

Reflection & Prayer to End Human Trafficking

January 11 – February 8, 2023



St. Josephine Bakhita was born in southern Sudan in 1869. As a young girl, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. She was treated brutally by her captors as she was sold and resold. She did not remember her name; Bakhita, which means “fortunate one,” was the name given to her by her kidnappers.

Daily Prayer

God of hope and peace, touch our hearts and energize our ongoing efforts in abolishing human trafficking, a heinous crime against humanity, so that every victim is freed and every survivor’s life renewed. You blessed St. Josephine Bakhita of Sudan with compassion for others. May her prayers comfort and strengthen the women, men, and children who are in search of freedom.

(Say appropriate daily prayer below)

We ask for transformation of heart for those who inflict pain, anguish and grief on our vulnerable sisters and brothers. Give us generosity to stand in solidarity with others so that together we heal the hearts and lives of all Your people. *Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.*



Jan. 11 Nat’l Human Trafficking Awareness Day We pray for our enslaved brothers and sisters around the world who desperately need of our advocacy and support.		12 We pray for social workers who witness the impact of abuse and coercion which torments survivors endlessly.	13 We pray for those who work tirelessly to eliminate human trafficking and provide safe spaces for survivors.	14 We pray for children survivors of sexual abuse; may they be given the support and help to heal their bodies and spirit.
15 We pray that we become more compassionate and generous to people who have been sexually exploited.	16 We pray for elected officials in every community to recognize the evil of human trafficking and work hard to abolish it.	17 We pray for children in the foster care system who are targets of immoral pimps who lure them into sex trafficking.	18 We pray for hope and consolation for the family whose child is missing and most likely is now being trafficked.	19 We pray for the migrant, displaced, and refugee women who constantly face the danger of sexual violence.
20 We pray for the victim of forced labor who most likely manufactured the shirt I am wearing today.	21 We pray for the distraught young adults who contemplate or have attempted to die by suicide.	22 We pray for courage to call the hotline when we suspect a person is a victim of enslaved labor.	23 We pray for men who fall victim to perpetrators of transnational organ traffickers.	24 We pray for the protection of migrants who face the risk of being trafficked by smugglers and organized crime.
25 We pray for the healing of all who have suffered trauma due to the violence of human trafficking.	26 We pray for nannies, cooks, farm workers, domestic workers and garment workers who will not be paid this week.	27 We pray for Church leaders to be involved along with their parishioners to fight against human trafficking.	28 We pray policymakers enact stronger laws to protect children and young adults from the egregious crime of pornography.	29 We pray for international workers around the world whose passports are taken away and are forced to work without pay.
30 We pray for persons harmed by a friend, relative, or stranger who shared violent or sexually explicit images without consent.	31 We pray for victims of child and forced marriage, violating their human rights and making them susceptible to violence.	Feb. 1 We pray for people who are abused by their spouses or partners and are too ashamed to tell.	2 We pray for victims of criminal exploitation who have been coerced to smuggle or sell drugs and commit crimes.	3 We pray for the desperate women and children surviving in hiding, manipulated into domestic servitude.
4 We pray for police officers, judges, and community leaders who work together to make their communities safe.	5 We pray for LGBTQ+ young people who are seen as particularly vulnerable to violence, abuse and sex trafficking.	6 We pray for the young victims of cyberbullying, peer-to-peer violence, hate speech, and violent content inciting self-harm.	7 We pray for an end to human trafficking through education, advocacy, and empowerment of survivors of human trafficking.	8 Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita We pray that all people believe in the inherent dignity of every human person.

Preventing Human Trafficking

How Healthcare Professionals Can Help

A public health perspective aims to rectify the contributing conditions that make people vulnerable such as poverty, undereducation, homelessness, mental illness, gender inequalities, immigration status, etc.

A medical professional can better identify victims by paying attention to these factors to protect vulnerable persons from exploitation.

IDENTIFYING:

Victims of trafficking suffering from physical, sexual, and/or psychological abuse and the consequences of previous diseases or injuries can raise a red flag for healthcare professionals.

INTERVENING:

Healthcare professionals can:

- Stop violence before it occurs
- Reduce risks within the person's environment
- Increase safeguards to violence
- Recommend rehabilitation services such as counseling and supportive services to prevent revictimization

TRAINING:

Licensed healthcare practitioners, first responders, and other service professionals who deal with domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse can be trained to better identify victims seeking medical attention.

Watch this webinar: The Public Health Response to Human Trafficking: A Look Back and a Step Forward <https://bit.ly/HumanTrafficking-LookBack-StepForward>

When human trafficking is identified in a medical setting, medical personnel can safely intervene and connect to community-based organizations to assist with ongoing needs.

Our awareness can save victims.

If we see and/or suspect something is wrong, we are urged to call the National Hotline.
It only takes a suspicion.

**See something
suspicious?**

**National Hotline
888-3737-888**

**BEFREE Textline
233733**