



Raising Awareness of and Ending Human Trafficking—Suggestions for Action

What can you do to end human trafficking?

Raise awareness and educate

- Plan now for PW's Together in Action Days to End Human Trafficking, planning events around Human Trafficking Awareness Day, January 11. Use the bulletin insert and four-page resource available for download from [PW's human trafficking web page](#).
- Use the PC(USA)'s *Toolkit for Action: Modern Slavery*, prepared by the Human Trafficking Roundtable.
- Host a panel of speakers, including law enforcement personnel, health care professionals, lawmakers, social service agencies, attorneys, leaders of organizations working to end human trafficking, and others with expertise on the matter. A similar panel in Louisville, Kentucky, in 2013 was moderated by Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Kristi Gray and featured panelists Marissa Castellanos from Catholic Charities of Louisville, Rus Funk from MensWork, Theresa Flores from TraffickFree.com, Gretchen Hunt from the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs, and Andre Bottoms from Louisville Metro Police. Speakers are available through [ECPAT-USA](#), [TraffickFree.com](#), [TraffickFree.org](#), [Survivors of Slavery](#), [National Human Trafficking Resource Center](#) and others. Check with your local university, as well.
- Teach others to recognize signs of human trafficking and to report instances through local police and the national hotline, 888.373.7888. Learn more at [www.polarisproject.org](#).
- Share information from the State Departments *Trafficking in Persons Report*.
- Host a film screening. Polaris Project ([www.polarisproject.org/take-action/raise-awareness](#)) has a list of 50 to choose from. *Not My Life* is a particularly informative and powerful film.
- Estimate your slavery footprint (based on products you purchase that are produced with forced labor) at [http://slaveryfootprint.org](#). Visit this organization's blog to learn about companies that have committed to fair labor and supply.
- Find out how many slaves work for you: [http://freedomcommons.ijm.org](#).
- Participate in a [Run for Freedom](#) sponsored by Justice Ventures International (JVI), or hold a run of your own and donate the proceeds to an organization that is working to end human trafficking (such as JVI). Churches, including Open Door Presbyterian of Herndon, Virginia, organized teams of runners for the 2014 Hilton Garden's TrafficStop 5K—"Racing to Stop Human Trafficking"—in McLean, Virginia.

Participate in advocacy campaigns

- Go to [http://ciw-online.org/slavery](#) to learn about and participate in the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' anti-slavery campaign.
- Work with ECPAT-USA (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking) to encourage companies in the travel and tourism industry to prevent sexual exploitation of children. Learn more at [www.thecode.org](#) and [www.ecpatusa.org](#).
- Join the [Red Hands campaign](#) to work for an end to conscription of child soldiers.
- Plan activities around World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, July 30—[www.unodc.org/endht](#).
- Participate in the UN's [#EndHumanTrafficking media campaign](#).

- Continue to pray for the Nigerian schoolgirls kidnaped from Chibok in April 2014 by Boko Haram, as well as all those conscripted into wars as child soldiers, human shields, sex slaves, unwilling participants. [Global advocacy](#) has resulted in the release of more than 100 of the girls, but 113 are still unaccounted for. Continue to write your legislators asking them to pressure the Nigerian government to work for the remaining girls' release, and that of thousands of Nigerians kidnaped by Boko Haram over the years.

Additional action you can take

- Start a S.O.A.P. (Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution) campaign to distribute soaps with the national human trafficking hotline number to hotels. See www.traffickfree.com and SOAPproject.org.
- Shop for freedom: www.justiceventures.org.
- Support organizations that are working with at-risk women and girls to prevent trafficking, and working with women either rescued or still being trafficking who are in need of refuge and healing. Here are some supported by or run by Presbyterian women.
 - ❖ On Eagle's Wings, a PW mission partner in North Carolina, ministering to young women who have been trafficked: www.oewm.net.
 - ❖ The Lifeboat Project, an initiative of Jill Cohen, PW from Central Florida Presbytery: <http://thelifeboatproject.org>.
- Plan a worship service with a human trafficking theme, including a Minute for Mission that tells a story of someone who has been trafficked or shares statistics, action steps, signs of trafficking or other useful information. Provide dark blue ribbons to each member of the congregation to be worn during worship (a basket in the narthex is a good way to distribute them).
- Lobby your U.S. senators to support the International Violence Against Women Act. Learn more at www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/issues/women-s-rights/violence-against-women/international-violence-against-women-act and www.unifem-usnc.org/ivawa.

Even more ideas*

- Host a human trafficking fair for local churches in your community. Invite local organizations to have a table; have a speaker; have a dinner with a free-will offering to benefit an anti-trafficking group.
- Ask your local library to have a display in the month of January on the issue of human trafficking.
- Write letters about the issue to the editor of your local newspaper or write a guest column/op-ed.
- Have an awareness/fundraiser event to support a local outreach organization.
- Hold a book discussion using a book on the issue of human trafficking. *Redeeming Love* by Francine Rivers is a great book for this. You might want to do this in conjunction with your local library.
- Plan a prayer walk in your community to bring awareness that human trafficking happens in every community. End at your town center or church with candles and a time of prayer.
- Make a traveling mural focusing on victims of human trafficking. (This is a great way to get your youth involved.) Begin in your church and arrange for it to be on display at a different church, the public library, or town hall in your community each week through January. It could also be accompanied by an informational display on the issue.
- Plan a brown-bag lunch time discussion at your workplace, sharing with your colleagues about the issue of human trafficking.
- Decorate the outside of your church with lights, dark blue ribbons and a human trafficking banner so that your church will be a beacon of light on this issue in the month of January.

For additional resources and information

- www.traffickingresourcecenter.org
- www.endslaveryandtrafficking.org

*Thank you to American Baptist Women for these ideas.