

CATHOLIC

“One of the most troubling of those open wounds (in the world) is the trade in human beings, a modern form of slavery. It violates the God-given dignity of so many of our brothers and sisters and constitutes a true crime against humanity.”

– Pope Francis, November 7, 2016, RENATE Conference (Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation)

Scripture

- Genesis 1:27 “...in the image of God they were created; male and female God created them.”
- Matthew 25:35-40 “Whatever you did to one of the least of these, you did to me...”
- Matthew 19:13-15 “...Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven’.”
- Mark 12:31 “...You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
- 1 Corinthians 3:16 “...the Spirit of God dwells in you.”
- Galatians 3:28: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free...”

Coalitions of Catholic Anti-Trafficking Organizations

- [US Catholic Sisters against Human Trafficking](#) (USCSAHT) is a collaborative, faith based network that offers educational programs and materials, supports access to survivor services, and engages in legislative advocacy and other work.
- [Talitha Kum Program](#) is an international network of Consecrated Life against trafficking in persons which facilitates collaboration and the exchange of information and training for consecrated men and women in 70 countries.
- [Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking](#) (CCOAHT) operates under the auspices of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and includes representatives of twenty Catholic organizations - national and international - that focus on Anti-Trafficking. The coalition produces materials, mounts campaigns, provides training programs and advocates with Congress.

Prayer Resources

- [The Beatitudes: A Contemporary Version](#), composed by the International Sisters of Mercy Global Action Opposing Human trafficking Working Group, February 2015.
- [A Prayer to End Human Trafficking](#), Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, NJ: prayer card in several languages.
- See several prayer resources on the website of the [Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center](#), Seattle, WA.

Educational Resources

- The [Catholic Health Association](#) offers many valuable resources to assist health care organizations and health care professionals to identify and assist victims of human trafficking.
- The [USCCB Anti-Trafficking Program](#) educates about human trafficking as an offense against the fundamental dignity of the human person and provides to provide training and technical assistance on this issue.
- [U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking](#) offers educational modules on many human trafficking topics including: Human Trafficking and the Objectification of Women; Reducing the Demand for Human Trafficking; Human Trafficking & Pornography; Human Trafficking for the Purpose of Organ Removal.
- The [Stop Trafficking](#) newsletter serves as a forum for exchange among religious congregations and their collaborating organizations to promote awareness about human trafficking.
- [Against Humanity](#) is a project of the Center of Concern which strives to inform the public about the realities of human trafficking and to provide resources for educating and acting in the fight against this terrible scourge.

Take Action!

In America, 60,000 men, women, and children are enslaved at this very moment. Worldwide, human trafficking is the second largest and fastest-growing organized crime in the world. There are an estimated 21 million people enslaved today, 4.5 million of which are in the sex industry. Estimates for revenues in all forms of exploitation and slavery total upwards of \$32 billion a year, and profits from sex slavery amount to nearly \$10 billion. Nothing degrades another human being more than being treated as an object, as a commodity. Let's act today to end this scourge.

- Go the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops webpage and learn how to [identify human trafficking and how to provide assistance](#).
- If you are in the United States and believe someone may be a victim of human trafficking, report your suspicions to law enforcement by calling 911 or the 24-hour [National Human Trafficking Resource Center](#) line at 1-888-373-7888. Trafficking victims, including undocumented individuals, are eligible for services and immigration assistance.
- Be a conscientious and informed consumer. Discover your [slavery footprint](#), ask [who picked your tomatoes](#) or [made your clothes](#), or check out the Department of Labor's [List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor](#). <http://www.humanthreadcampaign.org/>
- Meet with and/or write to your [local, state, and federal government representatives](#) to let them know you care about combating human trafficking, and ask what they are doing to address it.
- Encourage your local schools to partner with students and include modern slavery in their curricula. As a parent, educator, or school administrator, be aware of how traffickers [target school-aged children](#).
- Join the [Polaris Project](#) for updates in what is happening in your community, your state, and at the national and international level and learn what actions you can take.