

Sample Prayers: Muslim

The sample prayers found here were graciously provided by Imam Islam Mossaad, GRACE member and Imam for the North Austin Muslim Community Center.

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

Sample Prayer: 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.

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.*

Sample Prayer: We especially ask you Dear God to be the Protector of each and every child in our state and make us a means of comfort and guidance for those who have none to look after them.

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.*

Sample Prayer: 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.

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.*

Sample Prayer: 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.

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.*

Sample Prayer: 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.

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.*

Sample prayer: We ask you Most Holy to forgive us our sins and weaknesses and that we do not manifest our inner sickness as abuse to any woman, man, or child. We ask that we grow strong moral families in Texas that love and fear you.

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.*

Sample prayer: Our Lord light our path and make us vessels of your mercy and justice. Let us be your kindness and your love in this world.

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.