

# ISSUES AND



## UN Millennium Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

December 2

Is the

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

recalls the date of the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others on 2 December 1949.

*“No one is free, until everyone is free.”*

*Vivet Pandik*



Advent Prayer

to remember all those exploited through human trafficking

In quiet reflection call to mind all those women, children and men who are held captive through the bondage of human trafficking.

**Sing: O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

O come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appears.

*Refrain:* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who ord’rest all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. *(Refrain)*



## **A reading from the Prophet Isaiah**

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me;  
The Lord has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners,  
To announce a year of favor from the Lord and a day of vindication by our God,  
to comfort all who mourn;  
To place on those who mourn in Zion a diadem instead of ashes,  
To give them oil of gladness in place of mourning,  
a glorious mantle instead of listless spirit.

## **Quiet Reflection.....**

How have I responded to human trafficking?

## **Share what is rising within you.....**

## **Sing: O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

O come, O Come, Thou rod of Jesse's stem, from ev'ry foe deliver them  
That trust thy mighty pow'r to save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

*Refrain:* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!

## **Personal Story**

Although she is now back in her own country, and at home with her family, the experience of being trafficked will never leave this young lady - we will call her Lena. She thought she was going to China to train and work as a chef. She says, "You can't use my real name. Or even the name they gave me in China. I don't even know what my name should be. I am not the same person who left this village two years ago. My body came back but my soul is somewhere else. No one recognizes me anymore and everyone who comes to see me comes to stare at me because I am dirty now. I am filthy inside and my soul is empty. I don't know if I can live this way. My mother comes to my room and says, "Lena, you were such a friendly person. I miss you the way you were." and I say, "Mama, I am different. Something died in me. I think it was happiness." (Adapted from [www.miramedinstitute.org/lena.html](http://www.miramedinstitute.org/lena.html))

## **Quiet Reflection.....**

What will I do this Advent to show my solidarity with those who are trafficked?

## **Share what is rising within you.....**

Reader: Let us pray together in the words of Nelson Mandela

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that frightens us. We ask ourselves: Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa, 1994 inaugural speech

## **Quiet Reflection.....**

### **Sing: O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

O come, O Come, Thou Dayspring from on high and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.

*Refrain:* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!

## **Invitation to offer intercessory prayer.....**

### **Sing: O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

O come, O Come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all humankind;  
Bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our Prince of Peace.

*Refrain:* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!