

Human Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery

**A Congregation Resource Packet
to bring about God's intent
for our world through
awareness raising and action.**

*Breaking
the Snare* Psalm 124:7



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Adapted to the Jewish community in collaboration with Rabbi Lori Klein of Chadeish Yameinu.



Dear Rabbi,

Five minutes of your time is needed to read this letter and pass on the information to staff persons – and it will make a difference in the lives of some of the poorest of the poor!

Slavery was supposed to have been abolished when the 13th amendment passed 140 years ago. In reality, modern day slavery is not only alive and well, but growing in unprecedented dimensions with the help of modern communication and Internet access. There are 27,000,000 persons enslaved in our world right now — a staggering number! Today the term ‘human trafficking’ is used to describe this modern day form of slavery because of the mobility involved by both victims and traffickers.

Through recent media coverage, the public is beginning to be aware of human trafficking. The Talmud designates bringing freedom to captives as a great mitzvah. Our involvement is needed in order to turn the tide of this modern day tragedy that denies basic human rights to so many of our brothers and sisters, today’s ‘captives.’

No doubt, you have many commitments and a full congregational calendar for the upcoming year. Perhaps you think you cannot become involved in ‘one more thing.’ This packet of information intends to assist you in two ways:

- It provides information and resources about human trafficking that could be integrated in what is already in place in your congregation – avoiding adding extras to an already full calendar.
- It offers handout materials you could pass on to your congregation staff who would raise awareness in your community around human trafficking issues.

“The sword is worse than death, famine is worse than the sword, captivity is worst of all.” (Babylonian Talmud, Bava Batra 8b). For some trafficked persons, who come from countries where police and government officials are complicit with traffickers, the clergy person is the one person they may trust. It is a place where some victims have sought refuge. Therefore, it is important to know what to look for in identifying a potential victim and how to proceed with suspicious signs.

Thank you for taking the time to review these materials and sharing the pages with the designated congregation staff. It is one way we continue to fulfill the great mitzvah to free the captives.

Many blessings,

Rabbi Lori Klein

Breaking the Snare

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Our Jewish Grounding

Our call:

Do not stand on the blood of your fellow (Lev. 19:16)

Love your fellow as yourself. (Lev. 19:18)

We are all created in God's image. (Gen. 1:27)

Our prayer:

I contemplate . . . the tears of the oppressed, with no one to protect them! ; the power their oppressors wield.

No one to protect them. (Ecc. 4:1)

Our response:

THERE IS HOPE FOR YOUR FUTURE. (JER. 31:17)



**Victims of human trafficking
are denied their God-given identity.
Addressing human trafficking is a matter of justice.**

Rabbi's Page

- Review pg. 12 (a background information sheet on human trafficking included in this packet). There is a wealth of additional information on the Internet. Google 'human trafficking' or visit: www.sdssisters.org/slavery.
- Designate one or two Shabbat services this year to teach about slavery/ human trafficking. See suggested texts for sermons/drashot that have potential references to bondage, freedom and redemption in the weekly Torah portion — pgs. 15 - 22. See a sample sermon on pg. 23.
- Choose a day or weekend to highlight this issue. Possible days that provide a natural link are listed on pg. 31. A bulletin enclosure, in both English and Spanish, is included for raising the awareness of your congregation (pgs. 33-36).
- Keep the page on identifying victims of human trafficking as a reference (pg.13-14). Note the 24/7 referral hotline:
1-888-3737-888.
- If you wish additional resources, contact S. Sheila Novak SDS or S. Jean Schafer SDS at: stoptraffick@aol.com

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Congregational Staff Information

Human trafficking, also known as modern day slavery, is just becoming visible to the public. Just as coverage of Hurricane Katrina exposed the 25% impoverished population living in New Orleans, the media is beginning to shed light on the worldwide enslavement of 27,000,000 of our brothers and sisters. There are many resources for learning about this reality and ways of incorporating education and action for your congregation into what you are already doing. Here are some suggestions:

- Do some preliminary learning about human trafficking as a basis for your efforts. See enclosed information sheet (pg. 12). Google 'human trafficking' or visit: www.sdssisters.org/slavery.
- Arrange to have an hour of in-service for the staff on human trafficking. There are persons knowledgeable about this issue, who could assist you, and excellent videos available.
- January 11th is National Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Plan to disseminate information or have handouts for congregation members. Have a mini-information session after services or schedule an evening to explore the issue.
- Third World poverty is a major root cause of human trafficking. Empowering impoverished people with a living wage is an effective way to stem trafficking. Our purchase of Fair Trade products ensures a living wage for those doing the manual labor. Investigate Fair Trade by visiting www.globalexchange.org or www.fairtradefederation.com. Discuss using Fair Trade products for your congregation's activities. Post information about Fair Trade and display the Fair Trade logo to witness to congregation members and encourage them to make their own choices for Fair Trade. Have persons identify businesses that carry Fair Trade products in your area and post that information to encourage patronage. See information sheets on Sweat Shops as additional ways to take action for just wages (pgs. 26-27).
- If your congregation has an outreach to the poor during High Holidays or Purim, consider giving money to a micro-lending organization, which provides small loans to the poor. Such loans enable them to have a means of livelihood and thus discourages human trafficking. Examples are: KIVA (www.kiva.org), Heifer International (www.heifer.org) or the Grameen Bank, highlighted in a recent series on PBS called 'The New Heroes' (www.GrameenFoundation.org), or www.womenforwomen.org.
- Have a retreat day or reflection evening for members of your congregation who are law enforcement officers, medical personnel and/or social workers. Inform them about human trafficking and the ways to identify victims. They are in positions to potentially encounter victims, so such information is critical. A packet of free information may be obtained from the U.S. Government's 'Rescue and Restore Campaign' at www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking.

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Service Leaders

- Incorporate the plight of trafficked victims into the petitionary prayers at worship services.
- Ask the clergy or other service leaders to link the appropriate Torah and Haftarah readings with the issue of human trafficking in their sermons/ drashot once or twice a year. A resource on possible passages for the weekly Torah portion is provided for your rabbi — pgs. 15 - 22.
- In planning for the High Holy Days or Passover, make human trafficking a modern day theme, highlighting our continued need for redemption and liberation.

Social Action Ideas for Seniors/Homebound

- Form a 'media watch' group that clips newspaper articles about Human Trafficking to post on a congregation awareness-raising bulletin board.
- Have a correspondence group write notes to TV stations and newspapers that cover human trafficking stories. Thank them for their coverage and encourage further exploration of the issue.
- Invite seniors or homebound members to adopt a human trafficking website. Have them monitor developments and write a periodic update about what is happening. Post these summaries in the congregation's newsletter or on the Human Trafficking Awareness bulletin board.
- Conduct letter writing campaigns to support Human Trafficking legislation or to urge corporations to use Fair Trade products. Have participants alert other congregation members to also write to legislators at critical moments of pending legislation. See resource for letter writing to legislators on pg. 24.

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Education – Congregation/School

Human trafficking, also known as modern day slavery, is just becoming visible to the public. Just as coverage of Hurricane Katrina exposed the 25% impoverished population living in New Orleans, the media is beginning to shed light on the worldwide enslavement of 27,000,000 of our brothers and sisters. There are many resources for learning about this reality and ways of incorporating education and action for your congregation membership into what you are already doing.

Here are some suggestions:

- Do some preliminary learning about human trafficking as a basis for your efforts. See enclosed information sheet, pg. 12. Google 'human trafficking' or visit: www.sdssisters.org/slavery.
- Arrange to have an hour of in-service for the staff on human trafficking. There are persons knowledgeable about this issue, who could assist you, and excellent videos. See pg. 25.

