BREAK THE CHAINS!
A Holiday Guide with resources and links for *welcome* and *guilt-free* gifts and entertaining

RESIST
Human Trafficking And Modern-Day Slavery

BUY LOCAL. BUY UNION-MADE.
BUY MADE-IN-THE-US. BUY FAIR TRADE.

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INTRODUCTION

What is slavery?

The working definition of a slave is someone who works under conditions of fraud, coercion, or threat of violence. They are people who cannot walk away from their work. Slave sellers and buyers operate mainly in the crimes of sexual exploitation, forced labor, debt bondage, child soldiering, and the sale of body parts.

What is “human trafficking”?

The term “human trafficking” is a term for the transportation of human beings for the purposes of slavery. Human trafficking does not refer to people being smuggled across borders who are then free to go their own way, or to immigrants crossing borders legitimately, or to refugees who are fleeing for their lives from human-made or natural threats.

FACTS

- The U.S. State Department estimate that there are as many as 47 million slaves in the world today. By contrast, there were a little under 4 million slaves in the U.S. in 1860.
- There are up to 200,000 children who are forced to be soldiers in the world today.
- Slavery as an industry is extremely profitable. The International Labor Organization estimates that slavery is responsible for $150 billion in profits for slaveholders annually.
- According to the UN 46% of victims worldwide know their trafficker.
- 65.8% of the slaves in the entire world live the Asia Pacific region. 14 million slaves are found in India.
- Forced Labor is much more rampant than sex trafficking. In fact, 65% of the world’s slaves are in a forced labor situation.
- Slaves are cheaper today than they have ever been. In 1860 Texas a slave cost up to $19,000 in 2015 money. Today a slave can be bought in some places or online for as little as $90 in 2015 money.
• **It’s not just girls:** 400,000 men and boys are being sexually exploited globally. Large estimated numbers of young boys are being held in slavery as child soldiers.

**FACT OR FICTION?**

1. **Emancipation set the slaves free.**
   • That’s what we like to think but there are sweatshops, as well as the buying, selling, and trafficking of human beings today.

2. **Trafficking of human beings is in other countries only, far from my influence.**
   • Actually, no – a Smartphone, a t-shirt, a computer, a cup of coffee are just some products that we buy today that come from modern day slavery. The United States Department of Labor estimates that there are at least 1 million slaves held and/or trafficked in the United States at any given time. Some of these slaves have been found in Boston, as recently as this year.

3. **Reputable brands don’t support sweatshops:**
   • Generally, but it is not always that simple. Sometimes reputable brands don’t know where all the materials come from.
   • Slave products come from the fields – the mines – the raw material processing.
   • The supply chain enslaves more people now than at any time in human history

4. **We as individuals have no influence on slavery or stopping it.**
   • In the stores where you shop you can ask about the brands you like to become aware of the origin of their products.
   • You can Request fair trade products!!!

**TAKE THE SURVEY:**

As far back as humanity goes, people have bought, sold, and enslaved other people. What about you? How many slaves do you think work for you?

Try this survey: [http://slaveryfootprint.org](http://slaveryfootprint.org)
RESOURCES
for Entertaining, Gift-Giving, Hospitality, Travel, and Life

Fair Trade Basics

"Fair Trade is a trading partnership, based on dialogue, transparency and respect, that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalized producers and workers – especially in the [global] South. Fair Trade organizations have a clear commitment to Fair Trade as the principal core of their mission. They, backed by consumers, are engaged actively in supporting producers, awareness raising and in campaigning for changes in the rules and practice of conventional international trade."

World Fair Trade Organization
https://www.wfto.com/fair-trade/definition-fair-trade
https://www.wfto.com/fair-trade/10-principles-fair-trade

Union-Made Products (be sure to scroll down the whole page)
https://aflcio.org/MadeInAmerica

Suppliers of Fair Trade Goods

From Equal Exchange: http://equalexchangecoop.com
From Not For Sale: http://www.notforsalecampaign.org/holidaygiftguide/
From the Fair Trade Federation: http://www.fairtradefederation.org/findmembers/
From FairTrade: https://www.fairtrade.net/products.html
From FairTrade Certified: https://www.fairtradecertified.org/products
From The World FairTrade Organization: https://www.wfto.com/find-supplier

Airlines and flight attendants

participate in the U.S. government’s Blue Lightning initiative to resist human trafficking. Contact your airline’s customer service department to see if they participate. If you know a flight attendant or other airline personnel, ask them if they know about the Blue Lightning initiative.

