

Catholic Bishops Conference of Malaysia  
Council of Churches of Malaysia  
National Evangelical Christian Fellowship

 Good  
Shepherd  
Services  
(1142853-U)

# 16 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THE NATION

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16 Days of Activism: Nov 25 to Dec 10

**♀** ORANGE  
THE  
WORLD

Say No to Violence against  
Women and Children



## FOREWORD BY MOST REVEREND JULIAN LEOW BENG KIM

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Even if one is familiar with the long and sordid history of violence against women and children, it is still sobering to read about the persistence of human trafficking and exploitation of these helpless victims here in Malaysia today.

What is also distressing is that although many of these incidents happen in our very own neighbourhood, the general response is one of indifference. This lack of empathy could be due to ignorance ... ignorance that such a danger really exists ... ignorance of the magnitude of victims involved ... ignorance on what course of action can be taken to curb, prevent and report human trafficking activities.

Violence against women and children is a reality in all societies – and in our churches. We need to break the silence that surrounds this reality, challenge attitudes that help to perpetuate it, and work as women and men of faith to prevent and end violence against women and children and all gender-based violence.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is a global event from the United Nations that runs from the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25th November) to Human Rights Day on 10th December. This 16 Days of Prayer for the Nation is a maiden initiative undertaken by the Catholic Bishops Conference of Malaysia, the Council of Churches of Malaysia and the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship in collaboration with the Good Shepherd Services to stand united as Christians, to raise awareness, to come together in prayer for victims of human trafficking and to take action to eliminate this menace.

Today, we are calling on the Christian community here in Malaysia to work vigorously against human trafficking and violence against women and children. Today we are calling on all Churches to make this a priority issue.

As a community called to liberate all who are oppressed, the Church's imperative is to be involved in the liberation of these victims from a culture of violence and exploitation to fullness of life and communion. To fulfil its prophetic role, the Church needs to rise up in unity to comfort the afflicted and be an agent of change. Together let us pray, reflect and take action, to end violence against women and children in all forms.

**Most Reverend Julian Leow Beng Kim**  
**President**  
**Catholic Bishops Conference of Malaysia**  
**and on behalf of**  
**Council of Churches of Malaysia**  
**National Evangelical Christian Fellowship**

## FOREWORD BY GOOD SHEPHERD SERVICES (GSS)

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“Human trafficking - the recruitment, harbouring, and transportation of people solely for the purpose of exploitation - is a debasement of the human person. It is a grotesque injustice rooted in the dynamics of our global world and current global economy. Structures and systems which increase extreme poverty of the vulnerable, support patriarchal hierarchies, and give priority to economic profit above the value of the human person render untold women and children vulnerable to being trafficked for labour and for sexual exploitation. In concert with many forms of gender discrimination and global gender-based violence, the trafficking of women and girls is a violation of their dignity and human rights.

It challenges Good Shepherd’s determination to respond, first, to express solidarity with those who have suffered victimization through this horrendous crime. Second, we listen to the experiences of such persons and develop holistic programs to serve their needs. Third, we increase our capacity to understand the dynamics of trafficking so as to support women and girls in healing as well as toward self-empowerment through social supports, personal growth opportunities, and employable skills leading to secure income. Good Shepherd stands with all persons of good will who condemn this phenomena and work to eradicate it.”

This is the Good Shepherd’s position as a global congregation on the phenomena of human trafficking, especially of women and girls.

Human trafficking has long been identified as one of the most pressing needs which Good Shepherd is compelled to respond to at the unit, regional and congregational levels.

We acknowledge with gratitude the many partners, sponsors and contributors for their commitment to the Good Shepherd Mission to love and care for the marginalised and oppressed women and children, “reaching out with compassion and respect, empowering each person to wholeness and full potential.”

May we continue this journey for mission with zeal and hope as we stand together to say NO to violence against women and children.

**Chin Poh Choo**  
**Executive Director**  
**Good Shepherd Services**





## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

### “ORANGE THE WORLD: SAY NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN”

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international awareness-raising campaign. It takes place every year from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day).

Since 2008, the UN Women, under the “Orange the World” umbrella, has been galvanizing global attention and action to end violence against women and girls. The official colour used is orange, which symbolizes a bright and optimistic future free from violence against women and girls.

The three components of the **Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM)** and **Good Shepherd Services (GSS)** are standing together to raise awareness and to call Christians and Churches to prayer and action to end violence against women and children.

The tagline for our 16 Days campaign is “**Orange the World: Say No to Violence Against Women and Children**”. For this year, the focus of our campaign is on human trafficking of women and children.

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## 16 DAYS OF PRAYER AND ACTIVITIES

This booklet is designed to be a resource for awareness, prayer, reflection and action. It can be used to follow the 16 Days campaign to reflect and pray on human trafficking issues. Through the personal stories shared, we can get a glimpse of how the lives of women and children have been impacted by their experiences of being trafficked and exploited. (Names and certain demographic details have been changed to protect the identities of the women and children who were willing to share their stories.)

As we read about the injustice, oppression and abuse heaped upon them by fellow human beings, let us open our hearts and allow God to move us into responding to the needs of the marginalized and oppressed, whether through prayer or other forms of action to “do good; seek justice; help the oppressed; defend the cause of orphans; fight for the rights of widows” (Isaiah 1:17).

We invite you to join us for these 16 days to stand in the gap as we pray for God’s help, mercy, and intervention to end violence against women and children.

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## INFOGRAPHIC



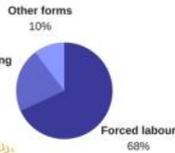
Human trafficking is modern day slavery. It is a shocking violation of human dignity. The United Nations defines human trafficking as "the recruitment, transport, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a person by such means as threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud or deception for the purpose of exploitation."