Elementary Students

- Share the book 'Beatrice's Goat,' a story about how the gift of a goat by Heifer International changed the life of a little girl, that of her family and her entire community. As a Thanksgiving/Hanukah, Purim or Passover project, have children collect money and 'buy' an animal for a poor family. This is an important way to prevent human trafficking.
- Show the video 'Stolen Childhoods' (www.stolenchildhoods.org), a documentary on global child labor, to faculty and students. Have one faculty member prepare a lesson to discuss the video and explore the issue with students. See pg. 25.
- Implement a social studies unit on child labor. There are curriculum resources for primary, intermediate and junior high students. Go to: www.childlabor.org/education/curriculum.htm

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Junior High/High School/Youth Group

- Hold a parent meeting to alert faculty and parents about the growing number of youth, under age 18, being lured into prostitution, also known as 'domestic trafficking' of minors. A video entitled 'Child Sex Tourism' (Investigative Reports – New Video, 126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011.) exposes the issue and how it preys on youth of all socio-economic backgrounds. (See pg. 25) Invite a police officer that works with juveniles to give needed information. Help parents to find ways to alert their teens about this growing danger.
- Show the clip 'Sarah's story' from the above video to discuss with students.
- Involve students in learning about justice issues. Introduce them to ways in which Fair Trade overcomes poverty. (See www.globalexchange.org or www.fairtradefederation.com). Have them identify stores in their neighborhoods that carry Fair Trade products. Have teens organize a Fair Trade campaign to encourage other businesses to carry Fair Trade products. See pg. 27 and copy the mini-poster on pg. 28.

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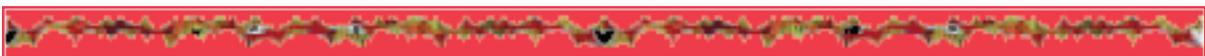


Social Action/Outreach Personnel

Human trafficking, also known as modern day slavery, is just becoming visible to the public. Just as coverage of Hurricane Katrina exposed the 25% impoverished population living in New Orleans, the media is beginning to shed light on the worldwide enslavement of 27,000,000 of our brothers and sisters. There are many resources for learning about this reality and ways of incorporating education and action for your congregation into what you are already doing.

Here are some suggestions:

- Do some preliminary learning about 'human trafficking' as a basis for your efforts. See enclosed information sheet, pg. 12. Google 'human trafficking' or visit: www.sdssisters.org/slavery.
- Arrange to have an hour inservice for any persons who service the poor directly. It is important that they know about the reality of human trafficking and how to identify a possible victim. See pgs. 13-14. Laws are now in place that give protection and services to trafficked persons. Should your staff suspect a trafficking case, there is a national hotline that will assist in this process. (1-888-3737-888)
- Feature human trafficking in a session about Jewish social justice. There are excellent and informative videos available. Incorporate the issue into small reflection or study groups. Explore ways that the congregation and individuals could take actions to counter human trafficking.
- If your congregation has an outreach to the poor during High Holidays or Purim, consider giving money to a micro-lending organization that provides small loans to the poor. These loans enable the poor to have a means of livelihood. This discourages human trafficking. Examples are: KIVA (www.kiva.org), Heifer International (www.heifer.org) or the Grameen Bank, highlighted in a recent series on PBS called 'The New Heroes' (www.GrameenFoundation.org), or www.womenforwomen.org.
- Contact an organization that works with trafficked victims to find out about volunteer opportunities for interested congregation members. In Los Angeles, CAST (Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking) works with victims. See www.castla.org for information.





Quotable Quotes

"Trafficking is one of the most egregious violations of human rights facing the United Nations." (Kofi Annan)

"Prayer is no substitute for action."
(Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel)



Social Action Teaching

"Humanity is an active partner in perfecting the world." (Shabb, 10a, 119b)

"Share your bread with the hungry and take the wretched poor into your home; when you see the naked clothe them." (Isaiah 58:7)

"If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?" (Pirke Avot 1:14)

"Every minute that one delays to redeem the captives when it is possible to move forward, it is as if one spilled blood." (Yoreh Deah 252.3)

"In a free society only some are guilty, but all are responsible. "
(Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel)

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Human Trafficking — Information

"Trafficking is one of the most egregious violations of human rights facing the United Nations." Kofi Annan

- Human trafficking is defined as 'the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for commercial sex, labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of subjecting that person to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.' (Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000)
- About 700,000 persons, primarily women and children, are trafficked annually within or across international borders.
- It is not necessary for a victim to cross a border. Women and children, who are domestically trafficked for prostitution and/or forced labor within their own countries, are considered trafficked. Youth under age 18, who are involved in prostitution, are also considered trafficked.
- The criminal means by which trafficking takes place include not only force, abduction, or deception, but also less explicit means, such as abuse of a victim's vulnerability.
- Women and children are the key target groups because of their marginalization, limited economic resources and predominance in the 'invisible' informal labor sector.
- Trafficked victims frequently come from less developed countries and are taken to more developed countries. They are often promised opportunity or employment by traffickers, only to be coerced into prostitution or involuntary servitude once away from home.
- Root causes of trafficking include greed, demand for sex or for cheap products, economic or political instability, corruption, and myriad other social factors.
- Criminal groups engage in human trafficking because it is highly profitable and less risky. Unlike the trafficking of other 'commodities', people can be sold repeatedly without a large capital investment.
- The United States is one of the destination countries. Victims of trafficking originate from such nations as Russia, the Ukraine, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, the Czech Republic, Mexico and India.
- Traffickers move women and children into the U.S. through many ports of entry: Los Angeles, New York, Miami, Chicago and San Francisco. Recently, traffickers have extended their operations to Atlanta, Cleveland, Houston, Orlando, and Washington, D.C.
- In recent major trafficking cases, there have been reports of trafficking instances in every state, with most cases occurring in New York, California, Texas and Florida.
- All trafficked victims are protected under law, not only those who prove force.

How might one identify a victim?

- ✓ Has inexplicable physical injuries.
- ✓ Shows a great deal of fear and/or signs of severe trauma.
- ✓ Is unable to speak English, but has a companion speak for her/him, despite the presence of neutral interpreters.
- ✓ Cannot produce documentation of his/her legal status and identity.
- ✓ Is unable to go out or move about freely or alone.
- ✓ Has moved housing locations frequently.

Victims suffer:

Bodily injury, including: sexually transmitted diseases, infections, unwanted pregnancies, miscarriages, infertility, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B, cervical cancer, complications of drug and alcohol abuse, eating disorders, physical disability.

Psychological injury, including: depression, anxiety, severe stress, trauma, post-traumatic stress syndrome, tendencies toward homicide, suicide, substance abuse.

Victims often withhold information from health care or social service providers out of fear of repercussions, social stigma, threats from traffickers, or risk of being reported to law enforcement authorities.



How to Identify a Trafficked Person

<p>1. Why and how did the person come to this country?</p>	<p>Many trafficking victims are smuggled into the U.S. or come on legitimate visas with the promise of a good job. Women are often promised jobs in the restaurant industry, in domestic service, or as a dancer or model, while men may come seeking factory or agricultural labor. Once here, they may be forced to do different work and/or work off their travel 'debt.' Internal trafficking is also a crime, i.e. the person does not need to have crossed an international border to be a victim of trafficking.</p>
<p>2. How was the person recruited?</p>	<p>Many trafficking victims are recruited by acquaintances or people of their own ethnic group who offer 'success stories' in the U.S. The terms of their contract before departure are vague and they are surprised to find that they owe exorbitant debts for their travel, lodging, food, etc. Some come through fraudulent mail-order bride or matchmaking services with offers of marriage.</p>
<p>3. Does the person have identification papers?</p>	<p>Many trafficking victims have their immigration and identity documents, such as passports and/or return plane tickets, seized upon arrival in the U.S. by their traffickers or employers. The original papers may have been legitimate or fraudulently provided by the traffickers.</p>
<p>4. Does the person owe money to their employer?</p>	<p>The person may have been promised a job with good pay but found instead that they must first work off their travel debt. While doing so, they are charged exorbitant fees for rent, food, and clothes leading them into a cycle of debt to their employer.</p>
<p>5. Does the person get paid a fair wage?</p>	<p>How many hours a day/week do they work? Do they receive compensation for their work or does it go directly to the employer?</p>
<p>6. Where does the person live? Is their freedom restricted in any way?</p>	<p>Although many people receive unjustly low wages, victims of trafficking have their freedom restricted as well. They may be forced to live in the same place where they work. They may not be allowed to leave the premises and/or they may have been frightened into staying inside due to their immigration status and lack of documents (if the employer is holding them).</p>
<p>7. Has the person been threatened in any way to prevent him/her from leaving?</p>	<p>In addition to physical harm, the person may be subject to psychological intimidation and/or coercion through threats to family members if they try to leave.</p>

