



Greetings!

Passover begins tomorrow. For many of us, our homes are filled with the sounds and smells of the holiday! But others will not be celebrating. Around the world, too many people are still victims of human trafficking - modern day slavery. There are many organizations working tirelessly to change this. Just as we end our Seders with "Next year in Jerusalem," let us also say "Next year we will ALL be free."

Those who receive the JUF News may have noticed this JCAST Chicago advertisement in the April issue. If you have the issue, think about cutting out the ad and sharing it with friends and family this holiday. The more people who become aware that sex trafficking happens not just across the world but here in our own communities, the closer we will be to real and lasting change!



On Passover, Jews around the world celebrate our exodus from slavery to freedom, but in our own backyards women and men are held captive through sex trafficking--- MODERN DAY SLAVERY. Today, there are an estimated 16,000-24,000 women and girls being trafficked in Chicagoland.

The Jewish Coalition Against Sex Trafficking (JCAST) Chicago works to eradicate sex trafficking in the Chicagoland area through public awareness, community engagement, and advocacy. Join us in the effort to eradicate slavery.

Visit www.jcastchicago.org and www.ncjwcn.org to learn more.

לא תוכל להתעלם
you shall not be indifferent
Deut. 22:3

JCAST Chicago is an initiative of the National Council of Jewish Women Chicago North Shore and is supported by the Jewish Women's Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago.



JCAST Chicago Blog

Kosher for Passover Food For Thought

For many, the Passover Hagaddah, and thus the Passover Seder is the same from year to year. I know we still use the short but sweet Hagaddah's purchased from my daughter's preschool as a fundraiser. But the internet holds valuable resources for those who want to add to their Seders. Our April blog post is full of resources you can use to enhance your Seders and enjoy a little advocacy and justice along with your Charoset.



Support JCAST Chicago

[Click here](#) to donate to JCAST to help subsidize the cost of Dignity Bags or our other projects. Thank you for your support.

Steering Committee

JCAST Chicago is governed by a Steering Committee of dedicated individuals. If you would be interested in serving on the steering committee or one of our Action Teams, email info@jcastchicago.org.

Steering Committee:

- Cathy Carmody, NCJW
- Donna Fishman, NCJW
- Donna Gutman, NCJW, ICJW, CEASE Network
- Taal Hasak-Lowy, AJWS
- Sara Kalish, JWF
- Betsy Lazerow, JCFS, JCARES
- Carole Levine, NCJW
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- Mara Ruff, JUF
- Susan Rifas, JUF, JWF
- Heather Ross, NCJW, Hakafa
- Stacy Saef, NCJW
- Deborah Zionts, NCJW, SHALVA

Julie Newman, Staff
Melissa Prober, Staff

FreeTheSlaves.net

Featured Organization

Free the Slaves was born in the early days of the new millennium, dedicated to alerting the world about slavery's global comeback and to catalyze a resurgence of the abolition movement. Free the Slaves exists to help finish the work that earlier generations of abolitionists started.

Free the Slaves is building a world without slavery by demonstrating that ending slavery is possible.

Free the Slaves focuses on strengthening entire communities. That way, people who break free won't fall back into slavery and traffickers won't enslave others to take their place. By helping communities chart their own path based on their unique needs and circumstances, we build sustainable systems of freedom.

To learn more visit www.freetheslaves.net.

You will also find wonderful

Reflections on Passover

Next Year in a More Just World, AJWS Haggadah

The blog posting above gives many wonderful resources for Passover that you can incorporate into your own Seder. But this year, we want to feature a bit of Next Year in a More Just World, A Global Justice Haggadah which is free to download on the AJWS website ([click here](#)) and includes commentaries on Passover and Social Justice Themes by AJWS and respected thinkers and global leaders. Here are some excerpts:

IMAGINE A DIFFERENT WORLD

By U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky

Passover is my favorite holiday. My family gathers together to eat the Seder meal, sing songs and remember the days when our people were enslaved in Egypt and the miraculous story of our deliverance. During that meal, in addition to the matzah and bitter herbs on our table, there is an orange on my Seder plate, symbolizing the marginalized people of the world and the imperative to fight for their liberation. We also fill a ceremonial cup of water to honor Miriam the prophet, sister of Moses and a central figure in the Exodus story. These symbols are meaningful, and yet Passover is more than a history lesson- it's a call to action. It's a time when, as individuals and as a community, we renew our commitment to justice. The Haggadah tells us that we should invite all who are in need to share the hope of Passover. Our faith asks us to take action to help the oppressed, so that all may enjoy the blessings of freedom. [Click here for more.](#)