**21 million**

estimated number of people trafficked globally

**\$150 billion**

estimated profits generated by human trafficking globally per year



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Trafficking victims can be women, men, girls and boys.



**71%** of people trafficked are women and girls, usually for marriage and sexual slavery

**1/3** of people trafficked are children



UNODC elaboration of national data

### Major Forms of Human Trafficking



**5.5 million**

estimated number of children trafficked globally



UNICEF USA Infographic: A Global Look at Human Trafficking

### Human Trafficking in Malaysia

Ranked #5 in South East Asia for slavery prevalence  
129,000 trapped in modern slavery

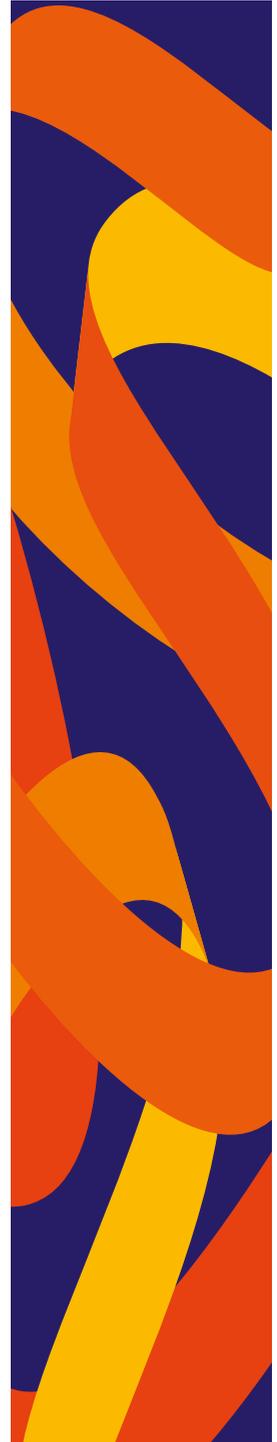
2016 Global Slavery Index

> 2 million undocumented migrants  
149,100 refugees

Many of whom are at risk of human trafficking and exploitation

UNHCR Malaysia

Image: Malaysia - Blue by FreeVectorMaps.com





Hear my cry, O God; attend to my prayer.  
From the end of the earth, I will cry to  
You, when my heart is overwhelmed...  
- Psalms 61:1-2

## Forced Into Sex Trafficking

### Prayer:

- God, you created women differently and yet equal in value with men. We pray especially today for women who are victims of sexual violence, that you pour out your love, compassion and healing on those who have been hurt in this way. We ask for strength and resilience for our women, and that they have the courage to speak out and seek help.

### Action:

- Today is International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Wear orange today in solidarity with the start of the 16 Days campaign to say NO to violence against women and children.
- Check out UN's 16 Days Campaign at <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism>

From a young age, I was exposed to the violence that happened at home. My father had often abused my mother for the smallest of reasons. I had always lived in fear that he would kill her one day or that he would also start hitting me too. At the age of 14, my worst fears came true as my father sexually abused me after coming home drunk one night. He continued to hurt me regularly. I stayed away from home as much as I could to avoid the abuse.

I finally ran away from home at 17 with an older boyfriend I had known for about 5 months. He promised he would marry me when I turned 18 but he did not do so and even started being physically abusive. I eventually found a job and started living independently.

One day, a friend at work introduced me to an agent who claimed he can help me find a more lucrative job in Kuala Lumpur (KL) for a small fee. I felt assured as my friend would also be accompanying me to KL. When we reached KL, we were brought to a small budget hotel. My possessions were taken from me, including my handphone and wallet. I was forced to take a shower and change into skimpy clothes and work in the bar. When I objected, I was slapped and threatened. I feared for my life.

It was like a nightmare as once again, I was forced into doing something I did not want to. I was moved from place to place to provide services to the customers. Each time I was sexually abused, I would shut my mind out and pretend that it was not my body. The horrors came to an end when I was finally rescued during a police raid at an entertainment outlet.

Some time has passed since my experience of being trafficked for sex but the trauma still remains. I hope I can be whole again.

**I would love to have gone to school and to be able to play like other normal children. But I had to be married at 12 to ease the burden on my family and became a mother at 13. I lost my childhood since then.**

- laments of a child bride



## *Child Brides - A Lost Childhood*

I was brought into Malaysia at 12 years old to be married to an owner of a coffee shop in Kuantan. However, I was rejected by the groom for being dark skinned. I was then married off to my uncle's friend. Just 16 days into the marriage, the abuse started. He used a belt to strike me and verbally abused me every day. I made many attempts to run away but he always managed to find me and forced me to return home. I was trapped.

At 13, I got pregnant and my husband tried to get me to abort the child but I refused. He continued beating me even though I was pregnant. He said he married me just to spite my father and he wishes that my baby would die in my womb. Somehow, I safely delivered a healthy baby girl. The abuse never stopped. Still at 13, and now with a child to care for/protect, I carried on in that house. One day, he locked us in the house and went off. I just made do with whatever food that was left, not daring to venture out of the house in case he returns as we were leaving!

After 3 days, food ran out. I knew then, that I had to fend for myself and my child. I managed to find a centre, took up sewing and tailoring to get some money. I felt free during that period.

As suddenly as he left, he returned one day. The abuse resumed and he would take the money that I had made. After 5 years, I built up courage and decided that I could not take it any longer. I ran away with my daughter and sought refuge in another state. We moved around. But one day, he found us. He was extremely angry. He beat me up and took off with my daughter. Now I can only pray daily that he would not do anything to harm her.

