

# the Passover Project

Faith in Action:  
Jewish Communities Against Slavery



**FREE THE SLAVES**, a leading organization in the fight against slavery, welcomes and encourages partnership with communities of faith working to eradicate modern slavery. Slavery violates the tenets of all major faith traditions as a grievous insult to human dignity. Belief in the basic right to live free is found in the Hebrew Bible, the foundational text for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In our own day, that shared commitment has been expressed in the stirring Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders.



**THE PASSOVER PROJECT** began with a collaboration between Free the Slaves and a distinguished group of rabbis and Jewish educators. Together, we published *Next Year, Free!: A Modern Slavery Curriculum*, an educational resource with modules appropriate to age groups from primary school students to adults. Based on this important foundation, the Passover Project was born. Rabbis, educators, and lay leaders in the Jewish community, launched a five-year plan in concert with Free the Slaves to continue producing Jewish resources on slavery and enlist 180 synagogues, Jewish schools, and other Jewish organizations in a network to protect and promote freedom. See a list of current partners and the curriculum and other resources at [FreeTheSlaves.net/Judaism](http://FreeTheSlaves.net/Judaism).

## How Rabbis & Jewish Communities Rescue People and Keep Them Free:

### 1. **EDUCATION:** Make education about slavery a part of Jewish life!

Use *Next Year, Free!: A Modern Slavery Curriculum* to enhance educational offerings for all ages topics from Jewish values and heroes to the Book of Exodus and Passover. Draw on a wealth of **Passover materials** that can be used to prompt discussion at Seders. **Free Your Shabbat!** is a handout that can be used throughout the year, and **Free Your Hanukkah!** is also available. There are resources for many Torah portions and countless opportunities to build awareness. Speak from the bimah on the issue, invite guest speakers, or screen **films**. Materials are free to download, use and share at [FreeTheSlaves.net/Judaism](http://FreeTheSlaves.net/Judaism).

- 2. ADVOCACY:** All the Jewish movements have taken strong stands against contemporary slavery and human trafficking. The Rabbinical Assembly, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, and Ohalah have passed resolutions and made legislative recommendations. Free the Slaves is a resource on policy issues we are happy to share. Let your voice be heard.
- 3. POWER OF THE PURSE:** We ask that synagogues, Jewish schools and other Jewish institutions be careful consumers and investors. Be aware that the products you buy or the companies in which you invest may be tainted by slavery. Websites such as [KnowTheChain.org](http://KnowTheChain.org) can help you assess companies and goods. Act on what you learn; let the companies you buy from and invest in know how you feel. Purchase and serve foods that are Fair Trade, as well as kosher, to add an important measure of sanctity to meals and onegs.
- 4. 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 being done around the world to eradicate slavery. Promote Free the Slaves as an option for B'nai Mitzvah projects. Hold an annual fundraiser associated with your community Seder. Encourage youth groups to become involved. Volunteer time if you have an applicable skill. Invite a speaker from Free the Slaves.

## SPECIAL OFFER FOR WEBINAR PARTICIPANTS!

If you sign up as a Passover Partner, we will send you periodic updates, handouts, and other materials targeted to inspire Jewish communities

FTS is also happy to consult with you to determine which resources and/or programming will work best for you and your community.

To learn more or to become a Passover Project Partner, contact [info@freetheslaves.net](mailto:info@freetheslaves.net) or (202) 775-7480.



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