

WORLD DAY OF PEACE: “NO LONGER SLAVES BUT BROTHERS AND SISTERS”



The list of the 12 most lucrative global industries begins with drugs, arms/defense spending, prostitution and includes human trafficking and pornography. Human trafficking, pornography and prostitution comprise trade in human persons – slavery – and are one and the same.

On January 1st 2015, Pope Francis will commemorate the [World Day of Peace](#) with the theme “Slaves no more, but brothers and sisters.” He urges us to recognize the “equal dignity” of our brothers and sisters who are enslaved and exploited and to work to end human trafficking, trade in migrants and prostitutes, slave labor, and the enslavement of women and children.

Human trafficking has two dirty components: labor trafficking and sex trafficking. Sex trafficking is a scourge in Oregon. The state is known as one of the worst; Portland one of the most troubling cities. Labor trafficking is not easily identified because the problem is not on display on the streets but hidden in homes, restaurants and the fields of agriculture. Labor trafficking is a federal issue while states have legal authority over sex trafficking.

No matter how we define it and describe it, both labor and sex trafficking are forms of slavery and violations of the principles of respecting life and protecting human dignity; what is respectful and dignified when humans are treated as the tools of pleasure and commerce?

What can you do? Here are eight ideas.

- The [Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking](#) (CCOAH), convened by the USCCB has crafted a set of “[New Years’ Resolutions Against Human Trafficking](#),” a list of actions related to trafficking for the public to commit to as 2015 New Years’ resolutions. Make a personal commitment in 2015 to one or all of the resolutions
- Raise awareness of human trafficking by sharing Pope Francis’s [World Day of Peace statement](#)
- February 8 is the Feast Day for [Saint Josephine Bakhita](#), patron saint of human trafficking. Hold a prayer vigil
- Buy [Fair Trade products](#), specifically coffee and [chocolate](#)
- Supporting artisans from the Holy Land by purchasing [Fair Trade goods](#) this Christmas
- Does your work or church serve fair trade coffee? If not, [work for change](#)
- [Learn more about Fair Trade](#)
- [Pray](#)



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