

# #MYFREEDOMDAY

WHAT IS IT? #MYFREEDOMDAY is a day-long student-driven event to raise awareness about human trafficking within schools and communities around the world.

WHEN IS IT? **MARCH 14, 2017**. We know that seems like a million miles away, but it will creep up quick. That's why we need to get started quick.

SLAVERY STILL EXISTS? It does, in a big way. The 2016 Global Slavery Index says there are more than **45 million people** trapped in slavery (45.8 million to be exact). The UN says human traffickers earn more than **\$150 Billion every year** from enslaving people. While slavery is illegal pretty much everywhere now - criminals are still doing the same things today that slave owners did 200 years ago.

DEFINE MODERN-DAY SLAVERY THEN. Sure. It's pretty much the same way you'd define slavery throughout human history. Slavery occurs when one person controls another person, through violence or the threat of violence, in order to exploit them, economically or otherwise, and the victim is not free to walk away. It could be a woman kidnapped and made to work in a brothel in Europe, a man threatened to be killed or mutilated if he doesn't work in the fields for a landowner, or a child forced to do dangerous work in gold mines or on fishing boats. None of these people get paid and none of them are allowed to leave, for fear of violence against them or their families.

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO? Say something. Get in the game. How many of your friends and family members know there are 45 million slaves in the world today? CNN will provide you with proof: studies, stories and statistics from support organizations to help inform everybody you know. Our hope is that you will use that information to create an event at your school on the day.

HOW MANY PEOPLE NEED TO BE INVOLVED? As many as you and your friends can put together. Even if it's 5 people, you'll be rep'ing your school and joining thousands of other students around the world in standing up to slavery.

ANY IDEAS FOR WHAT WE SHOULD DO? Of course. We've put a lot of thought into it. But we also want you to come up with your own ideas. They're probably infinitely more interesting than ours. But just to get you started, there's a list of ideas on the other page to help get your creative juices flowing!

# EVENT HOSTING IDEAS

- Film Screening** - There are plenty of movies, and plenty of documentaries that deal with human trafficking. If you want to use a CNN documentary, we'll even supply it for you and let you air it for free. The videos will be available to download on our special site. [cnn.com/myfreedom](http://cnn.com/myfreedom).
- Panel Discussion** - Invite local lawmakers, policy of anti-trafficking organizations to discuss the issue and what it looks like not just abroad, but in your hometown.
- Art Show** - Create art work, in any media, and show it off at the school then upload it to social media. The theme can be anti-slavery and should include peaceful, hopeful messages; expression about survivors and traffickers; and any form of expression that highlights human trafficking in a way that will raise awareness to your community.
- Stand for Freedom** - Students stand for 45 minutes (or 45 hours, if you're really dedicated!) for to represent the 45 million victims of slavery in the world today.
- Holi Day** - The Indian Festival in March celebrates love and color to raise awareness and money. It consists of washable pigmented powders that can be thrown at each other. Add music and a booth for human trafficking information and you have a full day of fun.
- Day of Service** - Support a half-day of service where students can volunteer at rehabilitation centers; visit their local lawmakers for a call to action; or collect items needed or survivors in conjunction with local organizations.