



the issue of
human
trafficking





(How 2 Pray 4) is a range of titles from ALOVE UK and The 24-7/SA Prayer Network. These titles are designed to get you thinking about prayer; and more than that, they're designed to get you praying. They have all been written by people who have experience and a passion to see prayer become a priority. It is our hope that these resources will equip young people to become passionate and prayerful disciples.



ALOVE UK is The Salvation Army for a new generation – an expression of The Salvation Army for young people and young adults. ALOVE is calling a generation to dynamic faith, radical lifestyle, adventurous mission and a fight for justice, focusing on the four essentials of worship, discipleship, mission and social action. You can connect with ALOVE at www.salvationarmy.org.uk/alove



The 24-7/SA Prayer Network exists to promote prayer in The Salvation Army in the UK. We offer training, create resources and help churches grow in prayer, as well as supporting several specialist prayer centres. We believe that prayer works, and that it is vital in enabling transformation in individuals, churches and communities.

This prayer guide has been written by Lyndall Bywater who is a freelance writer and trainer, and her favourite subject is prayer. She gets involved in all kinds of national prayer initiatives, and lives in Canterbury with her husband Phil, where she is part of the Canterbury Boiler Room, a 24-7 Prayer community. She has two black Labradors (one working guide dog and one retired), and a black cat. When not praying, she loves sewing, watching TV, eating chocolate and drinking tea.



the issue of human trafficking

How much do you think a human being is worth? If you were going to buy one from a shop, what do you reckon you'd pay? Apparently, in the human trafficking market, a woman can be bought for between £500 and £8,000 – that's somewhere between the cost of an iPad and a small car. In the human trafficking market, a person isn't even worth as much as a new luxury conservatory.

A FEW SHOCKING FACTS:

- Worldwide more than 800,000 men, women and children are trafficked every year
- 77% are women
- 87% of trafficked victims are sexually exploited
- This is a worldwide criminal activity with annual profits estimated to be \$32 billion

SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG IN THE WORLD, HASN'T IT?

God once put a price on human beings. We had been tempted away into a life of slavery and he wanted to buy us back. Being God, he owned everything. He could have minted as much money as he wanted – paid for us with the gold mined from a thousand planets – but he considered us worth more than all of that. The only thing he had which he thought precious enough to give in exchange for us was his own life. So he came to live among us, and then to die among us.

Jesus, God-made-man, rose to life again so that no one would ever have to live in slavery and so that no one would ever have to be bought and sold like a commodity. He set the bar for what we're worth, and he is angered and grieved every time one of us is treated as though we're worth less than life itself.

And now he's looking for people who will stand up and fight to see the evil trade of human trafficking ended for ever. **Will you take the challenge? Will you learn how to pray?**

WHERE DO WE START?

When it comes to a global problem as big as human trafficking, we can start to feel very small and powerless. Most of us will never even meet a victim of trafficking, let alone be trafficked ourselves. When something is so far outside our everyday experience, how can we make a difference?

The Bible is full of situations where people faced things that were way too big for them to handle, but they prayed and God showed up. Why? Because God put this beautiful planet into the hands of human beings and gave us the right to decide how it would turn out. Maybe it looks like we've ruined it beyond repair, but God doesn't see it that way. He's still waiting to hear how we want this world of ours to be and, when he's heard it from us in our prayers, he's ready to step in and help us make it happen. If we want a world without human trafficking, we've only got to ask.

If you want to pray to change the world, you'll need to use three different parts of yourself:



i. YOUR HEART

'I call to GOD, I cry to God to help me. From his palace he hears my call; my cry brings me right into his presence – a private audience!' (Psalm 18:6 The Message).

The Bible often talks about God hearing our cries. A cry is what comes from the heart – from the deepest place inside us – and somehow it reaches God like no other prayer does. Clever words and brilliant theology don't mean a lot in prayer, but passion certainly does! God's not looking for people who will pray at arm's length, following a formula or skimming over the surface. He is looking for people who will begin to care for trafficked people as deeply as he does, and who will pray with their whole hearts.



ii. YOUR VOICE

'But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold! But I will give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus Christ from Nazareth, get up and start walking"' (Acts 3:6 CEV).

It sounds obvious to say this, but prayer is sometimes all about the words we say. God created the whole universe by speaking: he simply kept saying 'let there be ...', and the whole of creation sprang into life. And then he made us in his image, so it's no surprise that we too get to join in with the amazing adventure of speaking things into being. Just as Peter spoke over the lame man, when we speak out God's plans and intentions, then he gives our voices power to change things.



iii. YOUR HANDS

'And let the beauty and delightfulness and favour of the Lord our God be upon us; confirm and establish the work of our hands' (Psalm 90:17 Amplified Bible).

If God's people only ever prayed with their hearts and their voices, then many things would remain unchanged. Sometimes the prayer that needs to be prayed is an action. It's choosing to make space and time in our lives to do something for the people we're praying so passionately for. But never be fooled into thinking that you stop praying when you start doing. The work of your hands is a prayer and God takes it and uses it like any other prayer.

10 TOP TIPS



1. GET READY

Praying into human trafficking is going to need your heart, your voice and your hands, so use this prayer to help you get ready:

Father God, thank you for giving me a heart which can feel emotion and care for others. I give you my heart today and ask you to fill it with your love and compassion for people who are caught up in trafficking.

Jesus, you spoke life and healing over people. Help me learn how to use my voice to speak prayers which will help end the human trafficking trade for ever.