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Suggested Texts for Sermons and Drashot:

Part 1: Texts from weekly Torah or Haftarah portion

Book of Genesis/B'reishit

- B'Reishit 1:27 And God created the human in God's image, in the image of God Elohim created the human; male and female God created them.
- Noach 9:6 Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in God's image, did God make the human.
- Lekh L'kha 14:14 When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he mustered his retainers, born into his household, numbering three hundred and eighteen, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.
- Va-yera 18:19 For I have singled him [Abraham] out, that he may instruct his children and his posterity to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is just and right, in order that the Lord may bring about for Abraham what God has promised him.
- Chayyei Sarah 24:8 And if the woman does not consent to follow you, you shall then be clear of this oath to me; but do not take my son back there.
- Tol'dot 26:10-11 Abimelech said, "What have you done to us! One of the people might have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us." Abimelech then charged all the people, saying, "Anyone who molests this man or his wife shall be put to death."
- Va-yetzei 28:16 Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely God is present in this place, and I did not know it!"
- 29:15 Laban said to Jacob, "Just because you are a kinsmen, should you serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?"
- 31:6-7 "As you know, I have served your father with all my might; but your father has cheated me, changing my wages time and again. God, however, would not let him do me harm."
- Va-yishlach 34:1-2 Now Dinah, the daughter whom Leah had borne to Jacob went out to visit the daughters of the land. Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite, chief of the country, saw her, and took her and lay with her by force.
- Va-yeishev 37:28 When Midianite traders passed by, they pulled Joseph up out of the pit. They sold Joseph for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites, who brought Joseph to Egypt.
- 38:15-16 When Judah saw her, he took her for a harlot; for she had covered her face. So he turned aside to her by the road and said, "Here, let me sleep with you" - for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law.

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- Mi-Ketz 42:21-22 They said to one another, "Alas, we are being punished on a count of our brother, because we looked on at his anguish, yet paid no heed as he pleaded with us. That is why this distress has come upon us. Then Reuben spoke up and said to them, "Did I not tell you, 'Do no wrong to the boy?' But you paid no heed. Now comes the reckoning for his blood."
- Va-yiggash 44:33 "Therefore, please let your servant remain as a slave to my lord instead of the boy, and let the boy go back with his brothers."
- Va-y'chi 50:18-19 His brothers went to him themselves, flung themselves before him, and said, "We are prepared to be your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Have no fear! Am I a substitute for God?"

Book of Exodus/Sh'mot:

- Sh'mot 1:11 So they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor; and they built garrison cities for Pharaoh: Pithom and Ramses.
- 2:23 The Israelites were groaning under the bondage and cried out: and their cry for help from the bondage rose up to God.
- 3:7 And God continued, "I have marked well the plight of My people in Egypt and have heeded their outcry because of their taskmasters; yes, I am mindful of their sufferings.
- Va-era 6:5 I have now heard the moaning of the Israelites because the Egyptians are holding them in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant.
- Bo 13:3 "Remember this day, on which you went free from Egypt, the house of bondage, how God freed you from it with a mighty hand: no leavened bread shall be eaten."
- B'Shallach 15:13 In Your love You lead the people You redeemed; In Your strength You guide them to Your holy abode.
- Yitro 20:1-17 [The Ten Commandments.]
- Mishpatim 22:21 You shall not ill-treat any widow or orphan.
- 22:24-26 If you lend money to My people, to the poor among you, do not act toward them as a creditor; exact no interest from them. If you take your neighbor's garment in pledge, you must return it to him before the sun sets; it is his only clothing, the sole covering for his skin. In what else shall he sleep? Therefore, if he cries out to Me, I will pay heed, for I am compassionate.
- 23:6 You shall not subvert the rights of your needy in their disputes.
- 23:9 You shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the feelings of the stranger, having yourselves been strangers in the land of Egypt.
- Trumah 25:8 And let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them.

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- T'tzavveh 29:46 And they shall know that I God am their God, who brought them out from the land of Egypt that I might abide among them, I Yud-Hey-Vov-Hey their God.
- Ki Tissa 33:19 And God answered, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim before you the name God, and the grace that I grant and the compassion that I show."
- Va-yak-hel 35:2 On six days work may be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a sabbath of complete rest, holy to God
- P'kudei 39:43 And when Moses saw that they had performed all the tasks as God had commanded, so they had done - Moses blessed them.

Book of Leviticus/Va-yikra

- Va-yikra 5:20-24 God spoke to Moses, saying: When a person sins and commits a trespass against God by dealing deceitfully with his fellow in the matter of a deposit or a pledge, or through robbery, or by defrauding his fellow, or by finding something lost and lying about it; if he swears falsely regarding any one of the various things that one may do and sin thereby - when one has thus sinned and, realizing his guilt, would restore that which he got through robbery or fraud, or the deposit that was entrusted to him, or the lost thing that he found, or anything else about which he swore falsely, he shall repay the principal amount and add a fifth part to it. He shall pay it to its owner when he realizes his guilt.
- Tsav 6:6 A perpetual fire shall be kept burning on the altar, not to go out.
- Sh'mini 11:45 For I, God, am the One who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God: you shall be holy, for I am holy.
- Tazri-a No single verse in the Torah portion appears (to me) to be appropriate. However, many rabbis, in keeping with midrashic tradition, use the leprous skin condition as a metaphor for lashon ha'ra (evil speech).
As an alternative, the spiritual leader could compose a drash from the Haftarah, which comes from 2 Kings 4:42-44:
A man came from Baal-shalishah and he brought the man of God some bread of the first reaping - twenty loaves of barley bread, and some fresh grain in his sack. And [Elisha] said, "Give it to the people and let them eat." His attendant replied, "How can I set this before a hundred men? But he said, "Give it to the people and let them eat. For thus said God: They shall eat and have some left over." So he set it before them; and when they had eaten, they had some left over, as God had said.
- M'tzora No single verse in the Torah portion appears (to me) to be appropriate. However, this portion is often combined with Tazri-a, so the ideas for Tazri-a may apply here.
As an alternative, the spiritual leader could compose a drash from the Haftarah, which comes from 2 Kings 7:9:
Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This is a day of good news, and we are keeping silent! If we wait until the light of morning, we shall incur guilt. Come, let us go and inform the king's palace."
- Acharei Mot 18:20 Do not have carnal relations with your neighbor's wife and defile yourself with her.

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- K'doshim 19:10 You shall not pick your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I Yud-Hey-Vov-Hey am your God.
- 19:13 You shall not defraud your fellow. You shall not commit robbery. The wages of a laborer shall not remain with you until morning.
- 19:16 Do not stand idly by while your neighbor bleeds.
- 19:29 Do not degrade your daughter and make her a harlot, lest the land fall into harlotry and the land be filled with depravity.
- 19:33-34 When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not wrong him. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt
- Emor 24:22 You shall have one standard for stranger and citizen alike: for I Yud-Hey-Vov-Hey am your God.
- B'Har 25:17 Do not wrong one another, but fear your God; for I, Yud-Hey-Vov-Hey am your God.
- 25:39 If your kinsmen under you continues in straits and must give himself over to you, do not subject him to the treatment of a slave.
- 25:43 You shall not rule over him ruthlessly; you shall fear your God.
- B'Chukkotai 26:13 I Yud-Hey-Vov-Hey am your God who brought you out from the land of the Egyptians to be their slaves no more, who broke the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect.

