

SAINT MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH



THE JUSTICE HERALD

OUR APRIL 2019 ISSUE IS FOCUSED ON..

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Justice and Human Concerns Committee

THE JUSTICE HERALD IS CREATED BY THE ST MATTHEW JUSTICE AND HUMAN CONCERNS COMMITTEE WHICH MEETS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 6:30PM AT THE PARISH CENTER. ALL ARE WELCOME. PLEASE COME AND JOIN US. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MICHAEL WESTENBERG AT 920-435-6811 OR [MWESTENBERG@STMATTSGB.ORG](mailto:mwestenberg@stmattsgb.org)

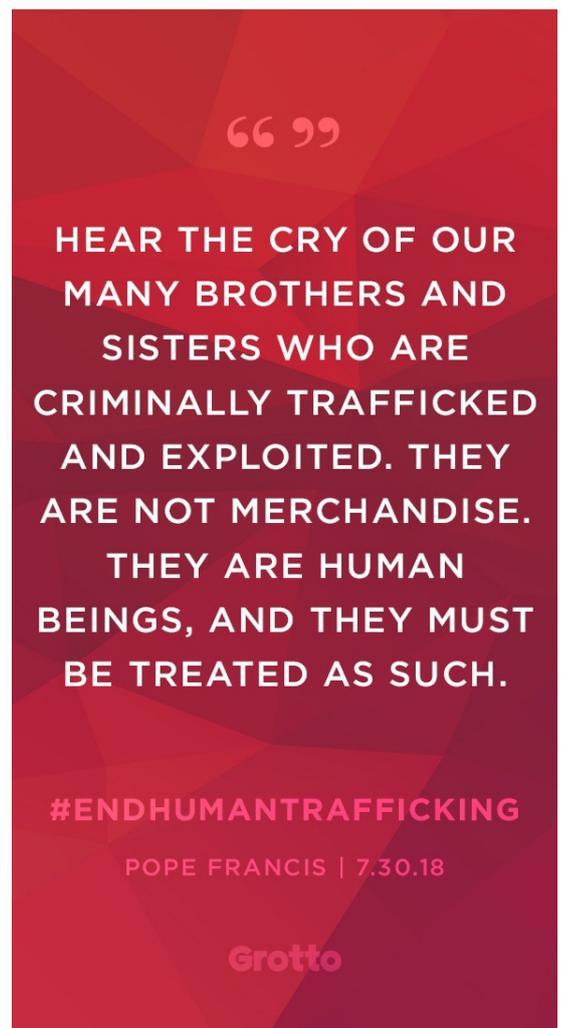
WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking violates the sanctity, dignity, and fundamental rights of the human person. The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines it as "the recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of persons by means of force, fraud or coercion...for the purpose of exploitation." According to the U.S. State Department, human trafficking appears in "many guises", often taking the form of commercial sexual exploitation, the prostitution of minors, debt bondage, and involuntary servitude. The United States government, and increasingly the international community, utilize the umbrella term "trafficking in persons" to define all forms of modern slavery.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: KEY STATISTICS

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and Walk Free Foundation's "Global Estimate of Modern Slavery" (2016) provides alarming statistics on the prevalence of human trafficking worldwide:

- 25% of all victims are children age 17 or younger, representing 10 million girls and boys worldwide
- Nearly 30% of all victims are men and boys; jumping to 46% for victims of forced labor
- Of the 24.9 million victims of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation, nearly 1 of 4 were exploited outside their home country
- For every 1,000 people across the world in 2016, 5.4 were victims of human trafficking



BREAKING THROUGH MISCONCEPTIONS

We often assume that trafficking only impacts certain types of individuals, such as those living in abject poverty with little to no access to education. While certain factors do make some populations exceptionally vulnerable to human trafficking, there is no "typical" profile. Anyone can become a victim regardless of sex, age, race, citizenship status, socioeconomic level or educational attainment. For example, individuals may be highly educated, speak multiple languages and hold university degrees, while others may have little to no schooling or academic achievement. Understanding that no one is immune to victimization allows us to improve prevention and victim identification strategies.

