



Faith in Action to End Slavery



Resources for Buddhists

There are many components of Buddhism that advocate for human rights and social activism, and can help Buddhists develop a deeper understanding of how to actively fight against modern-day slavery. Here are ways you can join the movement against human trafficking.

Buddhist Leaders Taking Action

Claude d'Estrée: Professor d'Estrée (M.T.S., J.D.), is the Buddhist chaplain at the University of Denver, and also serves as the executive director of the Human Trafficking Center, director of the Center on Rights Development, and director of the International Human Rights Degree Program. A Buddhist teacher for much of his life, he believes that researching and teaching about human trafficking is his Dharma practice. Learn more about d'Estrée's work here: <http://humantraffickingcenter.org/>.

Dhamma Moli: Dhamma Moli is a Buddhist project focused on educating and sheltering young girls to reduce their vulnerability to human traffickers. In 2004, two Buddhist nuns, Venerable Molini and Venerable Dhamma Vijaya, founded Dhamma Moli when they decided to get involved in social activism after they received their doctoral degrees. Learn more here: <http://www.dhammamoli.org/index.htm>.

What You Can Do to Help

Community Dinner: Host a dinner at your local temple or monastery, someone's home or a local restaurant that is willing to sponsor the event and provide the food free of charge. This event could be dedicated to the millions of people around the

world who are living in slavery, and will inform the attendees about the mission of Free the Slaves and the root causes of slavery and how each and every person can make a difference. This event can either sell admission tickets, or ask for a donation in lieu of paying for the meal. Remember to reinforce that this donation contributes to someone's freedom. Serve fair trade foods and keep table cards with information about slavery to encourage discussion.

Communities for Communities: Free the Slaves supports more than 1,000 community groups to achieve and sustain freedom in slavery hot spot countries. Slavery is such a large injustice that it can often seem like too big a problem to tackle, but breaking it up into smaller areas can make it seem more manageable. We would invite your small group to learn about our partners, the front line abolitionists. Guided by a chosen mantra, lead your group in meditating specifically on the well-being of the communities in which Free the Slaves works.

Fund an Abolitionist: Free the Slaves works on the ground to help rescue and reintegrate those in slavery, and to cut off slavery at the source. Organize a fundraiser or donate to help us pay the salary of a liberator who risks his or her life to go on the front lines to rescue slaves. Learn more about our partner abolitionists and their innovative programs here: www.freetheslaves.net/where-we-work/.

Study Group: Join or start a small group focused on the study of modern-day slavery. Check out your temple or monastery's website to find out if there is a small group dedicated to the topic of modern-day slavery or social justice. Join an existing group, or find out how you can start and lead a project within your community. Professor Claude d'Estree says the mindful Buddhist must ask: "Of course I don't employ slaves, but where do I participate in the global economic process by which slavery is at the ground level of basic goods?"

Charity Work: Is your temple or monastery actively involved in partnering with organizations to help end social injustice around the world? It may seem like a small action, but presenting Free the Slaves to your temple's missions/outreach team can help lead to tangible change. We want to spread the word about our effective model for eradicating slavery, but we can't do it without you! The Buddhist community has an important role to play in the anti-slavery movement. For example, dedicate charity work on festival days, such as the New Year celebrations.

Donate

Consider making a gift to Free the Slaves in commemoration of Buddhist holidays like the New Year. Stand alongside modern-day abolitionists who are on the front lines fighting for freedom of people around the world. Visit www.freetheslaves.net/donate.

Learn More

Here are links to downloadable resources that you can use:

- Slavery Today, Slavery in History, Survivor Stories, Frequently Asked Questions: www.freetheslaves.net/about-slavery/
- Videos and books about modern slavery and innovative solutions to ending slavery worldwide: www.freetheslaves.net/building-awareness/
- Stay up-to-date with political actions to prevent slavery and care for victims and survivors by following Free the Slaves on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and participate by signing petitions or calling senators and representatives.