



## 7 Things Every Person Can Do To Help End Slavery

### 1. PRAY

### 2. Buy Fair Trade Chocolate/Coffee

Much of the coffee and chocolate that is sold in the U.S. is made from raw products (coffee beans and cocoa beans) that are harvested by slaves. In response to this, some companies have begun producing fair trade certified chocolate and coffee. The product and the company go through an inspection process that ensures that the producers and their workers are paid living wages for their labor. Of course, this makes the final product more expensive, but the reason non-fair trade chocolate (Hershey, Nestle, etc) is so cheap is because some of their workers aren't paid. [www.laborrights.org/stop-child-forced-labor/cocoa\\_campaign/news/12408](http://www.laborrights.org/stop-child-forced-labor/cocoa_campaign/news/12408)

### 3. Fly Delta, Stay at Carlson (Radisson, Country/Park Inn) and Hilton (Hampton Inn) Hotels

The Delta, Carlson, and Hilton companies have all signed a code known as the ECPAT code (<http://www.thecode.org/>), which requires them to train their staff to recognize victims of trafficking. Airlines and hotels are two of the largest industries that traffickers can use to exploit victims, and so we want to support companies who are taking a stand against that whenever possible.

### 4. Cut pornography out of your life

One of the big reasons why sex trafficking flourishes is because of men's ability to mentally transform women from human beings into sexual objects. One of the basic premises of pornography is that women exist solely to satisfy men's sexual desires. As long as men are taught by the porn industry that women are not people but are instead "sexual service providers", sex trafficking will continue to exist. Anyone, man or woman, who views pornography is supporting an industry that perpetuates human trafficking. Read more about the connection between porn and prostitution on the resources section of our website.

### 5. Speak out against the use of strip clubs, etc. with your peers.

This is similar to the last point. At the best, these are places for men to further objectify women, and at worst are venues for sex trafficking. The women and girls in these places act like they enjoy it because that's how they get paid, not because they genuinely enjoy their exploitation.

### 6. Don't blame the victims

One of the largest reasons why victims of trafficking and prostitution stay in their exploitative situation is because people see them as "dirty" women who choose to sell their bodies. The reality is that the overwhelming majority of women are tricked, manipulated, or forced into prostitution by their circumstances (poverty/addiction), and want to get out. We, however, tend to judge them and shun them instead of loving them. The women are not the criminals—the people who exploit them are the criminals.

### 7. Educate yourself

Read. There is a lot of great educational material on the Internet that is published by anti-trafficking organizations. Start on our website, [ballstateijm.weebly.com](http://ballstateijm.weebly.com), and IJM's website, [ijm.org](http://ijm.org). Other great places to find material are: [polarisproject.org](http://polarisproject.org); [streetlightusa.org](http://streetlightusa.org); [thecnnfreedomproject.blogs.cnn.com](http://thecnnfreedomproject.blogs.cnn.com); [mattoo.org](http://mattoo.org); [www.gems-girls.org](http://www.gems-girls.org); [prostitutionresearch.com](http://prostitutionresearch.com); [www.sharedhope.org](http://www.sharedhope.org)