

PRAYER FOR THE WORLD DAY AGAINST THE TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS

“For freedom Christ set us free” (Galatians 5:1)



WELCOME:

SETTING: World map and five lit candles, one for each continent – a light for the victims of trafficking.

PRAYER: GOD OF MERCY AND GOODNESS, OUR WORDS CAN NOT EXPRESS WHAT OUR HEARTS FEEL, WHEN WE LISTEN TO STORIES ABOUT WOMEN AND GIRLS DECEIVED AND TAKEN TO UNKNOWN PLACES TO BE EXPLOITED AND ABUSED. WE FEEL SORRY AND INDIGNATION WITHIN OURSELVES, BECAUSE THEIR DIGNITY RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED. HELP US WITH YOUR GRACE TO BE PROPHETS OF HOPE AND TO MULTIPLY ACTIONS THAT PREVENT THIS GREAT EVIL OF OUR TIME. WE ASK YOU THROUGH JESUS, OUR BROTHER AND FRIEND. AMEN.

We commit to counter human trafficking!



CALLED TO CONTEMPLATION AND PRAYER ABOUT TODAY'S REALITIES: Paragraph 402 of the Outcome Document from the 2007 General Conference of CELAM in Aparecida tells us: “Globalization makes new faces emerge in our communities. With special attention, we look at the faces of the newly excluded: migrants, victims of violence, displaced persons and refugees, victims of human trafficking and kidnappings, (...) girls and boys who are victims of prostitution, pornography and violence or child labor, battered women, victims of exclusion and trafficking for sexual exploitation...”.

In the words of the Pope, in January 2014, "*I urge the international community to adopt unanimous and effective strategies against the trafficking of human beings, in such a way that men and women are not used anywhere in the world, and so that their dignity, inviolable, can always be respected.*"

As we already know, human trafficking is the business of stealing freedom for profit. In some cases, traffickers trick, defraud or physically force victims into sexual exploitation, especially girls and women. In others, victims are lied to, assaulted, threatened or manipulated into working under inhumane, illegal or otherwise unacceptable conditions. It is a multi-billion-dollar criminal industry that denies freedom to 24.9 million people around the world.

SUGGESTED READING: Congregational Position Paper on the Trafficking of Women and Girls



MOMENT OF SILENCE

PHRASES:

1. Lives are violated
2. Dreams are stolen
3. Marks of the silence of innocents
4. Recruitment of people
5. Trafficking and violation of human rights

(Other phrases can be created)

SONG: *Any song that expresses a sign of Peace, Justice, Liberty and Prophecy.*

FOR REFLECTION

Mark 5:35-42

While he was still speaking, people from the synagogue official's house arrived and said, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?" Disregarding the message that was reported, Jesus said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid; just have faith." He did not allow

anyone to accompany him inside except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they arrived at the house of the synagogue official, he caught sight of a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. So he went in and said to them, "Why this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep." And they ridiculed him. Then he put them all out. He took along the child's father and mother and those who were with him and entered the room where the child was. He took the child by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!" The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around. [At that] they were utterly astounded.

We see in this biblical scene that many articulated movements are needed in favor of life, so that liberation may happen

- What is happening in our countries?
- What are the main causes of abuse, sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons?
- The look of Jesus upon the girl was a look of Faith. Where does our gaze of Faith, Confidence, Responsibility, Tenderness face in order to advance our commitment to eradicate trafficking in persons?

EVERYONE: Let us commit ourselves not to abandon those who were forced by unjust systems to walk, excluded, at the borders of history. Let us commit ourselves to welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating the those who have been trafficked and suffered other forms of slavery that dehumanize, objectify, alienate and humiliate people.

INTERCESSIONS

FINAL PRAYER: God, defender of the oppressed, particularly of women who have been discriminated against, marginalized and criminalized, we believe it is possible to eradicate the trafficking of human beings through our personal commitment, and by participating in networks that fight in solidarity with the same objective. We believe in the recovery of life, of human dignity and of the hope of so many of our sisters criminally bound for prostitution. We believe in concrete actions that we can perform as visible signs of the Resurrection of Jesus. Together we ask you for the grace to work for the freedom and dignity of all people. We trust in your help. Amen.

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