

What does the Bible say?

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, God likewise shared the same things, so that through death God might destroy the one who has power over death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that God did not come to help the angels, but the descendants of Abraham. **(Hebrews 2:14-16)**



Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice; who makes his neighbors work for nothing, and does not give them their wages. **(Jeremiah 22:13)**

But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. **(1 Timothy 6:9-10)**

Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy. **(Proverbs 31:8-9)**

What does The United Methodist Church say?

We deplore all forms of commercialization and exploitation of sex, with their consequent cheapening and degradation of human personality. To lose freedom and be sold by someone else for sexual purposes is a form of slavery, and we denounce such business and support the abused and their right to freedom. **(Social Principles ¶161.I)**



We call on United Methodists...to actively champion anti-slavery efforts by petitioning the United Nations and the legislative bodies of all countries in which The United Methodist Church has an organized ecclesiastical structure, to demand the freeing of all persons subjected to modern-day forms of enslavement and bonded labor. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #6032, “Eradicating Modern-Day Slavery”)**

United Methodists have worked to eradicate the many forms of violence that destroy the integrity of individuals, families, communities, and nations. People of faith must work to change attitudes, beliefs, policies, and practices at all levels of society that dehumanize and promote the exploitation and abuse of women and girls. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #3427, “Eradicating Sexual and Gender-based Violence”)**



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

What do the facts say?

- Nearly 21 million people are victims of labor trafficking – trapped in jobs through coercion or deceit. 44% of those trafficked have moved from their place of residence either within their country or across national borders.¹
- 17,500 foreign nationals are trafficked into the United States each year. Many trafficking advocacy organizations estimate that number to be much higher.²
- Globally, forced labor and sex trafficking generates \$150 billion in profits annually with two-thirds of that total coming from commercial sexual exploitation.³
- 136 goods from 74 countries are produced by forced and child labor.⁴



1 International Labor Organization, 2 U.S. State Department, 3 International Labor Organization, 4 U.S. Department of Labor

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

Go to www.slaveryfootprint.org to find out your connections to slavery and to learn what concrete changes you can make in your life and in the life of your congregation.

Host a screening and discussion of “Not My Life” – a film exploring modern-day slavery. Visit our website to register for a free screening: www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/women-and-children/human-trafficking

Organize a group to contact and urge decision makers to pass state and federal laws that work to end modern-day slavery. Go to the website www.polarisproject.org/state-map to identify all pending legislation.

Work to end factors that create vulnerability: poverty, racism, sexism, sexual and gender-based violence, war and conflict, climate change and media and cultural images that promote internalized oppression.



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