



Church Information & Resource guide

Even though state-sanctioned slavery was outlawed over 200 years ago, human trafficking and slavery continues today. On **Sunday 20 November 2011** (the Sunday before Advent), Christians around Australia will speak out about this insidious crime.

This information sheet lists ideas and resources that will support your church's involvement in Abolitionist Sunday in 2011. We invite your church to join the next generation of Abolitionists!

What is human trafficking and slavery?

Human trafficking and slavery is about the buying and selling of people for exploitative labour or sexual slavery. It is estimated that trafficking enslaves 27 million people today, in countries worldwide.

Men, women and children are all vulnerable to human trafficking, which is driven by the demand for cheap goods and services and the subsequent demand for cheap labour.

Human trafficking can be found in many industries worldwide. Consumers are often unaware that trafficked and exploited labour has been used to produce their goods.

It is a consequence of poverty, discrimination and powerlessness where the strong prey on the weak and vulnerable. In this global trade, humanity is minimised while profit is maximised.

Why should Christians be involved?

In a global culture that often values people for their productive capacity, rather than as children of God, the church has a role to play. By labelling people as products and commodities, human trafficking and slavery diminishes fullness of life – replacing safety, community, and freedom of choice with imprisonment and captivity.

The Christian gospel teaches us about God's plan to restore and renew the broken relationships we see around us – relationships with God, with each other, and even with ourselves. Human trafficking and slavery is a primary example of relationships requiring restoration.


By changing our own daily choices to minimise demand for exploited labour, we can shed light on this injustice and change the way our society values people. We advocate for those who are enslaved, help restore unjust relationships, and live closer in step with Jesus by helping our society better reflect the principles of God's Kingdom.



Has your church registered for Abolitionist Sunday?

Registering helps us celebrate how many people are involved and ensures you are updated on new resources and news.

To register, visit worldvision.com.au/churchadvocacy and go to the Abolitionist Sunday page.



What can your church do?

Abolitionist Sunday is an annual event and opportunity for your church to join the next generation of Abolitionist fighting human trafficking and slavery.

There are many ways your church can participate in Abolitionist Sunday – no action is too small! Below are some suggestions and ideas, but we encourage you to be creative!

- Speak** Give a presentation or preach on issues of poverty and injustice, especially as it relates to slavery. You may want to invite a **World Vision speaker** to share in your service. For suggestions and sermon ideas, see the **Abolitionist Sunday Speakers Notes** page available online.
- Pray** Dedicate time to pray together as a church for victims of human trafficking and slavery, and for organisations addressing this worldwide. Reflect on the issue and seek God's guidance and perspective on this injustice. You might find the prayers in "Additional Resources" helpful.
- Act** Take practical action to help change the way our society values people. Distribute the **Abolitionist Sunday Action Card** at your church and follow the four action steps.
- Give** Your church might choose to donate some of its resources to support projects that help children who are vulnerable to exploitation, such as World Vision's **Child Rescue** program.*
- Eat & Drink Ethically** Ensure your church morning tea is ethical! Only use **ethically certified** tea, coffee and chocolate, such as Fairtrade or Rainforest Alliance, to ensure you are not supporting child or exploitative labour in developing countries. This is a practical example of how our everyday choices can help to combat human trafficking and slavery. Visit dontradelives.com.au for more about *ethical consumerism*.
- Watch** Show the **Abolitionist Sunday Video Clip** (available online or DVD resource) to your church community and use it to promote action, prayer and reflection. World Vision can also help you arrange **movie screenings** like *Amazing Grace* or *Call and Response*. Contact us by email to find out more – campaigns@worldvision.com.au
- Share** How can your community help end this injustice? Involve your local community in an event or activity such as a movie screening or "ethical" morning tea.

| 2


Abolitionist Sunday resources are available for download on the Abolitionist Sunday page at worldvision.com.au/churchadvocacy, or you can order an Abolitionist Sunday pack by emailing us at campaigns@worldvision.com.au.

Resources available Abolitionist Sunday include:

- Abolitionist Sunday Promotional Postcard
- Abolitionist Sunday Promotional Poster
- Abolitionist Sunday Video Clip and DVD
- Abolitionist Sunday Action Cards
- Abolitionist Sunday Speaker Notes
- Church Service Powerpoint Presentation

* If you'd like to hold a fundraiser as part of Abolitionist Sunday, please read World Vision's fundraising guidelines. A link can be found on the Abolitionist Sunday webpage.

abolitionist
sunday



Additional Resources:

Church bulletin announcement:

“Today is recognised as Abolitionist Sunday by churches around Australia who want to take action to abolish human trafficking and slavery. It may surprise many people that slavery is still a big problem today, with an estimated 27 million people having been trafficked. Today we recognise that this is a challenge to us as Christians – joining the next generation of abolitionists to shed light on this injustice and finally end human trafficking and slavery.”

Church declaration:

“Today, <church name> declares its opposition to human trafficking and slavery, and its commitment to helping finally bring an end to this injustice. We consider it abhorrent that people are bought and sold as commodities by those seeking personal gain. As an act of worship and service to God, we aim to take practical steps, including prayer, raising awareness, and consuming ethically, to help reduce the number of individuals, made in the image of God, who are trafficked, exploited and trapped as slaves around the globe.

“As disciples of Jesus, we seek to follow his example of compassion and justice for the oppressed, and we follow the example of Christian Abolitionists throughout history to help bring an end to slavery today.

“In the name of Jesus, chains will be broken and all oppression will cease. His power and glory we proclaim.”

Prayers

May we be blessed with discomfort at easy answers,
half truths, and superficial relationships,
so that our lives have depth and vision.

May we be blessed with anger at injustice
and exploitation of people,
so that we work for justice and peace.

May we be blessed with tears to shed for those who suffer,
so that we reach out to comfort them,
to turn their pain into joy.

May we be blessed with enough foolishness
to believe that we can make a difference in this world,
and do what others claim cannot be done.

– Based on a Franciscan prayer

“Open our hearts”

Let us pray for open hearts.

We pray for open hearts to see the consequences of politics and economics that cause poverty ...

We pray for open hearts to see how desperate people are vulnerable to exploitation ...

We pray for open hearts to hear the cries for help from exploited women and children ...

We pray for open hearts to support those who reach out to help the victims of sexual trafficking ...

We pray for open hearts ... so that our eyes see, our ears hear, our minds engage and our wills shape action.

God of compassion and justice, open our hearts to pray “Your kingdom come” with such passion that our lives become part of the answer to our prayer ... so that your will is done on earth as in heaven.

Amen

