

# Stop Trafficking !

Anti Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

December 2016 Vol. 14 No. 12

This issue provides educational materials to use during Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January 2017.

Sponsored by the: Sisters of the Divine Savior

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## Looking Ahead — 2017

### January is National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month

The U.S. government, business, and citizens have done much to overcome the exploitation of persons through force, fraud or coercion. However so much more needs to be done in order to eradicate modern day slavery in the U.S. and globally.

You are invited to use the pages of the December issue to get the word out to everyone so together we can end sexual exploitation and violence, as well as workforce exploitation.

**You can make a difference!**

### 'Stop Trafficking' Becomes a Full Partner

*Stop Trafficking* will begin its 15th year of publication in January 2017. At the same time it will become a full partner in the Coalition of U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking (USCSAHT).

This partnership, like that modeled by the PITF (below), is meant to strengthen the effort to educate others to the complexity of human trafficking, to provide a voice and advocacy for its victims/survivors, and to broaden the range of actions that counter all forms of human trafficking throughout the world.

### The President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking (PITF)



PITF is a cabinet-level entity, created by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), which consists of some 15 departments and agencies across the federal government that are responsible for coordinating

U.S. government-wide efforts to combat trafficking in persons. The PITF meets annually and is chaired by the Secretary of State.

Agencies of the PITF have brought together leaders from government, the private sector, advocates and survivors, faith leaders, law enforcement and academia, and have made significant progress following President Obama's March 2012 call to strengthen federal efforts to combat human trafficking in victim services, rule of law, procurement and supply chains, and public awareness and outreach.



YOU can be:

- the eyes to spot victims and abuse;
  - the voice to speak for justice for the vulnerable;
  - the hands to work to free enslaved persons.
- To report, call HT Hotline 888-373-7888

# What Is Modern Day Slavery?

## Legal Definitions in U.S. Law

The 2000 *Trafficking Victims Protection Act* (TVPA) changed the U.S. Penal Code 22USC § 7102 as follows:

**SEX TRAFFICKING:** The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for commercial sex act, in which the sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.

**LABOR TRAFFICKING:** The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

### The A-M-P Model:

**Action:** Recruits, harbors, transports, provides, obtains; (in sex trafficking also patronizes, solicits, advertises).

**Means:** Force by physical assault, sexual assault, confinement. Fraud by false promises about work/living conditions, withholding promised wages. Coercion by threats of harm or deportation, debt bondage, psychological manipulation, confiscation of documents.

**Purpose:** a commercial sex act; labor or services.

### Where and Who?

Sex Trafficking: commercial/residential brothels, hotel/motels, online/street-based, escort services, strip clubs, porn production venues, truck stops.

Labor Trafficking: employed in private homes, restaurants, agriculture, retail and small business, landscaping, car wash venues, health & beauty venues, traveling sales crews, begging rings.

**Victims:** Women, men, children, citizens, foreign born, legal/illegal status.

## Who Are Potential Advocates?

*“During the time I was on the street, I went to hospitals, urgent care clinics, women’s health clinics, and private doctors. No one ever asked me anything anytime I ever went to a clinic.”* Lauren, survivor

### Medical Personnel

In 2014 research found 87.8% of trafficked persons accessed health-care while being trafficked. Of these, 68.3% were seen at an emergency room department.

#### Reasons to access:

Due to assaults, workplace injuries, for ob/gyn/prenatal services, treatment of addiction, mental health services, routine check-ups.

### Educators

Red flags may include truancy, sexualized clothing and/or behavior, anger or a depressed mood, signs of drug or alcohol use, tatoos that look like branding.

### Non-Profit Agencies

Domestic abuse agencies and child welfare agencies may encounter persons who cannot self-identify due to lack of knowledge of the rights and laws, or who are very afraid of retaliation from law enforcement or the suspected trafficker.

### Consumers

Consumers can communicate their expectations regarding the availability of fair trade products. They can also ask questions about how well the business monitors its supply chain of products sold in its company.

### Ordinary Citizens

By knowing the potential red flags, people can report what “just does not look right” to proper authorities. This may be right in your own neighborhood. Don’t look away!

## How Can Human Trafficking Be Addressed?

Through the years the 2000 TVPA has undergone legislative revisions that have improved its overall effectiveness in finding and providing service to victims, as well as finding and prosecuting traffickers, with increasing penalties.

**National and local task forces and coalitions** have formed that include citizens, social service agencies, legal/medical/law enforcement personnel in ways that help educate the public, provide empowerment to victims/survivors, and identify/prosecute traffickers.

### Informative Websites:

- <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>
- <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/civil-rights/human-trafficking>
- <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/what-human-trafficking>
- <https://www.ice.gov/human-trafficking>
- <https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking>
- <https://traffickingresourcecenter.org/states>
- <https://traffickingresourcecenter.org/resources/human-trafficking-task-force-e-guide>
- <https://traffickingresourcecenter.org/resources/educator-guide-guide-ending-violence-and-exploitation>
- <https://traffickingresourcecenter.org/resources/crime-human-trafficking-law-enforcement-guide-identification-and-investigation>
- <http://www.humantraffickingsearch.net/>

*Over 510 trafficking flows cross the world from 152 countries of origin into 124 countries of destination.* (<http://www.caritas.org/2015/08/migrants-and-asylum-seekers-are-vulnerable-to-modern-slavery/>)



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# Tackling Forced Labor in Company Supply Chains

## Scale of the Problem

The *International Labour Organization* estimates that 21 million people (11.4 million women and girls and 9.5 million men and boys) are victims of forced labor around the globe. These victims work in virtually every industry and across sectors, including manufacturing, agriculture, construction, entertainment and domestic service.