Book of Numbers/B'Midbar

- B'Midbar 3:46-48 And as the redemption price of the 273 Israelite first-born over and above the number of the Levites, take five shekels per head—take this by the sanctuary weight, twenty gerahs to the shekel—and give the money to Aaron and his sons as the redemption price for those who are in excess.
- Naso 5:5-7 God spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to the Israelites: When a man or woman commits any wrong toward a fellow man, thus breaking faith with God, and that person realizes his guilt, he shall confess the wrong that he has done. He shall make restitution in the principal amount and add one-fifth to it, giving it to him whom he has wronged.
- B'Ha-a lot'kha 11:29 But Moses said to him, "Are you wrought up on my account? Would that all of God's people were prophets, that God put God's spirit upon them!"
- Sh'lach L'kha 14:31 Your children who, you said, would be carried off—these will I allow to enter; they shall know the land that you have rejected.
- 15:15 There shall be one law for you and for the resident stranger; it shall be a law for all time throughout the ages. You and the stranger shall be alike before God.
- Korach 18:15 The first issue of the womb of every being, man or beast, that is offered to God, shall be yours; but you shall have the first-born of man redeemed, and you shall also have the firstling of impure animals redeemed.

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- Chukkat 20:16 We cried to God and God heard our plea, and sent a messenger who freed us from Egypt.
- Balak 23:22 God who freed them from Egypt is for them like the horns of the wild ox.
- Pinchas 27:6-7 And God said to Moses, "The plea of Zelophehad's daughters is just: you should give them a hereditary holding among their father's kinsmen; transfer their father's share to them.
- Mattot No single verse in the Torah portion appears (to me) to be appropriate. However, this portion is often combined with Mas'ei, so the ideas for Mas'ei may apply here. As an alternative, the spiritual leader could compose a drash from the Haftarah, which comes from Jeremiah 2:6:
They never asked themselves, "Where is God,
Who brought us up from the land of
Egypt, Who led us through the wilderness,
A land of deserts and pits,
A land of drought and darkness,
A land no man had traversed,
Where no human being had dwelt?"
- Mas'ei 33:3-4 They set out from Ramses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month. It was on the morrow of the passover offering that the Israelites started out defiantly, in plain view of all the Egyptians. The Egyptians meanwhile were burying those among them whom God had struck down, every first-born—whereby God executed judgment on their gods.

Book of Deuteronomy/D'varim

- D'varim 1:16-17 I charged your magistrates at that time as follow, "Hear out your fellow men, and decide justly between any man and a fellow Israelite or a stranger. You shall not be partial in judgment: hear out low and high alike. Fear no man, for judgment is God's. And any matter that is too difficult for you, you shall bring to me and I will hear it."
- Va-etchannan 5:6-18 Ten Commandments
- 5:13-14 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of Yud-Hey-Vov-Hey your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your ox or your ass or any of your cattle, or the stranger in your settlements, so that your male and female slave may rest as you do.
- 6:20-21 When, in time to come, your children ask you, "What mean the decrees, laws, and rules that Yud-Hey-Vov-Hey our God has enjoined upon you?" you shall say to your children, "We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt and God freed us from Egypt with a mighty hand."
- Eikev 10:16-19 Cut away, therefore, the thickening about your hearts and stiffen your necks no more. For Yud-Hey-Vov-Hey your God is God supreme Lord supreme, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who shows no favor and takes no bribe, but



upholds the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and befriends the stranger, providing him with food and clothing. - You too must befriend the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

- R'eih 15:7-8 If, however, there is a needy person among you, one of your kinsmen in any of your settlements in the land that Yud-Hey-Vov-Hey your God is giving you, do not harden your heart and shut your hand against your kinsman. Rather, you must open your hand and lend him sufficient for whatever he needs.
- Shof'tim 16:20 Justice, justice shall you pursue, that you may thrive and occupy the land that Yud-Hey-Vov-Hey your God is giving you.
- Ki Tetzei 24:14 You shall not abuse a needy and destitute laborer, whether a fellow countryman or a stranger in one of the communities of your land.
- 24:17-18 You shall not subvert the rights of the stranger or the fatherless; you shall not take a widow's garment in pawn. Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and that Yud-Hey-Vov-Hey your God redeemed you from there; therefore do I enjoin you to observe this commandment.
- 24:19-22 When you reap the harvest in your field and overlook a sheaf in the field, do not turn back to get it; it shall go to the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow—in order that Yud-Hey-Vov-Hey your God may bless you in all your undertakings. When you beat down the fruit of your olive trees, do not go over them again; that shall go to the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow. When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not pick it over again; that shall go to the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow. Always remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore do I enjoin you to observe this commandment.
- Ki Tavo 26:6-10 "The Egyptians dealt harshly with us and oppressed us; they imposed heavy labor upon us. We cried to God, the God of our fathers, and God heard our plea and saw our plight, our misery, and our oppression. God freed us from Egypt by a mighty hand, by an outstretched arm and awesome power, and by signs and portents. God brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. Wherefore I now bring the first fruits of the soil which You, O God, have given me."
- 27:19 Cursed be he who subverts the rights of the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow. - And all the people shall say, Amen.
- Nitzavim 29:28 Concealed acts concern Yud-Hey-Vov-Hey our God; but with overt acts, it is for us and our children ever to apply all the provisions of this Torah.
- 30:11-14 Surely, this Instruction which I enjoin upon you this day is not too baffling for you, nor is it beyond reach. It is not in the heavens, that you should say, "Who among us can go up to the heavens and get it for us and impart it to us, that we may observe it?" Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who among us can cross to the sea and get it for us and impart it to us, that we may observe it?" No, the thing is very close to you, in your mouth and in your heart, to observe it.
- Va-yeilekh 31:12 Gather the people—men, women, children, and the strangers in your communities—



that they may hear and so learn to revere Yud-Hey-Vov-Hey your God and to observe faithfully every word of this Teaching.

Ha-Azinu 32:46-47 He said to them: Take to heart all the words with which I have warned you this day. Enjoin them upon your children, that they may observe faithfully all the terms of this Teaching. For this is not a trifling thing for you: it is your very life; through it you shall long endure on the land that you are to possess upon crossing the Jordan.

V'Zot Ha-B'rakhah
34:10-12 Never again did there arise in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom God singled out, face to face, for the various signs and portents that God sent him to display in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his courtiers and his whole country, and for all the great might and awesome power that Moses displayed before all Israel.

Part 2: Additional texts from Tanach

1 Kings	17:10-16	Elijah and the poor widow
Isaiah	5:1-7	Song of the vineyard.
	25: 6-10	On the mountain the Lord will provide a feast of rich food.
	55:1	Ho, everyone who is thirsty, go to the water, even one with no money, go, buy and eat; go and buy wine and milk without money and without price.
	61:1	The spirit of God/Elohim, is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring tidings to the humbled; God has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for captives and release from bondage for the imprisoned.
	62:1	For Zion's sake I will not be silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be still, until her righteousness emanates like bright light, and her salvation blazes like a torch.
Jeremiah	9:23	I, God, act with kindness, justice and equity in the world, for in these I delight -- declares God.
	20: 7-9	You duped me, O Lord, and I let myself be duped.
Ezekiel	34:11, 15-17	For thus said God/Elohim: Behold, I am here, and I will seek out My sheep and I will tend them. . . . I will care for My sheep and I will lay them down - the work of God/Elohim. For the lost I will search; the banished I will retrieve; the broken I will bind; the ill I will strengthen; but the fat one and the strong one I will destroy. I will tend them with justice.
Amos	5:24	Rather, let justice be revealed like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream.
	6:3-7	Woe to the overconfident, haughty and unjust.
	8:4-8	God will not forget the deeds of those who persecute the poor.
Jonah	3:1-5	Jonah's prophecy to Nineveh; Nineveh repents.
Micah	6:8	God has told you, O human, what is good! What does God require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and walk humbly with your God?
Psalms	85:11-12	Kindness and Truth have met, Righteousness and Peace have kissed. Truth will sprout from earth, and Righteousness will peer from heaven.
	106:3	Praiseworthy are those who maintain justice, who perform righteousness in every time.
Job	7:1-4	Job loses hope and compares himself to a slave.



