

Standing for Human Dignity and Against Human Trafficking

An Invitation to Prayer and Other Action in July

From the SSND CP Shalom Human Trafficking Committee



“A particular concern in all ministries is the establishment of a just society... Working toward the enablement of persons and the promotion of human dignity, we contribute to positive systemic change in society.” - SSND Constitution You Are Sent, General Directory #33

School Sisters of Notre Dame work on a variety of issues concerning the preservation of basic human rights and human dignity, including the issue of human trafficking. Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. It is a multi-billion dollar criminal industry that employs force, fraud, and coercion to exploit tens of millions of women, children, and men for profit here and throughout the world. Sadly, human trafficking occurs in every community SSND ministers. We agree with Pope Francis when he describes human trafficking as “a crime against humanity” and “a deep and open wound in the body of Christ and in the body of all humanity, which affects each one of us.”

In anticipation of the [World Day Against Trafficking of Persons](#) (7/30) and in support of our [CP Province Laudato Si Action Plan](#) (that encourages us to educate, advocate, and act) the CP Shalom Human Trafficking Committee invites you to take time this month for dedicated prayer and (*if possible*) other action in support of trafficking victims/survivors. We offer the following ideas/resources for your consideration...

Pray – “Prayer impels us to love and inspires us to service.” (YAS, Const 30)

- ✚ Download the SSND *Prayer for an End to Human Trafficking Card* – [click here](#) (or request copies (English or Spanish) from the CP Shalom Office).
- ✚ Request/suggest a [prayer petition](#) for the Sunday, July 30 liturgy.

Educate – “We are educators in all that we are and do.” (YAS, Const 23)

- ✚ To help build awareness and encourage engagement to address human trafficking, the School Sisters of Notre Dame partner with other women religious to sponsor the [U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking](#) initiative and the [Stop Trafficking!](#) monthly newsletter. Take some time to review and then talk about (or share) a resource from the website or newsletter with another.

Advocate – “We educate, advocate, and act in collaboration with others for the dignity of life and the care of all creation.” (*Love Gives Everything*, YAS)

- ✚ Help stop illegal child labor, labor trafficking, and the exploitation of workers by urging for increased funding for worker protection agencies. [Click here](#) to take action.
- ✚ Urge Congress to take steps to help protect children online. [Click here](#) to take action.
- ✚ [Click here](#) to see if your state has human trafficking related legislative pending and take action.

Act – “We work actively, especially in our local situations, to eliminate the root causes of injustice in order to realize a world of peace, justice, and love.” (YAS, Const 17)

- ✚ Reach out to a local anti-human trafficking coalition, program, or home for survivors and send a card or letter of appreciation and encouragement. Perhaps inquire about ways you can be supportive of their work. *If you need help identifying a local group, reach out to the Shalom Office for assistance.*

“The Triune God impels us into the heart of the world to be women of peace, hope, and love.” In the spirit of Blessed M. Theresa and Mother M. Caroline, let us reflect this in a special way throughout the month of July for our dear sisters and brothers who have endured (or are at risk of) human trafficking and exploitation.

Thank you for consideration of this request and for all you do to promote justice, peace, and care for our common home in the SSND spirit of Shalom.

Peace,

CP Shalom Human Trafficking Committee - Sisters Susan Adrians, Jane Boos, Vicki Jean Chambers, Ellen Jean Klein, Lucy Nigh, Helen Marie Plourde, Mary Beth Reissen, and Tim Dewane

PS - In the Central Pacific Province, we work on the issue of human trafficking utilizing three paths – awareness building, advocacy, and promoting engagement at the local level. Learn more [here](#).



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education



LAUDATO SI'
Action Platform



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of Notre Dame