Let's break through some additional misconceptions:

Myth #1: Human trafficking only occurs in the form of sexual commercial exploitation.

Truth: Of the 24.9 million victims of forced labor and sexual exploitation worldwide, nearly 81% are victims of forced labor, according to an estimate from the International Labour Organization. . . .

Polaris, an anti-trafficking NGO, identified 25 types of human trafficking in the United States, . . . 18 of which include some form of labor exploitation. Some of the industries involved are manufacturing, agriculture, domestic house work, hospitality, begging, landscaping, traveling sale crews, as well as health and beauty services.

Myth #2: Most victims of human trafficking are kidnapped and do not know their captors.

Truth: According to the International Human Trafficking Institute. . . , kidnapping victims is a risk for traffickers. Traffickers are more likely to recruit and groom their victims, offering them emotional support, false opportunities for a better life (such as steady employment and education), or even promises of romance.

Myth #3: In order to be trafficked you have to be taken to another country.

Truth: Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). . . , you do not have to be transported from one country to another to be considered a victim of human trafficking. It is not even necessary to cross state lines. In fact, trafficking can occur within a victim's own community. The TVPA protects both foreign born nationals and U.S. citizens who are survivors of a severe form of trafficking.

MISCONCEPTIONS CONTINUED....

Myth #4: Legal businesses do not profit from forced labor and exploitation.

Truth: While human trafficking does occur in illicit underground industries such as brothels and the drug trade, it is also found in legitimate businesses, such as in the hotel, construction, agriculture, and restaurant sectors.

Myth #5: If a victim of human trafficking is undocumented in the United States, they cannot be protected by legal authorities or receive services.

Truth: Trafficking of any persons, regardless of their immigration status, is illegal in the United States. Foreign born nationals who are victims of human trafficking can receive a number of benefits. . . under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). For example, they may seek immigration relief by applying for a T Visa, as well as receive comprehensive case management services through the Trafficking Victim Assistance Program (TVAP) to help with their journey toward recovery.

Myth #6: The average person has never benefited from services or goods produced by a victim of human trafficking.

Truth: Given the ubiquitous nature of forced labor, the average person has purchased goods or services that were produced, at least in part, by victims of human trafficking. This includes everything from fish, cotton, rice, cement, and even Christmas decorations, according to the United States Department of Labor. . . .

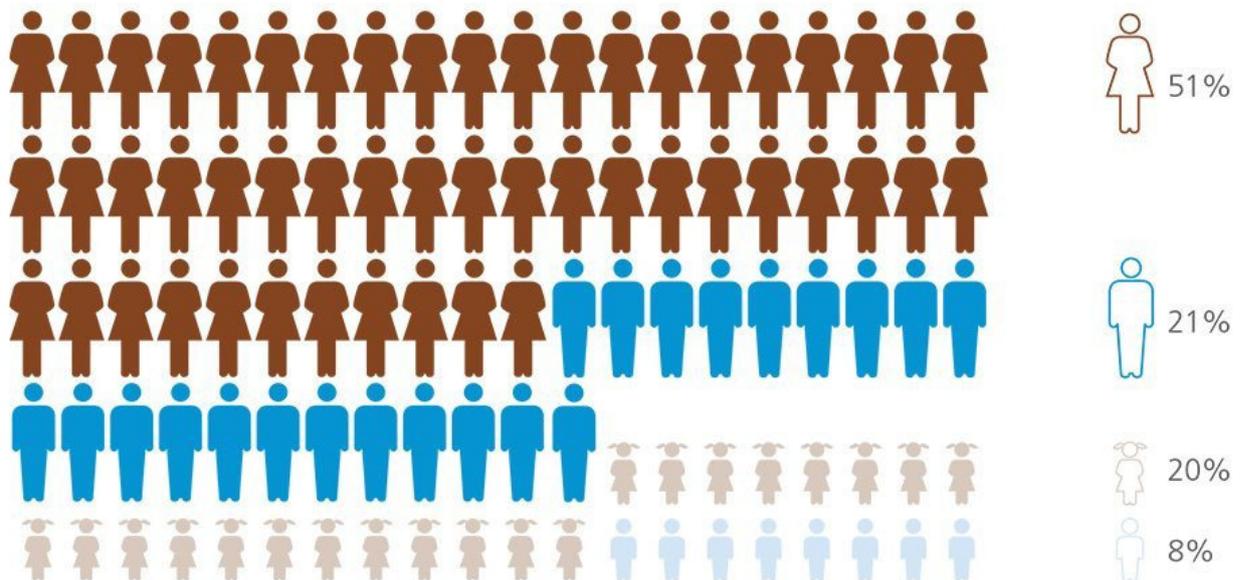
Truth: Myth #7: Victims are always kept in chains and physically abused.

