



“Breaking the Chains”

A call to action!

A Social Action Initiative of the “Institute for Trafficked, Exploited & Missing Persons”

www.ITEMP.org

“Breaking the Chains” is a single-day social action movement to take place simultaneously around the United States on Black Friday (Nov. 27th), 2009, the biggest shopping day of the year. Its goal is to educate and remind our nation that human slavery still exists, and has a major and growing presence in the world today.

THIS IS NOT A PROTEST. The sole purpose of the event is to educate and remind people that modern slavery does very much exist, and inform them about what can be done to stop it. There will be no monetary donations solicited or accepted for this event.

What is “Breaking the Chains”?

Anticipated to involve one million participants nationwide, groups of three or more individuals will gather in different localities in all fifty states to hand out information about human trafficking (see attached data sheet from the “Institute for Trafficked, Exploited & Missing Persons”), and be available to answer questions about modern-day slavery. Participants will be dressed in black and wearing restraints around their hands to demonstrate the chains that still bind an estimated fourteen to thirty million people trapped in slavery around the world. Designs will be available for download and printing onto t-shirts and sweaters to identify “Breaking the Chains” participants, provide additional information about modern-day slavery, and identify this social action movement’s web-site for further information.

Instructions for “Breaking the Chains” Team Organizers

Plan of Action: Remember that this is not a protest. Black Friday provides a unique audience opportunity to get our message out because there will be large groups of people already waiting in lines and community gathering spaces. This alone will make many open to the message as they will be curious, bored, and open for discussions and inquisitive thought. The plan is for your group to start at the front of lines and work your way to the back to briefly inform and hand out information. An example of a good opening line would be to say “Did you know that slavery did not end with the Civil War?” Share information from the **Modern Slavery 101 Sheet** with them, and hand out the brochures. Don’t be pushy! If people do not want to talk to you, simply thank them and move onto the next group.

- **Form a group of three or more people.**
 - **Twitter:** Use your twitter account and talk about the event using the name: #BreakingTheChains
 - **Facebook:** Join our Facebook group, “The GOD’S CHILD Project” and confirm on the event that you will be coming and invite others.
 - **Word of mouth:** Tell your friends and family!
- **Contact** breakingthechains@itemp.org with your plan, location, contact information, and to coordinate efforts.
- **Gather and make the necessary supplies** (see our attached supply sheet)
Inform yourself. Read the attached **Modern Slavery 101 Sheet** information so that you can confidently talk to others on the subject.
- **Contact Media:** Remember that the main goal of “Breaking the Chains” is public education and the prevention of victimization of innocent people. Contact your local media to inform them of your plans and presence. Choose an articulate spokesperson and make them available for inter-views by the media. You may need to repeat this offer to your media outlets. Patrick Atkinson, the founder and International Executive Director of the “Institute for Trafficked, Exploited & Missing Persons” will be available for all media inquiries, as will Luke Armstrong (Program Director), Christopher Mathew (Field Operations) and Charles Moore (ITEMP Operations Director); these interviews should be scheduled or conducted in advance.
- On Friday, November 27, 2009 assemble at a large shopping center, store or community gathering space that anticipates a line on “Black Friday”. Find out when stores open on that day and plan on being there two hours before this time. Educate as many people as you can in 2 hours by handing out the “Breaking The Chains” brochures, answering questions, and referring additional inquiries to www.ITEMP.org.
- **Do not accept donations.** Inform people who are interested in volunteering or donating to visit the www.ITEMP.org website.
- If you are asked to leave a particular location, do so agreeably. This event is not the format for confrontation, just informing people.
- **Take pictures and video and email them to us within two hours of holding your event!** In order to show the scope of this event, pictures and videos are very important. Provide as much descriptive information as you can.

Supplies

Supplies can be found at www.ITEMP.org/breakingthechains.html. Please direct any questions or comments to breakingthechains@itemp.org.

- The **business card printouts** (a heavier cardstock like business cards is better, but not necessary). You can also print them on colored cardstock. Pick the file named **"Business Cards Front and Back"** for printing on actual business card templates. Pick the file named **"Regular Cards Front and Back"** for printing on regular cardstock.
- Download the T-shirt decal for printing onto black T-shirts or sweatshirts
- **Rope, chains, or handcuffs** – anything you have will do, but make sure it's somewhat comfortable and is not going to hurt you or anyone else. Do not use metal chains... plastic chain is just as effective and will not harm you or anyone else.
- **Digital Camera(s)**
- **Modern Slavery 101 Sheet**
- **Signs** (feel free to print our examples, or simply make our own with the same messages)
- **Sign Slogans:**
 - Slavery did not end with the Civil War
 - Millions of People Are Enslaved Today. Free them!
 - Break the Chains of Modern Day Slavery!



