

**National Human Trafficking Awareness Day**  
**Prayer Service**  
**January 11, 2023**



*"Human trafficking is a crime against humanity. We must unite our efforts to free victims and stop this crime that's become ever more aggressive, that threatens not just individuals, but the foundational values of society." – Pope Francis*



## Introduction:

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day on January 11 raises awareness of the persistent issue of human trafficking. This day is specifically dedicated to **awareness and prevention** of the illegal practice. Since the Senate established this day of observance in 2007, it has drawn massive public support from individual donations to government-organized events. The horrific injustice of human trafficking can affect people of any race and background, and on this day we are all called to fight human trafficking wherever it exists. Learn more [HERE](#).

## Opening Song:

Choose an appropriate song or hymn

## Scripture Reading:

### A Reading from the prophet Isaiah

“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.”

*(Isaiah 58:6-9)*



## 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*)



## 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...

**RESPONSE**

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

**RESPONSE**

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

- For the conversion of heart for those who are traffickers, we pray... **RESPONSE**

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

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

**RESPONSE**



## Reading:

### Message of Pope Francis:

“Certainly there is a lot of ignorance on the topic of trafficking. But sometimes there also seems to be little will to understand the scope of the issue. Why? Because it touches close to our conscience; because it is thorny; because it is shameful. Then there are those who, even knowing this, do not want to speak because they are at the end of the “supply chain”, as a user of the “services” that are offered on the street or on the Internet...Yes, it takes courage and honesty, when, in our daily lives, we meet or deal with persons who could be victims of human trafficking, or when we are tempted to select items which may well have been produced by exploiting others.



The work of raising awareness must begin at home, with ourselves, because only in this way will we be able to then make our communities aware, motivating them to commit themselves so that no human being may ever again be a victim of trafficking.” *—Pope Francis, February 2018*

### 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]*

## Closing Prayer:

God of all peoples, awaken our hearts and deepen our commitment to work for a world where all are free and able to live lives full of hope and joy.

Please help us grow in awareness that you are present in each person and that we are intimately connected to all involved in human trafficking.

God of hope and freedom, inspire us in our work to end human trafficking, starting within our own communities. Amen.

## Closing Song:

Choose an appropriate song or hymn

### Some suggestions:

- Amazing Grace
- Christ, Be Our Light *by Bernadette Farrell*
- We Shall Overcome

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### Possible Actions:

1. Contact the Governor of your state. Ask her/him to ensure that the National Human Trafficking Hotline phone number (**888-373-7888**) and text line (**233 733** or BeFree) is featured prominently on all state websites. *Note: This toll free hotline and text line answers calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year in more than 200 languages.*
2. Ask your Governor/state officials to be sure to make the National Human Trafficking Hotline and text line available in all state-run restrooms on Interstate highways in your state.
3. Continue to educate yourself and others on the causes of human trafficking. See on our module on this topic here. **Root Causes of Human Trafficking** ([English](#) | [Spanish](#))
4. View our new 4-minute video on [Human Trafficking: The Basics](#) and share it with others!
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 items made by survivors:
6. Donate to support the work of [USCSAHT](#) or support a local anti-trafficking organization.



**U.S. Catholic Sisters  
Against Human Trafficking**  
*Ending Slavery Is Everyone's Work*

## Social Media Post Suggestions:



The countdown to #WearBlueDay is on! Participating on January 11 is easy – all you need is a piece of blue clothing. Consider sharing a photo on social media using the hashtag #WearBlueDay and spread the word. Find out more [#](https://go.dhs.gov/ZSX)  
<https://go.dhs.gov/ZSX> #WearBlueDay #EndHumanTrafficking

Join me in wearing blue on January 11<sup>th</sup> to help bring awareness to #humantrafficking with @DHSBlueCampaign. I wear blue because *[insert why you are wearing blue]*. Share your photos with #WearBlueDay

Join U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking in wearing blue on January 11th to help bring awareness to #humantrafficking with @DHSBlueCampaign. Share your photos with #WearBlueDay. #TakeActionTuesday #EndHumanTrafficking

Learn more about @DHSBlueCampaign and #WearBlueDay here: [dhs.gov/blue-campaign/wearblueday](https://dhs.gov/blue-campaign/wearblueday)

