

# Pray Against Human Trafficking

*The Invitation, May 13, 2021*



Photo credit: Hermes Rivera

By any measure, the trafficking in men and women for forced labor or sexual exploitation is an enormous and increasing tragedy. The extent of the problem can feel overwhelming. According to Polaris Project, there are 40.3 million victims of human trafficking globally. A United Nations study showed that sex trafficking is the fastest-growing business of organized crime and the third-largest criminal enterprise in the world. Many individuals are passionately opposed to human trafficking and would love to help in some way but have no idea how. This month, you can take action against human trafficking by joining a YWAM prayer day called The Invitation. On May 13 we will pray along with Isaiah 61:1: "To proclaim freedom for the captives...."

Topic suggested by: Matt Peterson in USA. Prayer content by: G.K. Pierce in Poland ([ankyrapublications.com](http://ankyrapublications.com)).

- 1. Pray for survivors of trafficking.** Pray that those caught up in trafficking would be freed from the chains that bind them and that they would encounter God's love. Pray that they would heal, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. Pray for fair and honest employers to offer them jobs and training. Pray that they would find hope for their futures and strength and grace to forgive.
- 2. Pray for traffickers.** Pray that traffickers and pimps would have a profound, life-changing Damascus-road type of encounter with God (Acts 22:6-10). Pray they would repent and leave the sex trade and would use their knowledge of the industry to fight for freedom of people caught in slavery (John 8:32).
- 3. Pray for those battling against trafficking.** Pray Galatians 6:9: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Pray for supernatural protection from evil. Pray for courage, wisdom from God, and a passionate heart for God and people. Pray that they would see the fruit of their labor.
- 4. Pray for the Church and society.** Pray against the use of pornography. According to the organization Rescue:Freedom, in nine countries 49 percent of sexually exploited women said that pornography was made of them while they were being sold for sex. If Christians at large would stop using porn, it would have a significant impact on both the pornography and trafficking industries. Consider the following statistics: 57 percent of pastors say porn addiction is the most damaging issue in their congregation (a Barna survey, 2016); 76 percent of 18 to 24-year-old Christians actively seek out porn (Barna, 2016); 68 percent of church-going men and over 50 percent of pastors view porn on a regular basis (Pure Desire Ministries); and only seven percent of pastors say their church has a program to help people struggling with pornography (Barna, 2016). Pray for anti-porn programs to be set up. Pray for a re-dedication to biblical marriages. Pray Leviticus 20:26: "You are to be holy to me, because I, the Lord, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own." Also pray for a commitment to "remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners" (Hebrews 13:3).

## Suggestions for Group Prayer:

Divide the group into four subgroups, one for each of the categories mentioned in the prayer points: survivors, traffickers, those battling against trafficking, and the church and society. For a moment, put yourselves into the

shoes of the people you represent. Note what might motivate them and the challenges they face. Note what God is saying to you about who you represent. Pray as you are led, using the prayer points from above and what you hear from God.

### **Take Action**

1. Spread awareness. Invite a specialist to speak at your church, school, or organization. Share information about human trafficking on social media, a blog, or YouTube.
2. Volunteer, support, or fundraise for an anti-trafficking organization you have researched. Shop for products made by exploited people (one example is [kairostraders.com](http://kairostraders.com)). Help exactly where you are. Businesses can provide internships, training, and jobs to trafficking survivors. Attorneys can offer free services. Medical professionals can get educated on how to spot and help trafficked victims.
3. Consider prevention. Traffickers typically target vulnerable populations (for example, homeless youth, foster kids, persons in abusive situations or poverty, etc.). Mentor and support these sorts of at-risk individuals.
4. Recommend the use of anti-porn programs in your church. Covenant Eyes ([covenanteyes.com](http://covenanteyes.com)) is one such program.
5. Keep praying. A good prayer guide on the subject is called “15 Days of Prayer to End Exploitation” ([kairostraders.com/collections/resources-1](http://kairostraders.com/collections/resources-1)).

### **How We Prayed** - April 2021 – Myanmar

1. A former YWAMer of the Shan people group was deeply moved to hear that YWAM was praying for Myanmar.
2. YWAM Bangkok, Thailand prayed for those isolated by Covid and God led them to make phone calls to those in isolated/remote areas.
3. YWAM Yverdon, Switzerland gathered via zoom to stand in the gap for the nation of Myanmar. They sensed God leading them as they prayed.
4. A Korean message was received regarding prayer for stability in Myanmar.



**Join The Invitation.** Learn more about this YWAM prayer day, called The Invitation, at [ywam.org/theinvitation](http://ywam.org/theinvitation). Please let us know how you prayed at [prayer@ywam.org](mailto:prayer@ywam.org). Please also tell us if you would like to recommend a prayer topic for The Invitation.