

Turn on the Light

A SOLIDARITY WALK FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

MATERIALS

- Audio-visual equipment and internet access to show videos
- Baskets large enough to collect letters
- Bible, open to Matthew 5:13-16
- Candles for each participant: Consider purchasing fair trade candles with a prayer for human trafficking from [Prosperity Candle](#).
 - Optional: Get enough candles to line the route of your solidarity walk.
- Copies of this solidarity vigil for leader, cantor, and readers
- Copies of the letters to your members of Congress personalized for your community as appropriate (see options for the letter in the “Preparation” section and the sample letters on pages 8-9)
- Lighter or matches
- Music for song, [“Christ, Be Our Light,” Bernadette Farrell, OCP](#) and song sheets for participants
- Pens for participants
- Symbolic objects to represent each story:
 1. For first station: Fair trade coffee and other fair trade items, if available
 2. For second station: Books, cards, pens
 3. For optional third station: An item to represent a local story (see “Preparation” section)
- Video, [“Turn on the Light I Help Stop Human Trafficking,”](#) from CRS’ YouTube channel
- Video, [“Lead, Kindly Light,”](#) from CRS’ YouTube channel or reflective music

PREPARATION

- This prayer vigil is designed as a solidarity walk, where participants will begin in an indoor space and then prayerfully walk with candles to a few different stations to hear stories, and return indoors for the letter writing and closing prayer. The walk can be as simple as going around the building. If space or weather do not accommodate being outdoors, adjust as needed.
 1. Set up the indoor vigil space:
 - Light the candles and place them in a central space in front of the room/church.
 - Place baskets near the candles.
 - Put copies of the letter to Congress and pens near the baskets.
 - Test the videos.
 - Place a Bible and one copy of this solidarity vigil at the podium or lectern.
 2. Set up the outdoor walk:
 - Map out your walking route in advance.
 - Choose 2-3 places you’ll stop to hear each of the stories. Place the symbolic object that corresponds with the relevant story (see materials list and “Solidarity walk” section).
- Optional: Consider contacting the [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Anti-trafficking Program](#) or your [local Catholic Charities office](#) to see if there’s a local story about the Church’s work to combat human trafficking in your community that could be added as a third station.
- Optional: Line the route of your solidarity walk with lit candles.

- Invite and prepare cantor to lead the song, "[Christ, Be Our Light](#)," [Bernadette Farrell, OCP](#). Prepare song sheets with lyrics and make available to participants.
- Select and prepare one leader and 4-5 readers and give each a copy of this solidarity vigil with their part highlighted.
- Prepare someone to play the video(s) at the appropriate times.
- Prepare the letters to your members of Congress. We suggest two possible approaches for organizing the letter writing. Please choose the approach that will work best for your community:

OPTION 1: HAVE PARTICIPANTS IDENTIFY THEIR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DURING THE VIGIL.

- This option is preferable if participants represent many districts (i.e., a university setting where students are from different states or different parts of the state).
- This approach requires participants to access the internet. You can either set up laptops/tablets connected to Wi-Fi or rely on participants to use their smartphones.
- If you choose this option, make copies of each letter as is from pages 8-9* for each participant. Each participant will need three letters: one for each of their two senators and one for their representative.
- During the event, you will show participants how to identify their senators and representative, and how to address the letters. They will complete the letters with the date of the event and the name of the community (parish, school, etc.) that is hosting the solidarity vigil, and other information.
- During the letter-writing section, offer to show participants how to find their members of Congress online at confrontglobalpoverty.com/toolkit, using the "Find your district" button under the section labeled "Meet with Congress." Ask them to enter their ZIP code when prompted. After they enter it, the names of their two senators and representative will pop up. They should write the full names of their senators and representative at the top of their letters on the lines, "The Honorable _____" and Dear Senator(s)/Representative " _____"

OPTION 2: PREPARE THE LETTERS WITH THE NAMES OF THE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES BEFORE THE VIGIL.

- This option is preferable if the majority of participants are from the same state and district.
- Copy and paste the sample letter on pages 8–9* into documents with your institution's letterhead. Visit confrontglobalpoverty.com/toolkit and click on the "Find Your District" button under the "Meet With Congress" section. Enter the ZIP code where your institution is located. The names of your two senators and representative will pop up.
- Pre-address the letters to the senators and representative listed. Add the date of the event and the name of the community (parish, school, etc.) that is hosting the solidarity vigil.
- Print enough copies of the letters for each participant. Each participant will need three letters: one for each of their senators and one for their representative.

