



DMST EXPANDED PRAYER GUIDE

Now that you know about Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking, what can you do? Street Hope TN believes prayer is a powerful tool in fighting DMST ([James 5:13-18](#)). If you're wondering how you can make a difference, prayer is the first step.

This guide is meant to inform and inspire your times of prayer, helping you do battle on behalf of those touched by DMST. We consider all those affected: *victims, buyers, pimps, law enforcement, government officials, and communities.*

PRAY FOR THE VICTIMS

Who are the victims of DMST?

- average age 13 at recruitment
- vulnerable due to risk factors victimized by adults
- facing isolation & fear
- forcibly used to criminal activity
- facing disease and injury from violence
- convinced they have no worth
- often caught in intergenerational exploitation children of failed families
- held with the help of drugs, brutality, and shame
- convinced God does not see or know their pain

How to pray for the victims:

- Comfort and protection – physically, psychologically, emotionally, spiritually Restoration of bodies, minds, and hearts
- Places of refuge for recovery and rehabilitation
- Rebuilding of trust bonds and relational bonds with people
- Insightful care givers, counselors, and law enforcement workers
- Academic grace and redemption
- Physical needs for shelter, clothing, food, and protection
- A hope for their future

Truth to pray:

"The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." ([Psalm 34:18](#))

PRAY FOR THE PERPETRATORS

Who are the perpetrators?

- Perpetrators can be those who buy children or those who sell children.
- They can be men or women, unrelated or family members.
- They can be rich or poor, any age, or a fellow child.
- They may lurk in places like massage parlors, escort services, online, in strip clubs, adult bookstores, sporting venues, or locker rooms.

Buyers often "look so normal" and have regular roles in their community: doctors, business professionals, truck drivers, or clergy members. Many of them were abused or exploited in their own

childhoods. They are part of our communities. Instead of being “among us,” they are one of us. We pray for them with a desire for restoration, not revenge. We beg God for a change of heart, a spirit of repentance, and a wellspring of the same grace we’ve found.

If there was no demand, there would be no supply. Children will no longer be sold for sex when adults no longer buy them to sexually exploit them.

How to pray for perpetrators:

- Recognition. Pray that perpetrators would recognize the evil of their part in DMST, and see the widespread destruction it causes in their own life, in victims, and in the wider community.
- Sorrow. Pray that perpetrators would see DMST as God sees it, having their eyes opened and responding with hearts of confession.
- Discovery. Pray that those who victimize children would be exposed.
- Justice. Pray that individuals would be held accountable for their choices and the wrongs they have committed.
- Restraint. Pray for those who have habits of exploiting children would be thwarted in their plans or schemes to use and abuse others.

Truth to pray:

“For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them.” ([Isaiah 61:8](#)- NIV)

PRAY FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Where does DMST impact our communities?

Using children for sexual exploitation through recruiting, grooming, and trafficking affects victims foremost, but it also has far-reaching effects in our communities.

When DMST is part of community life, everyone suffers:

- Decreased neighborhood safety
- Negative images & environment for all children
- Increase in gang, drug, and weapons related crimes
- Greater influence from organized crime organizations
- Higher costs for law enforcement, courts, healthcare & social services
- Weaker educational services in schools
- Strain on social services and personnel
- Danger to first responders
- Long-term impact in prostitution
- Intergenerational patterns of violence against women & children
- Patterns of broken families and insufficient parenting

Anyone can become a player in the “game” of DMST. As we pray for our communities, let’s keep the word “our” in the forefront of our petitions. This crime, the broken people caught in it, and those fighting it are all part of OUR community.

How to pray for our communities:

- **Community organizations fighting DMST** – Pray for their safety, wise use of resources, perseverance in an ugly work, protection of their thoughts, and strength to confront obstacles. Pray for adequate funding to do the work of fighting DMST and bringing awareness to many.

Pray for insight into investment of resources for expanding programs and for cooperative spirits in working together.

- **Lawmakers** – Pray for awareness and understanding of issues surrounding DMST. May they grasp the personal nature of this evil for those they represent, and may they have the courage to do battle through legislation. Pray for lawmakers to be compassionate towards victims and firm with perpetrators. May they work together and across party lines to put justice and children first and do what's best in speaking for the vulnerable who have no voice.
- **Law enforcement** – Pray for their discernment of seemingly ordinary events, their insight into gathering evidence, and their physical, spiritual, and emotional protection as they work in darkness. Pray for protection for their families.
Educators and social service workers – Pray for these front line workers to be astute in recognizing signs of trafficking, to earn the trust of victims, and to create a climate where exploitation is not welcome.
- **First responders and medical** personnel – Pray for compassionate competence to provide immediate physical and emotional care to victims. Lift up their need to identify signs of trafficking and to work with other agencies in providing for children in crisis.
Business professionals – Pray for this part of the community to have high moral values and to reject exploitation of human beings. Pray for them to be more concerned in standing for people than in making a profit. Pray that they would use their resources to support the work of those working for awareness and prevention of DMST, as well as those providing for restoration of the impacted.
- **Artists** – Pray for these members of our communities to use their freedom of expression to stir up a desire for just, clean, respectful treatment of children. Pray for them to use their artistic gifts to make their neighborhoods a more beautiful place and to reject the allure of arousing violence.

Truth to pray:

“Behold, all who are incensed against you shall be put to shame and confounded; those who strive against you shall be as nothing and shall perish. You shall seek those who contend with you, but you shall not find them; those who war against you shall be as nothing at all. For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, “Fear not, I am the one who helps you.” (Isaiah 41:11-13)