

INVOCATIONS PRAYERS

18th OCTOBER 2015

EUROPEAN ANTI-TRAFFICKING DAY



In this prayer service, we express our sincere concern for and solidarity and support with every sister or brother who are victims of human trafficking. Through the lighting of candles and placing them in the center of the circle with each of the participants of the prayer service, we intend to symbolically shine a light into the darkness in which there are so many victims of human trafficking who are crying out for our help and who are struggling to be rescued from capture. By this gesture, we also say one or more of these invocation prayer/s while the participants respond with the exclamation *Amen/Amin* (*Amin* is exclamation in Islamic religion).

1. God, help us as we stand for the liberation of people from racial, ethnic, religious or any other discrimination. *Amen/Amin.*
2. God, speak to people's hearts and help all those who are committed to fighting corruption. *Amen/Amin.*
3. God, defend the dignity of people who are deprived of their rights and whose documents were forcibly taken away. *Amen/Amin.*
4. God, enlighten all legislators to make just laws that will defend the dignity of every person. *Amen/Amin.*
5. God, have mercy on all the poor and open up our hearts and hands in order to seek ways and means of liberating our poor neighbours. *Amen/Amin.*
6. God, deliver us from the constant pursuit of the accumulation of wealth, often a source of unworthy ideas for both ourselves and for our loved ones. *Amen/Amin.*
7. God, bless all who dream of a better life and hear their sincere prayers. *Amen/Amin.*

8. God, deliver us from poverty and lack of education which are common causes of dreams of a better life and vulnerability to human trafficking. *Amen/Amin.*
9. God, let all the people on earth find employment and find just rewards for their work. *Amen/Amin.*
10. God have mercy on all those who are looking for a cheap labour force. Speak to their hearts and enable them to value the work of all employees. *Amen/Amin.*
11. God, let victims have the courage to report domestic violence and to live in peace and coexistence with relatives and friends. *Amen/Amin.*
12. God, grant freedom to all who are detained as victims of trafficking in human organs. *Amen/Amin.*
13. God, bless all who contribute education, enabling others acquire enlightenment. *Amen/Amin.*
14. God, give us strength to encourage children and youth and to give thanks and help to our neighbours. *Amen/Amin.*
15. God, release children and adults who are forced to distribute drugs. *Amen/Amin.*
16. God, release children who are forced to become soldiers. *Amen/Amin.*
17. God, release adopted children and adults from unworthy adopters. *Amen/Amin.*
18. God, release children and adults who are exposed to the pressures of begging. *Amen/Amin.*
19. God, have mercy on all those who are victims of the sex industry and release them. *Amen/Amin.*
20. God, have mercy on all who offer sex in the tourism industry. Let their minds, hearts and souls accept the correct livelihoods and be liberated to live in dignity. *Amen/Amin.*
21. God, help us stop people from using the dignity of the human body as a source of income. *Amen/Amin.*
22. God, help medical research to find ways of treating people with sexually transmitted diseases. *Amen/Amin.*
23. God, make known the ways and means by which victims are controlled, leading to further abuse. *Amen/Amin.*
24. God hear the prayers of people who are socially isolated and who have become hostages. *Amen/Amin.*
25. God, defend the dignity of all who are exposed to emotional pressure. *Amen/Amin.*
26. God, enlighten and direct victims whose self-esteem is violated. *Amen/Amin.*
27. God have mercy on all the victims who are subjected to the Mafia, any military and police personnel, the local lords and some neighbours who participate in the abuse of individuals and groups. *Amen/Amin.*
28. God, intervene in the deception of people who think that " life in the West " is a better one. *Amen/Amin.*
29. God, provide release for victims who are blackmailed under threat. *Amen/Amin.*
30. God, strengthen and improve the institutions that are committed to the rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking. *Amen/Amin.*
31. God, we pray for the unification of national, international, religious and interfaith institutions to help in identifying and assisting the victims of human trafficking. *Amen/Amin.*
32. God, encourage professionals to get involved in volunteering in therapeutic communities and to serve all victims of abuse. *Amen/Amin.*

33. God, encourage and free every victim, especially women and children, who are the victims of human trafficking. *Amen/Amin.*
34. God, fulfil the hopes and hear the cries of the victims who are detained, release them from their misery. *Amen/Amin.*
35. God, break the chains and shackles of traffickers who are engaged in recruiting new victims which increases the trafficking chain. *Amen/Amin.*
36. God, expose all those involved in the chain of child pornography. *Amen/Amin.*
37. God soften the hearts of those who cause the starvation of people and enlighten their thoughts so they become aware of their acts of abuse. *Amen/Amin.*
38. God, encourage, help and motivate every human heart in search of ways of rescuing victims of human trafficking. *Amen/Amin.*
39. God, grant every one of us the will to participate in the recognition of and help to release victims of human trafficking. *Amen/Amin.*
40. God, make us willing to help in the processes of integration and rehabilitation of the victims of human trafficking. *Amen/Amin.*
41. God, open our eyes and intensify our sensitivity so that we do not refuse and try to avoid problems related to human trafficking, thinking that they are happening "elsewhere ". *Amen/Amin.*
42. God, help us not to buy products that are produced or fabricated by victims of trafficking who did not receive a fair and just salary for their work. *Amen/Amin.*
43. God, encourage our hearts in order to develop a bridge of solidarity and true commitment to working against all that is at the root-cause of human trafficking. *Amen/Amin.*
44. God, make us willing to believe that as a community of human beings, we are all members of your one great family. Grant us your grace to live by the laws of love and friendship. *Amen/Amin.*
45. God, strengthen and protect members of our families so that none would become a victim of trafficking. *Amen/Amin.*
46. God, guide our steps along the right path so that we will find sympathy, compassion and ways to help all who are injured. *Amen/Amin.*
47. God, deliver every person in her/his life's journey from credulity. *Amen/Amin.*
48. God, grant us the gifts of fortitude and discernment in our friendships, kinship and neighbourliness. *Amen/Amin.*
49. God, help us to overcome every barrier we encounter on the path of liberation of trafficking victims. *Amen/Amin.*
50. God, purify our ideas, plans and desires. *Amen/Amin.*
51. God, bless meetings in our religious community so that we can contribute to raising awareness of the issue of human trafficking and to cooperate in helping the victims. *Amen/Amin.*
52. God, we thank you for this useful time spent in prayer and for the opportunity to gain deeper understanding of those around us who are injured victims of human trafficking. *Amen/Amin.*

Written by: *Sr Milka Zečević-Tadić,*

Congregation of Notre Dame Sisters-Zagreb, Croatia