- *Please review page 11 of this document to see whether your representatives have already signed on to co-sponsor the Business Supply Chain bill. If they have, please use the thank you letter, on page 10, and address it to your Senator or Representative who has signed the bill. Please be sure to add, "United States Senate," or "United States House of Representatives," on the first full line. And, include the proper title, "Senator," or "Representative," before writing his/her name.
- Your letters will have the most impact if they are hand delivered to local offices. [Check out these tips](#) on how to set up a meeting with your member of Congress. And, after your visit, [let Catholics Confront Global Poverty know](#) you had a meeting and how it went.
- If you can't hand deliver the letters to members, it's best to mail them to their local or district offices. If you are mailing letters to several states and/or districts, be sure to mail the letters separately to each senator and representative. You can find senators' addresses by visiting www.senate.gov, and representatives by visiting www.house.gov.
- It helps to send along a copy of any press coverage of the solidarity vigil along with the letters. Also, be sure to follow up with each member of Congress you sent a letter to so you'll know whether they received it.



Welcome and opening prayer

LEADER: We gather together to pray for all those people who are victims of human trafficking.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit ...

God of Light,
We pray for all of the people--
men, women and children,
hidden in the darkness of slavery.

Help us shine your light into the
homes, streets, factories, and brothels
in our own neighborhoods and around the world
where people are enslaved.

The darkness is as light, to you, O Lord.
No person, in any corner of the world,
is hidden from your sight.
Help us shine your light.

Amen

Opening song

CANTOR TO LEAD: Christ Be Our Light, Bernadette Farrell, OCP

Gospel reading

READER ONE: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

[Jesus said:]

“You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” (Matthew 5:13-16)

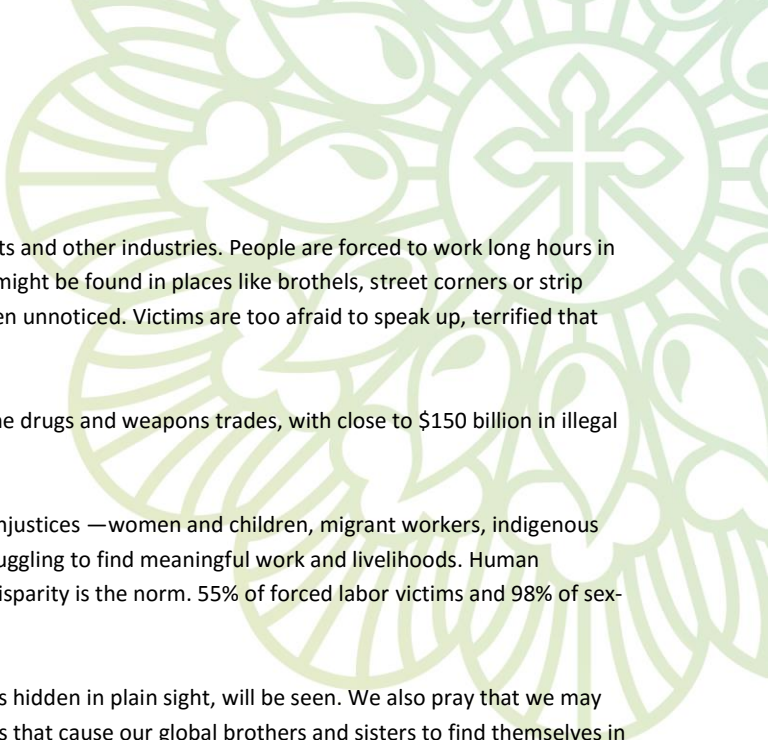
The Gospel of the Lord,

RESPONSE: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Turn on the light

LEADER: In the Gospel reading, Jesus says that we are the light of the world, sent to shine our light before others. Being the light and turning on the light ever more brightly mean that we are called to take time to pray about, educate others on, and take action to change the many social justice issues that are often kept hidden in the dark. As you may know, human trafficking is one such topic.

Human trafficking is modern slavery that happens in both our local communities and to our brothers and sisters around the world. Men, women and children are kidnapped or coerced into labor or sex trafficking.



Labor trafficking includes forced work in factories, farms, hotels, restaurants and other industries. People are forced to work long hours in poor conditions and are paid poorly or not at all. Victims of sex trafficking might be found in places like brothels, street corners or strip clubs. Human trafficking is an insidious evil, prevalent everywhere, but often unnoticed. Victims are too afraid to speak up, terrified that some greater harm will come to them or their families if they do.

