

Peace Day 2015

No longer slaves, but brothers and sisters.



Introduction [Slide 2]

We might think that slavery is a thing of the past, a problem ended in the British Empire through the efforts of William Wilberforce and long since driven from the plantations and factories producing our food and goods.

Yet in recent years we have begun to see new forms of slavery; child soldiers in many foreign wars, and, more shocking still, people trafficked for domestic service, sexual exploitation, and the drugs trade hidden in our own communities.

What all slavery has in common is a lack of respect for the God given dignity of each person.

Opening Prayer (of Pope Francis) [Slide 3]

Lord, God of Abraham,
 God of the prophets, God of love,
 You created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters.
 Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace.
 Enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister.

Amen

Sophie's Story [Slide 4]

Two years ago everything changed. I was trafficked. I was fooled. I was deceived by a man who said that he loved me. The tragedy is that I believed him. Now I know that love is not shown by forcing me to work on the streets, beating me up, force feeding me and turning me into someone with no mind of my own. I had become like a frightened rabbit. I was terrified that he would kill me. Death too often felt like my only way to escape.

People are product.
 I was one of them.
 But I am a survivor.

I have a new life but I am haunted by the faces of those who used me, those whom I did not choose, those for whom I was nothing more than a ten-minute thing.

From Stop the Traffik

Overview

The third Sunday of January is designated by the bishops of England and Wales as *Peace Sunday*, a day of prayer for world peace.

Each year the Pope writes a message for World Peace Day, celebrated on 1 January in Rome and elsewhere, and for 2015 Pope Francis's message is **No longer slaves, but brothers and sisters**.

This assembly reflects on this theme and invites the students to think about how they can live in solidarity with their brothers and sisters around the world.

Other prayer and liturgy resources for Peace Sunday are available on from Pax Christi

www.paxchristi.org.uk

Pope Francis's Message for World Peace Day [Slides 5-14]

Slavery today is seen as a crime against humanity.

Yet millions of people – children, men, and women of all ages – are deprived of freedom and forced to live in conditions akin to slavery.

Workers who are forced to labour, poorly paid, endangered
 Migrants who are forced to live and work in inhumane conditions
 Asylum seekers – abused on their journey, imprisoned on arrival:
 robbed of their freedom and dignity
 Women forced into prostitution
 Children as soldiers

Slavery is rooted in the idea that people can be treated as an object. A means to an end
 Not as human beings created in the image and likeness of God

Let us not be indifferent to their suffering
 In your own lives, as a community, let us stand in solidarity with victims of slavery
 When we meet people who could be victims of human trafficking.
 When we are tempted to buy cheap clothes, technology, which may have been produced through exploitation.

A kind word, a greeting, and a smile cost nothing but can offer hope, open doors, and transform lives.

I appeal to all people of good will: Do not turn away from the suffering of our brothers and sisters

Adapted from Pope Francis's message for World Peace Day 2015



Bidding Prayers [Slide 15-18]

We pray for victims of modern slavery; those denied their rights, for those denied a voice.

Lord in your mercy... **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those working to oppose exploitation; those who welcome asylum seekers, support victims of trafficking, and combat criminal gangs exploiting people's desperation.

Lord in your mercy... **Hear our prayer**

We pray for ourselves; as we recognise all people as brothers and sisters may we be inspired in our own work for justice and peace.

Lord in your mercy... **Hear our prayer**

Let us pray together that prayer which reminds us that we are all beloved children of God...

Our Father, who art in heaven...

Concluding Prayer [Slide 19]

Give us courage Lord, to stand up and be counted; to stand up for those who cannot do it for themselves; to stand up for ourselves when needed to do so.

Let us fear nothing more than we fear you.

Let us love nothing more than we love you.

Let us have no other God before you, whether party, state, or church.

Let us seek no other peace except the peace which is yours, and make us your instruments, your eyes, ears, and arms.

So that we should always know what work of peace and love you call us to do for you.

Amen

Action by Christians Against Torture

Supporting Resources

Pope Francis's Prayer for Peace

Can be used as a classroom prayer

Open our eyes and our hearts,
and give us the courage to say:
"Never again war!"

With war everything is lost.
Instil in our hearts the courage
to take concrete steps
to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham,
God of the prophets, God of love,
You created us and you call us to
live as brothers and sisters.
Give us the strength daily to be
instruments of peace.
Enable us to see everyone
who crosses our path
as our brother or sister.

Amen

Stories

Can be used in place of Sophie's story or as extra examples

Child Soldier

When they came to my village, they asked my older brother whether he was ready to join the militia. He was just 17 and he said no; they shot him in the head. They asked me if I was ready to sign, so what could I do—I didn't want to die.

Child Soldier, Democratic Republic of Congo (BBC)

Rosinda

'Rosinda' worked for her employers for 3 years before accompanying them to the UK. She often woke with the baby at 5am and would frequently not sleep until after midnight when the employers had gone to bed and she had cleaned up. She shared a room with a 1-year-old baby, was never allowed out, had no day off or holidays... Her employers kept her passport and she knew no-one in the UK. After 3 months in the UK Rosinda found her passport in a pile of documents while cleaning and took this opportunity to run away.

Kalayaan, briefing on domestic workers

Organisations working on slavery/trafficking

Anti-slavery Society: www.antislavery.org

CARE: www.care.org.uk

Child Soldier International: www.child-soldiers.org

Global Slavery Index: www.globallslaveryindex.org

International Organisation for Migration: www.iomuk.org

Kalayaan: www.kalayaan.org.uk

The Medaille Trust: www.medaille.co.uk

Stop the Traffik: www.stophetraffik.org/uk

Trafficking Awareness Raising and Campaigning:
www.traconline.org.uk

Unseen: www.unseenuk.org

Fundraise for Pax Christi

Consider making Pax Christi the focus of your school's fundraising activities and help support our work for peace and reconciliation