THE HEROIC & VISIONARY WOMEN OF PASSOVER

By Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg & Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt

On Passover, Jews are commanded to tell the story of the Exodus and to see ourselves as having lived through that story, so that we may better learn how to live our lives today. The stories we tell our children shape what they believe to be possible- which is why at Passover, we must tell the stories of the women who played a crucial role in the Exodus narrative. The Book of Exodus, much like the Book of Genesis, opens in pervasive darkness. Genesis describes the earth as "unformed and void, with darkness over the surface of the deep." 1 In Exodus, darkness attends the accession of a new Pharaoh who feared the Israelites and so enslaved them. God alone lights the way out of the darkness in Genesis. But in Exodus, God has many partners, first among them, five brave women....

These women had a vision leading out of the darkness shrouding their world. They were women of action, prepared to defy authority to make their vision a reality bathed in the light of the day. Retelling the heroic stories of Yocheved, Shifra, Puah, Miriam and Batya reminds our daughters that with vision and the courage to act, they can carry forward the tradition those intrepid women launched. While there is much light in today's world, there remains in our universe disheartening darkness, inhumanity spawned by ignorance and hate. We see horrific examples in the Middle East, parts of Africa, and Ukraine. The Passover story recalls to all of us- women and men- that with vision and action we can join hands with others of like mind, kindling lights along paths leading out of the terrifying darkness. [Click here for more.](#)

Let these passages and others enhance your holiday observance.

Wishing you *Pesach sameach* - a joyous Passover.

JCAST Chicago Upcoming Events

Sex Trafficking: It's Happening In Plain Sight

Thursday, May 12, 7:00 pm

Takiff Center, 999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe

>> Join us for a screening of the documentary *In Plain Sight*. Over 80% of sex trafficking victims in our country are American citizens. It's happening in plain sight, and you probably don't even realize it! Following the screening, Caleb Probst, Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE) will discuss how CAASE is working to combat sex trafficking in the Chicago area and will answer questions. Cost to attend it \$10. Refreshments will be served.

Visit www.jcastchicago.org to register.

Greater Chicago Jewish Festival

Sunday, June 5, 2016, 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Cook County Forest Preserve, at Oakton and Lehigh

A fabulous day filled with music, art, food and community. Stop by and visit the NCJW and JCAST Chicago table. If you have time to spare, volunteer to help staff our table and answer questions. For more information contact info@ncjwens.org.

resources on including Passover resources on the Free the Slaves website. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Resources

Healthcare Workers Guide to ID'ing Trafficking Victims

- The [Polaris Project](#) has many resources, including the [National Human Trafficking Resource Center](#) hotline and text service.

Handbooks for health care workers

- International Organization for Migration has a free PDF handbook for health care providers called "[Caring for Trafficked Persons.](#)"
- Massachusetts Medical Society also has a [guide](#) on identifying and treating trafficking victims.
- The [Department of Health and Human Services](#) also has reference materials and a toolkit for health care workers.

Other resources

- The National Human Trafficking Resource Center has a [webinar](#) for health workers.
- Heal Trafficking has a compendium of [medical literature](#) and [educational programs](#).

Marketplace's three-part series on human trafficking and health care:

* [Health care takes on the fight against trafficking](#)

* [This is what happened when a trafficking victim finally got a chance to run](#)

* [Identifying trafficking victims is just the start of health care's challenge](#)

How to Talk to Your Son About Rape: A Guide for Dads and Hockey Fans Caleb Probst, Educator, CAASE, imagines a conversation between a father and son, making the assumption that the son would be an avid hockey fan with Patrick Kane as a favorite players. [Click here](#) for the blog post.

URI North America (*United Religions Initiative*) has some wonderful resources on sex trafficking available. [Click here](#) to visit their website.