(<http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm> (as of Feb. 6, 2015).

California, which boasts the world's seventh-largest economy and the country's largest consumer base, is unique in its ability to address this issue and thus help eradicate human trafficking and slavery worldwide.

## Consumers Care

In recent years, California consumers have demanded that producers provide greater transparency about goods brought to market. Consumers utilize this additional information to drive their purchasing decisions, and various indicators suggest that Californians are not alone. A recent survey of western consumers revealed that people would be willing to pay extra for products they could identify as being made under good working conditions.

The *California Transparency in Supply Chains Act* (Steinberg, 2010) (the "Act") provides consumers with critical information about the efforts

that companies are undertaking to prevent and root out human trafficking and slavery in their product supply chains – whether here or overseas. The law is poised to help California (and all U.S.) consumers make better and more informed purchasing choices.

## Company Disclosure

The "Act" requires large retailers and manufacturers doing business in CA to disclose on their websites their "efforts to eradicate slavery and human trafficking from [their] direct supply chain for tangible goods offered for sale."

The law applies to any company doing business in CA that has annual worldwide gross receipts of more than \$100 million and that identifies itself as a retail seller or manufacturer on its California tax return.

Companies subject to the Act must post disclosures on their Internet websites related to five specific areas: verification, audits, certification, internal accountability, and training.

The *California Transparency in Supply Chains Act* does not mandate that businesses implement new measures to ensure that their product supply chains are free from human trafficking and slavery. Instead, the law only requires that covered businesses make the required disclosures – even if they do little or nothing at all to safeguard their supply chains. Companies subject to the Act must therefore disclose particular information within each disclosure category, and the Act offers companies discretion in how to do so.

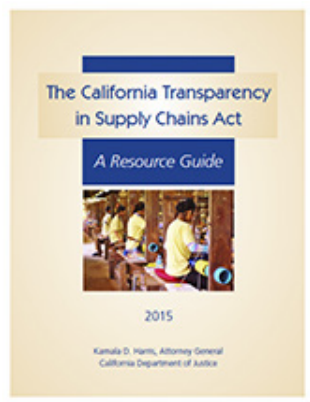
This Resource Guide is intended to help covered companies by offering recommendations about model disclosures and best practices for developing such disclosures. In each disclosure category, the Guide discusses how a company can provide disclosures that comply with the law, as well as enhance consumers' understanding of the company's anti-trafficking and anti-slavery efforts.



Forced cotton harvesting in Uzbekistan

## How Your Consumer Power Makes a Difference

- Check out your slavery footprint: [http://slaveryfootprint.org/#where\\_do\\_you\\_live](http://slaveryfootprint.org/#where_do_you_live)
- Learn more about where slavery-made products come from: <https://productsofslavery.org/>
- Learn where to buy Fair Trade (slavery-free) products: <http://fairtradeusa.org/products-partners>
- Check company web sites to see how they comply with supply chain monitoring requirements.
- Tell retail stores you want to see Fair Trade products sold there.
- Avoid industries potentially linked to human trafficking, such as sexually-oriented businesses.



## Get the Guide:

<https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/sb657/resource-guide.pdf>



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# Sexual Exploitation of Children

## Backpage.com and Sex Trafficking

Backpage.com is one of the main venues for advertising/soliciting for prostitution and child trafficking in its adult “Escorts” section. Between 2008 and 2016 there have been nearly 2000 reports to the *National Human Trafficking Hotline* of possible sex trafficking cases linked to Backpage, with 40% involving a minor. 71% of all suspected child sex trafficking reports have a link to Backpage.com.

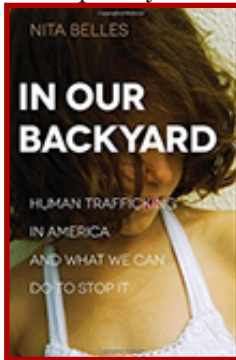
In July 2016 several major credit card companies removed their services as payment options from the website in order to curb sex trafficking.

Backpage is not merely a passive online platform. The U.S. Senate discovered evidence that ads had been edited or modified before being posted, sometimes in order to conceal that commercial sex acts were being offered for money or to conceal the sale of someone who was a minor. It is clear that Backpage knew sex trafficking was happening on their site.

After a three-year investigation conducted by the offices of CA Attorney General Kamala Harris and TX Attorney General Ken Paxton, they raided Backpage’s offices, executed search warrants, and subsequently arrested Carl Ferrer,

Backpage CEO, in October 2016. The investigation is ongoing. The arrest deals a major blow against an organization that many have called the “world’s top online

brothel.” (<https://polarisproject.org/blog/2016/10/07/what-arrest-backpage>)



## Care for Victims

Children rescued from human trafficking need treatment for physical and mental injuries and trauma, safe housing, remedial education, legal services, help with basic life skills, and supportive mentoring.

