

May 2016 Social Justice

Theme: Human trafficking

May 1, 2016

ISSUE: Human Trafficking

The United Nations Protocol on Human Trafficking defines human trafficking as "the "recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of persons by means of force, fraud or coercion." Human trafficking takes a variety of forms in every region of the world. Some adults and children are trafficked for prostitution and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation. Other individuals are trafficked for forced labor in agriculture, sweat shops, fishing crews, and domestic servitude or are trapped into situations of bonded labor or debt bondage. Some children may be lawfully and forcefully recruited as child soldiers by armed forces as combatants or other forms of labor.

TEACHING:

What the Church teaches, is in **scripture, or is the position of the **archdiocese** or USCCB:**

How I wish that all of us would hear God's cry: "Where is your brother?" (Gen 4:9). I have always been distressed at all of those who are victims of the various kinds of human trafficking. Where is your brother or sister who is enslaved? Where are the brother and sister whom you are killing each day in clandestine warehouses, in rings of prostitution, in children used for begging, in exploiting undocumented labor? Let us not look the other way.
-- Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*

ACTION:

What we can do to promote equality, rights, health, safety and dignity of others:

Businesses have a duty to ensure dignified working conditions and adequate salaries for their employees, but they must also be vigilant that forms of subjugation or human trafficking do not find their way into the distribution chain. Together with the social responsibility of businesses, there is also the social responsibility of consumers. Every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral act and not simply an economic act.

ô [Pope Francis](#)

MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/>

May 8, 2016

ISSUE: Human Trafficking

The essence of human trafficking is the denial of personal freedoms. Human trafficking can include, but does not require, movement. People may be considered trafficking victims regardless of whether they were born into a state of servitude, were transported to the exploitative situation, previously consented to work for a trafficker, or participated in a crime as a direct result of being trafficked. The common denominator is the goal of exploitation through coercion and or force.

TEACHING:

What the Church teaches, is in **scripture, or is the position of the **archdiocese** or USCCB:**

As an institution that actively opposes evil in all its forms, the Church publicly identifies with the poor, the suffering, and those in despair. In this light, the bishops of the United States have been active in the fight against human trafficking. The Church has worked closely with government entities, private organizations, and individuals who are committed to eradicating this evil. USCCB

1 Corinthians 12:13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one bodyô Jews or Greeks, slaves or freeô and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

ACTION: What we can do to promote equality, rights, health, safety and dignity of others:

If you suspect someone is a victim of human trafficking, take the following actions:

- Ask the person if you can help him/her find a safe place to go immediately.
- If the person needs time, create an action plan with him/her to get to a safe place when he/she is ready.
- Call and make a report to the human trafficking hotline at **1.888.373.7888**. The hotline has language capabilities, so any individual can call directly.
- You can call and talk through the case with USCCB Anti-trafficking program staff at 202.541.3357.

MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/>

May 15, 2016

ISSUE: Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking around the Globe: According to the U.S. State Department, every country in the world is affected by trafficking and there are an estimated 20 million individuals living in slavery today globally. The United Nation's International Labor Organization's 2012 *Estimate on Forced Labor* provides some shocking statistics on the prevalence of human trafficking worldwide:

Of the estimated 20 million victims of trafficking and human slavery worldwide, 9.1 million victims (44 percent) have been trafficked internally or internationally.

1.8 million are subjected to forms of modern slavery in their place of origin or residence within their own national borders.

Nearly 1.5 million victims are currently laboring in conditions of forced labor, sexual exploitation and servitude in the United States, Canada and developed countries of the EU.

Fifty-five percent of forced labor victims are women and girls, as are 98 percent of sex trafficking victims.

Children aged 17 years and below represent 26 percent of total victims, 5.5 million child victims worldwide.

In May 2014, the International Labor Organization (ILO) found that forced labor in the global private economy generates illegal profits of \$150 billion a year. Additionally, the ILO found that almost two-thirds of the total profits, approximately \$99 billion, came from commercial sexual exploitation; roughly \$50 billion was derived from forced economic labor, such as domestic work, construction and mining.

TEACHING:

What the Church teaches, is in scripture, or is the position of the archdiocese or USCCB:

The Catholic Church has long spoken out against the depravity of human trafficking and slavery. During Vatican II, the Catholic Church reaffirmed its historic concern about forced labor, stating that "slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children, [and] disgraceful working conditions where [people] are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than as free and responsible persons" are "infamies" and "an affront to fundamental values . . . values rooted in the very nature of the human person."

Isaiah 58:3-7 : To observe religious practices, but oppress your workers is false worship.

ACTION:

What we can do to promote equality, rights, health, safety and dignity of others:

If you **suspect someone is a victim of human trafficking**, take the following actions:

- Ask the person if you can help him/her find a safe place to go immediately.
- Create an action plan with him/her to get to a safe place when he/she is ready.
- Call and make a report to the human trafficking hotline at 1.888.3737.888.
- You can call and talk through the case with USCCB Anti-trafficking program staff at 202.541.3357.

MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/>

May 22, 2016

ISSUE: Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking: Key Statistics

- Approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year.
- 100,000 US children are commercially sexually exploited in America each year.
- Profits from human trafficking are estimated at \$32 billion dollars.
- Each year, an estimated 17,000 vulnerable men, women and children are trafficked across our borders and then forced into slavery.

TEACHING:

What the Church teaches, is in **scripture, or is the position of the **archdiocese** or USCCB:**

Pope John Paul II, in a letter on the occasion of the International Conference on "Twenty-First-Century Slavery" the Human Rights Dimension to Trafficking in Human Beings, stated that human trafficking "constitutes a shocking offense against human dignity and a grave violation of fundamental human rights. In particular, the sexual exploitation of women and children is a particularly repugnant aspect of this trade, and must be recognized as an intrinsic violation of human dignity and human rights."

Proverbs 28:5: Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand it fully.

Action: What we can do to promote equality, rights, health, safety and dignity of others:

Catholic Fund Against Human Trafficking: Help fight against human trafficking by making a contribution. [Catholic Fund against Human Trafficking.](#)

MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/>

May 29, 2016

ISSUE: Human Trafficking

Why is Human Trafficking So Prevalent?

Traffickers lure vulnerable men, women and children with false promises of good jobs, an education, economic security and even love. Using various methods, such as abuse, threats of violence, confiscation of passports/ID, traffickers are able to control these individuals and in turn make enormous profits from their forced labor or sexual services. No sector or industry is immune from human trafficking. Victims have been identified in factories, restaurants, construction work, agricultural fields, hotels, nail salons, brothels, and even private residences.

TEACHING:

What the Church teaches, is in **scripture, or is the position of the **archdiocese** or USCCB:**

Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ. It is a crime against humanity. *St. Pope Francis*

Galatians 3:28: There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Action: What we can do to promote equality, rights, health, safety and dignity of others:

Learn More and Spread the Word. Through the SHEPHERD toolkit, you can learn about human trafficking from a Catholic perspective, equipping yourself with the educational tools to raise awareness of human trafficking in parishes, schools, or other social networks. We encourage you to use SHEPHERD resources to organize workshops, discussion groups, and prayer sessions.

Email MRSShepherd@usccb.org to request the SHEPHERD toolkit and leader's guide to help you get started. You will receive both English and Spanish versions.

MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/>