Part 3: Texts from Rabbinic literature

Raba asked Rabbah b. Mari: Whence is derived the maxim of the Rabbis that the redemption of captives is a religious duty of great importance? —

He replied: From the verse, And it shall come to pass when they say unto thee, Whither shall we go forth, then thou shalt tell them, Thus saith the Lord, Such as are for death, to death, and such as are for the sword, to the sword, and such as are for famine, to the famine, and such as are for captivity, to captivity: and [commenting on this]

R. Johanan said: Each punishment mentioned in this verse is more severe than the one before. The sword is worse than death; this I can demonstrate either from Scripture, or, if you prefer, from observation. The proof from observation is that the sword deforms but death does not deform; the proof from Scripture is in the verse, Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his saints. Famine again is harder than the sword; this again can be demonstrated either by observation, the proof being that the one causes [prolonged] suffering but the other not, or, if you prefer, from the Scripture, from the verse, They that be slain with the sword are better than they that be slain with hunger. Captivity is harder than all, because it includes the sufferings of all. (Bava Batra 8b).

Do not separate yourself from the community. (Pirke Avot 2:4).

One who causes the loss of even one life, it is as if that person caused the loss of an entire world, and one who saves one life, it is as if that person saved an entire world. (Sanhedrin 37a).

Every judge who judges with complete fairness even for a single hour, the Writ gives him credit as though he had become a partner to the Holy One, blessed be He, in the creation. (Shabbat 10a).

When he went before Hillel, he said to him, 'What is hateful to you, do not to your neighbour: that is the whole Torah, while the rest is the commentary thereof; go and learn it.' (Shabbat 31a).

When the community is in trouble do not say, "I will go home and eat and drink and all will be well with me."...Rather, involve yourself in the community's distress as was demonstrated by Moses (Exodus 27:12) In this way Moses said, "Since Israel is in trouble, I will share their burden." Anyone who shares a community's distress will be rewarded and will witness the community's consolation. (Ta'anit 11a).

The ultimate purpose of the laws of tzedakah is to nurture in people the quality of mercy and kindness and not just eliminate poverty. God could have accomplished that by providing for the needs of the poor without human intervention. (Sefer HaHinuch 66).

God says to Israel, "My children, whenever you give sustenance to the poor, I impute it to you as though you gave sustenance to me..." (Midrash Tannaim).

Our obligation to redeem captives is so significant that even money or materials collected to build a synagogue which cannot be sold or used for any other purpose, even another mitzvah, may be sold to ransom a captive (Shulhan Arukh, Yoreh Deah 252.1).

Sermon Suggestions

Introduction

These days I see careful consumers at the grocery store. They stand with a product in hand, studying the fine print that lists its contents before putting it into their grocery carts. They know ahead of time what is safe or healthy for their families.

What if all the things we buy came with such a listing of 'contents'?! These 'contents' would be a different kind of list – disclosing what went into producing the product at the price we pay. A clothing label might list: "produced in a sweatshop with forced labor – 14 hours per day, 7 days a week at \$2.00/hour." A chocolate bar's list: "made from cocoa beans, picked by kidnapped boys of the Ivory Coast; beaten if a bag of cocoa pods is dropped; paid nothing." An X-rated magazine with a brown paper jacket across the cover would bear a warning label: "some women and children pictured here held in debt bondage, coerced into bringing these photos to you to reduce their debt."

After reading such a label, hopefully we would put the product right back on the shelf. It would be hard to live with the knowledge that what we bought actually contributed unwittingly to the slavery of the person who helped produce it!

But that is what is happening today with many of the things that have become part of our every day lives. It helps large companies get even larger –increasing their profits and keeping their stockholders happy. And concealing how the product is actually produced keeps us happy — happy because of the cheap price. But this cheap price comes at a very high price for so many of the world's poor. Someone along the 'production line' is getting short changed when prices are too good to be true. This is where slavery (human trafficking) enters the picture. To keep production costs as low as possible, millions of people around the globe are caught in the web of slavery. We outlawed slavery in the U.S. with the 13th amendment in 1865. But after 140 years, slavery is not only alive and well; it is happening to more people than at any other time in history.

- Additional information about human trafficking could be included here OR
- A story about a trafficked survivor could illustrate the above.

Additional stories may be accessed from the *Stop Trafficking* Newsletter.

Go to: <http://homepage.mac.com/srjeanschafersds/stoptrafficking/index.html>

See these archival issues for trafficking stories:

- Vol. 2 #4, 7, 8, 9, 10;
- Vol. 3 #1, #5 and #8;
- Vol. 4 #3 and #6.

Body

Connect the reality of human trafficking (slavery) to the Torah portion of the week. See suggested texts for drashot, included in this packet.

Closing

What is our call in the face of these realities – and with God's intent for each one of us? It is a large and complex issue that can tempt us to feel powerless or hopeless. It is so easy to throw up our hands thinking there is nothing we can do. But we are also an empowered people, who could take steps to impact this devastating abuse of our brothers and sisters.

- If the congregation is having an awareness-raising event, urge people to participate
- Make informed consumer choices
- Use Fair Trade products, which ensure that slave labor was not used in the production process.
(See same website above – *Stop Trafficking* newsletter for information about Fair Trade Vol. 2 #6, Vol. 3 #10 and Vol. 4 #2 p.7)
- Sponsor a fund-raiser with proceeds given to an organization assisting human trafficked survivors.
- Other responses . . .

We want to know what is safe and healthy not only for our families, but for the many people who touch our lives through their labors. Their very lives are on the line!! How might I become involved in stopping human trafficking?

Letter Writing to Senators or Representatives

1. To get names and contact information about current federal legislators, go to: <http://thomas.loc.gov> (alternative site: www.networklobby.org) Click onto either House of Representatives or Senate in the left menu section.

To get names and contact information about current state legislators, go to: <http://www.statelocalgov.net>
Choose the state - then the legislature

2. Address letters to the Committee Chair (they are required to read letters sent to them or to their committee) and/or to your own legislator(s).
3. Use the proper form of address:

The Honorable (Jane Doe)
(California) State Senate
(insert address)
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001
Dear Senator Doe:

The Honorable (John Smith)
(Wisconsin) State Assembly
(insert address)
Madison, WI 53707-7882
Dear Assembly Member Smith:

The Honorable (Jane Doe)
United States Senate
(insert address here)
Washington, DC 20510
Dear Senator Doe:

The Honorable (John Smith)
U.S. House of Representatives
(insert address here)
Washington, DC 20510
Dear Representative Smith:

4. Make sure your letter is timely. Write when legislation is pending in Committee.
5. Use your own words on your own stationery.
6. Keep your letter short and clear.
7. Identify bills by title and number. (Revisit the above thomas site for titles, etc.)
8. State reasons for your position. Tell how the issue affects you or your community, state or the country.

Breaking the Snares Psalm 124:7



Educational Videos

Elementary Children

Stolen Childhoods - documentary -45 minute video

Focuses on child labor in various parts of the world, including children trafficked for labor and sexual exploitation. Actual footage of children picking coffee beans, making bricks, involved in sex tourism, working fish platforms, carpet looms, landfills, dumps and agriculture. Features schools and efforts to rescue these children.