Human trafficking is the third most profitable organized crime, following the drugs and weapons trades, with close to \$150 billion in illegal annual revenue.

Human traffickers often exploit those who are already facing intersecting injustices —women and children, migrant workers, indigenous people, and populations who are displaced, severely impoverished and struggling to find meaningful work and livelihoods. Human trafficking is most prevalent in societies where wide economic and social disparity is the norm. 55% of forced labor victims and 98% of sex-trafficking victims are women and girls.

Tonight, we pray that we might turn on the light so that victims, sometimes hidden in plain sight, will be seen. We also pray that we may turn on the light to the root causes of human trafficking —the many factors that cause our global brothers and sisters to find themselves in situations of desperation, forced to take risks in the hope of stable income for themselves and their families.

PLAY VIDEO: [“Turn on the Light I Help Stop Human Trafficking.”](#) from CRS’ YouTube channel

We will now listen to stories that help illustrate the darkness of labor and sex trafficking as well as pray for victims and reflect on ways we can turn on the light to this injustice. Please come up and take a lit candle, and then follow me as we begin a prayerful walk. We will sing the chorus of “Christ be Our Light” (or: keep silent) as we walk, and pause in two (or three) places to hear about and pray for victims of labor and sex trafficking. As we walk, we remember that trafficking victims are often forced from one place to another, or trafficked in places that we may travel by, but where they go unnoticed.

CANTOR TO LEAD: Chorus of “Christ Be Our Light,” Bernadette Farrell, OCP

PARTICIPANTS WALK OUTSIDE TO FIRST STATION.

Solidarity walk

READER TWO:

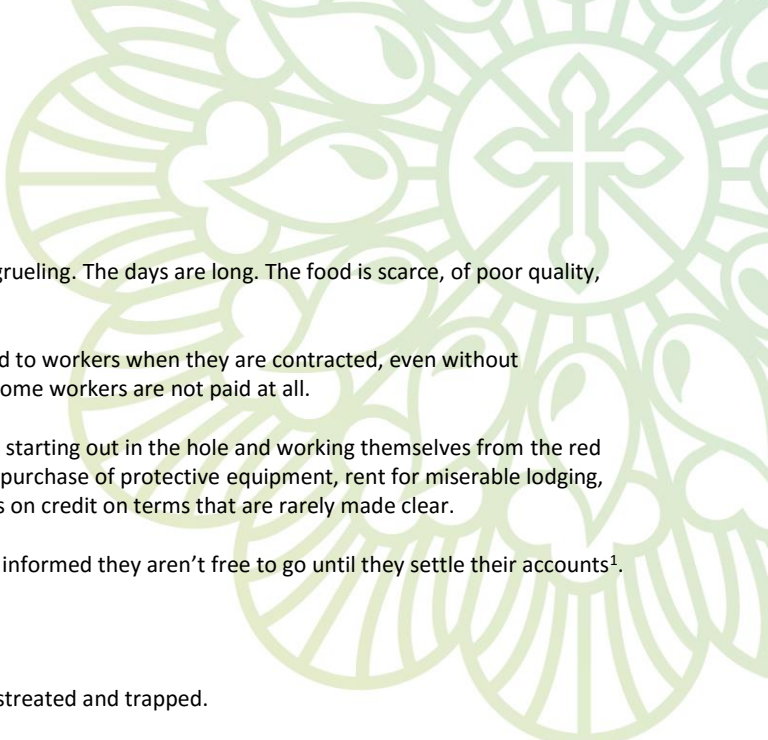
The story of modern slavery on Brazilian coffee farms often starts when workers are recruited by labor brokers known in Brazil as “gatos” and transported to remote farms.

Gatos often promise one set of wages and working conditions and deliver quite another. So while workers may be “freely accepting” their offers of employment, they do so under false pretenses, with a fraudulent understanding of what their work will entail, what it will pay or both.

The moment workers step onto the buses that will take them to the farms, they start incurring debt, since gatos charge workers for the trip to the work front. And the moment they leave their communities, they are cut off from the social support networks they would turn to in times of need—the distance between the farms where they work and the communities they call home is an important source of their vulnerability.

The living conditions on these coffee farms is squalid.

