the Passover Project

Faith in Action:
Jewish Communities Against Slavery

FREE THE SLAVES welcomes and encourages partnership with communities of faith that have joined the effort to eradicate modern slavery. Slavery violates the tenets of all major faith traditions as a grievous insult to human dignity. Testimony to this kinship of belief in the basic right to live free can be found in the Torah and the stirring Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders Against Modern Slavery signed by clergy from many religions and traditions.

THE PASSOVER PROJECT stems from a collaboration between a distinguished group of rabbis and Jewish educators and Free the Slaves that resulted in the development of *Next Year, Free! A Modern Slavery Curriculum*, an educational resource with modules appropriate to age groups from your primary school students to adults. From this important foundation was born the Passover Project, a five-year effort to enlist 180 synagogues, Jewish schools and Jewish communities in a network mobilized against slavery.

Members of the Passover Project network are asked to participate through:

- **CONGREGATIONAL EDUCATION:** Make education about slavery a part of congregational life. We ask that congregations use *Next Year, Free! A Modern Slavery Curriculum* as a regular part of educational offerings at all levels. We plan to update the curriculum annually so it stays fresh. We have also created a range of Passover materials that can be used to prompt discussion at Seders. There are many opportunities to build awareness. Invite guest speakers and have clergy speak from the bima on the issue. *Free Your Shabbat!* is a handout we have developed that can be used throughout the year. All materials are free to use and share. Download from www.freetheslaves.net/Judaism.
- **ADVOCACY:** All of the Jewish denominations have taken strong stands against modern slavery. The Rabbinical Assembly, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, T'ruah, the Religious Action Center and other Jewish organizations have passed resolutions and made legislative recommendations. Free the Slaves is also a resource on policy issues. Let your voice be heard.
- **POWER OF THE PURSE:** We ask that synagogues, Jewish schools and other Jewish institutions be careful consumers and investors. Be aware that products you buy or the companies in which you invest may be tainted by slavery. There are websites that will help you assess companies and products. Act on what you learn – let the companies you buy from and invest in know how you feel. For example, if your synagogue is kosher – or organic – or nut-free – or food conscious in any other way, then making sure that the food you eat is not tainted by slavery is an important way to sanctify meals and onegs.
- **PARTNERSHIP WITH FREE THE SLAVES:** The work of freedom is not free; resources are needed to help those afflicted by slavery. There are many opportunities to support the work that is being done in the field to eradicate slavery. Start an annual school t'zedakah project for Free the Slaves. Make support to Free the Slaves an option for b'nai mitzvah projects. Hold an annual fundraiser associated with the congregational Seder. Encourage youth groups to become involved. Volunteer time if you have an applicable skill. Invite a speaker from Free the Slaves.

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