



GRACE

Governor's Response Against Child Exploitation



Thursday, January 14: *Pray for survivors to find healing.*

Helpful Context:

- Victims of trafficking are often hiding in plain sight – held prisoner by fear, shame, and the trauma bonds that their traffickers create to manipulate and control them. Victimization may go unnoticed for years, and many victims do not even realize they are victims; they believe what their exploiters tell them – that they are willing participants in the abuse.
- Trafficking survivors often experience complex trauma and a loss of self-identity as well as serious financial and healthcare issues. These difficulties create barriers to securing safe and stable housing as well as educational and career advances. Complex trauma takes a lifetime of healing.
- It is also critical that our strategies to address human trafficking are informed by survivors. Their perspective is irreplaceable, and their resilience is an inspiration.

Sample Prayers:

- **Baptist**
Creator. Sustainer. Redeemer. You alone can perform the miracle of restoring what “locusts have eaten.” Please use your Holy Spirit to speak peace and hope to the ones victimized by Human Trafficking. Share Grace to their hearts as they hear from caregivers that they are not to blame for the victimization and silence with powerful wrath those who would imagine or speak otherwise. Remind me how you have restored much in me and are able to do more than I could ever imagine in the lives of those who are trafficked.
In the name of Jesus Christ who has reached all the way to us, I pray. Amen.
Read Luke 6:6-10 (Jesus restores those others ignore)
- **Catholic**
Intercessory prayer: For survivors of human trafficking, that they might find the support they need to start a new life, we pray to the Lord.

For reflection: Helping someone escape from slavery is just a first step in their path toward healing. Often the survivor of human trafficking needs a community to support him/her. Victims may need help to pay off debts, secure housing, learn new skills and find and keep decent employment. Children may need a foster home to escape their abusers.
- **Episcopalian**
Almighty God, we pray to you for the survivors of human trafficking.
Thank you for providing the means for them to be freed from their captivity.
Place in their lives safe people who can lead them to healing and wholeness.
Replace trauma and sorrow with joy and a renewed spirit.



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Strengthen the hearts of survivors and encourage each of them to be a light of hope to other survivors in their journey to recovery. Amen

- Jewish

Rofeh Cholim -- Healer of the Ill

You heal us in body, soul, and mind. You are the healer of the brokenhearted and you banish trauma and difficulty. Feed us with Your richest wheat; with the sweetest honey from the rock. Allow us to walk on your holy paths, each of us in our way, open to your miracles of a new day. This day, this is the day that You have made. We are to rejoice and be glad in it, appreciative for our life and for Your creation.

Ana El Na Refa Na Lah

Please God, Heal Our Dear Ones Soon

- Muslim

We ask you to heal the wounds of the abused and exploited and that they come out more whole as they are sacred souls in your Eyes.

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*