

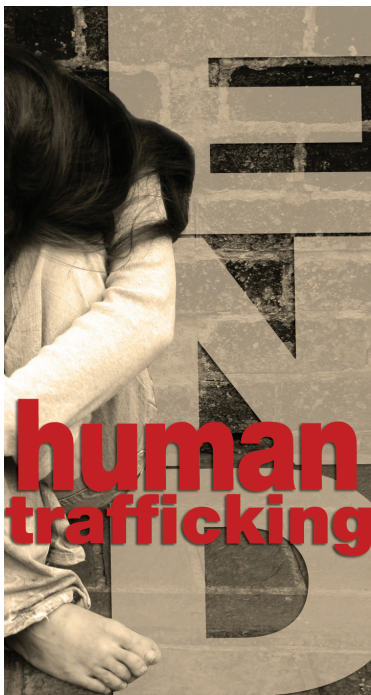
Human Trafficking

= Modern-day Slavery

Sadly, the evil of slavery has been present in civilizations from ancient times. In Jesus' time, persons could be condemned to live as slaves because of debt or punishment for a crime. Others were enslaved because they were taken as prisoners of war, abandoned as children or born to parents who were slaves.

In our time slavery, a tragic violation of human rights, includes practices such as trafficking in persons, child labor, bonded labor, forced marriage and the abuse and exploitation of domestic and migrant laborers. Slavery is a form of imprisonment and oppression which demands a compassionate and well-informed response.

Scripture does not speak out directly against slavery but there are passages in the Old and New Testaments that call us to denounce slavery in any form. For example:



Isaiah 58:6 "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?"

Luke 4:18-19 "He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, and to let the oppressed go free...."

Our own *Constitution* and 2009 General Chapter Calls challenge us to hear the voices of those victimized by human trafficking, or modern-day slavery, in its many forms. For example:

Constitution 1 "We share in the mission of Jesus to reveal his Father's love for all people, to proclaim the Good News to the poor, freedom to the oppressed...."

Constitution 3 "Everything we are and do must communicate our commitment to [Christ's] desire for the transformation of human hearts and human relationships."

Our Chapter Calls on Right Relationships and Systemic Change commit us to "advance global reconciliation" and to "work collaboratively to forge just political, economic and social structures."

As Holy Cross women, our response to the issue of human trafficking unites us with women religious around the world and with many other persons and organizations who are taking steps to end this form of slavery. Our response must be well-informed and knowledgeable, one that protects both the trafficking victims and ourselves from retaliation by traffickers.

Please see guidelines in right column for identifying trafficking victims and click on links below to agencies that can assist them. This information may help in finding ways to respond to the issue of human trafficking.

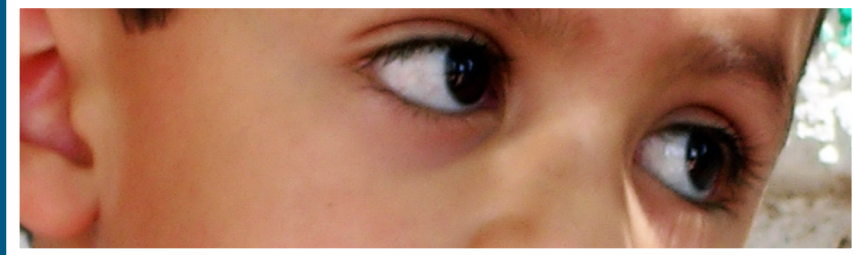
Victim Assistance: To get help, click an area below.

[Africa](#)

[Asia](#)

[North America](#)

[South America](#)



How to Recognize a Victim of Human Trafficking

Victims of human trafficking may look like many of the people you see every day.

Look for the following clues:

- Evidence of being controlled (heavy security at the workplace, guards, etc.)
- Inability to move or leave their job; transported to or from work
- Bruises or other signs of physical abuse
- Malnutrition, dehydration or poor personal hygiene
- Fear or depression; evidence of psychological abuse
- Not speaking out on their own behalf
- Not knowing/speaking the local language well
- Lack of control over personal schedule, money, travel documents or any form of personal identification

Key Questions to Ask

Asking the right questions will help determine if the person is a victim of trafficking who needs your help.

- What type of work do you do?
- Are you being paid?
- Can you leave your job if you want to?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you or your family members been threatened?
- What are your working and living conditions like?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Do you have to ask for permission to eat/sleep/go to the bathroom?
- Are there locks on your doors and windows so you cannot get out?
- Has your passport/documentation/identification been taken away from you?
- If you suspect the person is a minor, ask how old he or she is.