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People are NOT for sale

Opening reflection

Acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners

I'd like to begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land we're meeting on, acknowledge our gratitude that we share this land today, our sorrow for the costs of that sharing, and our hope that we can move to a place of justice and partnership together.

Written by Tim Muirhead

W.A. member of Good Shepherd Social Justice Board 2008

Scripture reading from Isaiah: 58: 6-8

As we listen to these words of Isaiah, we hold all those impacted by human trafficking in our hearts.

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the
hungry,
and to let the homeless poor into your
house;
When you see the naked, to cover them,

and not to hide yourself from your own
kin?
Then your light will break forth like the
dawn,
and your healing will spring up quickly.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

A second reading

Taken from Angela Reed and Marietta Latonio *I have a voice: trafficked women – in their own words*

My name is Cristy....I met a woman who knew I needed money and introduced me to Kamagayan, the red light district of Cebu City. She had a rental property where girls like me lived. While I was there she sold me to a foreigner. This man was physically abusive to me and forced me to take drugs. He was



a sadist.....After that I continued to stay in Kamagayan. I was raped and subjected to many violent acts.... I did not receive even five pesos the whole time I was there, because my employer would just give me dresses and drugs and then she would tell me I owed a lot of debts to her. I can now say I was a victim of trafficking. After four months...the place was raided by police. I was happy because I could escape. What kept me going was the thought that I could make money and bring my little brother home.....

Quiet reflective time: consider these questions or any other aspects that come to mind.

What links can I see between the Isaiah reading and human trafficking?

What patterns in our society contribute to the destruction of human dignity?

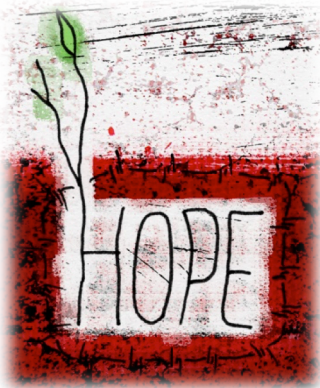
What elements promote the exploitation and trafficking of women, men and children?

How does Cristy's story affect me?

How is God calling me to respond to trafficking (labour & sexual exploitation, slavery-free supply chains, forced marriage)

Sharing of thoughts and insights

Concluding Prayer:



God who is both Father and Mother to us

be with those who are persecuted,

with all who are victims of unjust structures and sexist systems, especially victims of trafficking.

May those who have been perpetrators of these crimes

be confronted by Your justice and converted by Your grace.

May their victims find that peace which surpasses all understanding and may their wounded bodies and spirits

be healed by your loving presence. Amen.

Composed by Anne McPhee ibvm

Based on the work of Carol Hogan sss