### Prayer:

- Father, we cry out to you on behalf of the children who experience family violence, who are being forced into marriages and having children when they themselves are still children. We ask for intervention and safety, that they will be free from fear and abuse. We ask for comfort and for healing of their intense trauma and deep wounds, both physical and emotional.

### Action:

- There are 9,061 child marriages in Malaysia in the last 5 years (Women, Family & Community Development Ministry, 2016). Learn more about the predicament of these young, often helpless girls.
- Watch the video India's Child Brides for Sale (CNN): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mNx319Zx9xs>

Fathers, don't make your children bitter about life. Instead, bring them up in Christian discipline and instruction

- Ephesians 6:4



## Trafficked by Own Father

### Prayer:

- Our Father in Heaven, how you love us that you would give your only Son to die for us that we may have life. Nothing can separate us from your love for us. We pray that these children will experience your great love for them even as their earthly fathers fail them. Father, we beseech you to save them from this evil and embrace them in your loving arms.

### Action:

- Be the eyes, ears and voice for these vulnerable children.
- Listen to this TEDtalk on identifying persons who may have been trafficked:- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrsh0tEQ1s> (talk given by a professional who has conscientiously 'trained' herself to be more observant)

Hema\* comes from a poor family with the father being the sole breadwinner of the family as her mother was mentally ill. When the father retired from working in a garment factory, money became scarcer. Hema and her sister had to stop school altogether.

One day, the father took Hema to an unknown house where she was told that she could continue her studies. Since Hema was yearning to go back to school, she willingly followed her father. Upon arrival, the 15 year old learnt that she was about to be sold to a brothel - She had been tricked and trafficked by her own father! Left without choice, she ploughed on daily, thinking that the money her father gets would be enough to shield her sister from the same fate. But unbeknown to her, her 13 year old sister had also been sold off to another brothel!

After 11 months of torment, an opportunity came for Hema to escape and she cleverly did! She ran to the nearest police station and related her story. Thankfully the police believed her and managed to apprehend the culprits (including her father), stopping one of the many trafficking syndicates in the city. Her sister was also rescued and both were sent to a shelter to be counselled and re-integrated into the community. Hema recounts that it was at the shelter that she learnt the meaning of love, kindness and security.

Today, Hema has moved on, optimistically looking forward to what lies ahead. Despite all that she has been through, she is very grateful for that second chance.

\*Name has been changed to protect the identity of the person involved



## Child Beggars

Anita\* comes from a poor family in her home country. Having lost her father, life was harsh. Both Anita and her mother would sit on the streets to beg for food daily. One day, Anita went missing!

Anita was abducted and smuggled into Malaysia. She was placed together with some other children and were taught how to beg. Once they 'graduated', these children were sent to the streets. They were told that there is no point running away as 'aunty' had eyes all over the streets and being children, no one will believe their 'tale'.

So daily, they would take a bus to the Bukit Bintang area, returning only at night when they have 'earned' X amount of money. These children do not get to keep any of the money as it would all be passed to 'aunty'. Anita noticed that 'aunty' started to treat her better and started buying nicer clothes for her. Then she realised that she was earmarked to be sold off to a man once she is of age! Powerless, she fell into despair...but life as a beggar continued.

After months of observation, the child beggars were rounded up by the authorities and sent to a shelter. Anita knew that she was saved from being sold off as a child bride.

But her dream of being reunited with her mother again is questionable. She can only remember her mother's first name and nothing else. Being an 'unaccompanied minor' in Malaysia, she will have to follow through the process of identification and may possibly be relocated somewhere else, outside her home country. Till now, she still does not know her fate. But she feels that her perpetrators are still looking out for her.

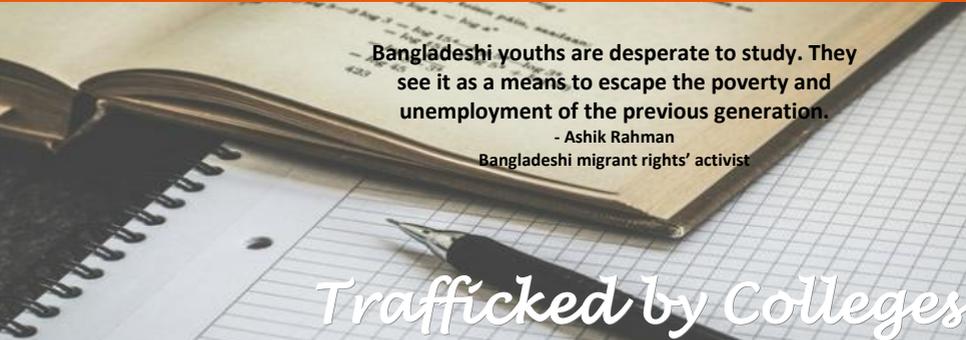
\*Name has been changed to protect the identity of the child. Shelters for trafficked persons do sometimes get queries from people regarding residents in the shelter, citing some sad stories. More often than not, these are the traffickers, trying to locate their 'goods'.

### Prayer:

- We thank you, God, that you are a God who welcomes children, and who calls us to welcome these little ones in your name. We pray for your compassion and wisdom as you open our eyes to see and our hearts to be compassionate to these little ones and not be indifferent to their plight. Help us remember that by welcoming them in your name, we are welcoming you.