Holy Spirit, thank you that you walk with me every moment of every day. I give you my hands and ask you to show me what I can do to make a difference for those who are caught in slavery today. Amen.



2. HAVE A HEART FOR THE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING



What would it be like to be bought or sold by someone else? Use your imagination to explore how that experience might feel. If you're in a group, talk about it together. How would you feel? How do you think you might have got to that place of being trafficked? What would you be afraid of? What would you hope for?

None of us will ever really know the answers to those questions if we haven't lived through it, but thinking about them will help to stir up your heart. Instead of thinking about the subject with your head, you'll start feeling with your heart for the people who are suffering.

When you've thought/talked about it, start praying, and don't be afraid to let your feelings come through in your prayers.



3. RAISE YOUR VOICE FOR THE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

There are loads of passages in the Bible where God speaks about wanting people to be free. Whether you're on your own or in a group, stand up, open your Bible and read some of them out loud. And remember – even if you don't start with 'Dear Lord' and end with 'Amen', when you use your voice to speak out God's words, you're praying a powerful prayer and God promises to hear and act. Even if no one else hears the words you're reading, God will, and he will use them to do something significant.

Try these passages:

- [Isaiah 61:1-3](#)
- [Isaiah 49:8-13](#)
- [Psalms 68:4-6](#)
- [Psalms 146:6-9](#)



4. HANDS OUT IN LOVE



Here are some ways you can pray by doing:

- Make time to do some surfing so you can learn more about the problem of trafficking. Visit the Stop The Traffik website to find out loads more about this subject.
- Find out if anyone in your corps or local area is involved in helping to support victims of trafficking. If you find someone, why not send a message from your youth group, telling them you'll be praying for them.
- Find (or write) some music or drama which highlights the issues of trafficking and the feelings of trafficked people and play/perform it to help motivate your corps to pray for the issue.

PRAYING FOR THE TRAFFICKERS



5. HAVE A HEART FOR THE TRAFFICKERS



Jesus once told a story about two men praying. One of them (a Pharisee) was proud and arrogant, claiming he was better than other people, while the other one (a tax collector) was honest about his own weaknesses and failings (Luke 18:9-14).

It can be hard to find a heart to pray for traffickers. But they're just as human as we are. We may not go wrong in the same ways, but we all go wrong and need God's forgiveness.

Take some time to be honest with God about your weaknesses and failings today and ask for his forgiveness. Then move into praying for those whose failings have got them into the business of trafficking others. Pray that they will find the same forgiveness you've found in Jesus.



6. RAISE YOUR VOICE AGAINST TRAFFICKING



- The vast majority of trafficked people in this country have been brought in from overseas, through our airports, ferry terminals and international railway stations. Get hold of a map of the UK and start marking the major transport hubs you can find on it. Then stand by the map and pray out to God:
- Pray that these transport 'gateways' will be blocked, so that traffickers are unable to bring people through them.
- Speak out prayers for the Police and Border Agency staff working in these places, that they will immediately spot anyone who is trafficking or being trafficked.
- Pray that the UK will fast become a no-go area for those wanting to buy and sell human beings.



7. HANDS UP IN PROTEST



Human beings are sold because people want to buy them. Praying that the traffickers will stop trafficking means also praying that people will stop wanting to use and exploit others. For many people, the idea of buying or using someone doesn't occur to them until they see an advert in a newspaper or a pop-up on a website, for instance. So let's put our hands up to call for inappropriate advertising to stop!



- Go to the ALOVE UK website www.salvationarmy.org.uk/alone (or 'like' ALOVE UK on Facebook) and get hands-on involved in ALOVE's 'Cut It Out' campaign.



PRAYING FOR MY COMMUNITY

8. HAVE A HEART FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Maybe one of the reasons trafficking thrives in the UK today is that the media get obsessed with sex. Even if you've never met a trafficker or a victim of trafficking, you probably know someone who struggles with the pressure to look sexually attractive, have the right image and be the right shape. Only when we start valuing people for the right reasons will we be able to turn our image-obsessed culture around.

Pray today for people you know who are feeling pressured or depressed because of their looks. Maybe you know they're self-harming or even feeling suicidal. As you pray, think of what God would say to them. Ask him to help them hear his words of love and encouragement today. Pray for them from the deepest place in your heart and cry out to him to rescue them.

9. RAISE YOUR VOICE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Are there places in your community where people are used and exploited, or where sexually explicit ads are displayed? Get together with friends or with your youth group, and go on a prayer walk around those places (make sure you go in daylight). As you walk past them or stand near them, speak out and allow the presence, light and love of Jesus to invade them. (You don't have to speak very loud, just loud enough for your fellow prayer-walkers to hear you.) God will hear your prayer and he'll answer. You may never know how he'll change that place as a result of your prayers, but he will.

10. HANDS TOGETHER IN COMMUNITY

As we come to the end of this prayer guide, it's time to think about how we can keep making a difference over the long term. Do some research, talk with your friends or youth group and think about how you can keep acting to fight trafficking.

- Consider forming an ACT group or becoming a member of 'Start Freedom'. For more information please visit www.stophetraffik.org.uk
- Think about changing the way you shop, so that you know you're not buying things which might be made by trafficked or enslaved people.
- Run a fundraising event to raise money for The Salvation Army's anti-trafficking work, or for Stop the Traffik.





24-7 PRAYER
PRAYER, MISSION AND JUSTICE

ALOVE+



The Salvation Army for a new generation



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