



GRACE

Governor's Response Against Child Exploitation



Wednesday, January 13: *Pray for all those working on the front line to support survivors.*

Helpful Context:

- Advocates and service providers work tirelessly to provide shelter, crisis intervention, and ongoing case management to victims. While many do not understand the trauma endured by survivors or fail to recognize their dignity, these programs provide the supportive trust-based relationships and services that help survivors heal and thrive. Considering the complex needs of survivors and the intensive nature of these causes, those working on the front line may experience vicarious trauma and burnout.
- When asked what made the biggest difference in exiting their exploitation, many survivors name an individual rather than a program or service. Advocates on the front line often have the opportunity to build bonds of trust and begin the journey of healing from years of relational trauma.
- Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) Advocacy is a critical component of the Texas approach to addressing child sex trafficking. Review [this flyer](#) more information on CSEY (pronounced "see-say") Advocates.
- For information about services available to survivors, visit the [National Human Trafficking Hotline Referral Directory](#).

Sample Prayers:

- Baptist
Thank you, Oh God, for those souls that are giving of themselves to identify and recover those rescued from Human Trafficking. These workers carry the heavy burden of knowing the inhuman acts of human beings against another. Help them as they persist in the face of incredible odds to reclaim broken lives by letting them know how beautiful and valuable they are to you, oh God!
With awareness of the cost Jesus paid to speak peace into lives, I pray. Amen.
Read Matthew 5:1-12 (Jesus celebrates hunger and labor for righteousness and peace)
- Catholic
Intercessory prayer: For children, especially those in our own community, who are vulnerable to human trafficking and slavery, that loving and caring adults may help them find safety and healing, we pray to the Lord.

For reflection: "It becomes easy for the trafficker to offer his own 'services' to the victims, who often do not even vaguely suspect what awaits them. In some cases, there are women and girls who are destined to be exploited almost like slaves in their work, and not infrequently in the sex industry too." – Pope Benedict XVI "Migration: A Sign of the Times," Message for the World Day of Refugees and Migrants in 2006



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- **Episcopalian**

Lord you are a God of love and we know love conquers all and glorifies you.
You are our protector and we are asking you to please protect and guide the front line advocates and agency providers.
Please provide them with the wisdom and patience when working with the survivors.
The human trafficking agencies and advocates work hard to help those who need rescuing.
Please guide them and give them the knowledge and discernment to help those who need their help.
We pray Lord you will work through the front line workers as they are helping and comforting the survivors.
Place a hedge of protection around them.
We pray the survivors will trust the advocates and know they are loved and not alone.
Lord you did not give us the spirit of fear.
We pray for the fearlessness of the providers and survivors.
Lord hear our prayers and protect us, give us the strength and endurance for the long road ahead of us. Amen
- **Jewish**

Ribbono shel Olam -- Master of This World
Your ways are secret ways, and we seek to be your partners in this world. Do not abandon us do not forsake us.
Bless with endurance and resilience those working every day to support survivors.
May their bodies be strong and their minds sharp -- so they can be Your instrument -- a source of love and hope.
May they know that they are not alone -- so they may be spared emotional pain. May they be blessed with sweet circles of support to refresh their head, heart, and hands, every day.
Kavei el Hashem, hazak v'ya'ametiz libecha v'kavei el Hashem
Hope in God, be strong and take courage -- hope in God.
- **Muslim**

O All-Seeing and All-Hearing, you see and know the work of advocates, counselors, faith leaders, and policy makers to eradicate the scourge of exploitation. Be with them at their side and in front of them as they work in your cause.

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*