



U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

Ending Slavery Is Everyone's Work

Prayer Service

Created by the Religious Sisters of Charity

Introduction

The UN theme this year is: "Use and abuse of technology." This year's theme focuses on the role of technology as a tool that can both enable and impede human trafficking. The internet and digital platforms offer traffickers numerous tools to recruit, exploit, and control victims.

However, in the use of technology also lies great opportunity. We can use technology to raise awareness, educate and advocate for protections online. and oppression, You redeem their life; and precious are they in your Heart.

Song

Choose a song/hymn from your culture expressing how our actions affect the whole community.

—OR—

Christ has no online presence but yours
Christ has no online presence but yours,
No blog, no Facebook page but yours,
Yours are the tweets
through which love touches this world,
Yours are the posts through which the Gospel is shared,
Yours are the updates through which hope is revealed.
Yours are the links that create relationships and networks.
Yours are the texts that communicate information,
seek help, express compassion.
Christ has no online presence but yours,
No blog, no Facebook page but yours.

- adapted from Meredith Gould and inspired by Teresa of Avila "Christ has no hands but yours"



**WORLD DAY AGAINST
TRAFFICKING
IN PERSONS
30 JULY**



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Opening Prayer

Loving God, we reflect together on the Internet and new technologies which have transformed the landscape of human trafficking. We know that traffickers use social media and other online tools to exploit vulnerable individuals, mostly children and young adults, especially for sexual exploitation. Today we pray for the transformation of this landscape into one where technology authentically connects us with one another by exploring our imagination, by sharing our stories, by recognizing the power of the technological word to heal, to comfort, to act in solidarity. We make this prayer in Jesus' name – he who is your Word, your icon, your face made visible in our world. Amen.

Psalm 12

Adapted by Nan Merrill

Bring justice to the peoples, O Beloved, and your mercy to all generations! May the people be known for mercy, rendering justice to the poor! Let their spirits soar as the eagle, let joy abide in every heart! May we heed the cry of the poor – the young and the old, helping to free all those in need, awakening the souls of oppressors!

All: May our prayers rise up before You and blessings of love be freely rendered.

May we know oneness with You as long as the sun endures, as long as the stars shine, throughout all generations! May we acknowledge You in the rain falling on the fields, like showers that water the earth! In our day may justice flourish, and peace abound, throughout all the nations! May the leaders of nations from all the earth, listen to Love's Voice; May they spend time in Silence before they counsel!

All: May our prayers rise up before You and blessings of love be freely rendered.

May the leaders surrender to your Love, and the nations serve the Most High! For You heed the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no friend. You have compassion on the weak, the downtrodden, giving them strength and hope. From injustice and oppression, You redeem their life; and precious are they in your Heart.



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Psalm 12. Continued

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All: May our prayers rise up before You and blessings of love be freely rendered. Amen!
We thank you, gracious God, for creating us in your image and likeness, with power and creativity and imagination. We thank you for creation, this ever-expanding cosmos, with its mysteries and unfolding beauty. We thank you for our digital world, where we can “google” bits of knowledge and learning in nanoseconds; we thank you for Facebook, which connects us with friends and family, receiving news from all across the globe; we thank you for Twitter and for those who follow our tweets in truly interested and loving ways; we thank you for our cell phones that enable us to transcend personal and geographic boundaries. May we use this technology for the good of all, for life and beauty, justice and blessing. Amen.

Reflection

What do these 3 quotes tell us about how we are all deeply connected in the web of life?

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect."

- Chief Seattle

"A human being is part of the whole, called by us "universe," a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty. Nobody is able to achieve this completely, but the striving for such achievement is in itself a part of the liberation and a foundation for inner security." - Albert Einstein



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Discussion

Feel free to share which quote caught your attention.

Intercessory Prayer

Let us pray for all who are 21st century slaves – that “justice roll like a river,” that chains may be broken and that dignity may be restored to all:

For the estimated 40 million women, men and children held in slavery-like conditions: For those in bonded labor, in agricultural fields, in mines and factories who have been reduced to tools of production: **May chains be broken, dignity restored.**

For young girls and women, who represent nearly 75% of all trafficked persons* - exploited and objectified in the commercial sex industry: **May chains be broken, dignity restored.**

For those forced to become soldiers, especially children, who are made tools of violence: **May chains be broken, dignity restored.**

For children, 27% of all victims of human trafficking*, who become prey to deception and exploitation, manipulated and seduced by internet traffickers: **May chains be broken, dignity restored.**

For traffickers, that their hearts of stone may be transformed into hearts of flesh: **May chains be broken, dignity restored.**

For persons of good will, that we may find ways to curb the “demand” which makes human persons market commodities: May chains be broken, dignity restored.

*Statistics – [UN Office of Drugs and Crime Report](#)



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Closing Prayer

God, we didn't see them. But You did. The hundreds and thousands of human beings trafficked each year to join the millions who are trapped in modern-day slavery. Under terrible conditions, they work in factories, plow fields, harvest crops, work quarries, fill brothels, clean homes, and haul water. Many are children with tiny fingers for weaving rugs and small shoulders for bearing rifles. Their labor is forced, their bodies beaten, their faces hidden from those who don't really want to see them. But you see them all, God of the poor. You hear their cry and you answer by opening our eyes, and breaking our hearts and loosening our tongues to insist: No mas. No more. Amen

--Catholic Relief Services

Take Action!

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." – Mother Teresa

Make a ripple by signing a petition or sending a letter using these links:
<https://endsexualexploitation.org/google/> Scroll to the bottom to sign the petition in red section. Uncheck boxes so you don't receive their updates or emails.

Sign this letter to Demand Metaverse (What's App & Facebook) Prioritize safety
<https://endsexualexploitation.org/meta/> Scroll down to take action. Make sure you continue to "send letter".

*A special thank you to the Religious Sisters of Charity &
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