



World Day of Prayer International Committee
Addressing Roots Causes of Human Trafficking
Strategies for Prayerful Action

“Hope is not the expectation that things will be better tomorrow; hope is the capacity to do the right thing today.” –Mitri Raheb, Lutheran pastor in Bethlehem

EDUCATE ourselves and our communities:

- Talk about what we’ve learned! By sharing the personal stories we’ve heard, we can raise awareness, encourage people to consider the seriousness of the problem, and change inaccurate perspectives about the issue.
- Shop at the Body Shop, which has a line of products whose proceeds support anti-trafficking organizations and which actively educates consumers about the problem.
- Learn to recognize signs that someone is being trafficked. (See *The Handbook on Planning Projects to Prevent Child Trafficking* at <http://www.terredeshommes.org>)
- Educate women and men in our churches about the issue, pray about it, and discuss what our faith communities can do on the local level.

ADVOCATE for legislation and policies that combat trafficking:

- *“The political empowerment of women and girls almost universally means less human trafficking.”* – Fmr. President Bill Clinton
- Support campaigns in the US to protect the legal rights of girls involved in prostitution and trafficking and to help them escape it, gain self-confidence, and learn job skills:
 - ECPAT USA: <http://www.ecpatusa.org/>
 - Girls Educational & Mentoring Services: <http://www.gems-girls.org/>
- Buy a TassaTag (www.tassatag.org) luggage tag to support ECPAT USA’s campaign to prevent sex tourism through building awareness, encouraging the cooperation of businesses, and advocating for policies that protect women and girls in destination countries. The proceeds also go directly to the Thai women who make the tags.

EMPOWER vulnerable women and children:

- Support micro-financing organizations, which provide women with economic resources and power, which in turns reduces their risk to become involved in trafficking. Examples:
 - Grameen Bank: www.grameen-info.org
 - MicroPlace.com: Invest in organizations that provide loans specifically to women. We especially recommend investing in funds through the Calvert Foundation, a transparent and reliable organization with solid financial statements.
- Buy fair trade, which allows women and children to have a sustainable livelihood, which decreases the chances that they will be sold into forced labor/trafficking:
 - Fruit from Cameroon: <http://www.partnersforjusttrade.org/ht/d/Store/pid/178>
 - HandCrafting Justice: <http://www.handcraftingjustice.cedris.org/>
- Support the Somaly Mam Foundation (<http://www.somaly.org/>), founded by a woman who survived years of sex trafficking in Cambodia. The organization seeks to rescue and liberate trafficked women and girls and to empower them as they create and sustain lives of dignity.