

NGO Network Prayer for July 2016



Context

Human trafficking is a crime that exploits women, children and men for numerous purposes including forced labour (factory labor, in farming, domestic slavery, theft, begging, etc.), the sale of children, the removal of organs and sexual exploitation, including via Internet or forced marriage. The International Labour Organization estimates that 21 million people are victims of forced labor globally. This estimate also includes victims of human trafficking for labor and sexual exploitation. While it is not known how many of these victims were trafficked, the estimate implies that currently, there are millions of trafficking in persons victims in the world. Every country in the world is affected by human trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims. Slavery, in both its ancient and modern forms, is not only shameful, it is as the abolitionist John Wesley said “the execrable sum of all villainies,” and has no place in our world.

In 2010, the General Assembly adopted the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, urging Governments worldwide to take coordinated and consistent measures to defeat this scourge. The Plan calls for integrating the fight against human trafficking into the UN’s broader programs in order to boost development and strengthen security worldwide. One of the crucial provisions in the Plan is the establishment of a UN Voluntary Trust Fund for victims of trafficking, especially women and children.

*In 2013, the General Assembly held a high-level meeting to appraise the Global Plan of Action. Member States also adopted resolution [A/RES/68/192](#) and designated **July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons**. This resolution declared that such a day was necessary to “raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.”*

OLCGS:

"A child of God, sold on the market as a goat, I will never accept that!"

(St. Mary Euphrasia)

"The creative audacity of St. Mary Euphrasia, his prophetic and radical response to the needs of his time, we grow as" Weavers of Compassion and Reconciliation in Global Solidarity "to commit ourselves to:

Work zealously with women and children, especially those who are trafficked, forced to migrate and oppressed by abject poverty. " (2009 Declaration)

"No more slaves, but brothers and sisters!" (Message of Pope Francis, Day of Peace, 1 January 2015)

"Slavery, including trafficking in persons, is recognized as a crime against humanity and as a war crime, as well as by international law in many national laws. This is an offense against humanity." (Id.)



Prayer

Reader A – We are talking about millions of victims of forced labor, human trafficking for purposes of labor and sexual exploitation. This cannot last: it is a serious violation of the human rights of victims and an affront to their dignity, in addition to being a defeat for the global community.

Reader B - Help us, God our Creator, to unite our strength to liberate victims and to stop this criminal threat, the individuals, the founding values of the industry. Help us also to achieve security and justice, and to heal the economy, the fabric of family and community life itself.

Chorus: For men and women, for the children of the earth, your Church acclaims you, tells you our prayers (*This is a French song. You may replace it with another appropriate refrain*)

Reader A - Women, men and children are treated as objects, deceived, abused, often sold several times for various purposes, and eventually killed or, in another way, mentally or physically destroyed, and finally excluded and abandoned.

Reader B - Help us, God our Creator, to take on responsibilities for all those who have become victims of trafficking, to protect their rights, to ensure their safety and that of their families, to prevent corrupt people and criminals from evading justice and from having the final say on the lives of others.

Chorus: For men and women, for the children of the earth, thy Church acclaims you, tells you our prayers

Reader A - By faith we recognize in a special way, in these people, the face of Jesus Christ, who identified himself to the poorest and the most in need. Others share, in the name of common humanity, compassion for their suffering.

Reader B - Help us, God our Creator, to commit ourselves to releasing and relieving the injuries of those who have been trafficked. Together we can and we must commit to their release, so that we can end this horrible trade, and eradicate all forms of slavery.

Chorus: For men and women, for the children of the earth, thy Church acclaims you, tells you our prayers

Reader A - Those who participate in this process: traffickers, poor families, carriers, associates, and clients, do not consider their victims as people, with equal dignity and rights as their own.

Reader B - Help us, God our Creator, to also internalize our prayer, because you alone can change their hearts, so that everyone reaches their true dignity as a child of God and brother/sister of Christ, who gave his life for ALL life.

Chorus: For men and women, for the children of the earth, thy Church acclaims you, tells you our prayers



Closing Prayer:

Eternal God,
We know your preferential love
For the poor and the little ones...
You defend those
Whose rights are trampled upon.
Today, focus on people treated unjustly
Sold like commodities,
Children, even infants,
Whose lives are valued at less than thirty pieces of silver.
Merciful and caring God,
We believe you will not forget them.
Their lives stand written on the palms of your hands.
Make us realize that we, too,
Have a task in this world
Where markets decide,
Not only the price of coffee,
But also that of people.
Give us the courage to speak out against injustice and abuse,
To stand with your people,
And denounce all injustice.
God, we ask you,
Give all those who fight against trafficking understanding and determination
To eradicate all forms of slavery.
Gives victims strength and confidence in you.
Help us also, merciful God,
To pray for those whose greed and hardness of heart
Spreads the evil of trafficking everywhere in our world.
May they come to realize the harm they are doing.
We ask it in Jesus' name, your son and our brother. AMEN!



Prayer contributed by Sister Marie H el ene Halligon, Province of Europe BFMN