

Season of Creation 2025

# Peace with Creation



**A Reflection from Lebanon in Defense  
of Human Rights and All of Creation**  
**The Interconnection of War, Injustice, and Human Trafficking**

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Living in **Lebanon**, I have witnessed how injustice, poverty, and violence weigh heavily on people's lives. They do not only destroy buildings and livelihoods, but also destroy trust, dignity, and hope. For the most vulnerable — women, children, migrants, and displaced families — these struggles often open the door to exploitation. **Human trafficking thrives where fear and instability leave people with little protection.**

## **War, injustice, and genocidal violence in Lebanon and the broader Middle East have created a crisis that extends far beyond the battlefield.**

Armed conflicts fuel mass displacement, leaving millions of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) vulnerable to exploitation. Economic collapse, the lack of safe livelihoods, and the erosion of essential services push families into desperate circumstances, making them easy targets for traffickers who prey on **their need for survival, safety, and stability.**

Communities that once stood strong together are weakened when **social bonds are broken**. People find themselves isolated and uncertain, searching for ways to survive. In these fragile moments, traffickers take advantage of desperation, offering false promises of safety, work, or stability. Sexual violence and exploitation often follow, trapping people in **cycles of abuse.**



**But this is not only a human tragedy.** The destruction of the natural environment is deeply connected to human exploitation. **When the land is bombarded**, when farmland is ruined, when water becomes scarce and polluted, people are forced to leave their homes to search for food and



security. In this displacement, they become even more vulnerable to traffickers. **Caring for creation, therefore, is inseparable from protecting human dignity.**

I think here of a woman I know, **Lena**, a mother of three in Beirut. During the years of economic collapse, she opened her modest home to her neighbors. It became **a place of support and awareness**, where people could share fears and find courage. Her act of hospitality was a simple but **powerful defense of dignity** in the middle of hardship. Later, when her own home was destroyed and she and her daughters were displaced, she experienced the solidarity of others welcoming her in return.

**Her story reminds us that resilience is possible even in the darkest moments, and that community is often the strongest protection against exploitation.**



In such fragile conditions, governments often lack the ability to respond effectively. Survivors face enormous **barriers to justice**, and traffickers act with little fear of consequences. In this gap, local communities, NGOs, and faith-based networks step forward to provide support, raise awareness, and accompany victims.

**The Talitha Kum network is one such witness of hope.** Rooted in faith and compassion, it works not only to end human trafficking but also to nurture **Peace with Creation**. This vision recognizes the **deep interconnection between human dignity and the protection of our common home**. By networking, collaborating, and empowering communities, Talitha Kum strives to create spaces where people can live in freedom and creation is respected.

As the world reflects on **global commitments** to peace and care for creation, we are reminded that these two struggles cannot be separated. To defend human rights is also to defend the earth; **to protect creation is to protect the most vulnerable from exploitation**. In Lebanon and across the Middle East, I see this truth every day — in families struggling for survival, in women like Lena who **open their doors to hope**, and in communities who continue to stand together even when everything else has fallen apart.

**Our call is clear:** to rebuild not only houses and livelihoods, but also the spirit of resilience that sustains our people. In defending human rights and creation, we are invited to **walk together** toward a future where peace, dignity, and care for the earth are one. Even in times of crisis, hope can still open its doors.

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