A growing number of States have passed ‘Safe Harbor’ laws that decriminalize the acts of children who are exploited for commercial sex and provide them legal protections and access to services. ‘No Wrong Door: A Comprehensive Approach to Safe Harbor for Minnesota’s Sexually Exploited Youth’ is one example:

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/forms-documents/Documents/!2012%20Safe%20Harbor%20Report%20%28FINAL%29.pdf>

### Learn More:

- <https://www.wearethorn.org/child-trafficking-statistics/>
- [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/21/child-sex-trafficking\\_n\\_5571554.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/21/child-sex-trafficking_n_5571554.html)
- <http://www.cnn.com/2015/07/20/us/sex-trafficking/>

### Order and Read:

- ‘Renting Lucy: A Story of America’s Prostituted Children.’ (2009)
- ‘Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World Where Girls Are Not for Sale: A Memoir’ (2012)
- ‘Made in the U.S.A.: The Sex Trafficking of America’s Children’ (2014)
- ‘In Our Backyard: Human Trafficking in America and What We Can Do to Stop It’ (2015)
- ‘Seduced -- The Grooming of America’s Teenagers’ (2015)



Shared Hope International’s scorecard on laws protecting children from sexual exploitation.

## Legislative Protection

Through the *Protected Innocence Challenge Report Card* for 2016 *Shared Hope International* assessed state laws on six dimensions:

- **Criminalization of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking:**  
Does state law specifically criminalize the exploitation of minors through sex trafficking and other offenses that relate to the commercial sexual exploitation of children?
- **Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand:**  
Does state law impose criminal penalties on sex buyers, who drive the commercial sex market?
- **Criminal Provisions for Traffickers:**  
Does state law impose criminal penalties on those who traffic minors into commercial sex, including pimps, gang members, and family members?
- **Criminal Provisions for Facilitators:**  
Does state law impose criminal penalties on those who facilitate the sale of minors including hotels, drivers, and brothel owners?
- **Protective Provisions for Child Victims:**  
Does state law prevent minors from being charged with a crime if they are engaged in commercial sex acts and provide a range of services and protections, such as emergency shelter, medical and psychological services, and life skills training?
- **Criminal Justice Tools for Investigation and Prosecution:**  
Does state law provide enough tools for Law Enforcement to complete the detailed investigations required for successful prosecutions?

Go to *Shared Hope International* for more information on its 2016 Report: <http://sharedhope.org/what-we-do/bring-justice/reportcards/state-survey-charts/>



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# Forced Labor on Fishing Vessels

## The Fish We Eat & Slave Labor

Americans buying seafood from Hawaii are almost certainly eating fish caught by slave workers. An Associated Press (AP) investigation found men living in squalor on some boats, forced to use buckets instead of toilets, suffering running sores from bed bugs and sometimes lacking sufficient food. It showed cases of human trafficking.

In 2015, the AP reported on fishermen locked in a cage and buried under fake names on the remote Indonesian island. Their catch was traced to the U.S., leading to more than 2,000 slaves being freed. But thousands more remain trapped in a murky industry where work takes place far from shore and often without oversight.

Pier 17 in Honolulu is largely unknown to tourists and locals. Yet, behind a guarded gate, another world exists - foreign fishermen confined to American boats for years at a time.

Hundreds of undocumented men are employed in this unique U.S. fishing fleet, due to a federal loophole that allows them to work but exempts them from most basic labor protections. Many come from impoverished Southeast Asian and Pacific nations to take the dangerous jobs, which can pay as little as 70 cents an hour.

With no legal standing on U.S. soil, the men are at the mercy of their American captains on American-flagged, American-owned vessels, catching prized swordfish and ahi tuna.

Since they don't have visas, they are not allowed to set foot on shore. The entire system operates with the knowledge of U.S. lawmakers. <http://www.staradvertiser.com/business/business-breaking/hawaiian-seafood-caught-by-foreign-crews-confined-on-boats/>



## The Plight of Fisher Men

A single yellowfin tuna can fetch more than \$1,000 from a market vendor, who sells the catch as "sustainable seafood produced by Hawaii's hard-working fishermen." In a refrigerated grocery store case, yellowfin tuna sells for \$23.99 a pound, with a label: "Local matters. Fresh. Product of USA (Hawaii)/Processed in USA."

Yet, the *National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health* lists commercial fishing as among the most dangerous jobs in the country. In the past 10 years, five fishermen in the Hawaii fleet alone have died when boats sank or burned; at least four other workers were never found after falling overboard; while two others' lives ended with their deaths after they were stabbed at the dock in fights.

In Hawaii, federal contractors paid to monitor catches said they are troubled by what they've seen while living weeks at a time at sea with the men. One said, "It's a shock. It becomes normal, but it's like, 'How is this even legal? How is this possible?' ... They are like floating prisons."

700 foreign workers in Hawaii, who catch \$110 million worth of seafood annually, lack rights most Americans take for granted. They have little legal recourse, and are detained on boats where *U.S. Customs and Border Protection* require captains to hold the men's passports. That potentially goes against federal human trafficking laws. Bosses who possess workers' identification documents could potentially face up to five years in prison.