Obtain: www.stolenchildhoods.org

Teens

Child Sex Tourism - Documentary - 45 minute Video (Review to choose appropriate clips)

Teen prostitution as seen through a video journal of two weeks in the life of teen prostitutes. Set in Calgary, Canada, but incorporates information about New York, Los Angeles and Los Vegas. Has information about how youth are entrapped and includes two programs to rehabilitate them. Shows two rescue stories. Ends with reflection by one teen prostitute with feelings of disgust.

Obtain: New Video/126 Fifth Avenue/New York, NY 10011 (Cat. No. AAE-16135)

Teens/Adults

Slavery 101 - 12 minutes DVD (Free the Slaves)

This video is a powerful, succinct introduction to modern day slavery. Slaves from around the world share their stories and ultimately inspire us to end slavery.

Obtain: <http://freetheslaves.madebysurvivors.com/category-s/8.htm>

Teens/Adults

Dreams Die Hard - 36 minute DVD

Three survivors of slavery share their stories: Maria, enslaved for sex and domestic work in California, Miguel, trafficked laborer in Florida, and Rose and Christy, brought from Africa to the U.S. to be maids. Features people and groups taking risks to set free U.S. slaves.

Obtain: <http://freetheslaves.madebysurvivors.com/category-s/8.htm>

Or at: Free the Slaves/ 1012 14th Street, NW, Suite 600/ Washington, DC 20005

Tel: 202-638-1865/ fax: 202-638-0599/ email: info@freetheslaves.net/ www.freetheslaves.net

Breaking the Snare Psalms 124:7



Breaking the Snares Psalms 124:7



Sweat Shops - Information

- Sweatshops produce half of all clothing sold in the USA. So, unwittingly, most of us support the global sweatshop industry. Some sweatshop workers are confined against their wills because they are victims of trafficking.
- Sweatshops are workplaces where young women, men and girls labor for poverty wages in conditions that are unsafe, degrading and often abusive. Workers breathe toxic fumes, handle carcinogenic materials and operate machines with no safety mechanisms. Women are fired if they become pregnant.
- The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that more than half of the country's 22,000 sewing shops, and as much as 66% of garment factories in Los Angeles and New York violate minimum wage and overtime laws.
- Workers typically receive less than 3% of the retail price of clothing made in a U.S. sweatshop and as little as one-half of 1% of the retail price of clothing sewn overseas.
(U.S. Dept. of Labor)
- Sweatshop workers are often denied basic human freedoms, like the right to join a union, attend religious services, seek medical treatment, quit or marry. If they complain, they are fired. If they organize to improve their conditions, they are fired and blacklisted from other employment.
- The rules of the global economy allow large corporations to operate in secrecy, free from public oversight, while exploiting the most vulnerable people around the globe.
- Increasing competition, where the lowest bidder gets the jobs, is worsening the sweatshop crisis. Countries around the world will accept the poorest wages and working conditions and the weakest health and safety standards to get contracts.
- The enormous buying power of brand name companies, often thousands of miles from the factory floor, allows them to dictate extremely low prices and breakneck delivery schedules to local producers.
- The trademark "Made in the USA" is deceptive. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, workers on American Samoa "were beaten...and provided food so inadequate that some were walking skeletons.... while producing clothes for U.S. retailers such as Wal-Mart, J.C. Penny, Sears and Target."

Sweatshops/Fair Trade - Actions

1. Do a Starbucks' campaign. Steps are spelled out at:
<http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/coffee/starbucks.html>.
There is background information, flyers to download, and petition forms. Consumers have been demanding that Starbucks carry Fair Trade coffee, and their response has been minimal - and only if specifically asked. In the meantime, their profits grow larger each year at the expense of the coffee pickers. They are also raising coffee prices!
2. Begin a Chocolate Campaign: M&M/Mars, the world's largest chocolate company with annual revenues of \$16 billion has refused to consider Fair Trade Chocolate. For background information, visit <http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/cocoa/mmmars.html> and go through the same procedure as in number 1 above, except click on chocolate campaign. There are sample letters, flyers, free faxes and more. Use Fair Trade Chocolate for school/congregation/organizational fundraisers.
3. See this web site - <http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/sweatshops/actionplan.html> for steps outlined in a Sweat Free Toolkit with five sections: Taking Action, a Campaign Toolkit, a Sweatfree Policy Toolkit, a Trainers Guide and Resources. It includes coalition building, research, and meeting with local politicians. It offers good information and resources to anyone wanting to make a lasting difference in their community. Join a local sweatfree community at: <http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/sweatshops/>
4. Become acquainted with the Fair Trade Online Store: www.globalexchange.org; click on Fair Trade Store for socially conscious gifts.
5. Organize your campus, school, community, faith-based groups using available Fair Trade Resource Network materials at: <http://www.fairtraderesource.org/>
Advocate for Fair Trade to be used in dining halls, businesses, companies, workplaces and church events. Get schools to switch to Fair Trade chocolate for fundraisers, vending machines and cafeterias. Hold letter-writing parties to urge companies to advocate for this. The Fair Trade Resource Network (FTRN) gathers, develops, and disseminates educational resources to people and organizations interested in building a more just and sustainable world through Fair Trade: <http://www.fairtraderesource.org/change-the-world/educate-about-fair-trade/>.
6. Write a letter to the editor or an article for your local newspaper to expose the exploitation of child labor/trafficking of workers so we have inexpensive products.
7. Write letters to the editor of your local newspapers asking why businesses, restaurants do not carry more Fair Trade products - highlighting those that do.
8. Buy Fair Trade products and use Fair Trade ingredients. For a list of products, see: <http://www.fairtradefederation.com/mshop.html>. Make an appointment with the manager of your local food store and bring along information about child labor and fair trade products. Ask the retailer to post the Fair Trade Certified label or the Fair Trade Logo in the store as a way to make a statement about the values of the store and to raise awareness on the part of consumers about this option.

Why Fair Trade?



What we eat or drink has a ripple effect far beyond where we are standing (or sitting). Most of the coffee or chocolate we enjoy comes to us because of subsistence wages and harmful working conditions for both child and adult workers from Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Some workers are even trafficked and held as slaves!

The U.S. is the world's largest coffee and chocolate consumer. Choosing Fair Trade products gives a chance for a livelihood to the coffee/chocolate workers.

Fair Trade Certified means:

- forced and exploitative child labor is prohibited;
- guaranteed set prices that provide a living wage;
- sustainable farming is promoted.

The choices we make help change the lives of the world's poorest people - not with a handout, but with what they have justly earned.

Breaking the Snare Ps 124:7



Actions Addressing Human Trafficking

- **For continued congregational education, use a section of the congregation's bulletin board and post current news articles about human trafficking.**
- **Go on line to get the monthly 'Stop Trafficking' Newsletter and print it for the bulletin board. Go to:
<http://www.stopenslavement.org/index.html>**
- **Spread the word: talk about the issue with your acquaintances.**
- **Plan an evening awareness raising: invite a speaker or watch a video about the issue and take a group action.**
- **Write an editorial about human trafficking for your local newspaper.**
- **Use Fair Trade coffee for your synagogue functions. Use Fair Trade Chocolate for school fund raisers.**
- **Designate one week or weekend a year on the congregation's calendar to devote to continued awareness raising and action about the issue.**
- **Use some of the congregation's outreach monies to support a micro-lending project or to support agencies that work with trafficked survivors. Both micro-lending and Fair Trade address the root causes of human trafficking.**



Planning Calendar

Events Already in Place:

Times of the Year to Be Avoided:

Times of the Day/Evening That Work Best:

Activities Already in Place That Provide a Connection:

Awareness-Raising Event: Anti-Human Trafficking

What:

When:

Whom:

Where:

Groundwork needed:

Persons/Groups to Contact:

"Publicity" needed prior to the event:

Follow-up:

Other Days That Lend Themselves to Education About Human Trafficking

- ✓ Martin Luther King Jr. Day — 3rd Monday in January
- ✓ National Human Trafficking Awareness Day — January 11
- ✓ National Anti-Slavery Day — February 27
- ✓ Independence Day — July 4
- ✓ Weekend of Prayer and Fasting for Victims of Human Trafficking — Last Weekend of September

UNITED NATIONS OBSERVANCES: INTERNATIONAL DECADES

- 2001-2010 -- International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World
- 2003-2012 -- United Nations Literacy Decade: Education for All
- 2005-2014 -- United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

UN INTERNATIONAL DAYS AND WEEKS

- March 8 United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace
- April 7 World Health Day
- May 9 World Fair Trade Day
- June 4 International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
- June 20 World Refugee Day
- June 26 International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
- August 12 International Youth Day
- August 23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition
- September 21 International Day of Peace
- October 17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- October 24-30 Disarmament Week
- November 20 Universal Children's Day
- November 21 World Television Day
- November 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- December 1 World AIDS Day
- December 2 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- December 10 Human Rights Day
- December 18 International Migrants Day

<http://www.un.org/geninfo/faq/factsheets/FS18.HTM>

Bulletin Announcement:

Human slavery – also known as human trafficking – is still happening today! Millions of people, including children as young as age five, are among the 700,000 people enslaved globally every year. See today's bulletin insert.