### Action:

- Find out more on the internet on child beggars.
- An article on the Star dated 6 August 2017 uncovered a 'begging' syndicate in Masjid India. Read more at: - <http://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2017/08/05/begging-for-the-human-traffickers-children-ferried-to-masjid-india-and-forced-to-beg-or-sell-religio>



**Bangladeshi youths are desperate to study. They see it as a means to escape the poverty and unemployment of the previous generation.**

- Ashik Rahman

Bangladeshi migrant rights' activist

## *Trafficked by Colleges*

### Prayer:

- God, we pray that you will expose those institutions which are perpetuating the exploitation of these youths and bring them to justice. We pray for the many students and families who have placed so much hope in education as a means of escaping poverty and unemployment. We pray for your favour and providence upon them in their time of need.

### Action:

- Watch the video “Student/Trafficked” on <http://rage.com.my/trafficked/>
- Create awareness of the issue by encouraging your family and friends to watch the video as well.

The recent shocking revelation by the R.AGE team took some of us by surprise. College students from Bangladesh are lured by unscrupulous Malaysian colleges that promise education and jobs. According to government statistics, around 40,000 Bangladeshi college students have arrived in Malaysia over the past three years. It is unclear how many of them are here in trafficked situations, but they are by far the largest international student population in Malaysia, accounting for over a third of Malaysia’s international student population.

Upon arrival, many find their hopes of escaping poverty dashed as the colleges that promised them an education are a farce. Bonded by debt, these ‘modern-day slaves’ have no choice but to work illegally in factories and construction sites, where they are often housed in squalid accommodations. One of the residents commented that this was even worse than the dumps in Bangladesh!

Many of these students are now left in a lurch, with no education, no valid visa, huge debts, and are at risk of being caught for immigration crimes.

The Ministry of Higher Education has closed a few colleges and together with R.AGE and some NGOs (Tenaganita and Migrant88), will extend help to students who have been trafficked. Victims can now report at [rage.com.my/trafficked-reporting](http://rage.com.my/trafficked-reporting) for some reprieve and help stop others from being cheated.

(adapted from The Star’s R.age, reproduced with permission)  
Expose printed in The Star on 24 August 2017



## *Treated as a Slave*

I needed the money to pay for my daughter's heart surgery. We were still paying off a bank loan we took for my daughter's cleft palate operation. My husband was stretched as he had to support his mother, and his widowed sister (who was suffering from depression) as well as her children. I came to Malaysia after being promised a salary which was much more than what I earned in my home country.

I worked as a domestic worker. Coming from a simple village, I was not used to all the household appliances in Malaysia. People here also had different ways of doing things. I was scolded daily as I was not able to understand what I was supposed to do.

To cope, I worked every day from 5am - 11.30pm, occasionally until 1.30am. I wasn't given any break or day off. Sometimes, I was only fed (leftovers) once a day. I was even hit on my head with a hot frying pan. I suffered silently throughout the abuse because I needed the money.

My employer only paid me 1 month's salary while the other 2 months were given to my agent. When I found out that I did not even have a working permit, I felt so cheated!

I decided to run away. An opportunity arose when the whole family went for a function. I saw the RM200 left on the table and I just took it for the taxi fare to my embassy. I related my experience to them and was referred to a shelter that assisted me in my repatriation. Not long after, I was relieved to hear that my agent was caught. No one else should be cheated like this.

### Prayer:

- Jesus, you made yourself nothing, although you are the Lord of all things. You came as a servant, although you are the King of kings. You came not to judge or condemn but to give us abundant life. Help us to have the same heart of compassion and service as you, showing grace to those who are in need. May we treat others as how we would want to be treated.

### Action:

- If you have a domestic worker at home or a foreign worker in your organization, reflect on how you have been treating her. If you were in her shoes, would she see the love of Christ in you?
- Show her an act of kindness today as a response to the love you have received from God. Let this attitude of kindness extend beyond the 16 days.



**You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your countrymen or one of your aliens who is in your land in your towns**

- Deuteronomy 24:14

## *Abused as a Domestic Worker*

### Prayer:

- God, we bring before you the many women who work as domestic workers in our homes. We do not know what happens behind closed doors, but you do. We pray for their safety and well-being. We pray for employers who will treat them fairly and with dignity as workers. May you grant them wisdom and guide them in the work that they do.

### Action:

- Malaysia has released the guidelines in hiring domestic workers. If you hire or know of someone who hires a domestic worker, go through the guideline to see whether it is fair.
- [http://jtksm.mohr.gov.my/images/media\\_sumber/penerbitan/DWGuide2017.ENG.FINAL.WEB.pdf](http://jtksm.mohr.gov.my/images/media_sumber/penerbitan/DWGuide2017.ENG.FINAL.WEB.pdf)

CC\* came to Malaysia using her sister's identity because at the point of hire, she was under-aged. Her parents are farmers and she has three other siblings who are still young to care for. With the promise of much higher wages, she was recruited and trained as a domestic worker in her home country for 6 months prior to arriving in Malaysia.

Her Malaysian employer sent her to various houses of relatives to work over the week. She would start work at 5 a.m. each day. Most days, she was given only breakfast. Frustrated with her 'incompetence' and lack of understanding of the language, her employer would beat, slap and throw water at her. She also never got paid for her work.

As the abuse escalated, CC decided she had had enough. She confided in the neighbour's domestic worker and was advised to make a police report. She left the house and went directly to the nearest police station. She was then sent to her embassy where she was given protection whilst she waited for her case to be heard. For CC, justice was served as she managed to get her 2 years' salary and was sent home.

CC was really one of the 'lucky' ones to be able to return home with her promised salary. Some of her friends never made it home.

\*Name has been omitted to protect the identity of the person involved



## *Shamed into Silence*

P\* lost her husband and with no children, she decided to follow her cousin to Malaysia to work. Upon arrival, her passport was taken away from her and she was placed in an apartment. That night, she realised the harsh reality that she had been brought in (by her own cousin) for the sex trade. She was forced into having sex with 10-15 men each night. During the day, she was locked up in the apartment.