Truth: Men, women, and children do not need to be kept in chains or beaten to be considered victims of trafficking. Traffickers often use methods of fraud and coercion to "imprison" their victims. This may take many different forms, including threatening to kill or harm loved ones, tricking the victim into thinking he/she owes him/her a debt, or threatening deportation in the case of the foreign-born victims.

Myth #8: The problem is so overwhelming and big there is nothing I can do to make a difference.

Truth: Every person can help to bring an end to human trafficking. Request a free toolkit from our Become a SHEPHERD program to learn more about the signs of trafficking and how to educate others. Each one of us can take steps to become more involved in the growing movement to end modern-day slavery.

Trafficking victims can be men, women, girls and boys.



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AND THE CHURCH'S FIGHT TO END TRAFFICKING

Catholic social teaching proclaims the dignity of the human person and the sanctity of all human life. Each person is made in the image of God, is loved immeasurably by Him, and has inherent worth. Every person is precious, people are more important than possessions, and the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person. Because every life is a gift from God and is sacred, it deserves to be protected and nurtured; we each have a responsibility to fight against the violation and degradation of our brothers and sisters.

Modern-day slavery—where men, women, and children are bought and sold like merchandise—inherently rejects this principle, showing absolute contempt for human beings. For this reason, eliminating human trafficking and empowering survivors has been a historic concern of the Catholic Church.

Commitment to end slavery in all its forms is rooted in the Catechism of the Church, which forbids any act leading to the enslavement of humans—a sin against a person's dignity and fundamental human rights (2414. . .). This commitment was reaffirmed during the Second Vatican Council, when the Church stated. . . that "slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children, [and] disgraceful working conditions where [people] are treated as mere tools for profit" are "infamies" and a "supreme dishonor to the creator."

SO WHAT CAN I DO?

- Contact your local representatives and ask them what they are doing to address human trafficking.
- Continue to seek out education and data about human trafficking.
- Talk with those around you about human trafficking.
- Pray about human trafficking.



Pray for Action

Dear Lord, just as You helped Moses and Aaron as they spoke boldly to Pharaoh on behalf of the Hebrew slaves in Egypt, help us speak up for modern-day slaves around the world.

Pray for Prevention

Dear Lord, most of us reading this newsletter will never experience the kind of extreme poverty that millions of people live with every day. Help us to be understanding and compassionate toward their needs. Help us to love them in the way that You love them. Give us the will to make things better.

Pray for Protection

Dear Lord, You are a strong tower and a mighty fortress. Help Your rescued children feel safe and begin to heal. Protect them from those who seek to harm them.

Pray for Restoration

Dear Lord, Your Word shows that You bring new joy and hope where previously there was only shame and fear. We ask this for our brothers and sisters, who desperately need to accept that they can be made new.

Pray for Justice

Dear Lord, You demand justice for those who have been wronged. Give strength to those who investigate and prosecute traffickers. Encourage them when they are weary. Give courage to survivors when they are asked to testify against their former captors.