



ENDING SLAVERY!

Jewish Sources & Resources On Human Trafficking
From the Rabbinical Assembly Task Force on Human Trafficking

Core Principles & Sacred Texts

The Torah teaches that God saw our affliction, heard our cry, and knew our pain when we were slaves in Egypt (Exodus 3:7). Having been freed, we can now do the same for others. The central narrative of the Jewish people informs the Jewish moral imperative, expressed in the Torah's most-frequently repeated commandment, to protect the vulnerable, including the stranger, "since you were a stranger in the land of Egypt." Liberation, dignity, and economic justice are required and supported by the following commandments, principles, and sources, among many others:

- פדיון שבויים (Pidyon Shevuyim) - Redeem Captives (BT Bava Batra 8b)
- צדק ומשפט (Tzedek U-Mishpat) - Pursue Justice and Fairness (Deut. 16:18-20)
- לא תעשוק/לא תגנוב (Lo Tignov/Lo Ta'ashok) - Buy Only Ethically Produced and Obtained Goods (Deut. 24:15)
- לא תעמד על דם רעך (Lo Ta'amod al Dam Rei'ekha) - Do Not Stand Idly by the Blood of Another (Lev. 19:16)
- אהבת רעך (Ahavat Rei'akha) - Love Your Neighbor As Yourself (Lev. 19:18)
- אהבת הגר (Ahavat Ha-Ger) - Love the Stranger (Ex. 22:9, Deut. 10:19)
- גר, יתום, ואלמנה (Ger, Yatom, Ve'Almanah) - Protect the Most Vulnerable (Deut. 24:17)
- צלם אלוהים (Tzelem Elohim) - Value People Equally and Infinitely (Gen. 1:26-28, 5:1-3; Mishna Sanhedrin 4:5)
- כבוד הבריות (K'vod Ha-B'riyot) - Respect the Dignity of All Whom God Made (BT Berachot 19b)
- מפני דרכי שלום (Mip'nei Darkhei Shalom) - Pave Paths of Peace by Helping Non-Jews (BT Gittin 61a)
- זוכרת כי עבד היית (Vezacharta Ki Eved Hayita) - Remember That You Were a Slave and Behave With Empathy, Accordingly (Deut. 15:15)
- צדקה וגמילות חסדים (Tzedakah U-Gemilut Hasadim) - Deploy Money, Time, and Attention to Free People Now Trafficked, Prevent Trafficking, and Assist Former Slaves in Recovery from Trauma (Mishna Torah, Hilchot Matanot Aniyim 10:1; BT Sotah 14a).

Curricula For Synagogues, Hebrew Schools, Day Schools, and At Home

Next Year, Free!: A Modern Slavery Curriculum, available for download at the URL below, contains lesson plans by subject (Passover, Shabbat, Jewish Values, Biblical Heroes, the Weekly Parsha, etc.) and by age (from kindergarten through Adult Education).

<https://www.freetheslaves.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Next-Year-Free-2016.pdf>

No More Slaves! A Resource Guide for Engaging and Empowering Young People to End Human Trafficking by 2030, available for download at the URL below, includes some overlapping material with *Next Year Free!*, plus new resources for rabbis to use with b'nai mitzvah, teens, and young adults.

<https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/story/ending-slavery-resources-human-trafficking>

Seder Starters, available at the URL below, provide a curated compilation of many of the best full Haggadot and individual readings and activities created in recent years that can enhance your Seder and help the plight of slaves today.

<https://www.freetheslaves.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Seder-Starters-2016.pdf>

(See reverse side.)

Jewish Organizations Now Working On Trafficking

The Passover Project of Free the Slaves (FreeTheSlaves.net/Judaism) - Participating synagogues, schools, and other Jewish organizations receive programming ideas, educational resources, updates, flyers, and giveaways in support of four goals. Communities simply agree to do *something* that promotes freedom, choosing some or all of the following:

- EDUCATION: Increase knowledge about slavery today, how to end it, and why that goal is connected to Jewish history and values.
- ADVOCACY: Appoint a liaison to stay abreast of policy issues, keep your community informed, and help decide about how and when to respond.
- POWER OF THE PURSE: Become more conscious and careful consumers and investors. E.g., Buy Fair Trade foods to sanctify eating and avoid supporting companies tainted by slavery.
- TZEDAKAH: The work of freedom is not free; resources are needed to help those afflicted by slavery. The average gift among Passover Partners has been \$1,000, but donations are not required.

Rabbinical Assembly (<https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/tzedek/slavery-and-human-trafficking>) - Find and download all the resources and updates created by the RA Human Trafficking Taskforce, including timely updates, timeless articles, sample sermons, a resource guide, a one-pager entitled "Ending Slavery: Understanding Human Trafficking – and What You Can Do About It," and this document.

T'ruah (truah.org) - T'ruah is doing a tremendous job addressing modern slavery in supply chains through:

- [Partnering with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers](#) to expand the Fair Food Program, the most effective slavery prevention program in U.S. agriculture
- Joining [ATEST, the Alliance to End Slavery & Trafficking](#), the premier U.S. coalition dedicated to supporting people vulnerable to trafficking
- Leading the Jewish Coalition Against Trafficking with the [National Council of Jewish Women](#)
- [Partnering with Equal Exchange and Divine Chocolate](#) to encourage Jewish communities to purchase kosher Fair Trade Hanukah gelt, kosher-for-Passover chocolate, kosher coffee, etc.

Speakers Who Address Trafficking From A Jewish Perspective

Free the Slaves - Contact Terry Fitzpatrick at terry.fitzpatrick@freetheslaves.net or 202-370-3625.

The Rabbinical Assembly - Contact Lee Paskind at lpaskind@rabbinicalassembly.org or 732-668-1982.

T'ruah - Contact Rachel Kahn-Troster at rkahntroster@truah.org or 212-845-5201.

Consultations With Experts In The Field – Free To RA Members

Terry Fitzpatrick is a journalist and media development expert who serves as the communications and advocacy strategist, chief writer, film producer, media relations officer and spokesperson for Free the Slaves. He has produced films on modern slavery in 12 countries. He serves as the co-chair of the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking policy coalition, and coordinates the annual Freedom from Slavery Forum global conference of activists. You can reach him at terry.fitzpatrick@freetheslaves.net.

Maurice Middleberg, who retired as Executive Director of Free The Slaves in 2018 (FreeTheSlaves.net/Judaism), will make himself available, at no cost, to RA members. There is no one more knowledgeable or connected in the field of anti-trafficking, and Maurice is also masterful in helping leaders craft individualized programs to engage their communities. Maurice is a committed Jew whose grandmother was a slave at Auschwitz. Please contact maurice.middleberg@gmail.com.

Evan Robbins is co-founder, with his wife, Lisa, of Breaking the Chain Through Education (btcte.org). Their organization provides support for Ghanaian children who have been trafficked and works with them into adulthood. The Robbins, committed Jews, do not receive salaries for this work. A major source of their funding and volunteer energy is New Jersey teenagers, who, under Evan's mentorship, have raised \$25,000 per year for over a decade. Evan also involves families in this mitzvah by leading tours to Ghana each summer. RA members can consult with Evan by contacting erobbins@btcte.org.

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