

ECONOMIC, HEALTH, AND GENDER JUSTICE

What does the Bible say?

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, God like-wise shared the same things, so that through death God might destroy the one who has power over death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that God did not come to help the angels, but the descendants of Abraham. **(Hebrews 2:14-16)**



Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice; who makes his neighbors work for nothing, and does not give them their wages. **(Jeremiah 22:13)**

But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. **(1 Timothy 6:9-10)**

Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy. **(Proverbs 31:8-9)**

What does the United Methodist Church say?

We condemn human trafficking and slavery as profound violations of the inherent dignity and worth of every person and of their fundamental rights related to autonomy, including the ability of every individual to make personal life choices. We understand slavery to be a repudiation of the basic Christian understanding that all people are created in the image of God... **(The Economic Community, Economic Challenges, C. Human Trafficking and Slavery)**



We support the abolition of human trafficking and slavery of any kind. We commit ourselves to work toward the elimination of the social and economic inequities that provide fertile ground for the flourishing of these evils. We also reject the practice of using enslaved, indentured, imprisoned or coerced laborers in extractive industries or in the production of commercial goods. We urge individuals, families, congregations, and retailers to practice socially responsible consumerism by educating themselves about the sources of labor and the working conditions involved in production processes **(The Economic Community, Economic Challenges, C. Human Trafficking and Slavery)**

People of faith must work to change attitudes, beliefs, policies, and practices at all levels of society that dehumanize and promote the exploitation and abuse of women and girls. **(2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #2120, Eradicating Modern-Day Slavery)**

In order to eradicate modern-day slavery, we call on United Methodists, local churches, campus ministries, colleges, universities, seminaries, annual conferences, general agencies and commissions, and the Council of Bishops to affirm human rights and dignity of all peoples who are on the move, asserting the right to freedom of movement, and resisting violations and curtailments of such rights through forced migration, including trafficking in persons **(2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #2120, Eradicating Modern-Day Slavery)**

HUMAN TRAFFICKING



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living FAITH Seeking JUSTICE Pursuing PEACE

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

What do the facts say?

- An estimated 40.3 million people are in modern slavery, including 24.9 million in forced labor and 15.4 million in forced marriage¹.
- Women and girls are disproportionately affected by forced labor, accounting for 99% of victims in the commercial sex industry, and 58% in other sectors².
- Globally, forced labor and sex trafficking generates \$150 billion in profits annually with two-thirds of that total coming from commercial sexual exploitation³.
- 156 goods from 77 countries are produced by forced and child labor⁴.



^{1,2,3} International Labor Organization, ⁴ U.S. Department of Labor

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Advocate** for the passage and implementation of laws at local and national levels of government to prevent abuse, protect victims and hold perpetrators accountable.
- **Teach** and model healthy masculinity. Engage men as allies with women to lessen violence and risk factors for abuse.
- **Organize** forums, inviting outside speakers, including survivors and advocates to facilitate discussions.



For more information contact:
advocacy@umcjustice.org

www.umcjustice.org

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General Board of Church and Society

100 Maryland Ave, NE Washington, DC 20002

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