She managed to escape one day and luckily managed to reach her embassy to seek help. She was placed in a shelter for rehabilitation while her documents were being processed. During her time at the shelter, she was given numerous opportunities to press charges and penalise her perpetrators but she chose not to.

Her reason was because she felt thoroughly ashamed of herself and to her, charging her perpetrators would mean that her village/community will come to hear about it and it would greatly dishonour her family's name. Caste and the honour of family name are still greatly revered in her home country. Therefore, she will silence this episode of her life and carry on as if her Malaysian trip was just a bad dream.

There are still many more like P\* out there. All silenced, too afraid or ashamed to seek justice.

\*Name has been omitted to protect the identity of the person involved

### Prayer:

- Lord, we remember how you showed such grace to the woman caught in adultery, where you would not condemn her for her actions. You were the only one who could cast the first stone, but you would not. We pray for people like P\* that they will know there is now no condemnation in you. May we know how much we are worth to you that you died for us that we might live.

### Action:

- Watch this TED talk on stopping the silence.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSum6Xe64C4>
- Remember that "Perpetrators thrive on silence"

- Catalleya Storm



**Prayer:**

- God, we pray for the employers who hire workers, especially the migrants. Bless those who are treating their workers fairly and with dignity. We pray that there will be more and more employers who will treat their workers fairly, knowing that they too have a Master and there is no partiality with you.

**Action:**

- Watch this video entitled 'Simple Plan - the song that saved my life'  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1\\_N77CLoEc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_N77CLoEc)
- Find out more about modern day slavery. Help create awareness and warn others that if a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is!

I had to look for work after my husband left me with 3 young children to fend for ourselves. A relative introduced an agent to me who said he can arrange for a work permit in Malaysia as a factory worker. With a heavy heart, I left my children with my elderly parents in order to earn a living in Malaysia.

When I arrived, I was taken to my employer's house where he and his wife went through my things and confiscated my passport and handphone. I was told that I would not receive any salary for 6 months as deduction for the cost of my travel and work permit fees.

Instead of working in a factory, I was made to work in a coffee shop owned by the employer's family from Tuesdays to Sundays. I had to get up daily at 5am and worked in the coffee shop until 4pm. After that, I would have to continue working in the employer's house as their domestic worker. I usually would only be able to go to sleep at 1am. I had no day offs and if I was not working in the coffee shop, my employer would make sure that I had work to do including cleaning the parents' house.

I was not allowed to go home after serving 2 years with my employer. I ended up working for my employer for 3 years and 4 months. During this whole time, I was not paid for my services and could not send money home regularly. I would only be given some money during festive season to send home. Each time I asked for my salary, I would be shouted at and threatened to be sent back to the agent without getting any of my money back.

Eventually, I garnered enough courage and found an opportune time to run away and sought help from my embassy. I had given up hope of ever getting back my unpaid wages. All I wanted then was to go home.

**No one puts their children in a boat  
unless the water is safer than the land**

- Warsan Shire, "Home"

## Exploitation of Refugees

I came to Malaysia at the age of 10. We were fleeing persecution and violence in my own 'home', running away to lead a peaceful life. We had given up all our belongings to find greener pastures. We trekked the jungles, risked our lives on the 'death' boat, just to cross borders for a safer tomorrow. Was it all worth it? Or was it not?

Our boat capsized on the way. We were 'rescued' on Malaysian waters and placed in temporary camps. There were many, many like us. Space was limited. Tents were cramped. The good thing to me was that there were many other children! We played night and day, oblivious to our squalid surroundings. How else could a child cope?

After months of staying at the camp, we were moved out into a community. I thought life would be better thereafter. But it was still harsh. My parents had to go out daily looking for menial jobs even though they held higher positions back home. Money was never enough. They had to work long hours and were underpaid. But what choice did they have. It was better than no money. Being the eldest, I had to stay home to look after my younger siblings. School was never an option. Our focus was and still is, just to get by daily.

We have been here for 7 years now. Where do I say my home is? Which country should I say I am from? I now live in a country with a 'special' pass. I am a refugee. We are deemed 'aliens', unwanted. I do not have any privileges - no access to school, healthcare and am constantly looked down upon. At 17 now, without proper education, what would my future be? What can I do to earn a decent living? Was this the future my father was looking for?

I often wonder, was it all worth it? Or was it not?

### Prayer:

- Lord, we pray for all those who have had to flee their homeland due to persecution or violence. We pray for their protection from human traffickers and others who seek to harm or exploit them. We pray for an end to the terror and violence which continue to drive so many from their homes. May they find healing from their trauma and tragedy as they rebuild their lives.

### Action:

- Find out more about living as a refugee in Malaysia. Watch the video below and reflect on how you would cope and survive if you were in their shoes.
- UNHCR's video on Surviving Kuala Lumpur <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmNj7v3dgE>



## *The Traffickers and Abusers*

### Prayer:

- Father, we thank you that with you, all things are possible. You are able to transform Saul of Tarsus into Paul, the greatest preacher of the Gospel of Grace. We pray that you will change the hearts of those who commit such atrocities upon their fellow human beings. Let them have the “Road to Damascus” experience that will lead them to repentance and transformation.

