

## "Reach every victim of trafficking, Leave no one behind" is the theme of the 2023 World day Against Trafficking in Persons.

In the context of trafficking in persons, leaving people behind means:
1. Failing to end the exploitation of trafficking victims,
2. Failing to support victim-survivors once they are free from their traffickers,
3. Leaving people vulnerable to traffickers.

Reflect....Share....

...we are challenged to listen and respond to the cry of all life pleading, 'Am I not your neighbour?'

Human trafficking and slavery are illegal in every country, but present in every nation on Earth. - USCSAHT

We'll do anything we can to get things as cheaply as we can. For that to happen, someone has to be exploited."

– Colleen Jackson rsc (ACRATH)

We are focusing on the *intersections* of human trafficking and homelessness — two very traumatizing situations that are often addressed individually, rather than together.

- Jean Quinn DW , Executive Director UNANIMA International

Today – amidst growing inequalities, worsening climate emergencies, and record displacement – more and more people are left vulnerable to traffickers. .... This much change.

- António Guterres UN Secretary General

"...It takes courage and honesty, when, in our daily lives, we meet or deal with persons who could be victims of human trafficking, or when we are tempted to select items which may well have been produced by exploiting others.

The work of raising awareness must begin at home, with ourselves, because only in this way will we be able to then make our communities aware, motivating them to commit themselves so that no human being may ever again be a victim of trafficking."

–Pope Francis, February 2018

A great scourge emerging from consumer society is human exploitation and human trafficking. -Talitha Kum

## We pray...

For the men and women trafficked and exploited for the profit of others. (Pause)

May stronger recognition of coercion lead to action, rescue, healing and freedom.

## God of Compassion hear us.

For trafficked children - deprived of love, family, health, education, childhood and freedom.

May world-wide awareness of the trafficking of children lead to prevention and protection.

God of Love hear us.

For the many individuals who buy and sell humans to indulge the greed, satisfaction and power of others. May all men and women involved in the trafficking of persons become enlightened - and recognise the untold cruelty inflicted on the innocent.

God of Forgiveness hear us.

For officials of government agencies, embassies consulates, in customs, at border crossings, in police forces and in the judicial system.

May they be free from corruption, recognise the signs of fear and coercion, act for justice and for the human rights of all.

God of Justice hear us.

## For all those directly involved in the movement Against Human Trafficking throughout the world.

May the work of all organisations -through Education, Advocacy and Survivor Services- 'eliminate human trafficking and the harm it causes.' *God of Peace hear us.* 

God of hope and freedom, we acknowledge with gratitude the many gifts, blessings and freedoms that surround our lives and ministries. Inspire us to act for justice and, wherever we are, to 'leave no-one behind.' Amen.