Some of the men in Hawaii earn less than \$5,000 for a full year. In one particularly bad situation, a Kiribati fisherman's ledger shows deductions from his pay including \$1,300 for airfare, \$1,800 to pay for his replacement and \$2,100 for breaking a captain's

computer. After more than three years of work, at \$350 a month, he should have accumulated close to \$13,000, but he ended up with about half of that. By contrast, according to government statistics, the average pay for an American deckhand nationwide last year was \$28,000, sometimes for jobs that last just a few months. Experienced American crew members working in Alaska can make up to \$80,000 a year.

In the Gulf, foreign laborers also are fishing on oyster, shrimp and menhaden vessels. But unlike in Hawaii, they're allowed on shore, and some get paid \$14 an hour for eight-hour shifts. In addition, boat owners must file for costly permits certifying no U.S. citizens are available to work.

Over the years, environmental and labor advocates in Honolulu have complained that in a state with high unemployment, the foreign workers take away U.S. jobs. However, few in Hawaii are lining up for the grueling work, weeks at sea and low pay.

## Things You Can Do:

Be sure to buy fish from companies that disclose their efforts to have transparent supply chains.

*Whole Foods* only buys fish certified by the Marine Stewardship Council, which employs strict requirements that eschew illegal fishing and it sends its buyers directly to docks to pick up fish. It also uses a program to track seafood at every step of the supply chain.

*Costco*, *Trader Joe's* and *Darden*, which owns *Olive Garden* and other restaurants, have also adopted similar approaches to purchasing fish. ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/eating-fish-supports-human-trafficking\\_us\\_55b92d5fe4b0a13f9d1b5af3](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/eating-fish-supports-human-trafficking_us_55b92d5fe4b0a13f9d1b5af3)) (<http://khon2.com/2016/09/22/fishermen-file-lawsuit-alleging-slavery-on-hawaii-longliner/>)



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# Forced Labor as Domestic Servants

## Abuse of Maids in Hong Kong

One in six migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong is a victim of forced labor and a significant proportion have been trafficked according to the non-profit, Justice Center Hong Kong.

In a study released in March 2016 they reported the scale of exploitation experienced by maids in Hong Kong and the extent to which it amounts to forced labor or human trafficking. Between April and May 2015, the center surveyed 1,003 migrant domestic workers, of which 17% were categorized as 'forced labor migrants.' Among those, 14% had been trafficked.

Mary, a 26-year-old college-educated single woman from the Philippines, who has been working in Hong Kong as a maid on her first contract since 2014, was 'trafficked for the purpose of forced labor.' The report said before Mary left her hometown, her passport was confiscated and she was confined by the broker to a recruitment training facility, where she was physically and sexually abused.

Though Mary did not want to work as a domestic worker in Hong Kong after her experiences, she felt compelled to go as she had already signed a loan.

Respondents said they were working 71.4 hours a week on average, and more than a third were not given a full 24 hours' rest.

The agency urged the government to enforce binding regulations on unscrupulous employment agencies that overcharge. (<http://www.thestandard.com.hk/section-news.php?id=167325>)

## International Labor Organization: Program to Help Vulnerable Women and Girl Workers

Prevention measures attack the root causes rather than the symptoms of forced labor and human trafficking and can bring about long-term transformational change. They address the 'supply' of vulnerable workers, empowering them to protect themselves more effectively from abuse and to secure positive migration outcomes for themselves, their families and their communities.

Economic empowerment is not only about earning a decent wage. It is also about understanding the real cost of migration and having the knowledge and skills to manage personal finances and remittances. By providing women with educational support and training on rights and skills, the International Labor Organization's 'Work in Freedom: Preventing trafficking of women and girls in South Asia and the Middle East' program will increase their livelihood alternatives - either enhancing their ability to access or create local employment opportunities or allowing them to choose to migrate as well-informed, skilled workers with higher income-earning potential abroad. 'Work in Freedom' will initiate and support outreach efforts to women in their place of origin, sensitizing them on safe and rights-based migration, financial literacy, rights at work and how to recognize, and protect themselves from, the risks of trafficking.

Education helps establish a skilled workforce of working age and also prevents child labor. Children who are excluded from access to education may have few options other than to enter the labor market where they can suffer exploitation and hazardous conditions. Girls are especially vulnerable to sex trafficking and forced labor in domestic work. 'Work in Freedom' will provide formal and non-formal educational support for girls in the poorest areas of out-migration. By staying in school longer, they will be better able to get skilled work and earn higher wages later in life, to resist early marriage and have fewer children. The program will contribute to raising an educated generation of women who enjoy greater control, choice, voice and economic opportunity in their lives.



## How You Can Help

Be aware of household helpers you encounter, who seem controlled or afraid. Inform law enforcement if something just does not feel right.