Please use the example on the left of how to loosely loop your "chains" - just a simple loop will be fine.

Thank you for your effort!

Introduction to Modern Day Slavery 101

Prepared by the "Institute for Trafficked, Exploited & Missing Persons"
www.ITEMP.org

Human trafficking: the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit a person for profit.

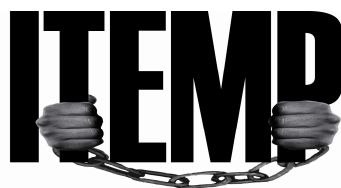
There are many forms of human trafficking that fit into two categories:

Forced Labor	Sexual Servitude
Bonded labor, debt bondage and involuntary servitude among migrant workers, involuntary domestic servitude, child labor, and child soldiers	Sex trafficking and prostitution, exploiting children for commercial sex, and child sex tourism

Human trafficking is a multi-dimensional threat that deprives people of basic rights and freedoms. Physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, as well as threats against the victims and their families, are used to coerce cooperation.

The Facts:

- The International Labor Organization reports that **12,300,000** children and adults work in forced or bonded labor, and sexual servitude. Other international human rights groups (UNICEF) state that upwards of 30,000,000 suffer this horrendous fate.
- **800,000** people are trafficked across national borders every year (US Department of State)
- **17,500** people are trafficked into the US each year (US Department of State)
- **100,000** United States juveniles are victimized through prostitution each year (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children)
- **80%** of victims are women, and up to **50%** are children (US Department of State)
- Human trafficking is the **3rd largest illegal industry** in the world, second only to the international arms and drug trades, with a value of **\$32 billion per year** (International Labor Organization)
- **Poverty plays a pivotal role** in trafficking as traffickers prey on the vulnerable and often trick victims with promises of work, education, and a better life.



About The Institute for Trafficked, Exploited & Missing Persons (ITEMP)

The Institute for Trafficked, Exploited & Missing Persons (ITEMP) was founded by Bismarck, North Dakota native Patrick Atkinson in 2001 as a sub-program of The GOD'S CHILD Project; a non-denominational, non-political charitable organization founded by Atkinson in 1991 to care for and educate 12,700 orphans and widowed mothers and their dependents worldwide.

Since its founding, ITEM P has created an international coalition of volunteers and professionals to identify, intercept, and rescue victims of human trafficking. Mr. Atkinson and ITEM P volunteers create social awareness of the dynamics of human trafficking, and prevent the victimization of innocent children and women, through a variety of events, including making hundreds of public campus-based presentations each year across the United States and around the world. ITEM P volunteers conduct field and academic research on human trafficking while operating in conjunction with national governments and international law enforcement agencies to prevent, interdict, rescue, and recover victims of human trafficking.

During Patrick Atkinson's twenty-eight years of working in war-zones and poverty-stricken areas around the world, he has personally witnessed forced slavery and human trafficking. On numerous occasions he has intervened for the victims and stopped human rights abuses.

The "Institute for Trafficked, Exploited & Missing Persons" (ITEM P) is internationally headquartered at The Atkinson Center in downtown Bismarck, North Dakota, USA. In Central America, ITEM P is based in Antigua, Guatemala. In Africa, ITEM P is based in Malawi.

About Patrick Atkinson

Patrick J. Atkinson, a Bismarck, North Dakota-native and the Founder and President of the Institute for Trafficked, Exploited & Missing Persons (ITEM P), is also the founder and international executive director of The GOD'S CHILD Project (www.GodsChild.org), and several other associated charities in the United States, Central America and Africa.

The recipient of over a hundred national and international awards, Mr. Atkinson received the Guatemalan Congressional Medal in 2005 in recognition of the risks he took and thousands of Mayan Indian lives that he saved during Guatemala's violent and bloody civil war. In April of 2006, author Monica Hannan's book about Mr. Atkinson, *The Dream Maker*, was published. This widely-selling biography chronicles the life and work of Mr. Atkinson, who has battled war, prostitution, and poverty to set the children free. In 2007, Atkinson was named Goodwill Ambassador for Peace by the Government of Guatemala. He has one son, and currently lives in Antigua Guatemala, and Minnesota.