Imagine houses with dirt floors and no running water, bedrooms with no beds or any place to store clothes, a kitchen with no stoves or refrigeration to store food, no trash cans and no system for disposing of solid waste. Workers cook over open flames on the floor, sleep on thin mats on dirt floors, pile their trash on the ground near their houses, walk to fetch water and performs basic biological functions in forests and fields.



There is no access to water, bathrooms or shelter in the field. The work is grueling. The days are long. The food is scarce, of poor quality, expensive— or some combination of these. And breaks are limited.

Payments are often irregular and frequently less than the amount promised to workers when they are contracted, even without accounting for the deductions for lodging, food, supplies and equipment. Some workers are not paid at all.

From the moment they are contracted, workers begin piling up debt, often starting out in the hole and working themselves from the red into the black. Transport from their communities of origin to the farm, the purchase of protective equipment, rent for miserable lodging, food and supplies at company stores on the farm— are all given to workers on credit on terms that are rarely made clear.

Workers often have no idea they are in debt until they try to leave and are informed they aren't free to go until they settle their accounts¹.

[PAUSE]

God, help us turn on the light in farms and factories where laborers are mistreated and trapped.

One way we can help do this is by buying coffee, food and other goods that are made in ethical working conditions. We may not even realize that we help sustain human trafficking by purchasing coffee, for example, made on farms like the one we just heard described. Next time you go to the store, check to see whether what's on your grocery list is available "fair trade," even if it costs a few dollars more. As we just heard, sometimes a deal on our end comes at a great cost to someone else.

CANTOR TO LEAD: Chorus of "Christ Be Our Light," Bernadette Farrell, OCP

PARTICIPANTS WALK TO NEXT STATION.

READER THREE:

"If I had tried to escape, the brokers would have beaten me ... They kept wooden rods."

These were the words of 22-year-old Shanti, who was a victim of sex trafficking in India's brothels.

Shanti's path from a rural village to a big-city brothel was one that many young girls in India have unwittingly followed. Growing up in farm country, taking care of cattle and doing household chores, the teenage Shanti knew little about cities. And she knew nothing about human trafficking—the buying and selling of people into forced or unpaid begging, prostitution or labor. When a local moneylender encouraged Shanti to take a job as a housekeeper in the west coast city of Mumbai, she agreed to go there with him.

A few days later, Shanti realized something had gone terribly wrong. She said, "I was told he sold me and another girl for 60,000 rupees [\$1,200]."

Shanti worked for her "brokers" for three years, unable to leave. Once, she was sitting outside the brothel and her madam thought she was trying to escape. "The madam hit me with a burning stick," she said, and pulled down her collar to show a scar near her neck.

Shanti and other women in her brothel were finally set free by a police raid. They might have had nowhere to go but the streets—if not for a Catholic Relief Services partner in India that fights sex trafficking. Catholic Relief Services works on behalf of Catholics in the United States

¹ Story adapted from "This is What Modern Slavery Looks Like," CRS' Coffee Lands blog <http://coffeelands.crs.org/2015/12/this-is-what-modern-slavery-looks-like/>

to care for poor and vulnerable people in 100 countries worldwide.

Once rescued, the first step for Shanti was counseling. She was also offered life skills courses. Women often begin a slow process of healing from trauma that includes rehab for addiction, medical help and psychological intervention.

Many women escape prostitution only to find themselves drawn back in because they have no other options. Shanti learned bookbinding and was offered a job in the program's print shop. She and several dozen young women make business cards, notebooks and more².

*Name changed.

[PAUSE]

God, help us turn on the light in the brothels, street corners, and other horrible settings where women are victims of sex trafficking. May we support the work of Church—locally and around the world— to put an end to this crime as well as to help victims recover.

For more than a decade, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has been a national leader in the fight against sex and labor trafficking. USCCB and its partners have provided intensive case management services to victims of human trafficking, assisting more than 2,232 survivors and more than 500 of their family members. In addition, CRS has implemented more than 100 programs in more than 35 countries to reduce human trafficking and, through public-private initiatives, has recently engaged the corporate sector to help eradicate the worst forms of slave labor.

CANTOR TO LEAD: Chorus of "Christ Be Our Light," Bernadette Farrell, OCP

[OPTIONAL: PARTICIPANTS WALK TO NEXT STATION, WHICH WOULD HIGHLIGHT A LOCAL STORY.]

PARTICIPANTS WALK BACK INDOORS TO THEIR SEATS.

