



Human Trafficking = Modern-Day Slavery

“Human trafficking is a modern-day slave trade. It violates fundamental human rights and exploits innocent people.” Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, President of the United Nations General Assembly (Trafficking in Persons Report, 2007)

“... that all may have life, and have it abundantly.” John 10:10

Did you know . . .

- After drug dealing, trafficking of persons is tied with arms dealing as the second largest criminal industry in the world, and the fastest growing?
- Approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders, which does not include the millions trafficked within their own countries?
- In the U.S. alone, 14,500 to 17,500 people are trafficked each year?
- 80 percent of trafficked persons are women and girls?
- 50 percent of trafficked persons are under eighteen years of age?

Human trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transporting, providing or obtaining, by any means, any person for forced labor, slavery or servitude in any industry or site such as agriculture, construction, prostitution, manufacturing, begging, domestic service or marriage.

In the US, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act which prohibits human trafficking and provides assistance to victims was first passed in 2000 and subsequently reauthorized in 2003 and 2008. *For a full history and links to all of these laws see http://www.freedomnetworkusa.org/trafficking_us/index.php.*

Internationally, The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol) came into force on 25 December 2003 <http://untreaty.un.org/English/TreatyEvent2003/Texts/treaty2E.pdf> Referred to as the “Palermo Protocol,” it is the main legal and normative framework to combat human trafficking worldwide.

A Violation of Human Rights

Violations of human rights are both a cause and a consequence of human trafficking. Trafficking is a grave violation of human rights, in particular the right to liberty, human dignity, and the right not to be held in slavery or involuntary servitude. But trafficking is related to a wide range of other human rights violations as traffickers prey on those who are poor, under- or unemployed, or who face discrimination. The PC(USA) promotes the integration of a human rights perspective into all anti-trafficking laws, policies and procedures, domestic and international, so as to ensure the rights and well-being of children, women and men who have been trafficked.

A Global Phenomenon in Our Backyard

Modern-day slavery is a global phenomenon that manifests itself in the US as well. From the fishing industry in Ghana, the brothels of Thailand, to domestic workers enslaved by a husband and wife in their Long Island home, or farmworkers harvesting tomatoes in Florida fields, slavery is alive and well in a new form in the twenty-first century. Indeed, some of the products we wear or consume were produced using slave labor. Our whole society, from corporations to law enforcement, from the US Justice Department to the church, must be involved if we are to put an end to human trafficking once and for all.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) Human Trafficking Roundtable is at work to lift up the issue of modern-day slavery, provide resources, and advocate for further action to eradicate human trafficking. Our plan of action:

- Create a matrix of reliable organizations involved in combating human trafficking
- Develop a website to connect congregations and groups
- Produce a human trafficking packet of resources including, sermons, bible studies, book suggestions, DVDs and more.
- Provide take action opportunities to address human trafficking through corporate campaigns, legislative action, shareholder initiatives
- Link with the Freedom Network USA to provide human trafficking trainings among interested presbyteries. Contact noelle.damico@pcusa.org to learn more.

**Report trafficking crimes or get help by calling the toll-free hotline
1-888-428-7581 (voice and TTY).**

**Para registrar su queja o obtener ayuda, llame gratis a
1-888-428-7581 (línea directa y de TTY para personas con
incapacidad auditiva)**

You can report trafficking crimes or get help by calling the Trafficking in Persons and Worker Exploitation Task Force Complaint Line at 1-888-428-7581 (voice and TTY). New laws provide options for trafficking victims regardless of immigration status. Operators have access to interpreters and can talk with callers in their own language. The service is offered on weekdays from 9 AM to 5 PM EST. After these hours, information is available on tape in English, Spanish, Russian, and Mandarin.

To learn more and obtain resources please visit www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking.