



GRACE

Governor's Response Against Child Exploitation



Monday, January 11: *Pray for an end to human trafficking.*

Helpful Context:

- Human trafficking occurs when force, fraud, or coercion is used to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex from another person. Causing a child to engage in the commercial sex trade is human trafficking regardless of whether the exploiter uses force, fraud, or coercion.
- Human trafficking can occur in a variety of legitimate and illegitimate industries, such as labor trafficking in agriculture, domestic work, beauty services, and restaurants or sex trafficking in escort services, pornography, cantinas, and illicit massage businesses.
- This roughly [3-minute animation](#) from Texas Christian University accurately, succinctly, and artfully describes the realities of child sexual exploitation and how we can help survivors heal.
- [Be the One](#) is a powerful training documentary from the Office of the Attorney General that features actual cases prosecuted in Texas to educate viewers.
- January 11 is also National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. In recognition of this day, the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign promotes [#WearBlueDay](#) and encourages the public to wear blue and raise awareness of human trafficking.

Sample Prayers:

- Baptist
Oh God, my heart is broken for the sin of Human Trafficking. Break the hearts of others of faith and add to the number those who have their eyes opened to see the evil one behind it all. You have declared "freedom for the captives". May we work together to make the day when humans have no desire or means to exploit another human being.
By the truth of Freedom that is in Christ, I pray. Amen.
Read Isaiah 61:1-4. (God declares deliverance)
- Catholic
Intercessory prayer: As we begin a week of Prayer to End Human Trafficking, may we be inspired to act in our local communities to support and protect survivors of human trafficking, we pray to the Lord.

For reflection: As Catholics, we believe in the dignity of every human life and vigorously oppose human trafficking and modern-day slavery as it contravenes basic human dignity.
- Episcopalian
Good and gracious God, you have made humankind in your image, yet we fail to see that likeness in one another and inflict pain and suffering upon others in this human family. Help us to remember that how we treat others is how we treat you. Forgive us for our failure to love and care for one another. Use us to bring about your Kingdom here on earth.
In Christ's name we pray, Amen



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- Jewish
Eloheinu v'Elohei Avoteinu -- God and God of Our Ancestors
May we privilege love and friendship. May you frustrate those who seek to exploit, and uphold those who seek good. We meditate on Your kindness. Let us learn from those who have come before us and let us have the vision to improve upon the world for those who will inherit it from us, for Your glory reaches the ends of the earth.
Ufros aleinu sukkat sh'lomecha.
May the shelter of your peace spread over us and over all who dwell on earth.
- Muslim
You are the most gracious most merciful. In your name we ask for an end to the injustice of forceful manipulation and abuse of men women and children in our state and around the globe.

The sample prayers above were graciously provided by the following GRACE members:

- *Pastor Jay Abernathy of First Baptist Church Woodville*
- *Jennifer Allmon and the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops*
- *Lisa Francisco and the Human Trafficking Prayer Team at St. Martin's Episcopal*
- *Rabbi Neil Blumofe of Congregation Agudas Achim*
- *Imam Islam Mossaad of North Austin Muslim Community Center*