

FOUR ADDITIONS TO THE PASSOVER SEDER:

Linking the Jewish history of slavery and freedom to the tragedy of millions of men, women and children enslaved worldwide today



National Council of Jewish Women
Sacramento Section

Report suspicious activity on toll free hot line -1-888-3737-888 or TEXT BeFree

- 1. Add an extra serving of marror to your Seder.** After making the "Hillel Sandwich" of bitter herbs and charoset, prepare a small piece of matzah with marror and say:

In remembrance of today's slaves, now in our own time, some in our very own country, we eat this extra portion of marror. We remember women entrapped by predators who promised them a better life and are exploited with promises of false love and protection. We think of children sold into slavery who knot carpets or tend crops at this moment. We recall refugee men swept into captive labor. With this extra portion of marror, we who are free share the bitterness of today's slaves, resolving to appeal to governments, leaders, and communities and our own actions, to end human trafficking for all time.

- 2. A Sephardic Passover tradition** involves participants holding bunches of celery, chives, leeks or scallions and lightly beating each other on the back and shoulders to symbolize the sting generated by the whip of the Egyptian taskmasters. This activity can promote discussion of the different bonds of enslavers today.
- 3. When we break the middle matzah, for Yachatz,** reflect on those who "eat the bread of affliction" today by discussing modern day slavery. See [www.oag.ca.gov/human trafficking](http://www.oag.ca.gov/human%20trafficking) or polarisproject.org.
- 4. Add a piece of Fair Trade Certified Chocolate** or photo of cocoa beans on the Seder plate. At the beginning of the Haggadah, when the leader lifts the ceremonial Seder plate and tells the assembled the name of each of the items on the plate, the leader also points to the Fair Trade chocolate and says:

"This is Fair Trade Certified chocolate. It is grown under standards that prohibit the use of forced labor. It is on our Seder plate to remind us that forced labor is still with us today."

After the Maggid and before blessing the matzah, bitter herb, and charoset, read:

- Leader:** Once, we were slaves in Egypt.
- Assembled:** Today, young children are toiling in the West African cocoa fields.
- Leader:** Just as Moses grew up in the house of the Pharaoh, we have influence over those who exploit children in the cocoa fields.
- Assembled:** We can walk in Moses' footsteps. We can have the courage to ask the Pharaohs of today to let the children go.
- Leader:** We feel our lives are busy. That we do not have the time. But where would we be if Moses did not take the time to lead us to freedom?
- Assembled:** Where will those children be next year if we do not take time to support their quest for freedom?
- Leader:** Each year we say: "next year in Jerusalem." This year let us also say: "next year, an end to forced labor in the cocoa fields."
- Assembled:** Passover is not the only week in the year to think of forced labor and to dream of freedom for all. We can take action between this Passover and the next.
- Leader:** Let us commit ourselves, as Moses did, to take action, to end forced labor.
- Assembled:** Let us commit ourselves to looking for the Fair Trade Certified label whenever we enjoy chocolate, to help end the cycle of poverty and exploitation.
- Leader:** Let us partake of the taste of Fair Trade chocolate that tastes not of exploitations, but of sweetness and freedom.