### Action:

- Find a recent article in the newspapers or social media on someone who has been trafficked or abused by a perpetrator. Pray for the people involved, primarily for the perpetrator to come to repentance and turn from his/her wicked ways.
- Take the survey at the following website to find out how many slaves are working for you today:- <http://slaveryfootprint.org/>

An employer kept a migrant domestic worker imprisoned in the apartment, did not feed the worker properly, sexually assaulted and physically abused the worker that at the time of her rescue, the worker’s face was beyond recognition. A child trafficker revealed in an interview with a journalist on how he dehumanizes and trafficked thousands of innocent children, that he has even lost count of how many children he killed if he could not sell them off.

When we hear about the practices of human traffickers and the abuse and suffering that they do unto others, we cannot help but wonder “What kind of a person would do such evil and despicable acts like these to another human being?” Our gut response would be to show compassion to the victims or survivors, and to condemn those who commit the evil and wicked acts.

We forget that the gospel of Jesus Christ is not only for the oppressed, but also for the oppressors. Jesus Christ died not only for the victims, but also for the perpetrators. The Good News is a message of hope for both the slave and the trafficker. In reality, the perpetrators are slaves as well – they are slaves to their lust, love for money, power, and all kinds of perversion.

As Christians, we ought to pray for the perpetrators – the traffickers, the pimps, the pedophiles, the buyers of sex or pornography, the fraudulent agents, the corrupt officials, the business owners who take advantage of their employees, the family keeping their domestic worker under conditions of servitude. Some become perpetrators not by choice but to save their own lives or their families’. Remember that there are always two sides of the story.

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. The Good News of redemption and salvation through His victorious death and resurrection is a message of hope for all who would repent and believe.

Start where you are,  
Use what you have,  
Do what you can.  
- Arthur Ashe

## *The Advocates and Helpers*

It is crucial for all parties – government, NGOs, civil societies, authorities and the public – to come together and fight this heinous crime of human trafficking. It is time for us to act now. If we fail to do anything to combat human trafficking in Malaysia, it will only get worse in the years to come.

Reflections from Aegile Fernandez, Tenaganita director, a long-time advocate for migrants who have been trafficked and/or exploited

When our shelter initially opened its doors for women who had been trafficked in 2011, we did not expect to see 39 women coming through our doors that year. We were also overwhelmed by their stories. Each day we struggled with providing care and support to these women who came to us. Sometimes they were so traumatised that even a simple touch would cause them to flinch. And we certainly did not expect to journey with a woman who was so badly beaten up that she had forgotten how to speak her own language!

Each day we laughed with the women who found joy in sewing a simple skirt for themselves. Each day we were amazed by these very women who were able to say they forgive their abusers. Each day these women graced us with their trust, little by little. Each day we were grateful to see changes in these women who had been rescued, and that made our work here exceedingly rewarding.

So did we do right in opening our doors to these women and did we do right to these women? We certainly hope that we did.

Reflections from a former shelter director

### Prayer:

- God, we thank you for the many people you have called to be your hands and feet in carrying out your work of justice, peace, healing and reconciliation. Bless them for their love and trust in you as they respond to your invitation to be the light in the darkness of human trafficking and exploitation. We pray for your continued protection upon them and their families.

### Action:

- Support a local NGO which works on human trafficking issues, either through volunteering in their programmes for women and children or by making a donation to fund their works.
- Invite a local NGO to conduct a talk or workshop in your organization or school to raise awareness on issues of human trafficking and exploitation.



As we endeavour to end  
the wrongs, we mustn't  
forget to do what is right.  
- Tony Kirwan

## The Enforcement Agencies

### Prayer:

- God, thank you for the enforcement agencies who are at the frontline of the fight against human trafficking. Protect them and equip them with compassion and grace as they rescue those who are trapped in the scourge of trafficking and exploitation. Enable them to seek justice for those who have been wronged. Renew their strength each day as they perform their duties.

### Action:

- Appreciate the efforts of the enforcement agencies in rescuing trafficked victims and give credit when it is due by liking the news article on social media and leaving a message of affirmation and encouragement to our men and women in uniform.

*“Police rescue 49 women from Seremban entertainment outlet”  
“Immigration Department cripples human trafficking syndicate”  
“Police rescue 11 Rohingya trafficked victims”*

We often come across such headlines when we browse through the news on print and social media. Most of us would probably give such articles a cursory glance or skip them altogether. Some of us may feel sympathy for the victims and possibly indignation towards the traffickers. Do we pause to consider about the many men and women in uniform, i.e. the enforcement officers, who are carrying out their duties and who very often are putting their lives at risk being in the frontline?

While we may regard that these men and women have the responsibility and owe the public the duty to serve and protect us, we may lose sight that they, too, are only humans and can be affected by the ugliness and the inhumanity that they have to see and deal with on a daily basis. Many of us go through our daily lives oblivious to or shielded from such wickedness.

“This human trafficking, it is a never-ending battle. We shut one entertainment outlet down, a few more will mushroom elsewhere. We rescue a group of foreign women today and send them home safely eventually. The following month, we may see some of them again in another rescue. People get trafficked and re-trafficked. It is a tough battle, and it can be heartbreaking, especially when the traffickers escape conviction. But we cannot give up. We must not give up. These are victims, and they need our help.” says a senior enforcement officer, something echoed by the many women and men in uniform serving in the frontline of the battle.

Let us not be weary of doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

- Galatians 6:9

## The Individual Christian

As Christians, we know that God created man in His image; male and female God created them (Genesis 1:27). Because we are created in God's image, humans deserve a basic dignity. This dignity is stripped off in human trafficking, which dehumanize, exploit, oppress and marginalize the very beings created in God's image, relegating them as property or commodities to be bought, sold, used and discarded. No human being should be treated this way.

One might ask, is human trafficking and exploitation of the vulnerable really happening around me? If we would open our eyes, we would see it is certainly there. From factories, restaurants, massage parlours, plantations, and even in our own homes behind closed doors in the form of domestic workers, to pornography, it touches all of us.

