

For the Dignity of Human Beings Suffering Human Trafficking.

Good Shepherd's first response is to express solidarity with those who have suffered victimization through this horrendous crime of Human Trafficking. Second, we listen to the experiences of such persons and develop holistic programs to serve their needs. Third, we increase our capacity to understand the dynamics of trafficking so as to support women and girls in healing, as well as toward self-empowerment through social supports, personal growth opportunities, and employable skills leading to secure income. [*GS position on the phenomena of Human Trafficking, particularly of women and girls*](#)

Human trafficking is a callous global industry that denies victims their rights and dignity and generates billions of dollars for organized criminal networks. Most of those trafficked are vulnerable women and children deceived into a life of suffering. They are exploited for sex and forced to work in conditions akin to slavery. Let us open our eyes to this crime and our hearts to the victims. It is time to say "No" to human trafficking. [*United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon: Message on World Day against Trafficking in Persons, 30 July 2014*](#)

Facts in EU – Countries

Approximately 500,000 women and girls are channeled into wealthier countries by illegal traffickers. Once there, they are forced into prostitution or hard work, with little or no pay annually. In Europe alone, these criminal elements acquire about 7 billion dollars in profits, due to the sexual exploitation and slave-like treatment of women. Regardless of whether the exercise of prostitution is forced or carried out by "consensus", the women and girls are deprived of their individual rights by criminal gangs, and forced through the illegal instrument of "debt bondage" into a sort of modern-day slavery. Trafficking in women is as lucrative as drug trafficking, but much less risky: while sentencing on drug trafficking is more than ten years in prison, trafficking in women merits a maximum sentence of two years.



According to international calculations, there are about 21 million people who are victims of human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labor and begging, illegal organ removal, slavery in the home and forced marriage, illegal adoption and other forms of exploitation.

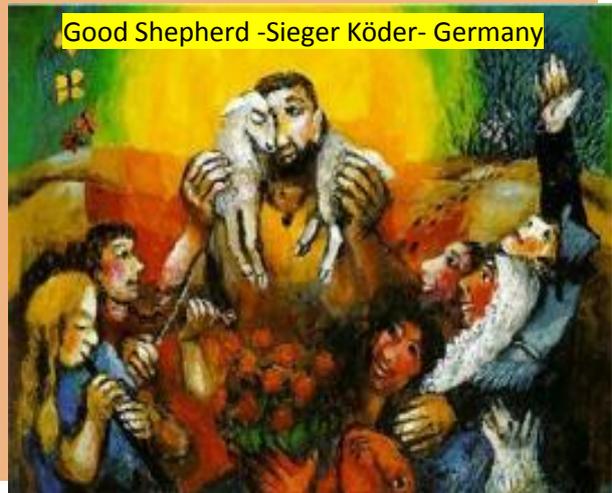


REMEMBER: [*World Day against Trafficking in Persons, 30 July*](#)

LET US PRAY: How much suffering and despair behind these bare figures, behind every single destiny.

Jesus the Good Shepherd hears the prayers we offer for those who suffer in this way. He understands our concerns and can help these poor ones.

Reading: Jesus says: "I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father. Because of this, I give my life for my sheep. I have other sheep which are not of this fold. These I have to lead as well, and they shall listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock, and one shepherd. The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me." Jesus, the Good Shepherd, hears our prayers. He understands our concerns and the help needed for these poor people. "It is mine to lay down my life and to take up again: this mission I received from my Father". **John**



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INTERCESSIONS: Jesus, the Good Shepherd - hear us

- Let us pray today for the eradication of policies which prevent effective laws and measures necessary for human needs, and that funds for human needs will be made available.
- For the success of efforts to bring people out of hiding and to return them back to normal life.
- That we do not look the other way, when we are made aware of these situations, and that we are sensitive to the plight of these victims; that we condemn no one, for example, women who are forced into prostitution.
- We are sorry for all those women who, out of economic necessity, are lured into trouble with false promises; that they may have the courage and the opportunity to seek help and to find it.
- We are sorry especially for traumatized children, that they may find a way out of their misery and their abuse - especially with the help of many worldwide Christian and humanitarian organizations.
- Bring blessings and success to the shelter house for women, who are victims of criminals and traffickers, founded in Vienna/Austria by six Religious Congregations. It is the first such project in Austria and provides these women and their children with a chance for a new beginning.

OUR FATHER...

Let us pray:

Jesus, Good Shepherd: People suffer terrible fates, people suffer violence and abuse. Give us the ability to help wherever we can, and to provide assistance wherever injustice occurs. This we ask through Jesus, our Brother. Amen.

Submitted by Sr. Regina Hanko, Province Austria - Switzerland - Czech - Republic