



Prayer Vigil

“Together against Human Trafficking!”

8 February 2019, St Paul’s Cathedral, Tirana

Opening Song:

MISERICORDIAS

Misericordias Domini, in aeternum cantabo (2x)

Mëshirës sate o Zoti im, në amshim do t’i këndoj (2x)

Welcome: Alfred Matoshi

Introduction to the theme: Mrs. Rovena Voda, Anti-trafficking Coordinator / Ministry of Interior;

Leader: Prayer, Brikena Puka, Vatra Center

(Pope Francis, 12 February 2018)

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering.

Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church.

O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity.

Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.

Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds.

We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us.

Narrator 1: Syrie Pepa, Different and Equal;

Today, let us together celebrate the fifth World Day of Prayer and Reflection against Human Trafficking.

Narrator 2: Ana Majko, ARSIS Initiatives

Only **together** can we walk the long road to freedom, promote the dignity of every person, only **together** can we fulfil our potential as persons, **together**, as sisters and brothers, daughters and sons of the same Father. Yes, "Together, against trafficking"!

(People with their faces painted white or with white masks and dressed the same enter

As they come in, they carry a map of the world and the 5 candles with bows or coloured cloths of the continents.

The candles will be placed on the altar at the front of The Cathedral

They set down the candles and the world map, and people come in with posters with the following words:

- There have never been as many slaves in history as there are today.*
- 72% of those trafficked are women*
- 30% of trafficked persons are girls and boys*
- Human trafficking happens in every country in the world*
- Illegal profits from sexual exploitation is equal to two-thirds of the profit from human trafficking overall.*
- Iara, 13, was trafficked into a forced marriage.*
- Karim is 8 years old and is one of the many children trafficked and exploited in the textile industry.*
- Jamil, got into debt trying to feed his family. Threatened, he gave a kidney to pay the debt.*

The people who came in with the posters stop and stand at different points of the church and read what is written on their poster.

They will then place the posters on the stands provided on either side of the altar.)

Narrator 1:

Let us join our voices to the cries of anguish of so many of our sisters and brothers, let us reach out to them and go beyond our world, to break down the barriers that we have built and that divide us. Let us together find the courage to move beyond ourselves and undertake the concrete path of solidarity. Together, as members of the one human family to which we belong.

Narrator 2:

We pray with our brothers and sisters who suffer the violence of trafficking and together we proclaim

(Psalm 13):

All together:

How long, Lord, will you continue to forget about us?

Reader 1: How long will you forget our pain, our chains, our dream of living and working with dignity, our desire to study, to be respected?

Reader 2:

How long will you hide your face from us, with the arrogance of those who exploit us and in the indifference of those who do not want to see?

All together:

How long, Lord, will you continue to forget about us?

Reader 3:

How long will the thoughts and worries that make our days sad weigh down our souls?

Reader 4:

How long will those who treat us badly keep us in subjugation?

All together:

We will now listen to witnesses that help us understand the importance of joining forces and acting together against human trafficking. At the end of each witness we will all say, hand in hand:

Solidarity Message from Honorable Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. Leyla Moses-Ones,

Song on Film with Actions: Something inside myself – so strong....

Witness 1: UNITED RESPONSE AGAINST TRAFFICKING (URAT): Albania
All together, holding hands: **Together we can fight human trafficking.**

Witness 2: World Day of Prayer and Reflection against Trafficking: February 8.
All together, holding hands: **Together we can fight human trafficking.**

Witness 3: National Referral Mechanisms Across the World including Albania.
All together, holding hands: **Together we can fight human trafficking;**

Witness 4: Religious and Co Workers in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation (RENATE).

Altogether, holding hands: **Together we can fight human trafficking**

Reader 1: Teach us to look at our world with eyes full of compassion and mercy.

Reader 2: Teach us to have the courage not to surrender to those whose words are full of hatred, violence and death.

Altogether, hand in hand: Together we can oppose the trafficking of people.

Reader 3:

We trust in your commitment; your Word gives us the courage to dare. Our hearts rejoice with joy for your salvation, our God.

Reader 4:

O Lord, let us sing to you, he who has shown us the path to freedom and goodness.

All together, hand in hand: Together we can oppose human trafficking.

Narrator1: Together, we can combat human trafficking. That is why we are called to build communities, spaces of encounter among ourselves, both with our neighbours and with those who are distant. The Word of God calls us together, unites us and enlightens us.

Biblical Reading: Luke 4:14-21 (The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...)

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Silent Meditation then Don Marjam Lumci Says a few words on the reading in relationship to the mission against HT.

MC leading:

We will now speak to those near to us and speak about a common commitment which your small group would like to make work against Human Trafficking. Write this on your sticker.

When this has been done all those with a sticker and the commitment written on it go forward to the front where two of the youth will be holding a basket to receive the stickers.

Once this is done the youth go onto the altar and light all of the candles a symbol of the commitment to work together.

At the same time as this prayer and the lighting of the candles the other youth will begin to wind threads in different colours around all the people present in the church weaving a large net over and around the people present.

Quiet music will be playing throughout this time of meditation and prayer together and the following prayers will be said:

Narrator 1: Prayer unites us, brings us closer together, makes us sisters and brothers, helps us to overcome divisions, fears and frees us from evil. Let us pray, together, with the words that Jesus taught us, which enable us to discover that we are sisters and brothers in God.

Narrator 2: During the prayer, let us allow the coloured threads to wind through us, Ointertwining our lives, our beings, into a great network of solidarity:

All together:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Reader 1: Deliver us from all forms of exploitation.

ALL: Deliver us from evil.

Reader 2: Deliver us from racial discrimination.

All: Deliver us from evil.

Reader 3: Deliver us from our greed to possess.

All: Deliver us from evil.

Reader 4: Deliver us from the sense of superiority and the desire to dominate.

All: Deliver us from evil.

Final Words led by the Deputy Ambassador of OSCE, Mr. Robert Wilton.

Narrator 1: O Lord, deliver us from every evil, and grant us peace and freedom. With the help of your mercy, we will live as sisters and brothers. Together, with your support, we commit ourselves to build a world in which everyone is respected in their dignity, offering simple gestures of hope and solidarity.

All together: Amen.

Narrator 2:

We have prayed together for an end to human trafficking. Let us continue, together, to commit ourselves and to collaborate so that every woman, man, child and child may be recognized and respected in their dignity and may and should each of us here present find the courage to feel responsible for one another.

Narrator 1:

Let us recite the concluding prayer together

(Etty Hillesum): **All together:**

Dear God, these are anxious times. One thing is becoming increasingly clear to me: that You cannot help us, that we must help You to help ourselves.

And that is all we can manage these days and also all that really matters: that we

safeguard that little piece of You, God, in ourselves. And perhaps in others as well.

Alas, there doesn't seem to be much You Yourself can do about our circumstances,

About our lives. Neither do I hold You responsible. You cannot help us, but we must

help You and defend Your dwelling place inside us to the last.

Final Song:

Bless the Lord, my soul

Do ta bekoj Zotin,
Dhe emrin e Tij të shenjtë.
Do ta bekoj Zotin,
Që jetën ma dhuroi.

Bless the Lord, my soul
And bless God's holy name
Bless the Lord, my soul
Who leads me into life