

WHAT'S YOUR BETTERWORLD ISSUE?

ENDING SLAVERY



"slavery still exists today...if you count the number of women and children in bonded labor, domestic slavery or sexual slavery today, there are more slaves in the world than at any other time in history."

-- Charlotte Bunch

Slavery was abolished 150 years ago, right? While it is true that slavery is illegal almost everywhere on earth, there are more slaves today than there ever were - more than 27 million. Most of the world's slaves are in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, but slaves are everywhere - even America. Each year, more than 50,000 men, women and children are smuggled into the US against their will. This is called "human trafficking." People are tricked into coming with offers of good jobs or education, but instead are forced to work as domestic or sex slaves, or in agriculture fields or sweat shops. They are physically abused and terrorized into staying enslaved.

While some slaves are 'bought' in the way slaves had been in the past, most contemporary slaves are enslaved through "debt bondage" and may not even realize they are enslaved. A person borrows money and agrees to work until they can pay back the loan, but they never can, because the lender keeps increasing the interest rate and changes the books. Many families are indebted for generation after generation from a tiny original loan the family can never pay back.

Most people don't know that there are still slaves, but when they find out they are outraged and want to do something about it. Fortunately there are a number of international organizations working to end slavery and help the victims once they are freed. With more public awareness, more of those enslaved are being set free.

The United Nations has designated December 2 as The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery to commemorate the December 2, 1949 International Convention against human trafficking and to raise awareness about the continuing struggle to end slavery.

Do One Thing for a Better World

- Find out more about slavery today (Watch a film like "Amazing Grace" or "Not For Sale" for starters)
- Promote the global campaign to end slavery
- Support organizations working to abolish slavery

END SLAVERY Links

- American Anti-Slavery Group (iabolish.org)
 - Anti-Slavery International (antislavery.org)
 - Free The Children (freethechildren.com)
 - Free The Slaves (freetheslaves.net)
 - Not For Sale (notforsalecampaign.org)
 - One Voice To End Slavery (onevoicetoendslavery.com)
- Rescue & Restore Hotline (1.888.373.7888)

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