

# 2013 HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH



Join us this September for our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Month, where Houston Rescue and Restore Coalition will be hosting a variety of events that serve to spread awareness and get the community informed to get involved in the fight against human trafficking. To learn more about these events visit: <http://www.houstonrr.org/events/category/human-trafficking-awareness-month-2>

## **Kiss the Stars Goodnight:**

### **A Concert for Human Trafficking Awareness**

**WHEN:** August 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm

**WHERE:** Christ the King Lutheran Church – 2353 Rice Blvd.

Come enjoy a concert planned as an Eagle Scout service project by Greg Goedecke that aims to utilize choral concert as a vehicle to raise awareness about the issue of human trafficking, especially within the Houston area. The concert will include performances by the HSPVA Chorale, and an entirely new piece called “Violet Waters” written by Thomas Goedecke. Experts in the field of human trafficking will also be on hand to provide additional information about the issue.

## **Human Trafficking Awareness Month Press Conference**

**WHEN:** September 4<sup>th</sup>, following the 9:00 am City Council meeting

**WHERE:** Houston City Hall – 901 Bagby Street, City Council Chambers (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

Join us at our opening event leading into Human Trafficking Awareness Month. After the City Council meeting, local advocates will discuss the issue of human trafficking as it occurs here in Houston. Learn what the city is doing to protect human trafficking victims and return them to safety. Become aware and get involved in the community as we gear up towards Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

## **Big Dipper Dash 5K Awareness Run/Walk**

**WHEN:** September 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

**WHERE:** Stude Park – 1031 Stude St.

Register now for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Dipper Dash 5K Awareness Run/Walk, an event that pay homage to the slaves of the past who ran to freedom by following the stars, like the Big Dipper. Join HRRC to honor those who once looked to the stars for their chance for freedom and those who still do today. Proceeds will go directly to the outreach and educational activities of HRRC. This event is family friendly, and all ages are welcome to participate.

## **Shop Smart:**

### **A Fair Trade Shopping Market**

**WHEN:** September 14<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

**WHERE:** First United Methodist Church, Stansbury Building – 3663 Westcenter Dr.

Start your holiday shopping early or just come to support your favorite local Fair Trade vendors at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Shop Smart Fair Trade Shopping Market. All items sold will be Fair Trade or made by human trafficking survivors. The event will highlight the importance that shopping Fair Trade has on eliminating human trafficking.

## ***Sunny Square* Film Screening**

**WHEN:** September 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm

**WHERE:** St. Arnold's Brewing Company – 2000 Lyons Ave.

This year, HRRC will be hosting a screening of the independent short documentary *Sunny Square* which highlights sex trafficking. Prior to the screening, HRRC will present a brief introduction to human trafficking to set the stage for the film. Following the movie, special guest panelists include Mayor Annise Parker and the Director Hammad Rizvi will discuss issues represented in the film. The brewery will be available for beer tasting throughout the event, and light snacks will be provided.

## **Shine a Light on Human Trafficking**

**WHEN:** September 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm

**WHERE:** City Hall and various watch parties

Did you know that Houston is a major hub for human trafficking? This September we are hosting an event on the steps of Houston's City Hall that will be simulcast at community gatherings throughout the Greater Houston area. Join us, and learn how to recognize the signs, report this type of crime, and find out how you can be a part of the solution to bring an end to modern day slavery. For a list of event locations, visit [shinealighthouse.org](http://shinealighthouse.org).

## **Flow for Freedom Community Yoga Event**

**WHEN:** September 27<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm

**WHERE:** Baker-Ripley Neighborhood Center – 6500 Rookin St.

Join us for an evening of meditation and movement as we host our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Flow for Freedom community yoga event. The event will allow participants to connect to the issue of human trafficking through spirituality as they experience different types of yoga led by various instructors in a "round-robin" format. Following yoga will be a light reception so that participants can meet the instructors, learn more about human trafficking, and enjoy Fair Trade treats.

## ***Delicious Peace:***

### **An Interfaith Exploration of Human Trafficking, Fair Trade, and Justice**

**WHEN:** September 28<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm

**WHERE:** University of St. Thomas Crooker Center – 3909 Graustark St.

Come learn about the interaction between faith, human trafficking, and Fair Trade at our *Delicious Peace* film screening and discussion. This documentary tells the story of Christian, Jewish and Muslim coffee farmers in Uganda who fought the social and economic conflict in their area by forming a "Delicious Peace" Cooperative and selling to a Fair Trade coffee roaster in the U.S. An interfaith discussion and reception will follow the film.

## **Anti-Trafficking Interfaith Seder**

**WHEN:** September 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm

**WHERE:** Chapelwood United Methodist Church Upper Room – 11140 Greenbay St.

As part of Faith and Freedom Weekend, HRRC has partnered with the National Council of Jewish Women – Houston Section, Harris County AFL-CIO, and the Jewish Labor Committee in hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Interfaith Anti-Trafficking Seder. The traditional Jewish Seder is an annual event during Passover when the story of enslavement and liberation (Exodus) from Egypt is recounted. Our Interfaith Seder will focus on past and current struggles for human justice.