See also: https://www.cbp.gov/border-security/human-trafficking/blue-lightning
http://www.afacwa.org/stop_human_trafficking
**ECPAT and ECPAT-USA’s CODE OF CONDUCT**


**Your Favorite Companies To Buy From:**

Check their websites or with their customer service departments to discover which products they offer that are local, union-made, made in the US, and/or Fair Trade. Some stores refer to their goods as fairly traded, ethically traded, and/or (brand)-traded: these stores should be able to give good definitions of these terms based on the fair trade principles above, and to describe how they monitor their own production and their supply chains and by what standards.

Companies that do their own manufacturing often will either identify US-made products individually or will have a separate tab for them on their websites. These companies often do not verify supply chains, although some of the companies do source their materials from the US as well. Please check the company website for particulars, or contact the companies’ customer service departments.

As a frequent customer, you have power to educate and influence companies through letting them know what you care about beyond the product. It is a pleasure and an encouragement to experience how many business owners are willing to listen and respond positively.

**Consider alternatives**

Make, bake, or otherwise create personalized gifts, using materials that are local, union-made, Fair Trade, and/or made in the US. See more suggestions at [http://www.buynothingchristmas.org](http://www.buynothingchristmas.org).

Consider “An Enthusiast’s Giftbasket”, filled with your enthusiast’s favorite working material/goods/foods, tools, and/or accessories, all from local, union-made, fair trade, and/or made-in-the-US sources.

Exchange all or a portion of your gifts through organizations such as Heifer Project International, [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org), or Plan International, [http://plan-international.org](http://plan-international.org), that directly address the poverty that lures and forces children into slavery.

Give the gift of time. Write up invitations to a meal, or the sharing of a task, or the enjoyment of a project or trip together. What would your family member or friend most like or need from you?
Activist and Educational Resources

Polaris  www.polaris.org

If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

National Human Trafficking Hotline 1 (888) 373-7888
To get help, report a tip about a potential case of human trafficking, find service referrals for victims of trafficking, or request training or technical assistance. Phone services are available toll-free 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Or email: help@humantraffickinghotline.org

Polaris BeFree Textline Text "BeFree" (233733)
Text HELP to 233733 (BeFree) if you are a victim or to get help for victims and survivors of human trafficking or to connect with local services. The BeFree Textline offers confidential crisis assistance and support, referrals, tip reporting, and general information about human trafficking through SMS text message. Textline advocates are available to respond Monday-Sunday from 3-11pm EST.

Amirah  www.amirahboston.org
A faith-based nonprofit organization located in the Boston area that strives “to provide a refuge for those seeking to break free from exploitation and heal in community on their journey toward lasting hope.”

Free the Slaves  https://www.freetheslaves.net/

Global Slavery Index  https://www.globalslaveryindex.org/
The Global Slavery Index provides a map, country by country, of the estimated prevalence of modern slavery, together with information about the steps each government has taken to respond to this issue. This information allows an objective comparison and assessment of both the problem and adequacy of the response in 167 countries.

International Justice Mission  https://www.ijm.org/

Not For Sale  https://www.notforsalecampaign.org/
A network to grow self-sustaining social projects with purpose-driven business to end exploitation and forced labor.

TED Talks

Human trafficking - 21st century slavery: Faridoun Hemani at TEDx SugarLand
Human trafficking: Rachel Lloyd at TEDxUChicago 2012
Focus on Education, Employment, and Economics
Turning up the volume, bringing human trafficking down: Ruici Tio
small acts of resistance make a difference
United Methodist Women
https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/human-trafficking
Many faith traditions are involved in the resistance to human trafficking and modern-day slavery. If you are of a faith tradition other than United Methodist, you may want to contact the leadership of your tradition to learn how it is involved in the resistance.
The line between human trafficking and modern-day slavery is often so thin as to be non-existent. This is a comprehensive resource on all aspects of human trafficking, from definitions of terms, to a review of the scope of the issue, to stories from resisters and survivors, to the sports events initiatives, to a bible study, to a movie list, and so on.

United States Department of Labor, Bureau of International Labor Affairs
https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab
The Bureau keeps a List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor
https://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/list-of-goods/
As of September 30, 2016, the List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor comprises 139 goods from 75 countries (1 country more, 4 more goods from last report).

NOTE: While a good basic introduction, this is by no means a comprehensive list of activist and educational organizations. Google “human trafficking” or “modern-day slavery” to expand your research.