

## Readings for the Start of Seder

Contributed by [Religious Action Center](#)

Source: Human Trafficking Seder

We are together because we know that justice and freedom are indivisible. Yet we are living in the midst of a tragic paradox: no longer is there an underground network to guide slaves to freedom, but rather, there is an underground criminal network to entrap people and sell them into slavery. Until we unite to confront this grave violation of human rights, it will continue to plague the world and feed off vulnerable men, women, and children.

- *The Freedom Center*

They came for the Communists, and I didn't speak up,  
because I wasn't a Communist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up,  
because I wasn't a Jew.

Then they came for the Trade-Unionists, and I didn't speak up,  
because I wasn't a Trade-Unionist.

Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up,  
because I was a Protestant.

Then they came for me, and by that time,  
there was no one left to speak up.

- *Reverend Martin Niemoeller*

To celebrate the Seder is not merely to recall the Exodus; it is to recapture it. We are taught that, "In every generation all of us are obliged to regard ourselves as if we ourselves went forth from the land of Egypt." (Exodus 13:8) So it is not enough to remember; we must ourselves enter the story and, through prayer and song and symbol and ceremony, make it our own. We must feel the lash and feel the hope that defeats its pain. We must feel the water at our feet, and the fresh breeze of freedom on our face. 7 Group And as we do, then our hearts will be open to all today who still live in Pharaoh's domain, and to all those for whom the Exodus has not yet happened. The greatest gift, freedom, was given to us. These miracles were done for us. For us the waters parted. Let us merit what has been given us by becoming the agents of freedom for all God's children who dwell in darkness.

*For more information on human trafficking, please visit [rac.org/human-trafficking](http://rac.org/human-trafficking).*

*For all Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism resources, please visit [rac.org/Passover](http://rac.org/Passover).*