

Praying for . . .

Victims of Trafficking



16 Authorities to do more to locate missing children and to punish those involved in kidnapping and abusing children. Pray for the three women and little girl who were rescued in Ohio in May. (<http://www.cnn.com/2013/05/07/us/ohio-missing-women-found/index.html>).

17 Victims of trafficking who are unlikely to go to authorities for help on their own because often they are undocumented immigrants and fear both the traffickers and law officials.

18 The education of law-enforcement officers concerning the sex trade as well as for the punishment of those who support it. Many government personnel are not clear on the laws of their country. Pray for corrupt officials who are accepting bribes, leading organised crime, and “looking the other way” concerning prostitution.

19 Women who are suffering from sexually transmitted diseases (including AIDS-related ones), malnourishment, TB, and complications from repeated rapes and abortions as a result of forced prostitution. Pray for those who have children fathered by their rapists.

20 Syrian refugees who left their homes with nothing and are now selling their daughters to pay the rent or buy food. Many of the girls become child brides of much older men, and some are temporary “wives” who are easily divorced or sold into prostitution.

21 Poor immigrant sex workers in Europe to find dignified work so they do not have to live as prostitutes to provide for their families back home. In many European Union countries, poor immigrants compose 70-90% of the prostitute population (BBC News). Pray that governments would do more to educate and train the poor.

22 Zimbabwe’s more than one million children who have lost their parents to HIV/AIDS and are now vulnerable to child trafficking as they search for ways to survive. Pray for the TWR children’s radio drama *Witness at the Water*.

23 International Justice Mission and its continued pursuit of protection for women from traffickers and rapist. A Kolkata court sentenced five men to 10 years in prison for trafficking. The owner of one brothel was also convicted of rape (www.ijm.org/node/2039).

24 Maggan Johansson, Project Hannah national coordinator in Sweden, as she works as the liaison in Europe for developing partnerships to reach prostitutes, trafficked, and sexually exploited women.

25 Women who are suffering from abuse, infidelity, or abandonment by their husbands. Many of these women become prostitutes to feed their children.

26 Christian organisations providing safe homes and job training to young girls vulnerable to sex trafficking. Pray that they will be “steadfast, immovable and abounding in the Lord’s work, knowing that their labour in the Lord is not in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

27 Children in Bangladesh who thought they would receive training to become beauticians but were forced to convert to another religion and serve as slaves and sex workers. Pray for the 140 who were rescued, and pray for safety for those who risk their lives to save them. (<http://www.persecution.org/2013/05/05/young-christian-girls-trafficked-into-forced-labor-and-sex-slavery/>).

28 Women from Russia, Moldova, and Ukraine who are desperate to escape poverty. Many travel to Sweden, Finland, Norway, and other countries to sell their bodies to men at border gas stations, campgrounds, and other locations to provide for their families. Pray that governments would do more to care for their poor by creating jobs and training.

29 Christians to be channels of God’s love and compassion to women and girls who have been deeply wounded by physical and sexual abuse. Pray that in their broken lives they will come to know God’s transforming and healing work so that trust and dignity can be restored.

30 Health-care providers, neighbours, and law-enforcement agencies to learn how to identify victims of human trafficking so that they can help these women escape. The clues include someone whose communication is restricted, who is rarely seen outside the residence, who lacks travel documents, or who lives in a building that is frequently visited by men.

31 Girls as young as 13 years old who go to Manila to find work to help their families and are forced into the sex-trafficking business (http://edition.cnn.com/2013/05/06/world/asia/freedom-fighter-victims/index.html?hpt=hp_c3).

Women of Hope broadcasts in more than 60 languages.
PH’s monthly prayer requests are used in 70 languages.

English

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The statistic of 27 million slaves is just a number until you meet one of the victims. Cami Oprescu, Project Hannah's Romanian *Women of Hope* producer, interviewed several girls who were sold as sex slaves.

Melike was only 10 when her parents broke up. She was 12 when she and her mother left Turkey and moved to Romania to live with her grandparents. When her mother went to work, Melike was mistreated by her cousin. Then, one day, he sexually abused her. He told her not to tell anyone or he would harm her more. Not long afterwards, he kidnapped Melike and sold her. She was kept tied to a bed. Men beat and raped her for two weeks.

