

Trafficking's Discourse on 23rd January 2025 in Arkansas.

I. Definition of Modern Slavery

1. Modern slavery is characterised by a state of complete or partial reliance on another individual, subjecting them to physical violence and restricting their personal autonomy. This can take various forms, including forced labour, prostitution, and the commercial exploitation of organs. This violence that an individual exercises on a human in slavery is most contrary to the dignity and freedom proper to human dignity and to the social order. Benedict XVI says that the essence of the social order is that: 'As the objects of God's love, men and women become subjects of charity, they are called to make themselves instruments of grace, so as to pour forth God's charity and to weave networks of charity' (*Caritas in veritate*, § 5).
2. In 2014, Pope Francis, in conjunction with the primary religious leaders congregated at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, proclaimed that contemporary forms of enslavement, encompassing forced labour, prostitution, and organ trafficking, constitute a crime against humanity.
3. Current estimations posit that approximately 50 million individuals have been affected by modern slavery. Contrary to a pervasive misconception, a considerable proportion of these victims are not migrants, but citizens of various nations worldwide who have been subjected to conditions of slavery within their own countries, cities or families. They have been victims of aggressors who, in many cases, are members of their own communities, states or families.
4. The primary motivation for this form of enslavement is the pursuit of financial gain. It is estimated that those involved in trafficking activities generate an annual profit of 150 billion dollars from this criminal enterprise.
5. The present situation is of grave concern. Despite the advancement witnessed over the past decade, particularly with regard to the enhancement of awareness concerning this issue, the repercussions of the global pandemic and persistent conflicts, notably in Europe, have precipitated a precipitous escalation in human trafficking.

II. Raising Awareness

6. The primary action to be taken in order to eradicate this crime against humanity is to raise public awareness. This underscores the significance of media such as film, as evidenced by the 'Sound of Freedom' case, and YouTube videos concerning the Metanoia refuge.
7. It is imperative also to promote awareness through education, particularly within educational institutions, and to implement legislation that categorises such practices as crimes against humanity.

III. Prevention

8. Adopting human-centric solutions that acknowledge individuals as beings possessing both spirit and body, not merely commodities of the material world.

9. In the contemporary context, it is imperative to recognise the importance of strengthening family structures as an essential component of prevention strategies.
10. It is imperative that efforts are made to address poverty in relation to human trafficking. A key strategy to achieve this is to promote sustainable economic opportunities, with a particular focus on young women.
11. The promotion of early education on ethics and on human rights is of paramount importance, with particular emphasis placed on the fundamental principle of respecting the dignity of women and the diversity of sex. It is imperative that this educational initiative comprehensively address the challenges posed by machismo, paternalism and wokismo. These phenomena have been identified as substantial obstacles to the realisation of ethical principles and human rights.
12. It is imperative to combat pornography, especially in the context of the internet, as this medium facilitates the creation of a market for victims. A considerable proportion of victims today, specifically 80%, have fallen victim to individuals who have used deceptive romantic promises as a means to gain their trust.
13. The establishment of global rehabilitation centres is imperative, encompassing education, physical and mental health, and financial support.
14. The vigorous enforcement and implementation of effective laws is primarily the responsibility of governments themselves.
15. The empowerment of municipalities to combat illicit establishments is a key priority.
16. The utilisation of social networks in the identification and quantification of instances of violence.
17. The formation of international support networks is a key aspect of the strategy.
18. The ratification of public policies on a transnational scale.
19. The promotion of a culture of reporting is of paramount importance.
20. The cultivation of a culture of proactive action against new forms of slavery, as if the responsibility rested on each individual, is of crucial importance.
21. The ideal scenario would involve the universalisation of the so-called Nordic law, which for the first time criminalises sex users and not only victims and traffickers.

IV. Reintegration of Individuals: From Victims to Survivors, or Better Yet, Thrivers

22. The decriminalisation of victims of modern slavery is imperative.
23. The utilisation of remote testimonies is a proposed measure to be implemented with a view to preventing the re-victimisation of survivors.
24. The establishment of shelters is to be guided by principles and values that are centred on the needs and rights of victims, particularly in contexts where such facilities are lacking.
25. The objective of the shelters is to restore the sense of dignity to the victims, provide education and dignified employment, and enable them to build families and contribute to the collective welfare.

26. It is vital to ensure that assets seized from traffickers and collaborators are utilised for the purpose of victim recovery.
27. The establishment of a registry of individuals and organisations engaged in sexual exploitation is imperative.
28. The pursuit of legal action is to be employed in order to hold both traffickers and buyers accountable.