

# January Prayer Service to End Human Trafficking

## Leader

Pope Francis calls us to remember that all peoples are our family, and together, we need to cry out and act to end human trafficking of our brothers and sisters. (World Day of Peace Message)

## All

We pray that the people enslaved around the world will be set free, physically and mentally. We pray that God's daughters and sons, our sisters and brothers will be brought to a place of comfort and refuge.

## Meet Two Young Victims of Human Trafficking

### Pascale – Democratic Republic of Congo

Pascale, at 7 years old, works ten hours a day in the mines in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He digs, sifts, cleans and dries minerals which become components of electronics. The other miners mock him since he works diligently and silently, never asking for a wage. Pascale once thought he would earn enough money to buy a coat, but since working at the mine, he has never touched a Congolese Franc. All he receives is little bits of food from the other miners.

### Kieu - Cambodia

When their fishing nets, the tools for their livelihood, fell into disrepair, Kieu's family contacted a loan shark since they did not have to \$200 needed to fix them. The lender's exorbitantly high interest rates quickly increased their debt to \$9000. The family turned to the commonly-used community practice of "virgin selling". After obtaining a "certificate of virginity" for Kieu from the hospital, her mother sold her to a man at a hotel. She was 12 years old.



## Contemplative Prayer Time

- Play quiet music to center everyone.
- Climb into the skin of one of these children and feel their pain. (3-5 minutes)
- Choose one of the following passages and silently pray it for this victim: (3-5 minutes)

*Let your kindness comfort me according to your promise. Let your compassion come to me that I may live. (Ps. 119:76-77)*

*I will make you a light to the nations that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth. (Is: 49:13)*

*When the just cry out, the Lord hears them and from all their distress they are rescued. (Ps 34:18)*

*God sets up on high the lowly, and those who mourn are lifted to safety. (Job 5:11)*

### **Petitions (Response: “Loving God, Send Healing Hope”)**

For all people who are vulnerable to being trafficked because they are in desperate situation due to poverty, war, natural disasters, homelessness, may they be kept safe...

For the traffickers, so many of whom have been hardened by their own lives, may their hearts be softened, and may they change their ways...

For us, that we may see how we are complicit in the trafficking of human beings. Help us to understand our role, when we demand products made by people who are enslaved, and to speak and work for justice for all those who are trafficked....

### **Closing Prayer**

What you hear in the dark, you must speak in the Light. You are salt for the earth. You are Light for the world. Amen  
(Matthew 10: 27)