### 'The Apartment'

Watch the short YouTube clip, 'The Apartment,' showing how easily domestic servant abuse can happen. Go to: <http://www.youtube.com> and paste in: [huI3852fmYA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huI3852fmYA)

### Reports on the plight of domestic workers:

'FOR A FEE: The business of recruiting Bangladeshi women for domestic work in Jordan and Lebanon'  
[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/--ed\\_protect/---protrav/documents/publication/wcms\\_377806.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/--ed_protect/---protrav/documents/publication/wcms_377806.pdf)

'Work in Freedom' [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/projectdocumentation/wcms\\_217626.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/projectdocumentation/wcms_217626.pdf)

'Recruitment Monitoring' [https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/migrated\\_files/What-We-Do/docs/Recruitment-Monitoring-Book.pdf](https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/migrated_files/What-We-Do/docs/Recruitment-Monitoring-Book.pdf)



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# Forced Donation of Organs

## Kidney 'Donation'

In 2007, the World Health Organization estimated that 5–10% of all transplants worldwide were conducted illegally. In 2011, it estimated that annually the illicit 'organ trade' generated illegal profits of US\$600 million to US\$1.2 billion with 10,000 black market operations on human organs.

Many more research reports and press articles began to report human trafficking for organ removal, with harmful physical, psychological and emotional effects on 'donors', who sell their organs on the black market to alleviate their poverty.

Middlemen coerce, deceive or otherwise exploit vulnerable persons into selling their organ, thereby contributing, directly or indirectly, to their victimization, health damage, stigmatization and further impoverishment.

The *Office of the Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings* of the *Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe*, in its 2013 report, stated that although some cases were pending, the available information corroborated that many cases could involve human trafficking for organs.

Current research also showed the involvement of organized networks that bring together willing recipients and their 'suppliers'. Today, such organized networks have been reportedly uncovered in various regions of the world, including the Middle East, Southern Africa and South East Europe. According to the data available to UNODC, the vast majority of the victims detected are males. ([J.A. vs. State of Israel; UNODC Human Trafficking Case Law Database, [www.unodc.org/cld](http://www.unodc.org/cld)] Report, pgs. 11-12)

## The Victims



Photo taken from 'Tales from the Organ Trade'

In August 2016 the president of Indonesian instructed national police to investigate rampant human trafficking leading to organ trading in Indonesia. He had received reports of 27 people who had been trafficked to Malaysia and their organs taken from their bodies. One of the victims, a 14-year-old girl, was sent home dead with her internal organs cut out of her body and stitches along her spine, indicating that her body had been cut open for the procedure. (<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/08/01/national-scene-human-trafficking-leads-organ-trade-ntt.html>)

In other reports, an advertisement in an Israeli newspaper called for kidney donations and promised compensation. Consent of the victims was obtained without providing them with full medical information. The fake doctor recruited especially poor and uneducated victims.

Before being taken to the airport and flown to Eastern Europe, some of the victims stayed for several days in his home (where he supervised them, limited their movements and prevented them from leaving. He later charged them rent and food costs.)

The victims were deceived as to the identity of the trafficker (who said he was a knowledgeable physician),

the medical dangers of the operation (they were promised the procedure

was easy and would leave only a small scar) and the remuneration (they were promised US\$7,000 each).

One victim received US\$500, another one US\$3,500, and two other victims received nothing. In addition to this they were not given any medical treatment upon return to their home country. They were threatened that if they

complained to police they would be arrested, since what they did was illegal. Moreover, when one victim demanded her money, she was physically assaulted by one of the traffickers. One victim was so afraid that he did not turn to medical treatment to remove the surgical stitches, but rather cut them out with his own kitchen knife.

([J.A. vs. State of Israel; UNODC Human Trafficking Case Law Database, [www.unodc.org/cld](http://www.unodc.org/cld)] Report, pgs. 25-26)

## Action to Learn More

Underground 'organ markets' present a significant threat to the security of national organ donation systems, eroding the image of transplantation and public confidence in organ transplantation worldwide.

A 2006 report found that illegal body harvesting is very lucrative in the U.S. due to the high demand of body parts. From 1987- 2006 (19 years), over 16,800 families had pursued lawsuits stating that their loved ones body parts were illegally sold for an estimated \$6 million dollars. <https://www.decodedscience.org/organ-harvesting-human-trafficking-black-market/56966>

The documentary film, *'Tales from the Organ Trade,'* tells the complex ethical story of why this abuse occurs. View the trailer: <http://www.talesfromthe-organtrade.com/index.html>



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# Forced Marriage of U.S. Citizens

## Forced Marriage

A forced marriage takes place when the full and free consent of one or both parties is absent. It can be threatened or already taken place and can happen to an individual of any age, ethnicity, and cultural or religious background. Factors behind forced marriages are complex, but may include economic concerns, cultural norms, or family agreements. Forced marriages involving U.S. victims take place either in the U.S. or when the individual is taken abroad.

According to a 2011 Tahirih Law Center study as many as 3,000 known or suspected cases of forced marriage were encountered in a two-year period all across the United States. Respondents included attorneys, social workers, teachers, counselors, police, and other professionals from 47 U.S. states. The survey also found only 16% of respondents felt equipped to help individuals facing a forced marriage, and too many victims are falling through the cracks.

Victims of forced marriage face severe and lifelong consequences, with physical, sexual, and economic abuse, medical and mental health problems, denial of education, and a loss of freedom to choose their own futures.