Letter writing

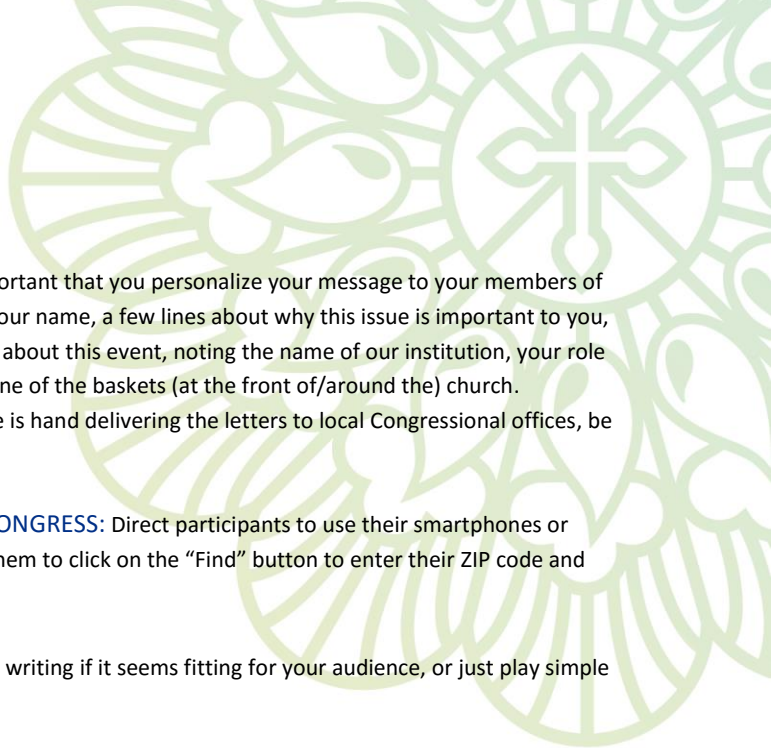
LEADER: We should not only support efforts to rescue and reintegrate victims into society, but we need to stop human trafficking by exposing the infrastructure that allows it to flourish, working with governments to prevent human trafficking and calling on businesses to keep it out of their supply chains.

Pope Francis says: "Businesses have a duty to ensure dignified working conditions and adequate salaries for their employees, but they must also be vigilant that forms of subjugation or human trafficking do not find their way into the distribution chain. Together with the social responsibility of businesses, there is also the social responsibility of consumers. Every person ought to have the awareness that 'purchasing is always a moral-- and not simply an economic--act.'"

We can help be mindful consumers, by purchasing items that are made with respect for the people who make them. We can help change working conditions by asking our government leaders to require companies to make information about their products' supply chains public. This would help ensure that products are not the result of child and forced labor, slavery and human trafficking. The Catholic Church is committed to defending human life and dignity. The proposed legislation would play an important and critical role in enhancing respect for human dignity by fighting conditions that allow human trafficking to exist in our world today.

There are three letters on your seat: one for each of your senators and one for your representative, to ask them to co-sponsor the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act.

² Story adapted from CRS' story, "Helping Survivors of India's Sex-Slave Trade," <http://www.crs.org/stories/helping-survivors-indias-sex-slave-trade>



It makes a difference when we lift up our voices together, but it's also important that you personalize your message to your members of Congress. I invite you to take a few moments to edit the letter by adding your name, a few lines about why this issue is important to you, and your signature and home mailing address. Please also fill in the blanks about this event, noting the name of our institution, your role here (e.g., student, parishioner, etc.). After you sign the letter, place it in one of the baskets (at the front of/around the) church.

Note: Please adapt these instructions as needed. If a small group of people is hand delivering the letters to local Congressional offices, be sure to share that with the gathering.

[IF YOU ARE ASKING PARTICIPANTS TO FIND THEIR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: Direct participants to use their smartphones or laptops/tablets to access the confrontglobalpoverty.com/toolkit and ask them to click on the "Find" button to enter their ZIP code and identify their senators and representative.]

PLAY VIDEO: "[Lead, Kindly Light](#)" from CRS' YouTube channel during letter writing if it seems fitting for your audience, or just play simple reflective music while people are writing their letters

Closing prayer

READER FOUR:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ...

Dear Jesus,

In your name, we close our prayer tonight.
As we bring forth light to defy the claims of darkness,
As we bring forth joy and song to defy the claims of sadness,
As we bring forth a spirit of generosity to defy the claims of want,
As we bring forth peace to defy the claims of war.