Jesus tells us: love your neighbour as yourself (Mark 12:31). Who then are our neighbours? How are we treating our domestic workers? How are we treating the migrant workers hired in our factories; as security guards to look after our houses as we sleep; as the person who serves us the food we ordered; sweeps the floor, washes the toilets, builds the very house or condominium we live in? How are we interacting with the many foreigners in the midst of us in church every Sunday, who are our brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ? Do we stop to see them as human beings with dignity, created by God in His image? Are we clicking onto websites which exploits women and even children sexually?

Jesus calls us to a higher standard of living as the salt of the earth and light of the world (Matthew 5:13-14). He calls us to be the voice of the voiceless (Proverbs 31:8), to seek justice for the oppressed (Isaiah 1:17). Robert Pierce, the founder of World Vision, prayed "Let my heart be broken with the things that break God's heart". Shouldn't that be our prayer too?

### Prayer:

- Father, I thank you that you made me in your image, and therein lies my value and dignity. For my own trespasses, I thank you for your forgiveness and mercy. Open my eyes to the injustices happening around me and enable me to respond according to your will. Give me the courage to risk having my heart broken for the things that break your heart.

### Action:

- Read and reflect on the Bible verses highlighted in today's message. Do a self-reflection to assess if you may have been blind to the signs of abuse and exploitation around you.
- See migrant workers as human beings with dignity. Stand in the gap and pray for justice for those who may be exploited or abused.



And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy and  
to walk humbly with your God.

- Micah 6:8

## *The Church*

### Prayer:

- Father, we thank you that you are able to do great and mighty things through your church. We pray that you will bless your church and enlarge our boundaries as you use us to impact the community around us. Help your church to be a place of safety, care, healing, truth and justice for everyone. Unite us as one Body in Christ as we walk justly and do mercy for your glory.

### Action:

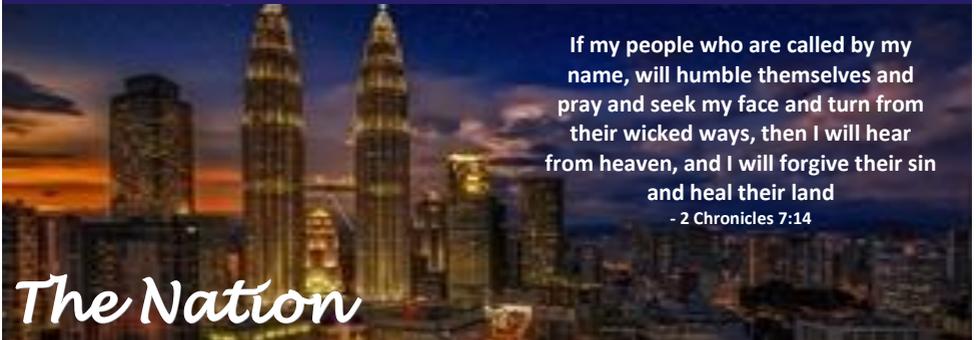
- Raise awareness in the congregation of the growth of forced labour and sex trafficking. Domestic servitude is modern day slavery that is prevalent in many homes. Pornography is one of the largest contributors to the demand for sex trafficking.
- Collaborate with organizations that are fighting the issue and be the healing and helping hands to those who are exploited.

The Church as a whole actively respond to God's greatest commission to go into the world and preach the Gospel to all creation (Mark 16:15). The Church is visibly attending to those in need - to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to visit the sick and those in prison (Matthew 25:36-37). The Church is exemplary in doing good. How is the Church responding to the call to seek justice, correct oppression, bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause? (Isaiah 1:17) . Much of the services and advocacy work on addressing social ills such as domestic violence, child sexual abuse and human trafficking are usually relegated to the NGOs.

There is a lot to be done to stop the cancer of human trafficking and exploitation of those who are vulnerable. Where does the church fit into this? The Church can become more aware of what is happening in the community, especially amongst the poor, the migrant workers, the refugees and those who are vulnerable to fall into this trap of human trafficking and exploitation.

It would be heartening to see more and more churches and Christians who are recognizing that human trafficking and exploitation are far more prevalent than it should be and are happening close to home. It would be inspiring to see church leaders who are answering the call to act for real change to be made. It would be deeply encouraging to see both inter- and cross-denominational religious institutions responding more visibly to address the scourge of human trafficking and exploitation.

God created the Church to make a difference. Therefore, it is imperative that the Church must take up the sacred call to serve the "the least of these", the people God created in His image. The mandate from Micah should always be a reminder for us to walk justly and do mercy (Micah 6:8).



If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and heal their land

- 2 Chronicles 7:14

## The Nation

Today is International Human Right's Day. It is also the anniversary of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The very first article of the UDHR proclaims that "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood." The first article has been referred to as the "cornerstone" of the UDHR.

As Christians, our "Cornerstone" is our Lord Jesus Christ, who gives us the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:36-40). Love your neighbour as yourself - the second most important commandment - not only embodies this spirit of brotherhood but calls us to a higher standard to love; even our enemies. We are called to extend our love and concern to all persons everywhere, as our neighbours, regardless of social status, religious or racial difference, nationality, gender etc.

If we want to live in a nation that respects and protects the dignity and rights of its people, we need to first ask ourselves, how are we contributing in shaping that culture in our society? How are we honouring our diversity and differences? How are we respecting the rights of others as we expect others to respect ours?

