

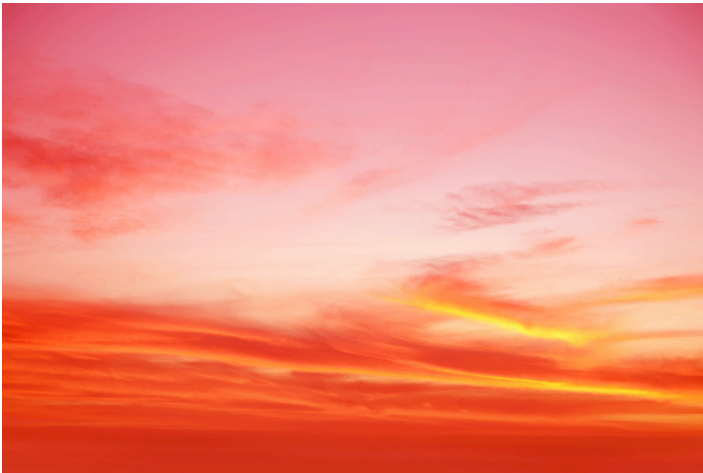
PENTECOST NOVENA



HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

In the Congo, trafficking happens mostly within its borders, especially in the eastern Congo that is ravaged by war these past 10 years. Women, men, girls and boys are used as:

- sexual slaves
- forced laborers in the mines (coltan, gold)
- domestic servants
- child combatants, and laborers



They are used by indigenous and foreign armed groups from the Congo, Uganda and Rwanda. A small number of women and girls are trafficked outside the country for domestic servants and sex slaves in Republic of the Congo, South Africa and European countries, Norway is an example. According to UNICEF the estimate is that 30,000 child soldiers are used as combatants; of these 40% are girls.

To view the video of: *Nicole, A Child Soldier in Congo*, click on:

[Videocrux - The life of a child soldier in eastern DR.Congo](#)

PRAYER:

Good, wonderful, and perfect, God,

We come to beg for your mercy.

You created Light.

But the world chooses to live without light.

You sent your Son Jesus to liberate the captives.

But the world continues to enslave people, especially children, and women and men.

Our hearts are broken and outraged, when we hear stories of trafficked people. We come to beg your mercy for our brothers and sisters who have been trafficked and sold as slaves by their parents because they are unable to feed them.

We pray for those who buy these children because they need money and then sell them again. We pray for those who then use these children, because of greed, for: sexual exploitation and prostitution, backbreaking forced labor in the fields and mines, and to kill as child soldiers. We pray for the girls and boys who sell themselves for the “good promises” without knowing the reality of evil. Once enslaved, these children experience the reality, and then want to escape, but realize they are trapped, not knowing where to turn, or what to do. Be with these children, whose spirits are broken and hearts have lost hope, O God. For these evil decisions which dehumanize women, men, girls and boys, because they are not considered to have value or human dignity, **we ask God to have mercy and transform the traffickers.**

God, help us to imitate the courage of your Son, Jesus, who came to liberate oppressed people of all races, language and nations. Help us to work tirelessly in the work of Anti-Human Trafficking, even if it means we put our own lives in danger. It is then that we continue to work steadfastly for your reign of peace and justice for all. AMEN.

Sister Isabelle Izika SND de Namur