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# Christian Perspectives on Modern Abolitionist Activism: Motivation, Conceptualization, and Approach

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CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES ON MODERN ABOLITIONIST ACTIVISM:  
MOTIVATION, CONCEPTUALIZATION, AND APPROACH

by

Aimée Hartecramer

A thesis submitted to the  
Department of International Affairs  
University of Colorado Boulder  
2011

*This thesis entitled:  
Christian Perspectives on Modern Abolitionist Activism:  
Motivations, Conceptualizations, and Approach  
written by Aimée Hartecramer  
has been approved for the Department of International Affairs*

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*Professor Vicki Grove*

*April 2011*

*The final copy of this thesis has been examined by the signatories, and we find that both the content and the form meet acceptable presentation standards of scholarly work in the above mentioned discipline.*

*Institutional Review Board Protocol #10-0185*

## **Abstract**

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Christian Perspectives on Modern Abolitionist Activism:  
Motivations, Conceptualizations, and Approach

The same forces behind globalization have fostered the international slave-trade, as well as the transnational communication networks of religious adherents. The slave-trade and these faith-based networks intersect in the realms of human rights and humanitarian activism. In particular, Christian-based advocacy has played a significant role within the movement to end human trafficking and various forms of modern slavery. This study is a cross-sectional, qualitative exploration of the motivations and conceptualizations behind the activism of individuals confessing a faith in Jesus Christ, especially those working on issues of modern slavery. The primary aim of this study is to explore the specific religious rhetoric, imagery, and histories that currently function as motivational factors within the world of faith-based abolitionist activism. A secondary aim of this study is to increase general awareness of Judeo-Christian perspectives, positions and approaches to anti-trafficking/slavery activism, for the express purpose of facilitating cooperation and collaboration between diverse groups of activists, both faith-based and secular.

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