"There were so many men," she said. "I was only a child. I had never done the things they forced me to do. It was a nightmare. I hadn't eaten in a long time. They were drugging me."

Melike noticed there were other girls in the house. She could hear them crying. Then one day they took her to Bucharest and sold her to another brothel, where she was forced to service 20 men a night. A week later the police came and took Melike back to her mother.

Melike's misery did not end. Her cousin started abusing her again. She did not tell her mother because she was frightened and ashamed, and didn't think she would believe her. However, her mother noticed something was wrong and took Melike to a psychologist. They helped Melike find a safe place to live, and she was able to attend school again.

Melike said, *"We went to a church where there were many girls who were praying for me and I felt the touch of the Holy Spirit. I shall never forget that day and I would like to keep God in my heart just the way I found him on that day."*

PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

1 Women and young girls who are lured into the illegal and highly profitable industry of transporting and selling people for the purpose of sex trafficking. The United Nations revealed that 27 percent of all victims of human trafficking are children. Girls make up two-thirds of all trafficked children. Women and girls together make up 75-80% of human-trafficking victims.

2 Teenage girls in India who are in danger of being sold and forced to "marry" men for one month. Pray that clients and family members will be arrested for abusing these children. www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/india/9993453/Teenager-exposes-Indias-one-month-wives-sex-tourism.html

3 Women caught in poverty and hopelessness to be very cautious of "job offers" that promise them a better life. Many of these jobs are actually sex-slavery traps. As they arrive in the new country to which they are lured, their passports are taken, they are warned that they are in the country illegally, and they are forced to be prostitutes.

4 The 63 production teams of Project Hannah's *Women of Hope* as they prepare programmes and seminars that help women understand the dangers of seeking jobs in unfamiliar places far away from their home communities.

5 Safety for people who are trying to rescue girls from prostitution. Criminals are not happy when their lucrative businesses are hindered. Pray for women who escaped, only to have their children and other family members threatened.

6 Those watching *La Promesa* ("The Promise"), a drama series that reveals the plight of thousands of people in search of their dreams, but the search traps them in slavery. The series reveals how trafficking operates and has already been aired in Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and Puerto Rico.

7 Elise, a 77-year-old woman who goes out every Friday night with a little cart of chocolates, Bibles, and MP3s with *Women of Hope* programmes to share with women on the streets. Pray also for her church, St. Klara, in downtown Stockholm, Sweden. They have a tremendous ministry to drug addicts, drunkards, prostitutes, refugees, and the homeless, to whom they serve 350 meals a day with a team of only 11 people.

8 Iana Matei, a very determined woman who operates *Reaching Out* in Pitesti, Romania. This safe house has helped 460 teen victims who were rescued from human trafficking. Pray for Iana's protection against angry pimps. (<http://www.reachingout.ro/index.php?page=2>).

9 Women and girls who were forced into prostitution. Ask that they come to know God's love and accept his gift of salvation. Pray for Melike and Betty, who were baptised in April in Romania. Pray that they will continue to grow in their relationship with God as they serve him daily.

10 Project Hannah-Cambodia's partnership with Hagar International, the two organisations working together to help women and girls in Cambodia who have been rescued from forced prostitution.

11 The World Evangelical Alliance task force on human trafficking and its efforts to raise awareness among 420 million evangelical Christians worldwide. Pray as they develop actions and tools that will help equip local churches and their leaders to become responsive to the victims of trafficking.

12 Young girls and women physically and emotionally traumatised by violent acts. Ask that they will come to know God's restoration and healing through Jesus Christ. Many are in despair and consider suicide as an escape from the torment of being locked away, beaten, starved, and raped when they resist their pimps.

13 Awareness campaigns and volunteers in various countries who distribute leaflets and posters to inform women of the dangers of accepting work from strangers. Pray that government agencies will use the media to reveal the truth behind these fake job offers and promises of a better life.

14 Tourists, workers, students, military personnel, and businessmen to understand that many of the women they hire as prostitutes are being forced to serve them. Pray that these men will turn from their evil ways and offer to help women escape their captors (Ezekiel 33:11).

15 Organisations, such as *Scarlet Cord* and *Defend Dignity*, that reach out to prostitutes. *"Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked"* (Psalm 82:3-4).