

Sample Prayers: Jewish

The sample prayers found here were graciously provided by Rabbi Neil F. Blumofe, GRACE member and Senior Rabbi at Congregation Agudas Achim.

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

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.

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 that 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.

Tuesday, January 12: *Pray for prevention efforts and those who are vulnerable.*

Av Harahamim -- Master of Comfort

May strength come from our awareness:

so we can support each other and recognize the beauty inherent in each of Your human creations. Let us champion the vulnerable.

May compassion come from our noticing:

so we take care to uplift every living soul and provide those in need with our gentle attention. Let us rescue the needy.

May wisdom come from our action:

so we can unite across communities to look after each other, joining in common cause to protect those vulnerable and at risk, renewing life and connection. Let us encourage the just.

Oseh shalom bimromav hu ya'asei shalom aleinu v'al kol Yisrael v'al kol yoshvei teivel

May the One who creates peace on high bring peace to us and to all Israel, and to all who dwell on earth.

Helpful Context:

- Traffickers are master manipulators and prey upon vulnerabilities. Examples of risk factors for human trafficking include: homelessness; economic insecurity; runaway youth; prior histories of abuse; forced displacement; and irregular migration.
- Research suggests that a healthy, trust-based relationships can prevent youth from entering a cycle of exploitation and that those same relationships are pivotal in helping exploited youth to successfully exit their exploitation. Research has also found the presence of a caring adult to be related to numerous positive outcomes in the lives of vulnerable teens and young adults.
- In Texas, schools are required to provide access to age-appropriate, research-based education to help protect children from sexual abuse and trafficking. Many organizations are doing great work to provide students, teachers, and caregivers with access to quality prevention education. Others are focused on addressing root causes of exploitation such as poverty, homelessness, and childhood trauma. These efforts are essential for moving upstream and stopping trafficking before it occurs.

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

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 everyday 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.

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](#).

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

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

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.

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

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

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.

Saturday, January 16: *Pray for an end to demand and societal factors that lead to exploitation.*

El Elyon -- God of the Most High

You know us. Help us to choose life at all times. May we see ourselves as part of the grand scheme of your creation knowing that we have the power to improve systems, anointed with choicest oil. May we see the Divine in others and appreciate the blessings that exist in community. May we privilege the development of our children and help them grow and flourish in our care, like the palm tree, fresh and fragrant.

Ani v'atah nishneh et ha'olam. Ani v'atah az yavo'u k'var kulam.

You and I will change the world. Then everyone will join us.

Helpful Context:

- Sex trafficking would simply not be profitable without demand. Sex buyers drive the market for the illegal sex trade. From May 2019 – June 2020, CEASE Texas identified over 1 million unique online advertisements for commercial sex across 6 Texas cities. We should consider the roles of technology, pornography, sexually oriented businesses, and a hypersexualized culture in facilitating an environment that normalizes exploitation and facilitates demand.

- Labor trafficking is also impacted by demand. The demand for cheap goods and cheap labor can result in worker exploitation and slavery in supply chains. In 2020, the U.S. Department of Labor identified 155 goods from 77 countries produced by child or forced labor.

Sunday, January 17: *Pray for discernment on the actions you can personally take to address human trafficking.*

El Roi -- God Who Sees Me

Allow me to be of help in this world. Give me discernment and inspiration to utilize what I have in order to improve the lives of others. Let me learn and teach others. Guide me as a mentor. Remind us that we have clean hands and a pure heart as we seek You. Lift high your lintels and open your ancient doors. Encourage me to take my life seriously and open insight to me, so I may see the enduring holiness of other human beings.

Ani ma'amin be'emunah shleimah, b'viat hamashiach.

I believe with perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah. And even if the Messiah will be late, I will still wait.

Helpful Context:

- Every Texan has an opportunity to join the fight against human trafficking, whether by educating friends, mentoring vulnerable youth, being a conscious consumer, financially supporting trusted organizations, or reporting suspicious activity.
- What can you do about human trafficking? [Be the O.N.E. – Observe. Notify. Empower.](#)
- Explore [10 ways you can help end trafficking](#) and learn more about how [faith-based and community organizations](#) can be involved.