

# PATHWAYS TO PEACE

As we remember our day of fasting and prayer on Wednesday, February 11, 2015  
let us be united with the Holy Father's World Day of Peace Message,

***"I ask all men and women of good will for a decisive choice to combat trafficking in persons."  
Pope Francis, January 1, 2015***

**Setting:** Prepare a table with a ritual cloth, basket, and enough small stones for those gathered.

**Opening Song:** *We Are Called*

**Reader 1:** "My wife and I were forced to do agricultural and construction work to pay off our debt. Our small children were abused and forced to do household chores. We were all forced to live in the garage and were threatened with deportation. Food was locked up and we were not allowed to eat without permission." —A man who moved with his family from Latin America to Washington State, USA.

**Reader 2:** "We had no choice. There was nowhere to flee; we were surrounded by the sea. After we arrived back to the shore, we were locked inside the room guarded by their men. The workers had to take one trip after another. There were many workers living under the same conditions." —A young man enslaved on a fishing boat in Thailand.

**Reader 1:** "They let me know what would become of me if I told anyone. They told me they knew where I lived, they knew my teachers, they knew my school, they knew everything about me. There was nothing I could do to protect myself. At 14-years-old. I didn't know where to begin." —An American girl sold by a friend's father and trafficked for sex in Florida, USA .

**Reader 2:** "The long working hours made us weak and exhausted... I always felt very tired and much disturbed because the supervisors were scolding me for carelessness in my work. I also suffered from headache and leg pain. I didn't like working at the mill at all." —A 20-year-old Dalit Girl working 12-hour plus days at a textile factory in Tamil Nadu, India.

**Leader:** We now take a moment to reflect upon these stories.  
*Take a few minutes to think about one action you might take to support the dignity of all people and end trafficking in persons. You are invited to share one action that you will take for those caught in human trafficking. As you share your action, take a stone out of the basket as a reminder of your commitment. Together, we can end human trafficking. Leave in silence.*

**Leader:** As we listen to the stories of survivors of human trafficking, we pray for the strength of those enslaved as we work to create a world where no one causes terror again.

**Reader 1:** You listen, God, to the needs of the poor; you strengthen their hearts and incline your ear. You win justice for the orphaned and oppressed; no one on earth will cause terror again. —Psalm 10:17-18

**Leader:** As we listen to the stories of survivors of human trafficking, we pray for the strength of those enslaved as we work to create a world where no one causes terror again