

Key Facts About Modern Slavery:

- According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), there are approximately 21 million slaves on earth today.
 - 15.4 million adults/5.5 million children
 - 11.4 million females/9.5 million males
- A slave:
 - Cannot express free will
 - Is controlled through violence, threats and manipulation
 - Suffers extreme economic exploitation
 - Receives no payment for his/her work other than basic sustenance
- Slavery is globally illegal but exists everywhere, with the majority of slaves found in India, Asia and Africa
- Modern slaves are found primarily in:
 - Forced labor in agricultural and industrial settings
 - Bonded labor
 - Involuntary domestic servitude
 - Sex trafficking and forced prostitution
- A slave can be bought for a few hundred dollars or less. Collectively, the ILO estimates that slaves generate an annual profit of at least \$32 billion while victims of slavery lose at least \$21 billion in unpaid wages.

A Jewish Responsibility:

We are partners in the creation of a better world, and the Jewish textual tradition affirms this responsibility in seven ways:

1. To see another person as "*B'tzelem Elohim*," created in the image of God, creates the opportunity to be in relationship with each other. By caring for their welfare we begin to fulfill our responsibility to God.
2. We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt and we carry the collective memory of ostracism and abuse.
3. Our humanity depends on being responsible for, and reaching out to, the other. We are not fully human until we reach out to others.
4. We are commanded to redeem captives. According to Maimonides, this duty takes precedence over even feeding the hungry or clothing the naked.
5. Judaism defends the free will of the worker. He cannot be enslaved, may stop work at any time, and is protected from hazardous conditions.
6. Work is a sacred, essential part of the human condition and we have a responsibility to protect the dignity and rights of the worker.
7. We have a responsibility to know where the goods we purchase and consume come from and are prohibited from unethically obtained goods.