



CANOPY OF PRAYER

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Dear prayer friends in Europe,

"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 favour." **Luke 4:18-19**

Jesus quoted the words of the prophet Isaiah and declared that freedom was now available to those who were prisoners or who were oppressed. This freedom in Christ is still available to all who hear and receive the "good news", but how can those who are held in slavery find real freedom unless they are helped? How effective are we at helping those who are prisoners or oppressed now in 2022?

Jill Jeal

Human trafficking

According to the definition of the United Nations, Human Trafficking means; "The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons for the purpose of exploitation." The victims are coerced into a position of dependence by their traffickers through debt bondage, violence, and/or drugs.

The victims become "exploited" goods and are deprived of their personal rights, freedom of speech, independence, and self-respect. It's not just foreign, poor people who are trafficked. Any age, class, religion, nationality, gender, or colour can be a victim of trafficking. Vulnerable people are more at risk, such as the homeless, minors, young adults, migrants, people working in prostitution, people belonging to ethnic minorities, children in foster care or homes, people living in poverty, people with disruptive home lives, people in crisis or conflict situations.



What can be done about it?

Would you know how to identify a person who may be a victim of trafficking? Many people do not know the signs, such as: appearing scared, anxious, depressed, withdrawn and unable/reluctant to make eye contact; not being able to speak the local language; having someone who speaks for them or translates for them; being dressed inappropriately for their age.

More importantly, would our health care and other professionals know how to spot these and other signs, such as: unexplained injuries; having had multiple pregnancies/abortions; looking malnourished; not giving an address or saying they are just visiting; not having medical insurance?

Doctors and other health care professionals may encounter victims more often than they realise and are in a unique position to help. 85% of victims have had contact with a health care worker (doctors,

dentists, primary care) while being trafficked, 80% in the first year. A survey of 1000 doctors showed that fewer than 10% of them ever suspected they had been in contact with a victim of slavery. Only 20% of these said they would know what to do if they encountered a victim, what signs to look for, or what the laws and procedures are for reporting safety concerns.

The Red Alert Task Force is an organisation aiming to bring together professional people: doctors, surgeons, academics, political leaders, teachers, survivors of slavery and others who have a passion to educate, advise, change policies, and join in the fight against the injustice of modern-day slavery and trafficking. People from the task force will go into hospitals, medical schools, universities, schools, businesses, governments, police stations and more to give training on modern day slavery/trafficking awareness, what it is, how to spot it and what to do. We currently operate in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands and USA and we aim to set up in other other countries too. <https://redalerttaskforce.com>

Let's Pray

- Please pray for the work of Red Alert Task Force, that it gets members from many countries, for more partnerships/collaboration with different organisations, and that it can make a difference for victims of trafficking/slavery.
- Pray for the victims; that they can be freed from their slavery and find the physical, emotional and spiritual freedom that they need.
- Pray for refugees fleeing the Ukraine (mainly women and children), that they will not fall prey to trafficking gangs on the borders.

Additional Prayer Points:-

1. As the focus of the war in Ukraine shifts to the eastern region, pray for the protection, evacuation and safety of civilians and a swift move to negotiations for peace.
2. Pray for the second round of the French Presidential elections between Emmanuel Macron and Marine Le Pen, the outcome of which will have important consequences for France and all Europe.

Answered prayer

A Finnish court has upheld the right to free speech by dismissing all charges against Finnish MP Päivi Räsänen and Bishop Juhana Pohjola. In a unanimous ruling the court concluded that "it is not for the district court to interpret biblical concepts".

After her victory, Päivi Räsänen said "I am so grateful the court recognised the threat to free speech and ruled in our favour. I feel a weight has been lifted off my shoulders after being acquitted. Although I am grateful for having had this chance to stand up for freedom of speech, I hope that this ruling will help prevent others from having to go through the same ordeal."

LATEST NEWS: Finland's public prosecutors have just announced that they will appeal the verdict.

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