the Passover Project

Jewish Communities Against Slavery

Hanukkah Edition

BECAUSE YOU WERE A SLAVE IN EGYPT . . . .

Please consider what you can do to relieve the plight of slaves in the world today. We know more than ever about the horrific problem – and about the successful interventions that lead to lasting freedom, as well.

Facing the Problem – and Creating Solutions

Slavery is not legal anywhere, but it is practiced everywhere, including the United States. Slavery is found wherever goods or services depend on manual labor. Worldwide, an estimated 40 million people are trapped and working without pay, under threat of violence. According to the U.N. International Labor Organization (ILO), slavery generates about $150 billion a year in profits for human traffickers.

Free People and Support Survivors: It is not enough to liberate people. Free the Slaves also provides the safe havens, counseling, medical care, job training and legal aid they need to stay free.

Reduce Risks Leading to Slavery: People are vulnerable to enslavement when there is a lack of schools, health care, credit, jobs and legal protection. Free the Slaves partners with local organizations and leaders to provide assistance in at-risk communities.

Educate and Mobilize Vulnerable Communities: Local people are their own best advocates once they have the information and resources they need. Free the Slaves and its partners help people to know their rights, avoid risks, and organize committees that act as a "neighborhood watch" against slavery.

Enhance Legal Protections: Government agencies, local peace officers, social workers, journalists, voters and consumers all have a role to play in safeguarding against slavery. Free the Slaves works with partners to advocate for stronger laws and better enforcement, and to provide training for police, government officials, journalists and others.

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Hanukkah Celebrates the Cause of Freedom

Change your Hanukkah! | Free Your Hanukkah!

Make the light shine even brighter by remembering – and helping – people enslaved today.

"Set free those who are slaves among the Gentiles. Look upon those who are rejected and despised." II Maccabees 1:27

FORWARDING THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM: YOU CAN DO THIS!

10 seconds: empty your pockets of change before Hanukkah candle lighting and donate the money to an organization that is working to end slavery.

10 seconds: serve horseradish with your latkes to remember slavery all year long.

10 seconds: set an empty place at your Hanukkah party or dinner table for a slave who is never free to rest, eat well or celebrate.

10 minutes: buy Fair Trade Hanukkah gelt at Truah's Guilt-Free Gelt Shop

10 minutes: buy fair trade coffees, chocolates, and wines for use all week long, and especially on Shabbat.

10 minutes: practice some or all of the 8 Exciting Ways To Increase Freedom This Hanukkah: A Reading and Activity for Each Night of the Holiday.

10 hours: mine the weekly Torah portions for wisdom related to human trafficking, such as instructions or narratives about slavery, freedom, compassion, equality or justice. (The indexes in Next Year, Free! A Modern Slavery Curriculum available at FreetheSlaves.net/Judaism can be very helpful.) Write a blog post based on your research and reflection.

10 hours: invite a guest speaker or scholar-in-residence to Shabbat Hanukkah services at your synagogue to teach about modern slavery from a Jewish perspective. Continue with a fundraiser and/or fair trade boutique/ chocolate tasting on Sunday.

All resources listed on this page can be accessed through links at FreetheSlaves.net/Judaism.