audience, please use our [speaker request form](#) to see if we have a presenter available in your area.
- We have prepared educational materials on a variety of topics related to human trafficking such as root causes, children, women, labor, pornography, migrants and refugees, sporting events, and organ removal among others. These 2-4 page guides are perfect for individuals or small groups who want to engage in deeper reflection on issues related to human trafficking. See the full list here: [AEHT Modules](#).
- Another great way to learn more about human trafficking is through radio, podcasts, and videos. We have curated a list of recommended media resources related to human trafficking for your ongoing education: [Human Trafficking Media Resources](#).
- The Stop Trafficking newsletter promotes awareness of human trafficking, provides best practices in advocacy, and recommends actions to counter human trafficking and empower survivors. [Read the latest Stop Trafficking newsletter here](#).



# ALLIANCE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Founded and Supported by U.S. Catholic Sisters

## *Coalition Building*

- We believe by working together and sharing our time, talent, and resources, we can have a greater impact on ending human trafficking and supporting survivors across the country. Please consider joining our network as a member today. Together we can realize a world without human trafficking and with a network of services and resources to inform the public, prevent the crime and assist survivors to achieve a fulfilling life!

[Become a member of The Alliance to End Human Trafficking today!](#)

## *Advocacy*

- With a new Administration and Congress, AEHT set our advocacy priorities to what we believe the President and Congress can do to end human trafficking. <https://alliancetoendhumantrafficking.org/advocacy-and-campaigns/#how-we-advocate>
- Helpful resources for engaging in effective advocacy, including how to plan a visit with your legislator, are available on the AEHT website. [See our advocacy resources.](#)
- Our legislative and policy advocacy priorities address the root causes of trafficking and their connections to other important global issues. <https://alliancetoendhumantrafficking.org/advocacy-and-campaigns/legislative-and-policy-objectives/>
- Take action to end human trafficking, support survivors, and protect the vulnerable! See our [current advocacy campaigns.](#)
- Sign up to Receive the Latest News and Action Alerts From Alliance to End Human Trafficking:  
<https://alliancetoendhumantrafficking.salsalabs.org/email-sign-up/index.html>



# ALLIANCE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Founded and Supported by U.S. Catholic Sisters

<sup>1</sup>*Justice in the World, 1971.*

## *Access to Survivor Services*

- Hear from survivors who have directly benefited from our educational scholarships, direct support, and programming by members around the country. You can be part of this positive impact by joining us or donating today! [Survivor Stories](#)
- AEHT members are connected to organizations and houses across the country that provide a variety of services to survivors of human trafficking. Learn more about these houses and the work they are doing here: [Member Run Houses](#)
- One of the ways YOU can help support survivors of human trafficking is by supporting their ongoing education directly, donating to our scholarship fund, or hiring them for a job. Learn more about these opportunities here: [Education & Employment](#)

## **Talking Points:**

- The Alliance to End Human Trafficking (AEHT) is a collaborative, faith-based national network that offers education, supports access to survivor services, and engages in advocacy to eradicate human trafficking. We work to inform the public, prevent this assault on human dignity, and assist survivors to live fulfilling lives.
- The Alliance To End Human Trafficking envisions a world without human trafficking with a network of services and resources to inform the public, prevent the crime, and assist survivors to achieve a fulfilling life.
- Our members include 200+ congregations of Catholic Sisters, coalitions and organizations working to end human trafficking and individuals who share our mission. *Ending human trafficking is everyone's work!*





# ALLIANCE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Founded and Supported by U.S. Catholic Sisters

- Prevention is key to ending human trafficking, so education and advocacy are necessary but women and men need access to services to help them heal as well.
- Pope Francis called human trafficking one of the most troubling of the world's open wounds. It goes against our Catholic Social Teaching and robs people of their dignity.
- Many victims come from other countries where they are promised the American dream of getting an education and finding work only to have their passports confiscated, and fear of their safety or the safety of their family. They are taught not to trust law enforcement and speaking another language further diminishes their ability to seek help. Their dreams are turned into nightmares when they are forced to enter the sex industry, labor on farms, in hotels among other industries for 12 -to 14-hour days with no hopes of escaping their new-found life.

\*Sources: United Nations, OSV News

## **Prayer Service** **Opening Song:**

Choose an appropriate song or hymn





# ALLIANCE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Founded and Supported by U.S. Catholic Sisters

## Scripture Reading:

### A Reading from the prophet Isaiah (*Isaiah 58:6-9*)

"This is the sort of fast that is pleasing to me:  
Remove the chains of injustice and undo the ropes of the yoke.  
Let those who are oppressed go free and break every yoke you encounter.  
Share your bread with those who are hungry and shelter homeless poor people.  
Clothe those who are naked and don't hide  
from the needs of your own flesh and blood.  
Do this, and your light will shine like the dawn and your healing  
will break forth like lightning.  
Hear what God is saying to the Church."