It is often quoted that "The greatness of a nation is measured by how well it treats its weakest members" (Mahatma Gandhi). The transformation begins in each of us before we can transform the nation to greatness. Let us continue to make our nation great as we seek to honour the dignity of all peoples created by God. Today, we come together in celebration of our human rights in a spirit of hope and as we stand in solidarity to make a difference in our world for the cause of justice and mercy.

### Prayer:

- God, you created us and you are the source of all life. Hear our prayer for a world that will respect the God-given rights for all. Move us to act towards each other in a spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood. May we as a nation remain united as we learn to honour and enjoy our diversity and differences as a people. We ask for your blessings and peace for our nation.

### Action:

- Read the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) at [http://www.un.org/en/udhrbook/pdf/udhrbooklet\\_en\\_web.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/udhrbook/pdf/udhrbooklet_en_web.pdf)
- Commit an act of kindness in demonstrating the spirit of "loving your neighbour as yourself" in celebrating International Human Right's Day.



## CALL TO ACTION

Throughout the Bible, God has consistently called His people to support and help the poor and needy - **Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body** (Hebrews 13:3). Beneath the surface of human trafficking and exploitation lies poverty and the desperate need for survival.

For these 16 days, we remember the women and children who have been trafficked and abused. We grieve with them for the hurts and suffering they endured, we celebrate their resilience and strength as survivors, and we honour them for their continued hope in humanity - their hope that by sharing their stories, they are able to move us to participate in this fight to end the evils of human trafficking and exploitation.

We remember the still condemned souls of those who perpetrate such evils on others and are in need of salvation themselves. We continue to pray that they will be rescued from the darkness into the Light. We support and encourage the enforcement agencies in their tireless efforts to combat the scourge of human trafficking and to seek justice for the victims. We salute the advocates and helpers for their compassion to journey with those who need healing, comfort and justice.

We remember what God calls us to do as individuals, as a Church and as a nation. If we understand that human trafficking is a shocking violation of human dignity and an insult to God our Creator (Proverbs 14:31), how should we respond? Are we willing to stand up for those who have been oppressed and exploited? Dare we acknowledge the ways in which we may have inadvertently been complicit in the conditions that lead to trafficking and exploitation - turning a blind eye to the foreign workers as they do not matter, profiting from cheap labour?

An expert of the law once asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbour?” Jesus offered the parable of the Good Samaritan and asked the expert, “Which of these three (the priest, the Levite and the Samaritan) do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert of the law replied “The one who showed him mercy”. And Jesus said, **“Go and do likewise.”** (Luke 10:25-37).

Jesus’ response to the expert of the law continues to be a clarion call for all His people today to show mercy to those who have fallen into the trap of human trafficking and exploitation. May we answer His call and be part of His mission to heal the brokenhearted and set the oppressed and the captives free (Luke 4:18-19).

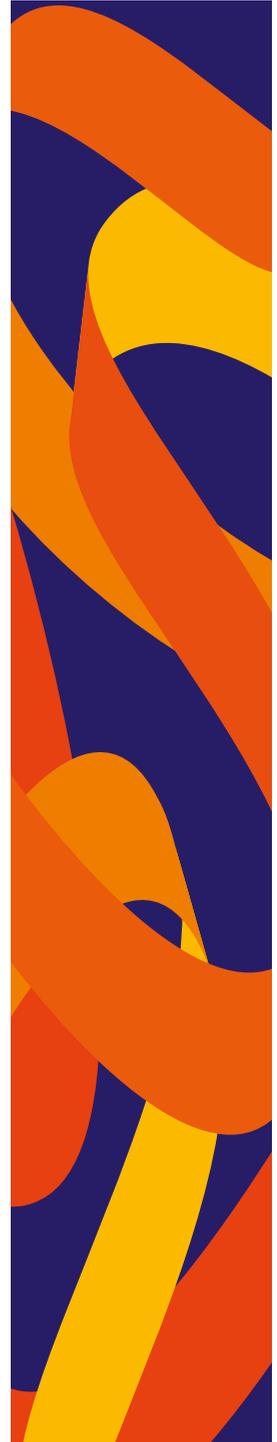
# WHO YOU CAN CALL

If you know of any cases of human trafficking/exploitation/abuse, you can report the incident to:-

- The nearest police station (or call 999)
- Respective embassies of the victims
- For reporting of children-related cases:-
  - Social Welfare Department (Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat)  
+603 - 8000 8000
  - Talian Kasih 15999 (for child abuse and baby dumping)
- For reporting of forced labour/labour exploitation cases:-
  - Labour Department (Jabatan Tenaga Kerja)  
+603 - 8000 8000
- For refugees:-
  - UNHCR Malaysia Call Centre Helpline  
+6012 - 630 5060

You can also seek assistance and advice from:-

- NGOs which are working with survivors of human trafficking and exploitation/abuse:-
  - Tenaganita  
+6012 - 335 0512 / +6012 - 339 5350 (24 hour hotline)
  - Women's Aid Organization  
+603 - 7956 3488 / +6018 - 988 8058 SMS/Whatsapp - TINA
  - Good Shepherd Services  
+6012 - 318 0623 - Kuala Lumpur/Selangor  
+6019 - 534 9044 - Sabah
- The Malaysian Bar Council
  - +603 - 2050 2050 ext 2090



the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased from 10.5 million to 12.5 million (12.5% of the population) and the number of people in the private sector has increased from 18.5 million to 20.5 million (20.5% of the population).

There are a number of reasons for the increase in the public sector. One of the main reasons is the increase in the number of people who are employed in the public sector. This is due to a number of factors, including the increase in the number of people who are employed in the public sector, the increase in the number of people who are employed in the public sector, and the increase in the number of people who are employed in the public sector.

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