That in the darkest, saddest, most wanting, warring corner of the world,
All may look to Bethlehem
Where, in the humblest of circumstances,
In a time of repression
From the person of a poor refugee woman
In the filth of a manger
In the form of a most vulnerable child
You came among us to say, "No, there is a light in this world."

Let us be this light to others.
Let us be the fruit of the branch of Jesse's tree.
Let us be the bearers of the indescribable gift that is your grace.
And so defy all false claims on your people and their dignity.

And so, may you be born anew, into every season
Into every age
Into every land and every human heart.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Amen

Closing song

CANTOR TO LEAD: Christ Be Our Light, Bernadette Farrell, OCP



The Honorable _____
United States House of Representatives
Address: _____

Dear Representative _____,

My name is _____ and I am deeply concerned about child and forced labor, slavery and human trafficking both abroad and within the United States.

As a _____ at _____, I am learning about this issue and how to help our brothers and sisters in need. On ___/___/___ we hosted a prayer walk for members of our community to pray, learn about and advocate for an end to modern forms of slavery, like human trafficking.

As your constituent, I urge you to cosponsor and support passage of the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015, H.R. 3226.

I care about this issue because _____

I believe that we can fight human trafficking--and this legislation plays an important role in achieving that goal. I urge you to cosponsor and support this bill to help ensure that products are not the result of child and forced labor, slavery and human trafficking.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

Sincerely,

Home address:





The Honorable _____
United States Senate
Address: _____

Dear Senator _____,

My name is _____ and I am deeply concerned about child and forced labor, slavery and human trafficking both abroad and within the United States.

As a _____ at _____, I am learning about this issue and how to help our brothers and sisters in need. On ___/___/___ we hosted a prayer walk for members of our community to pray, learn about and advocate for an end to modern forms of slavery, like human trafficking.

As your constituent, I urge you to cosponsor and support passage of the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015, S. 1968.

I care about this issue because _____

I believe that we can fight human trafficking--and this legislation plays an important role in achieving that goal. I urge you to cosponsor and support this bill to help ensure that products are not the result of child and forced labor, slavery and human trafficking.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

Sincerely,

Home address:





The Honorable _____

Address: _____

Dear _____,

I am writing to thank you for cosponsoring the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015, S. 1968. As your constituent, I appreciate you taking this stand to avoid the use of slave labor, forced labor, or child labor in the products I purchase.

As a _____ at _____, I am learning about this issue and how to help our brothers and sisters in need. On ___/___/___ we hosted a prayer walk for members of our community to pray, learn about and advocate for an end to modern forms of slavery, like human trafficking.

As you're aware, human trafficking is an affront to the lives and dignity of people. Pope Francis says, "Businesses have a duty to ensure dignified working conditions and adequate salaries for their employees, but they must also be vigilant that forms of subjugation or human trafficking do not find their way into the distribution chain." We, as consumers, also have the right to know how the products we purchase were produced. Pope Francis calls on all of us to have "the awareness that 'purchasing is always a moral--and not simply an economic--act.'"

Please invite your colleagues in Congress to also cosponsor and support the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015 to help ensure that products are not the result of child and forced labor, slavery, or human trafficking. I believe that we can fight human trafficking, and this legislation would play an important role in achieving that goal.

Thank you, again for cosponsoring this important legislation!

Sincerely,

Home address: _____



Current Co-sponsors

BUSINESS SUPPLY CHAIN BILL

The following Senators and Representatives have already co-sponsored the Business Supply Chain bill. If any of them represent you, please use the thank you letter on page 10, or use the thank you email. The Senate version is [here](#) and House version [here](#). For the most up to date information, please visit the [Library of Congress](#).

ARIZONA

Representative Raul Grijalva
Representative Kyrsten Sinema

CALIFORNIA

Representative Ted Lieu
Representative Zoe Lofgren
Representative Julia Brownley

CONNECTICUT

Senator Richard Blumenthal
Representative James Himes

DC

Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton

IOWA

Representative David Loebsack

MASSACHUSETTS

Senator Edward Markey
Representative Michael Capuano

MICHIGAN

Representative Daniel Kildee

MINNESOTA

Senator Al Franken
Representative Betty McCollum
Representative Keith Ellison

NEW JERSEY

Representative Chris Smith
Representative Leonard Lance

NEW YORK

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Representative Carolyn Maloney
Representative Nita Lowey
Representative Nydia Velazquez

OREGON

Representative Earl Blumenauer

RHODE ISLAND

Representative David Cicilline

WISCONSIN

Senator Tammy Baldwin
Representative Gwen Moore