



GRACE

Governor's Response Against Child Exploitation



Friday, January 15: *Pray for all those working to bring traffickers and exploiters to justice.*

Helpful Context:

- Traffickers, buyers, and those who profit from exploitation must be held accountable. Law enforcement and the justice system play a critical role in disrupting trafficking operations. These cases are often complicated to investigate and prosecute, and research indicates that misidentification of victims is a common problem across the country. Dedicated resources, training, and community support are important factors in law enforcement's ability to stop exploiters.
- Traffickers often use their victims to shield themselves from liability. Efforts to seek justice should include strategies to prevent victims from being punished for the actions of their traffickers. Survivors with criminal records stemming from their victimization have legal access to cleaning up those records and pursuing a fresh start.

Sample Prayers:

- Baptist
Dear God, you love justice and promise you will pour it out like a raging river. Please give wisdom and integrity to the ones who have prepared and been placed by you to uphold the law, protecting victims. Give them a bottomless well of endurance. Protect them, their families and coworkers from retribution. Strengthen their will against the victimizer and soften their hearts to the victims.
Reward their efforts I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.
Read Amos 5:7-10, 24 (God's desire for justice will have no end)
- Catholic
Intercessory prayer: For law enforcement, that God grant them the wisdom to recognize situations of forced labor and sexual slavery, while working to protect its victims and punish its perpetrators, we pray to the Lord.

For reflection: "Such situations are an affront to fundamental values which are shared by all cultures and peoples, values rooted in the very nature of the human person. The alarming increase in the trade in human beings...presents a serious threat to the security of individual nations and a question of international justice which cannot be deferred." – Pope John Paul II, Letter on the Occasion of the 2002 Conference: "Twenty-First Century Slavery – The Human Rights Dimension to Trafficking in Human Beings"
- Episcopalian
God of justice and mercy, stir us through your Spirit to be your instruments of healing and peace. Bless those who heed your call for justice and mercy for the enslaved and vulnerable.



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Keep them safe from those who enrich themselves through the selling of human lives. And grant them your peace as they directly confront evil in our midst. We ask this in the name of your Son, our savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

- Jewish

El Shaddai -- God Almighty

You know our ways in this world. You encourage us in a relentless pursuit of justice. Let us devote our time to protecting the well-being of those wronged in Your world. Pour out Your blessings on this land and on those who work for the public good, so that peace, tranquility, happiness and freedom shall forever be present. Let holiness befit your world for eternity.

Tzedek, tzedek tirdof

Justice, justice you shall pursue

- Muslim

You are the Mighty in Defense of the Oppressed. Let those working to stop trafficking and fighting against exploitation be your Hand of Justice especially against those perpetrators who are unrepentant.

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*