8 Facts About the U.S. Sex Economy, a study published by the URBAN Institute discusses the underground economies of sex, drugs, and guns in eight cities: Atlanta, Dallas, Denver,

JCAST Chicago Updates & Announcements

Generation-Freedom.org

Human trafficking is a \$150 billion industry, yet the U.S. government only invests \$150 million a year to fight it. Call on every 2016 Presidential candidates to commit spending only 2 cents for each dollar in profits traffickers make to fight human trafficking. That would yield a \$3 billion annual budget to invest in programs that have proven to prevent human trafficking, punish offenders, and provide support and services to survivors.

Generation Freedom is a broad nonpartisan coalition, founded by the country's leading anti-trafficking experts, to build public and political will for greater American leadership to combat human trafficking. The Generation Freedom coalition is coordinated by the United Way Center on Human Trafficking & Slavery. NCJW and more than 40 other organizations have co-sponsored generation-freedom.org. [Click here](#) to sign the petition and add your voice!

MONEY MAKE'M \$MILE

Victory Gardens Theater, 2433 N Lincoln Ave, Chicago
Performances are at 10:00 am and the show runs from April 14 - April 30, 2016. For information and to order tickets visit victorygardens.org.

MONEY MAKE'M SMILE is the story of Girl and Boy whose lives get caught up in sex trafficking, end tragically but for a mistaken interception by Fate and Destiny. Given another chance, starting from birth, they revisit their former lives, watching themselves with family, friends, new loves and making choices that create their demise. In the end, however, it's not the characters who decide their fate but the audience.

Action Alert: Strip Club Ordinance

You may be aware of the Strip Club Ordinance that was recently pulled from the Chicago City Council vote on April 13th, thanks to community opposition. The ordinance would allow strip club's to offer both full nudity as well as alcohol consumption, a practice currently outlawed in Chicago. While the vote has been delayed, the ordinance may be called at the City Council Zoning committee on Tuesday, April 26th. Advocates oppose efforts to bring alcohol into Chicago's strip clubs, which is proven to cause harm to communities and women working within strip club bars.

What Can You Do?

Please save the date of the Zoning Committee hearing: Tuesday, April 26th to urge aldermen to vote no against the strip club ordinance. And make sure to sign up for [JCAST Trafficking Action Alerts](#) and [CAASE.org Action Alerts](#) and keep up-to-date on this and other important issues.

Action Alert: RHYTPA

On January 27, 2015, Sens. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Susan Collins (R-ME) introduced the [Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act](#) of 2015 (RHYTPA), S 262. This bill would expand and improve the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, which has been providing federal grants to communities to deliver critical services to homeless and runaway youth for the last 41 years. Specifically, the RHYTPA would collect data on victims of human trafficking, add a nondiscrimination clause that brings the Act into accordance with the federal regulations that most runaway and homeless youth programs currently follow, and increase the allowable length of stay for Basic Center Programs from 21 to 30 days to give young people and their families more time to access reunification services when needed. It also includes additional funding to add runaway and homeless youth who have been trafficked to the National Study of the Prevalence Needs and Characteristics of Homeless Youth in America, providing vital information needed to prevent the trafficking of children and provide appropriate services to survivors.

What Can You Do?

[Click here](#) to urge your legislators to support this bill.

CAASE is making an impact in Chicago schools

How does the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE) help young men become allies against sexual exploitation? What kind of impact does our prevention curriculum have on students? [Click here](#) to listen to Caleb Probst, CAASE Educator on 101.9 The Mix as he shares his work, challenges, and stories of his students' inspirational transformations with 101.9 The Mix.

In addition, CAASE is expanding their prevention programming to

Kansas City, San Diego, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. [Click here](#) for the study, and [click here](#) for an article about the study in the Atlantic magazine.

IN PLAIN SIGHT Podcast to End Human Trafficking Each week, the IN PLAIN SIGHT Podcast features an inspiring speaker who may educate you in your work to end human trafficking around the globe. [Click here](#) for a link to the website.



Take Action!

Here are some things you can do today to take action against Sex Trafficking:

* [Like our Facebook Page](#)

* [Follow us on Twitter](#)

* Sign up for Action Alerts [Visit our website](#) to keep up-to-date with the issues most relevant to you. [Sign up](#) for JCAST Chicago, NCJW or Sex Trafficking Action Alerts today!

