



San Joaquin County Justice Coalition

Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. Proverbs 31:9

About US

San Joaquin County Justice Coalition (SJC-JC) is devoted to passionately advocating for the enslaved and dispossessed in San Joaquin County.

Our mission is to engage and mobilize the Christian community and to develop a comprehensive collaborative response to modern day slavery and all forms of oppression in San Joaquin County.

Our vision is to promote transformation by working within our community to overcome the ethos that feeds the environment that enables modern day slavery, dispossession and oppression in San Joaquin County California.

The Slavery-Free Plan

In order to end slavery we must not only cut down the branches and pull up the roots we must also make it impossible for slavery to take root ever again. Once slavery is stopped in our cities, it must be “slavery-proofed.” The *Slavery-Free* plan shows how we can work together to stop slavery in our county and make sure it never comes back.

How do you slave-proof a whole county? It starts with prayer seeking God’s Divine intervention. It takes everyone working together to care for our cities and to serve in ways that will restore and protect our residents. It takes everyone doing what he or she is created and gifted to do. And it takes leadership, slavery-proofing San Joaquin County begins with a single voice.

5 STEPS TO MAKING SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY SLAVERY-FREE

1. It begins with a group of people, committed to ending slavery in San Joaquin County, drafting and sending a letter of intent to the local newspaper, churches, the Chamber of Commerce, and schools. When there is even a small group of people committed to ending slavery, then creating a slavery-free community has begun.

2. This group then gathers signatures of residents committed to slave-proofing our community.

3. This group then finds out which existing service providers (sometimes a shelter specifically for trafficking survivors, but oftentimes homeless shelters, women’s shelters and immigrant service organizations) are already equipped to help trafficking survivors and learns about their work, how they can best be supported.

4. This group will need to research and discover 1. What are the factors that make San Joaquin County residents vulnerable to modern day slavery both as victims and perpetrators 2. What are the demand-driven factors fueling modern day slavery and oppression in San Joaquin County today 3. What makes San Joaquin County a destination for modern day slavers?

5. Together with the existing service providers, the group meets with and shares its vision with all the people and groups that will be needed to slavery-proof the county; the county Board of Directors, County Sheriff, the City Council, Mayor, Police Chief, Head of Education, religious leaders, teachers, service organizations, and especially the editors and managers of local newspapers, radio and TV stations.



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THE PLAN HAS 6 PARTS

1. Raising Public Awareness. The goal is that every resident is educated to the reality that modern day slavery exists in San Joaquin County and that this community has decided to say “No!” The campaign should include articles in the local newspaper, reports on TV and radio, a proclamation by the city government, and special assemblies in schools. Places of worship will disseminate information, as well as community groups.

Community members are essential and invaluable partners when they are informed about Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and human trafficking and taught to recognize and report it. Many human trafficking victims are children, they are our children and they can be rescued when someone takes notice and takes action.

San Joaquin County Justice Coalition will challenge businesses and residents to watch with open eyes, listen with open ears and to take action to keep our children safe from exploitation by:

1. Raising community awareness about the modern day slavery epidemic.
2. Dispelling myths and misconceptions that perpetuate this form of abuse.
3. Teach individuals to recognize and report exploitation.
4. Arm local community leaders with facts not fiction.
5. Challenge leaders to recognize and respond to the reality of the problem.
6. Enlist the help of community leaders to create laws to end the epidemic of modern day slavery that is violating our community.
7. Challenge local businesses to comply with SB 1193 & Civic Code Section 52.6 (posting of public notice regarding slavery and human trafficking)

San Joaquin County Justice Coalition Watch is an outreach and training effort created to involve community members and local businesses. Specifically we will be asking residents to open their eyes and ears, watch, listen and take action. We will educate individuals, faith-based agencies, schools and community groups about modern day slavery and provide tools to effectively and anonymously report suspected human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children in their area.

2. Driving Home the Message. After the build-up of awareness in the schools, press, TV and radio, every household should receive a booklet that explains the realities of modern slavery and how to recognize and report suspected cases of human trafficking and slavery.

3. On the Streets. Very early, before the campaign is actually begun, there should be meetings with local law enforcement and a plan made for officers to receive training on human trafficking and slavery, with the goal of having one officer serve as the leader in all trafficking cases. This training is available from a number of sources. The aim should be for the training to take place before the public awareness campaign begins, and to be featured in the news of the campaign. Training should also be planned for other workers that are particularly likely to come into contact with victims of human trafficking: doctors, nurses and other medical staff, public health and labor inspectors, educators, social workers, hotel workers, convenience store, gas station and truck stop employees.



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4. In Support of the Service Providers. When members of the community begin to learn about slavery and its warning signs, the aim is that any people who are held in slavery will be located and freed. The cities need to be sure that service providers have what they need to help the survivors rebuild their lives, including safe shelter, medical and psychological care, legal assistance and education/job training. Such organizations often need additional funding and in-kind resources that the community should work together to help provide. The city and county governments can provide funds or can help these groups' access state and federal funds. Local foundations that give grants can contribute leadership gifts. Faith communities can hold fundraisers for the local social service provision groups. Tragically, supporting these groups is a step that is often overlooked. It must be a priority that service providers have the resources they need.

5. Local Retailers and Retirement Funds. While the more public part of the campaign is being carried out, a committee including members of the city council, local business leaders, religious leaders, teachers, and especially someone with training in investing, should be looking at two areas of the county's economy: what goods are being sold in the community that have a high likelihood of being slave-made; and what stocks and shares are being invested in for local pension plans, etc., that have a high likelihood of profit from slave labor. The aim will not be to suddenly rip these products and shares out of the community, but to make careful decisions about how best to remove slavery from shops and investments and to use that process to alert and explain the ideas of a Slavery-Free County to businesses and investors.

6. Ongoing Public Recognition. The campaign may open with a proclamation that this community is going to become a Slavery-Free County, after the major part of the initial campaign is completed, perhaps after three to six months, leaders should report to the community on progress and publicly commit to the ongoing vigilance needed.