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Breaking the Snare Psalm 124:7



Slavery in the U.S. Today?



Eliza is a 14-year old Mexican girl. She was working cleaning hotel rooms when a man, Rogerio Cardena, approached Eliza's parents, telling them about a well-paying job he could get for Eliza, doing the same work north of the border in the US.

Eliza was eager to go. Her parents were reluctant. But the smooth-talking man said Eliza would be in "good hands". Eliza was taken to Houston, TX and from there to Orlando, FL. It was then that Eliza was told she would have to work as a prostitute until she paid off the \$2,200 debt for her passage out of Mexico. *Reader's Digest April 2001*

Yes! Today the US government estimates that 20,000 people are trafficked annually into the US through deception, fraud and coercion.

These people are promised good-paying jobs, but are then held against their will or are forced to work for little or no pay.

Those enslaved in the USA may be working in many venues. Indentured slaves can be found in sweatshops (clothing manufacturing), in commercial agriculture settings (fields, processing plants, canneries), in ordinary neighborhoods (maids, baby sitters), on construction sites, in restaurants and as custodial workers, or in the sex industry (under the guise of massage parlors, escort services, adult bookstores, modeling studios, or bars and strip clubs).

Globally 27 million people are enslaved. That number is equivalent to the entire population of our neighbor, Canada.

- **Slaves may have made the bricks that were used to build the factory that assembled the TV you watch.**
- **Slaves in Latin America may have made the charcoal used to temper the steel that made the springs in your car and the blades in your lawnmower.**
- **Child slaves may have picked the coffee beans that were roasted to supply your morning cup of coffee.**
- **A young girl may have been sold into a brothel in Asia to be resold every night, earning \$10,000 for her owner but only misery, abuse and illness for herself.**
- **A 7-year old Pakistani boy may have been one who spent 10-14 hours per day chained to a rug-weaving loom to help make the carpet in your home.**

"Human trafficking is an international crisis that requires the immediate attention not only of the United Nations but also of concerned citizens worldwide. We applaud UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's ... comments recognizing the odious nature of trafficking, in particular, as it impacts the quest for female equality. We could not agree more. Human trafficking is truly one of the great human rights tragedies of our time."

Marsha Atkind, President of NCJW.

"The ransoming of captives takes precedence over the feeding and clothing of the poor. Indeed there is no religious duty more meritorious than the ransoming of captives, for not only is the captive included in the generality of the hungry, the thirsty, and the naked, but his very life is in jeopardy."

Maimonides, Laws of Gifts to the Poor 8:12

"Forced labor in the US is hidden, inhumane, widespread and criminal." Study by Univ. of CA, Berkeley Human Rights Center and Free the Slaves, 09.2004



Buying products with this label guarantees that the workers are free, have been paid a living wage, and can send their own children to school.

Stop Trafficking newsletter at:

<http://homepage.mac.com/srjeanschafersds/stoptraff/c/index.html>

¿Existe la esclavitud en EE.UU. hoy día?



Eliza es una niña mejicana de 14 años que trabajaba limpiando habitaciones de hoteles cuando un hombre, Rogerio Cardena, habló con sus padres y les contó que podría conseguirle a Eliza el mismo trabajo que tenía, pero mejor pagado en Estados Unidos.

Eliza tenía ganas de ir pero sus padres mostraban reacios a la idea. Sin embargo, el amable hombre dijo que pondría a Eliza en "buenas manos". Llevó a Eliza a la ciudad de Houston en Texas y después a la ciudad de Orlando en Florida. Fue entonces cuando Eliza se dio cuenta de que tendría que trabajar como prostituta para pagar su deuda de \$2.200 por su pasaje para salir de Méjico. *Reader's Digest April 2001*

En el mundo 27 millones de personas viven en la esclavitud. Esa cifra equivale a la población entera de Canadá.

- **Es posible que fueran los esclavos los que fabricaron los ladrillos que se usaron en la construcción de la fábrica que montó tu televisor.**
- **Es posible que fueran los esclavos de América Latina los que fabricaron el carbón que se usó para templar el acero de los resortes en tu coche y las cuchillas de tu cortacésped.**
- **Es posible que fueran los niños esclavos los que recogieron los granos de café que se tostaron para que te tomaras tu café matutino.**
- **Es posible que se haya vendido a una niña a un burdel de Asia para vender de nuevo después sus servicios cada noche, con lo que su dueño obtendrá \$10.000 a cambio de la miseria, el abuso y las enfermedades de la víctima.**
- **Es posible un niño pakistani de 7 años se encuentre encadenado 10 a 14 horas diarias para ayudar a tejer la alfombra que está en tu casa.**

¡Si! Hoy día el gobierno estadounidense estima que se trafican a 20.000 personas al año son víctimas del tráfico en el país. A estas personas se les engaña y se las hace víctimas del fraude y la coacción.

También se les promete empleos bien remunerados, pero después no se les deja libres o se les obliga a trabajar a cambio de poco o nada de dinero.

En cuanto a las víctimas que trabajan en Estados Unidos es posible que estas se encuentren trabajando en muchos lugares diferentes. Pueden trabajar como esclavos en fábricas donde se les explota (fabricantes de ropa), en áreas de agricultura comercial (campos, plantas de procesamiento, fábricas de conservas), en barrios comunes (como criadas o niñeras), en las obras, los restaurantes y como personal de limpieza, o en la industria del sexo (en lugares que parecerían salones de masaje, servicios de acompañamiento, librerías para adultos, estudios de modelos, bares y clubs de striptease).

"La trata humana es una crisis internacional que requiere no solamente la atención de las Naciones Unidas pero también de los ciudadanos preocupados globalmente. Aplaudimos al Secretario-General de la ONU Kofi Annan...comentarios reconociendo la detestable característica de la trata, en particular, como impacta la búsqueda de igualdad femenina. No podríamos estar más de acuerdo. La trata humana es verdaderamente una tragedia de los derechos humanos en nuestros tiempos."

Marsha Atkind, President of NCJW.

"El rescate de rehenes precede la comida y al vestido de los pobres. Por su puesto no hay un deber religioso más meritado que el rescate de los rehenes, y no solamente es el rehén incluido generalmente con el hambre, la sed y la desnudez, pero su propia vida está en peligro."

Maimónides, Leyes de Ofrenda a los Pobres 8:12

"El trabajo forzado en Estados Unidos está escondido, es inhumano, amplio y un acto criminal." Estudio realizado por el Centro de los Derechos Humanos y el grupo Liberar a los Esclavos de la Univ. de California, Berkeley

FAIR TRADE



CERTIFIED

Cuando se compran productos que llevan esta etiqueta, se garantiza que los trabajadores son libres, se les paga un salario digno y sus niños reciben una educación.

Child Slavery Today?