Most Americans know it is illegal to marry in the U.S. if one is under age 18. But there are loopholes, the most common being ‘parental consent.’ Currently, 27 states have no law specifying a minimum age, below which a child cannot be married, even with parental consent or the approval of a judge. There are 38 states plus Washington, D.C. in which older minors (ages 16 and 17) can be approved by a clerk — without having to go before a judge — to marry someone above age 18. In New Jersey 4,000 children were married between 1995 and 2012, 163 of which were between 10 and 15 years old. In Virginia, nearly 4,500 people under the age of 18 were married between 2004 and 2013. Nearly 90% of those marriages involved an adult spouse. (<http://www.tahirih.org/who-we-serve/forms-of-violence/forced-marriage/>)

## Victims Speak: ‘I Was Forced’

*“No one really understands the pressures. People think it’s easy to just say, “NO” but it’s more than that. You can lose your family, your culture, everything! Forced marriage is one of those situations that makes you want to kill yourself or depression would kill you. Plus knowing that the man whom you are marrying was once your uncle and is 10 or 20 years older, makes me sick to my stomach.”* ‘Jolie’ age 17, of W. African heritage.

*“Marriage for me meant serving a man for life, ending my education, and never having the opportunity to make my dreams come true. With my family, I didn’t even have any dreams and I didn’t even know I could be someone other than an obedient daughter who sacrifices herself for her family’s reputation.”* ‘Maya’ age 22, a Pakistani-American student. (<http://preventforcedmarriage.org/>)



Noor Al-maleki was an Iraqi-American. She rejected an arranged marriage and was subsequently run over and killed by her father in Arizona in 2009.

*“Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.”*

Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948

## Speak Out!

### Watch a Two-Part PBS

#### Report on Forced Marriage:

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/uncovering-problem-forced-marriage-u-s/>  
<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/american-girls-forced-marriage-abroad-u-s-can-little-rescue/>

### Sign the Petition to End Forced Marriage

<https://www.change.org/p/president-of-the-united-states-end-forced-marriage-in-the-united-states>

### Learn More About Forced Child Marriage at the Global Level

[http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Child%20Marriage\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Child%20Marriage_ENG.pdf)

“It is time to reach out to children who, kept within domestic walls, are hidden from public view and child protection policies. Understanding the plea of prematurely married girls and preventing child marriage is a commitment made by the international community and national governments as a key step toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs) set in the post-2015 agenda for global human, social, economic and environmental development and, in particular, as a necessary route toward achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.” (ECPAT Report, pg. vi)





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# Sexual Exploitation for Profit

## Sex Trafficking is Big Business

Human trafficking earns profits of roughly \$150 billion a year for traffickers, according to the *International Labor Organization*, \$99 billion from commercial sexual exploitation.

While only 22% of victims are trafficked for sex, sexual exploitation earns 66% of the global profits of human trafficking. The average annual profits generated by each woman in forced sexual servitude (\$100,000) is estimated to be six times more than the average profits generated by each trafficking victim worldwide (\$21,800), according to the *Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe* (OSCE).

OSCE studies show that sexual exploitation can yield a return on investment ranging from 100% to 1,000%, while an enslaved laborer can produce more than 50% profit even in less profitable markets (e.g., agricultural labor in India).

In the Netherlands, investigators were able to calculate the profit generated by two sex traffickers from a number of victims. One trafficker earned \$18,148 per month from four victims (for a total of \$127,036) while the second trafficker earned \$295,786 in the 14 months that three women were sexually exploited according to the OSCE.

(<http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/human-trafficking-numbers>)

## Massage Parlor Fronts

Traffickers in 'illicit massage businesses' (IMBs) commonly operate by opening establishments that are disguised as legitimate massage or bodywork businesses. In the process, they secure legally required permits and licensure to conceal their actual activities: sex and/or labor trafficking.

There are an estimated 6,000 to 9,000 IMBs throughout the U.S.

- An overwhelming number of sex trafficking victims endured sexual abuse at a young age. They had an unstructured childhood, substance abuse, a destructive self-image, are runaways, homeless, are in foster care, have impulsive, behavioral or mental health issues, or are truant.
- Human trafficking is a public health issue. Victims have chronic health issues, sexually transmitted diseases, posttraumatic stress disorder, an increased risk of suicide and depression, and are more likely to be dependent on drugs and alcohol.
- Pimps are master manipulators. They are motivated by greed, and can be family members, foster parents, gangs, friends, trusted adults, or "boyfriends" showing victims affection and promising a better life, who profit from selling a minor to a buyer. Pimps show the girls as their property by branding them. These brands or tattoos are a constant reminder of what happened to them.
- Offenders use the Internet to seek out girls. They use social media, chat rooms, online gaming, and online advertising like backpage.
- Females become victims out of a false sense of having someone love, or care about them, or to get out of their home life. ([http://www.hutchnews.com/news/local\\_state\\_news/event-puts-focus-on-victims-causes-of-human-trafficking/](http://www.hutchnews.com/news/local_state_news/event-puts-focus-on-victims-causes-of-human-trafficking/))

*"It's very easy to side with the perpetrator. All they ask from us is our silence."*

Judith Herman, Trauma & Recovery



IMB raid in Indianapolis in October 2016 closed seven fronts, such as this, for prostitution.

