

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY

JANUARY 11

Marsh Chapel - Abolitionist Chapel Today (A.C.T.)

INTRODUCTION

What is the mission of A.C.T. at Marsh Chapel?

To raise awareness, educate, and involve people in the resistance against the crimes of modern-day slavery and human trafficking.

What is slavery?

The working definition of a slave is someone who works under conditions of force (threat or reality of violence), fraud, and/or coercion. 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 toward the goal of their enslavement. 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 estimates that there are as many **as 45 million enslaved persons in the world today**. This is more people than the combined populations of California and Alabama.*
- ***Slavery is illegal throughout the world**, even though it exists globally as the world’s second largest criminal activity, after gun running and as it has surpassed drug smuggling.*

- *Slavery as an industry is extremely profitable. The International Labor Organization estimates that slavery is responsible for **\$150 billion in profits** for slaveholders annually.*
- ***Slaves are cheaper today than they have ever been.*** *In 1860 Texas a slave cost up to US \$19,000 in today's money. Today a person can be bought in some places or online for as little as US \$90.*
- ***Forced labor is much more prevalent than sex trafficking.*** *In fact, 65% of the world's enslaved persons are in a forced labor situation.*
- *According to the UN **46% of victims worldwide know their trafficker.***
- ***65.8% of enslaved persons in the entire world live in the Asia Pacific region.***
- ***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, in the general estimate of 200,000+ children forced to be soldiers in today's world.***

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.**
 - *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 enslaved persons held and/or trafficked in the United States at any given time. Some of these enslaved persons have been found in Boston, as well as in 90 other cities and a number of rural areas. Most forced labor and child labor in the United States occur in the agricultural, restaurant, hotel/motel, and janitorial industries.*
3. **Reputable brands don't support sweatshops:**
 - *This is generally true, and, it is not always that simple. Sometimes reputable brands don't know where all their 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 on 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 that your favorite stores carry fair trade, local-made, union-made, and Made in America products.*
 - *You can write to the companies you patronize to ask them about their sourcing and supply chain practices.*
 - *The resistance to human trafficking and modern-day slavery is an endeavor that has received consistent bi-partisan non-politicized Congressional support. You can write to your representatives to encourage this to continue.*
 - *Become more informed.*
<https://polarisproject.org> *One of the longest-running and most comprehensive sites on the subject, that also operates the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline.*
<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/resources/reports/child-labor>
This site provides the U.S. Department of Labor bi-annual report on forced labor and child labor world-wide, sorted by country, most-problematic products, and other markers of human trafficking and modern-day slavery.

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>

To join the Abolitionist Chapel Today monthly Zoom call, or for more resources, please contact Rev. Dr. Victoria Hart Gaskell at vgaskell@bu.edu

