

Info Alert 212

January 9, 2024

We are all pilgrims on this land. We must not be afraid to “dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, [...] brothers and sisters all” (Pope Francis FT, 8). iii

Human Trafficking

January is **National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month**. On January 11th our country will observe National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. The tentacles of human trafficking reach into every city and region in our country. The recent influx of migrants, with unaccompanied minors among them, has created a population that is vulnerable to predatory exploitation. Human trafficking is a crime under state, federal, and international law. It is so pervasive, that only the illegal drug trade surpasses it on the international scene. There are three ways in which we can address this crime: 1. Pray for its victims. 2. Become educated in the forms of trafficking. 3. Be a responsible consumer; refuse to buy any product that was manufactured using slave labor or child labor.

The focus on Human Trafficking ends in February on the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, February 8th. St. Josephine Bakhita is the patroness of all victims of trafficking. This day is the **International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking**. The theme of this day is: Journeying in Dignity: Listen, Dream, Act. Learn more about this day at the Talitha Cum website:

https://preghieracontrotratta.org/files/documenti/EN_2024_IDPAAHT_Theme_and_Concept_Note_fcPugEQ.pdf

Hope for Haiti

On December 18, 2023, Dennis Francis, the President of the UN General Assembly stated after a visit to Haiti, “Haiti is not hopeless. Haiti is sustained by the undying resilience and perseverance of her people who seem to create inventive ways to meet their daily challenges. There is no shortage of potential in Haiti and as the international community, we must do something to accompany the Haitian people, further.” During February, we shall have our annual opportunity to accompany Haiti and her people during Haiti Awareness Week.

On December 14, 2023, the Little Sisters of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus (PSST) celebrated 75 years of their foundation.

Follow the link for a YouTube video of their celebration. https://youtu.be/D3ZKXHjTtmA?si=G0Znz_HpgiroKs6X

CRS

Urge Congress to respond to world hunger as it is impacted by climate change.

<https://support.crs.org/act/new-session-priorities?ms=mamcrs2024m2c00her01>

Prayer to End Human Trafficking (February 8, 2024) Excerpt from Pope Francis’ Prayer

Saint Josephine Bakhita, assist all those who are entrapped in slavery; Intercede on their behalf with the God of Mercy so that the chains of their captivity will be broken. May God himself free all those who have been threatened, wounded, or mistreated by the trade and trafficking of human beings. Bring comfort to survivors of this slavery and teach them to look to Jesus as an example of hope and faith so that they may find healing from their wounds.

Actions

1. Educate yourself on human trafficking.
2. Boycott any product that may incorporate slave labor or child labor in its production.
3. Support CRS.