## Victims Have Rights

One in five of the 11,800 runaways reported to the *National Center for Missing and Exploited Children* in 2015 were likely sex trafficking victims, with 90% female.

Too often, victims found on Backpage.com have been arrested and punished for crimes like prostitution or solicitation that their traffickers forced them to commit. Convictions, and even an arrest record, can lead to a lifetime of limited access to jobs, loans, education, and housing -- basic needs every survivor deserves.

The chance to vacate those convictions which occurred while being trafficked, at either the state or federal level, is an important step to empower and protect survivors of trafficking.

## What Must I Become Aware Of?

**Parents** need to monitor their children's internet use and electronic media.

**Citizens** need to learn to be the eyes and ears of their community. If something seems wrong, suspicious, or just doesn't add up, call the authorities. A trained official can check if something is wrong. A phone call can change a person's life.

**Community involvement** is very important (whether it is law enforcement, education, church organizations, or community foundations) to recognize that there may be an issue and to address the issue.

We need to **curb the demand** for commercial sex. Movies and music glamorize pimp culture and there is a subsequent demand for women's sexual services. Especially we need to protest pornography, the new drug. Addiction to porn can lead to acting out abuse against others.



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## Labor Exploitation for Profit

### Labor Trafficking is Big Business

Globally, the *International Labor Organization* (ILO) estimates that there are 14.2 million people trapped in forced labor in industries including agriculture, construction, domestic work and manufacturing.

According to the ILO the following is a breakdown of annual profits, by labor sector:

- \$34 billion in construction, manufacturing, mining and utilities;
- \$9 billion in agriculture, including forestry and fishing;
- \$8 billion dollars is saved annually by private households that employ domestic workers under conditions of forced labor.

While sexual exploitation generates profits, forced labor also saves costs. In one case, Chinese kitchen workers were paid \$808 for a 78-hour work week in Germany. According to German law, a cook was entitled to earn \$2,558 for a 39-hour work week according to the OSCE.

(<http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/human-trafficking-numbers>)  
(<http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/sites/default/files/TraffickingbytheNumbers.pdf>)

### Victims May Sue for Remuneration

In one case hundreds of Indian skilled workers sued Signal, a large maritime services corporation, in U.S. federal courts, alleging forced labor.

Workers came with contracts and legal visas to rebuild shipyards in Texas and Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina. In a global settlement, the company agreed to pay \$20 million in damages. For the full story, go to:

- <https://www.splcenter.org/news/2015/09/29/signal-international-apologizes-hundreds-exploited-indian-guest-workers>

### Labor Trafficking in the U.S.

Labor traffickers – including recruiters, contractors, employers, and others – use violence, threats, lies, debt bondage, or other forms of coercion to force people to work against their will in many different industries.

Labor traffickers often make false promises of a high-paying job or exciting education or travel opportunities to lure people into horrendous working conditions. Yet, victims find that the reality of their jobs proves to be far different than promised and must frequently work long hours for little to no pay. Their employers exert such physical or psychological control – including physical abuse, debt bondage, confiscation of passports or money – that the victims believe they have no other choice but to continue working for that employer.

U.S. citizens, foreign nationals, women, men, children, and LGBTQ individuals can be victims of labor trafficking. Vulnerable populations are frequently targeted by traffickers. Immigration status, recruitment debt, isolation, poverty, and a lack of strong labor protections are just some of the vulnerabilities that can lead to labor trafficking.

Labor trafficking occurs in numerous industries in the U.S. and globally. In the U.S. common types of labor trafficking include people forced to work in homes as domestic servants, farmworkers coerced through violence as they harvest crops, or factory workers held in inhumane conditions. Labor trafficking has also been reported in door-to-door sales crews, restaurants, construction work, carnivals, and even health and beauty services.

#### Key Statistics:

- The U.S. Department of Labor has identified 136 goods from 74 countries made by forced and child labor.
- Since 2007, the National Human Trafficking Hotline, operated by Polaris, received reports of more than 4,800 labor trafficking cases inside the U. S.
- In *'Hidden in Plain Sight,'* a 2014 Urban Institute study of 122 closed cases of labor trafficking, 71% of the victims had entered the U. S. on lawful visas. These victims paid an average of \$6,150 in recruitment fees for jobs in the U.S.
- In a study from San Diego State University, 31% of undocumented, Spanish-speaking migrant workers interviewed in San Diego County had experienced labor trafficking. (<http://polarisproject.org/labor-trafficking>)



### What Can You Do?

Learn more about forced and child labor.

Go to: <http://www.dol.gov/EndChildLabor>

See the list of products produced by forced or indentured child labor.

Go to: <https://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/list-of-products/>

Download the U.S. Department of Labor's 'Sweat & Toil' app.

Go to: <https://www.dol.gov/dol/apps/ilab.htm>

Invest in companies that work to improve labor justice along their supply chains. To learn more, go to *Global Business Coalition Against Trafficking* <http://gbcata.org/#focusareas>

Do some of your purchasing at Fair Trade companies.

Go to: <https://fairtradeusa.org/products-partners>



## Action

# 20 Ways to Fight Human Trafficking

After first learning about human trafficking, many people want to help in some way but do not know how. Here are just a few ideas for your consideration.

