

Actions to Combat Human Trafficking

Educate and Raise Awareness

1. Become informed about human trafficking and learn to recognize the signs of human trafficking:
 - a) <http://www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/recognizing-the-signs>;
 - b) <http://www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/identifying-trafficking-victims.cfm>.
 - c) <https://www.sistersagainstrafficking.org/>
2. Receive and distribute the newsletter “Stop Trafficking” to others each month: <http://www.stopenslavement.org>.
3. Explain how consuming pornography helps support human trafficking <http://www.brushfiresfoundation.org/trafficking>.
4. Publicize Catholic resources and support groups for those suffering from sexual addictions: <http://www.foryourmarriage.org/help-for-men-and-women-struggling-with-pornography-use-or-addiction>
5. Hold a movie night and discussion (e.g., “Not My Life” or “Half the Sky”).
6. Hold a book discussion (e.g., Ben Skinner, *A Crime So Monstrous*).
7. View the stories of women who have been trafficked. Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration <http://www.fspa.org/content/ministries/justice-peace/human-trafficking>

Pray

1. Keep victims in your prayers, organize prayer services, and remember them at Mass. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Migration has designated February 8, the feast of St Josephine Bakhita, as an annual day of prayer for survivors and victims of human trafficking.
2. Observe National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month in January.

Volunteer

1. Volunteer in a program offering support services to victims (English as a Second Language, literacy, tutoring, job training, housing, transportation, mentoring, legal, medical, dental care)
2. Start or help sustain a micro-lending program in a “sending” country.
3. Join or establish a local Rescue and Restore Coalition: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/about-rescue-restore-coalitions>.

Advocate

1. Report suspicious activity to the authorities. Do not approach a potential victim yourself.
2. Go to “App Store” on cell phone and find “Exchange Initiative”. The app allows you to take photos of hotel rooms to submit to law enforcement authorities.
3. Post anti-trafficking posters in parish and public restrooms, truck stops, and throughout the community: <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/get-involved/outreach-and-awareness> to download posters in 17 languages.
4. Ask your local law enforcement agencies to educate their employees.
5. Ask your local hotels if they have signed “The Code” <http://www.thecode.org> or ask what protocols they have in place to identify potential cases of trafficking and what actions they take to help victims and apprehend perpetrators. <http://www.ecpatusa.org>.
6. Work for federal and state legislation that supports and strengthens the rights of victims of trafficking.
7. Petition against trafficking at national and international sporting events.
8. Become an ethical consumer and employer, buy “fair trade” products and help reduce the demand for products made by slaves: <http://www.fairtradefederation.org> Consider buying stock in “fair trade” companies.
9. Join the Clean Clothes Campaign to improve working conditions for workers in the garment industry: <http://www.cleanclothes.org>.
10. Convince your college and university to use only “fair trade” apparel for its “spirit-wear.”

Donate time/goods/ money

1. Support organizations that help women leave prostitution (e.g. see Milwaukee’s Benedict Center: <http://www.benedictcenter.org/Sisters%20Project>).
2. Raise money and awareness for victim services.
3. Donate food, clothing, furniture, used-cars to an anti-trafficking organization.
4. Purchase used-clothing and donate the money you saved to an anti-trafficking organization.