Request Stop Trafficking newsletter at: Stoptraffick@aol.com



Drissa left his home in Mali and traveled over 300 miles to neighboring Côte d'Ivoire in search of work, harvesting cocoa on plantations. On arrival he was sold to a plantation owner, taken to a remote plantation and forced to work from dawn until dusk with no pay.

The work was exhausting. If Drissa showed signs of tiredness he was beaten. At night, along with 17 other young men, he was locked in a small room with only a tin can as a toilet.

When Drissa was caught trying to escape, he was tied up and beaten until he couldn't walk.

(Anti-Slavery: www.antislavery.org)

In Africa a small child, Martha Wamboi, describes her life on a coffee plantation...

"I pick the raw berries, then I take them to the trough and dump them in. I get 10 shillings. Then I pick another can. For a whole day I get 60 shillings."

(Video: Stolen Childhoods)

Coffee prices have reached a 30 year low for coffee farmers, yet multinationals record huge profits. By the time the coffee reaches U.S. supermarkets, the price has gone up 4000%! But who gets that extra money?

Not the coffee farmer nor the child picker!

If you buy a \$1.50 cup of coffee, those who harvested the coffee beans may get as little as 1¢. The distributors and coffee companies get the rest.

Two years ago Starbucks raised the average price of its coffees by 11¢ at its 4500 stores in North America. A 12 oz. latte rose to \$2.30 in CA, to \$3.00 in NY. A reporter, interviewing customers, found that most people had no problem paying the extra 11¢! Why not ask to put that money in the pocket of the farmer?

By your choosing to pay a few more cents for Fair Trade coffee, you are giving a living wage to those who labor to bring coffee to you. This removes the need for child trafficking and gives poor children some hope for a future.

ACTION: Find out where to buy Fair Trade coffee
<http://www.fairtraderesource.org/>

VISIT <http://www.crsfairtrade.org>
to learn how to support small scale coffee growers.

Yes! Every year at least 1.2 million youngsters under 18 years of age are sold into some form of slave labor.

Maimonides rules that he who ignores ransoming a captive is guilty of transgressing commandments such as "you shall not harden your heart" (Deut. 15:7); "you shall not stand idly by the blood of your brother" (Lev. 19:16); and "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Lev. 19:18). (Maimonides, Laws of Gifts to the Poor 8:10).

On the commodities exchange in New York, cocoa prices fluctuate dramatically, while the price tag of a chocolate bar stays nearly the same. North Americans and Europeans consume 80% of the cocoa supplied by the Third World.

When you buy a 75¢ candy bar, 70¢ goes to the company, 5¢ to the farmer. M&M, the largest chocolate producer in the world, has annual profits of about \$16 billion per year. Yet M&M refuses to buy fair trade chocolate.

Fair Trade chocolate ensures a living wage to those who harvest cocoa and helps eliminate the need to resort to child trafficking. It gives children a chance to receive an education and create a life for themselves.

ACTION: Visit <http://www.globalexchange.org/cocoa> to find out where to obtain Fair Trade chocolate.



Buying products with this label guarantees that the workers are free, have been paid a living wage, and can send their own children to school.



Coffee and cocoa beans should bring dignity to the pickers, as well as pleasure to the consumers.

"Trafficking in persons – in which men, women and children from all over the globe are transported to other countries for the purposes of forced prostitution or labor – inherently rejects the dignity of the human person and exploits conditions of global poverty." US/Mexico Bishops Pastoral Letter 11.2002

¿Esclavitud de los niños hoy?

Pida el boletín de Stop Trafficking en: Stoptraffick@aol.com



Drissa dejó atrás su hogar en Malí y viajó más de 300 millas al vecino país de Costa de Marfil en búsqueda de trabajo cosechando cacao en las plantaciones. A su llegada fue vendido a un dueño de plantación, llevado a una plantación lejana y forzado a trabajar del amanecer al anochecer sin pago.

El trabajo era fatigoso. Si Drissa mostraba señales de cansancio le pegaban. En las noches lo encerraban en un cuarto pequeño junto con 17 jóvenes más donde sólo tenía una lata para hacer sus necesidades.

Cuando Drissa fue capturado tratando de escapar, fue amarrado y le pegaron hasta que no pudiera caminar.

(Anti-Slavery: www.antislavery.org)

**En África, una joven llamada Martha Wamboi describe su vida en una plantación de café...
"Recojo los granos crudos y los llevo al barril.
Me pagan 10 chelines. Después lleno otra lata de granos. Por un día entero de trabajo me pagan 60 chelines." (Video: Stolen Childhoods)**

Para los cultivadores de café, los precios internacionales del café han llegado a su nivel más bajo en 30 años. Sin embargo, las multinacionales generan utilidades enormes. Cuando el café llega a los supermercados en EE.UU., ¡su precio ya ha subido un 4.000%! Pero, ¿quién recibe todo ese dinero extra? ¡Ni el cultivador de café ni el niño que lo recoge! Si Usted compra una taza de café por \$1,50 dólares, quizás los que cosecharon esos granos de café recibirán 1 centavo. Los distribuidores y las empresas de café reciben todo lo de más.

Hace dos años, la empresa Starbucks aumentó el precio de una taza de café por 11 centavos en todas sus 4.500 tiendas de Norteamérica. El costo de un café con leche en California aumentó a \$2,30 dólares y a \$3,00 dólares en Nueva York. Un periodista que entrevistó a varios clientes de Starbucks descubrió que la mayoría de las personas no tenía ningún problema en pagar los 11 centavos de más. ¿Por qué no dar ese dinero al cultivador?

Al optar por pagar unos centavos más por el café proveniente del comercio justo, Usted está brindando un salario digno a los que cultivan el café que Usted toma. Esto elimina la necesidad de traficar niños para el cultivo de café y les da a estos niños pobres la esperanza de un futuro mejor.

ACCIÓN: Averigüe cuales son las tiendas en su vecindario que venden el café de comercio justo.

Visite la página de Internet
[<http://www.crsfairtrade.org>]

¡Si! Cada año 1,2 millones de jóvenes menores de 18 años son vendidos a algún tipo de esclavitud.

**Maimónides dice que el que ignora el rescate de cautivos es culpable de transgredir los mandamientos como "no endu-
recerás tu corazón" (Deut. 15:7); "no permanecerás ocioso en presencia de la sangre de tu prójimo" (Lev. 19:16); y "amarás a tu prójimo como a ti mismo" (Lev. 19:18).
(Maimonides, Leyes de Ofrenda a los Pobres 8:10).**

En el mercado de mercancías de Nueva York, los precios del cacao fluctúan dramáticamente mientras que el precio de una golosina de chocolate sigue más o menos igual. Los norteamericanos y los europeos consumen el 80% del cacao que se cultiva en el Tercer Mundo.

Cuando Usted compra una golosina en barra de chocolate por 75 centavos, 70 centavos van a la empresa y 5 centavos van al cultivador del cacao. La empresa M&M, la fabricante más grande de chocolate en el mundo, genera alrededor de 16 mil millones de dólares en utilidades cada año. No obstante, M&M se rehúsa a comprar el cacao proveniente del comercio justo.

El cacao de comercio justo asegura un salario digno a los que cosechan el cacao y ayuda a eliminar la necesidad de traficar niños para su cultivo. Les da a estos niños la oportunidad de recibir una educación y vivir sus vidas a su manera.

ACCIÓN: Visite la página de Internet
[www.globalexchange.org/cocoa]
para averiguar dónde obtener el cacao de comercio justo.



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El café y el cacao deben brindar dignidad a las personas que los cosechan, así como dar placer a los consumidores.

"El tráfico de personas, que hace referencia a la práctica en la que se traslada a hombres, mujeres y niños de todo el mundo a otros países con fines de prostitución o trabajo forzados, rechaza intrínsecamente la dignidad del ser humano y se aprovecha de la pobreza mundial". Carta pastoral escrita por obispos de EEUU y México, noviembre de 2002

