

LET THE OPPRESSED GO FREE

*Loreto network response to
World Day Against Trafficking in Persons
30 July 2021*



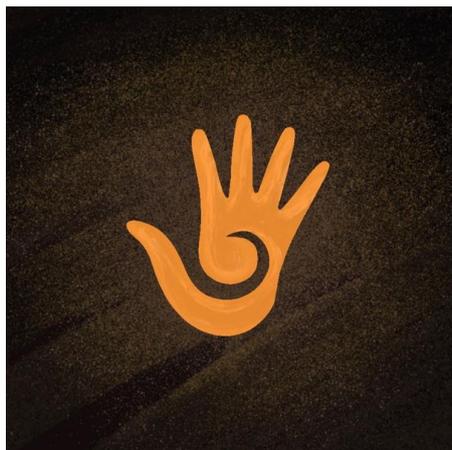
Let the Oppressed Go Free – Timothy Schmalz, 2021

One of the hidden aspects of the current pandemic is a sharp increase in the reality of trafficking in humans. As families experience increased economic hardship, parents are placed in the insidious position of selling their children to unscrupulous agents. On 30th July we join the global Mary Ward network and so many people of good will to learn more about human trafficking, pray for those who have been trafficked and pledge to rid the world of modern slavery in its many guises.

Here are some resources that will help all members of our network mark World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.

- links to various agencies working to put an end to trafficking, many of which are supported by Loreto Sisters and co-workers
- articles on current issues & links to resources
- material for prayer and reflection
- class activities and Powerpoint related to the UNDOC 2020 *Global Report into Human Trafficking*
- a Powerpoint exploring Timothy Schmalz's new sculpture exploring the reality of human trafficking – *Let the Oppressed Go Free*

In 2014 human trafficking was identified as the major social justice issue on which the global IBVM network maintains a corporate stance. Please join our network in working toward an end to human trafficking, especially in this UN-designated International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour.



Prayer

On this day we join with Mary Ward's global circle of friends to pray for an end to human trafficking:

God of justice,
for all time you call us to set slaves free.

Be with all those who are forced and sold into slavery by virtue of their poverty and powerlessness.

Open the hearts of all business people who profit on the backs of forced labour.

Open our minds to our purchasing power.

Open our hands in friendship to those exploited in our own land in domestic labour, agricultural and manufacturing industries and sexual exploitation.

May our prayer, reflection and action this day bring hope to our world.

We make this and all our prayers in Your Most Holy Name, now and for ever.
Amen

ONLINE RESOURCES:

Loreto Province website: justice resources on human trafficking
<https://www.loreto.org.au/justice/human-trafficking-2/>

Loreto Province website: info and toolkit for action against child labour
<https://www.loreto.org.au/childhood-a-time-for-happiness-and-love-not-hard-labour/>

ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans)
<https://acrath.org.au/anti-slavery-actions-for-july/>
Great suggestions for schools/groups here- anti slavery purchasing etc

Articles on the recent successful prosecution in Melbourne on modern slavery charges
<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/jul/21/absence-of-humanity-melbourne-couple-jailed-for-keeping-indian-woman-as-a-slave-for-eight-years>

<https://www.afp.gov.au/news-media/media-releases/melbourne-couple-sentenced-modern-day-slavery-charges>

Talitha Kum <https://www.talithakum.info/>

Our global Mary Ward family supports 'Talitha Kum' an International Network Against Human Trafficking – their social media campaign for July 30 called #careagainsttrafficking will be shared by the Mary Ward family and from the UN & JPIC offices- or you can read more about how to join it at the link above

Meet Sr Imelda Poole IBVM who works with RENATE (Religious in Europe Networking Against Human Trafficking & Exploitation)
<https://www.facebook.com/MaryWardLoreto/videos/1394080844279659/>

Discover the Mary Ward Foundation – Loreto Sisters from England founded this organisation to give practical help to people impacted by human trafficking in Albania & to lobby law makers- their work has a broad impact across Europe
<https://www.albaniahope.com/>