- 1. Learn the red flags** (<http://www.state.gov/j/tip/id/index.htm>) that may indicate human trafficking so you can help identify a potential trafficking victim. Human trafficking awareness training is available for individuals, businesses, first responders, law enforcement, and federal employees. (<http://www.state.gov/j/tip/training/index.htm>)
- In the U.S. **call the National Human Trafficking Hotline** at 1-888-373-7888 (24/7) to get help, to connect with a service provider in your area, to report a tip about a potential human trafficking incident; or learn more by requesting training, technical assistance, or resources. (<https://www.humantraffickinghotline.org>) Call federal law enforcement directly to report suspicious activity and get help from the Department of Homeland Security at 1-866-347-2423 (24/7), or submit a tip online at <https://www.ice.gov/web-form/hsi-tip-form> or from the U.S. Dept. of Justice at 1-888-428-7581 (9:00am to 5:00pm EST). Victims, including undocumented individuals, are eligible for services and immigration assistance.
- Be a conscientious consumer.** Discover your Slavery Footprint (<http://www.slaveryfootprint.org>), and check out the Dept. of Labor's 'List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor'. (<http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/list-of-goods/>) Encourage companies, including your own, to take steps to investigate and eliminate slavery in their supply chains and to publish the information for consumer awareness.
- Incorporate human trafficking information** into your professional associations' conferences, trainings, manuals, and other materials as relevant (See example: <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/list-of-goods/>).
- Join/start anti-trafficking coalitions.** ([Toll-Free 24/7  
National Human Trafficking Hotline  
1.888.3737.888  
Text 'Help' at: BeFree \(233733\)  
\[help@humantraffickinghotline.org\]\(mailto:help@humantraffickinghotline.org\)](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/pro-</a></li>
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grams/orr/resource/contact-information-for-coalitions)

- 6. Meet with and/or write local, state, and federal government representatives** to tell them you care about and want to know what they are doing to address human trafficking in your area.
- 7. Distribute public awareness materials** from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/anti-trafficking>) or Dept. of Homeland Security (<http://www.dhs.gov/topic/human-trafficking>).
- 8. Volunteer** your professional services to a local anti-trafficking organization.
- 9. Donate funds or needed items** to an anti-trafficking organization in your area.
- 10. Organize a fundraiser** and donate proceeds to an anti-trafficking agency.
- 11. Host a media awareness event** to watch and discuss a recent human trafficking documentary. On a larger scale, host a human trafficking film festival.
- Encourage your **local schools** to partner with students and include the issue of modern day slavery in their curriculum (<http://www.fdfi.org/>). As a **parent, educator, or school administrator**, be aware of how traffickers target school-aged children (<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs/factsheet.pdf>).
- 13. Set up a Google alert** (<https://www.google.com/alerts/>) to receive current human trafficking news.
- 14. Write a letter to the editor** of your local paper about human trafficking in your community.
- Start/sign a human trafficking **petition.** (<https://www.change.org>)
- 16. Businesses:** Provide internships, job skills training, and/or jobs to trafficking survivors. **Consumers:** Purchase items made by trafficking survivors: Blingzy Jewelry Travel Rolls (<http://blingzy.com>), Jewel Girls (<http://fairgirls.org/shop>), or Made by Survivors (<http://www.madebysurvivors.com/>).
- 17. Students:** Take action on your campus. (<http://www.againstourwill.org/>)
- Join or establish a university or secondary school club to raise awareness about human trafficking and initiate action throughout your local community. Consider doing one of your research papers on a topic concerning human trafficking. **Professors:** Request that human trafficking be an issue included in university curriculum. Increase scholarship about human trafficking by publishing an article, teaching a class, or hosting a symposium. Urge your institution of higher learning to offer scholarships to trafficked survivors.
- 18. Law Enforcement Officials:** Join/start a local human trafficking task force.
- 19. Mental Health/Medical Providers:** Extend low-cost/free services to human trafficking victims helped by anti-trafficking organizations. Train your staff on how to identify the indicators of human trafficking and assist victims.
- 20. Attorneys:** Look for signs of human trafficking among your clients. Offer human trafficking victims legal benefits for which they are eligible. (<http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/victims-human-trafficking-other-crimes/victims-human-trafficking-t-nonimmigrant-status/questions-and-answers-victims-human-trafficking-t-nonimmigrant-status-o>) Offer pro-bono services to trafficking victims or anti-trafficking organizations. Assist anti-trafficking NGOs with capacity building and legal work.

### Informative Web Sites: (Each contains information related to human trafficking)

**Human Trafficking Action**  
<http://www.humantraffickingsearch.net/take-action/>

**U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking**  
<http://www.sistersagainstrafficking.org/>

**Stop Trafficking!** is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among religious congregations, their friends and collaborating organizations, working to eliminate all forms of trafficking of human beings.

Use the following web address to access back issues of *Stop Trafficking!*  
[www.stopenslavement.org/archives.htm](http://www.stopenslavement.org/archives.htm)

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please contact: [jeansds@stopenslavement.org](mailto:jeansds@stopenslavement.org)  
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