

In the words of Pope Francis...

I have always been distressed at the lot of those who are victims of various kinds of human trafficking. How I wish that all of us would hear God's cry: "Where is your brother?" (Gen 4:9). Where is your brother or sister who is enslaved? Where is the brother and sister whom you are killing each day in clandestine warehouses, in rings of prostitution, in children used for begging, in exploiting undocumented labour? Let us not look the other way. There is greater complicity than we think. The issue involves everyone! This infamous network of crime is now well established in our cities, and many people have blood on their hands as a result of their comfortable and silent complicity.

—EVANGELII GAUDIUM (211)

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
Migration and Refugee Services

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ANTI-TRAFFICKING INITIATIVES

If you would like to help support MRS' programs and activities, please visit:

www.usccb.org/mrs-ncf

Learn more about our work:

www.usccb.org/stopslavery



3211 4th Street NE
Washington, DC 20017

202-541-3357

MRSTraff@usccb.org

Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) leads efforts to combat trafficking in human persons, carrying out the commitment of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Migration to protect the life and dignity of the most vulnerable. Our initiatives include advocacy, awareness raising, training and technical assistance, and integration services.

Our Initiatives

Strengthening Efforts Against Human Trafficking Awareness, Education, and Prevention Campaigns

The SHEPHERD campaign provides Catholics with the knowledge of Catholic social teaching about human trafficking, the tools to educate others, and the strategies to work within their communities to address key issues and become more responsible consumers.



The Amistad Movement is a human trafficking education and awareness campaign for immigrant communities. The movement targets communities that are more vulnerable to exploitation because they are unaware of their rights and participate in poorly regulated industries, such as agriculture, domestic, hospitality, and service. USCCB trains leaders in these communities to conduct outreach and educate their peers on human trafficking, their labor rights, and resources and services that are available to victims.



Strengthening Collaboration in Anti-Trafficking The Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Trafficking

CCOAHT is comprised of national Catholic member and partner organizations working to eliminate modern day slavery. Through the work of its member organizations, CCOAHT educates Catholics on the evils of human trafficking and how to combat it, advocates for legislation that promotes the protection of victims and seeks to end exploitation, and serves survivors across the country.



February 8th Annual Day of Prayer

On February 8th, the Feast Day of Saint Josephine Bakhita, USCCB encourages Catholics around the country to pray for the emotional, physical, and spiritual healing of survivors of human trafficking and make a personal commitment to combat it in their communities.



St. Josephine Bakhita was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy. Once Josephine was freed, she dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering.

Protecting Child Survivors

USCCB coordinates and provides oversight of our network's community-based care for foreign national child victims of trafficking to ensure their safety and well-being as they heal and move to reintegration and restoration. USCCB provides training, technical assistance, and case consultation on child trafficking to a variety of audiences: law enforcement, legal and social service providers, U.S. federal agencies, and overseas entities.

Improving Services and the Response to Victims

USCCB conducts research on the effectiveness of social service interventions and best practices to stabilize, rehabilitate, and integrate survivors of human trafficking into society. Building on its experience as a service provider, USCCB works to remedy gaps in service delivery by advocating for improved policy and access to services for all victims and survivors of human trafficking, providing training and technical assistance to social service providers and first responders, and building the capacity of community and faith-based groups.