## Response to the Reading:

**Leader:** Human trafficking and slavery are illegal in every country, but present in every nation on Earth.

Let us take a moment of silence in solidarity with those who suffer from human trafficking.

*[Moment of Silence]*

**Leader:** Let us join together in the words of the Psalm:

**All:** The just cry out, and God hears them and saves them from all their troubles.  
God is close to the brokenhearted and rescues those whose spirits are crushed.  
(*Psalm 34: 17-18*)



# ALLIANCE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Founded and Supported by U.S. Catholic Sisters



## Prayers of Petition:

Our response to each petition is: ***Loving God, hear our prayer.***

For all of the women, men and children who will be trafficked today, we pray...

For the parents who have lost their children through human trafficking, we pray...

For children and young people who are being exploited online, we pray...

For the conversion of hearts for those who are traffickers, we pray...

For ourselves, that we may recognize and safely report human trafficking in our midst, we pray...

For all those engaged in education and advocacy to end human trafficking, we pray...

## Leader:

Let's take a few moments of quiet to consider: what one action can I take to stop the demand for human trafficking and create a world that values the dignity of human life?

*[Moment of Silence]*



# ALLIANCE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Founded and Supported by U.S. Catholic Sisters



## **Closing Prayer:**

God of mercy and righteousness, you call us to be bearers of light in a world too often shadowed by injustice and despair. Strengthen our resolve to stand with the oppressed, to speak truth in love, and to act with bold compassion. May our hearts be restless until justice flows like a river and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Amen.

*Franciscan Action Network*

## **Closing Song:**

Choose an appropriate song or hymn





# ALLIANCE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Founded and Supported by U.S. Catholic Sisters

## Possible Actions:

1. Continue to educate yourself and others on the causes of human trafficking. Reference our module on this topic here. **Root Causes of Human Trafficking** ([English](#) | [Spanish](#))
2. **Watch** our Webinar on **July 30 at 2 p.m. EST** on Organized Crime and Human Trafficking. Register: <https://bit.ly/4l4bslb> or view after July 30 on our [YouTube Channel](#).
3. Engage with your community to create and lead awareness campaigns about human trafficking. Encourage grassroots efforts to educate community members on recognizing the signs of trafficking, reporting mechanisms, and supporting survivors.
4. Work with the Alliance and advocacy groups to identify and propose legislative changes that strengthen anti-trafficking laws. Advocate for policies that increase penalties for traffickers, protect survivors, and improve the overall legal framework for combating human trafficking.
5. Purchasing survivor-made goods is a fun way to help support survivors who are learning new job skills and working to become independent. Check out [this page](#) for a list of organizations that sell fair trade and survivor-made items.
6. [Donate](#) to support the work of AEHT or support a local anti-trafficking organization.

## Social Media Post Suggestions:

**Social Media Shareables:** [AEHT World Day Against TIP Social Media Tool Kit](#)

**Key Messages and Text to Use:**



# ALLIANCE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Founded and Supported by U.S. Catholic Sisters

- Human trafficking is a \$150 billion global industry, impacting 50 million people worldwide. From 2020–2023, over 200,000 victims were identified—just a fraction of countless unreported cases according to the UN.
- Human trafficking is the world’s fastest-growing criminal industry and the second most profitable—set to overtake even the illegal drug trade. Unlike drugs, trafficking victims can be sold 15–30 times a day.
- This World Day Against Trafficking in Persons the theme is “Human Trafficking is Organized Crime – End the Exploitation.” According to the UN, organized criminal networks are driving victimization as they profit from forced labor, sexual exploitation, and coercion into criminal activities, such as online scams and drug smuggling.
- What is sex trafficking? It’s any commercial sex act induced by force, fraud, or coercion (FFC)—according to the TVPRA. For minors, FFC doesn’t need to be proven. But for adults, the vagueness of FFC can make cases harder to identify.
- Labor traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to make victims work for little to no money or freedom, often in unacceptable living conditions. Child labor is an especially inhumane form, as it disrupts education and harms children’s health and development.

## Hashtags:

#EndHumanTrafficking, #HumanTrafficking, #EndTrafficking,  
#WorldDayAgainstTraffickingInPersons, #AllianceToEndHumanTrafficking,  
#FreedomHappensNow