* Send a Letter
Send a letter calling on local leaders and law enforcement to enforce laws and end demand. [Visit our website](#) to print out constructions and a sample letter.

* Hang a Flyer
Victims may visit bus stations, grocery stores, currency exchanges, and gas stations. Hang a poster featuring the hotline for the National Human Trafficking Resource Center. and help them escape to safety! [Visit our website](#) for more information and to print flyers.

* Write a Letter to the Editor
Write a letter to the editor when you learn publicly about arrests of perpetrators of sex trafficking. Commending the media, the police departments involved, and local authorities keeps sex trafficking in the news and encourages more enforcement. [Visit our website](#) for a sample letter to the editor.

include a new program for young men in college. **Students Working to End Exploitation and Trafficking** will educate and empower men in college to be allies and is going to be SWEET. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Dignity Bag Collection for Chicago Trafficking Victims

JCAST Chicago continues to collect toiletries and other items to help The Dreamcatcher Foundation during its outreach to youth who are trafficked and prostituted in Chicago. Each month, at least 300 bags are distributed, and they are in need of year-round supplies for street survival bags. We have established the following permanent collection sites so that you may always have the opportunity to help out with any of the following items:

Encore & More	Hadassah Resale	Hadassah Office
1107 Central Ave Wilmette, Illinois M-S: 10am-5pm	405 Lake Cook Rd. Deerfield, Illinois M-F: 10am-5pm Sunday: noon-4pm	60 Revere Drive Suite 800 Northbrook, Illinois M-F: 8:30am-4:30pm

Chicago Collection Site:

Temple Shalom of Chicago
3480 N. Lakeshore Drive (Stratford Entrance)
M-F: 9am - 6 pm; Sa-Su: 9am - 11am; Closed on Jewish holidays

Street Dignity Bag Packing List:

These items are needed in small, travel sizes. One of each item will be packed in a gallon ziploc "street survival" bag. These items may be packed in ziploc or other small bag, or donated in bulk.

Toothbrush	Hand Lotion	Gallon Ziploc Bags
Toothpaste	Granola/Power Bar	Tissues
Hand Sanitizer	\$5 McDonald's Gift Cards	

Prevention Bag Packing List:

Please include one of each regular sized product for girls living in at-risk communities. These items may be packed in a tote bag and donated in bulk.

Shampoo	Dove Soap	Lotion/Moisturizer
Liquid Body Soap	Deodorant	Perfumed Body Spray
	Gift or tote bags	

*Bulk items, hotel toiletries and gift cards to McDonalds (\$5), Target, Dollar Store, CVS or Walgreens (any amount) are always welcome

JCAST Chicago on the Move

JCAST Chicago has been busy giving presentations across the Chicago Metropolitan area, for Jewish and secular groups. Please help JCAST secure speaking "gigs" at Jewish organizations. Contact Donna at info@jcastchicago.org with names and contacts at synagogues, chavurot, and other Jewish organizations.

Sex Trafficking in the News

More and more our news feeds are filled with stories about sex trafficking - some positive and some negative. Here are a few article links that may be of interest.

- [Walker to sign child abuse, trafficking bills](#)
 - [Prostitution Is Not Just Another Job](#)
 - [The Costs of Violence Against Women](#)
 - [Freeing the slaves](#)
 - [Man accused of child porn, sex trafficking](#)
 - [France Adopts Historic Law to End Prostitution](#)
 - [Aldermen again try for liquor sales in topless bars](#)
 - [Fighting Human Trafficking: Our Jewish Calling](#)
 - [Victim tells story of sexual abuse](#)
 - [Human trafficking is focus of product fair](#)
 - [The Women Not Objects campaign](#)
 - ['Pop up brothels' in English Lake District](#)
 - [Prison for IL Man in AR Sex Trafficking Case](#)
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SAVE THE DATE!

6th Annual Cook County Human
Trafficking Task Force Conference

August 4 - 5, 2016

at
IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law
565 West Adams Street
Chicago, IL 60661



Jewish Coalition Against Sex Trafficking (JCAST) Chicago
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