

# Stop Trafficking !

*Anti Human Trafficking Newsletter*



*Awareness*

*Advocacy*

*Action*

January 2018 Vol. 16 No. 01

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



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## January: National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month

The U.S. federal and state governments, businesses, and citizens have done much to address the exploitation of persons through force, fraud or coercion by traffickers. However, much more needs to be done to eradicate human trafficking in the U.S. and globally.

Use this issue of '*Stop Trafficking*' to spread awareness so that together we will end workforce and sexual exploitation and violence.

### Types/Sites of Trafficking in the U.S.:

Escort Services; Illicit Massage, Health, & Beauty; Outdoor Solicitation; Residential Domestic Work; Bars, Strip Clubs, & Cantinas; Pornography; Traveling Sales Crews; Restaurants & Food Service; Peddling & Begging; Agriculture & Animal Husbandry; Personal Sexual Servitude; Health & Beauty Services; Construction; Hotels & Hospitality; Landscaping; Illicit Activities; Arts & Entertainment; Commercial Cleaning Services;

Factories & Manufacturing; Remote Interactive Sexual Acts; Carnivals; Forestry & Logging; Health Care; Recreational Facilities.

(<https://polarisproject.org/typology>)



**You can make a difference!**





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 Human Trafficking?

### 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 a 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 & 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 & small business, landscaping, car wash venues, health & beauty venues, traveling sales crews, begging rings.

**Victims:** Persons of any age; 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 Health Care:

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, expensive clothing, 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 to proper authorities what *"just does not look right."* This may happen 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.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/what-human-trafficking>
- <https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking>
- <https://traffickingresourcecenter.org/resources/>
- <http://www.humantraffickingsearch.org/>
- <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/>
- <http://ecpatusa.org/>
- <http://www.sharedhope.org/>
- [https://www.ted.com/talks/noy\\_thrupkaew\\_human\\_trafficking\\_is\\_all\\_around\\_you\\_this\\_is\\_how\\_it\\_works](https://www.ted.com/talks/noy_thrupkaew_human_trafficking_is_all_around_you_this_is_how_it_works)
- <http://www.sistersagainstrafficking.org/>

From 2012-2014, more than 500 different trafficking flows were detected and countries in North America detected victims of 93 different citizenships.

Globally 42% of trafficking occurs domestically, while 28% involves children and 21% involves men. Hence the majority of those trafficked continues to be women. ([http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2016\\_Global\\_Report\\_on\\_Trafficking\\_in\\_Persons.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2016_Global_Report_on_Trafficking_in_Persons.pdf))



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# Forced Labor on Fishing Vessels

Thailand's \$7 billion fishing trade is among the world's biggest. In recent years, it's also been one of the most severely scandalized — an industry blighted by reports of slavery on fishing trawlers. Each year, Thailand's docks have traditionally launched thousands of trawlers into the ocean, often with crews of roughly 20 men. Most are not complicit in forced labor.

But less scrupulous captains have taken advantage of the ocean's lawlessness. In port cities, they have bought men from Myanmar and Cambodia for \$600 to \$1,000 per head. Duped by traffickers, the migrants come to Thailand seeking under-the-table work in factories or farms.

Instead, they find themselves hustled onto fishing boats where they are



forced to fish for no pay. As one deputy boat captain of a Thai trawler reported, "Once a captain is tired of a [captive], he's sold to another captain for profit. A guy can be out there for 10 years just getting sold over and over." (<https://www.pri.org/stories/2017-08-22/why-west-should-care-about-thailand-s-new-fight-against-fishing-slavery>)

Americans buying seafood from Hawaii are almost certainly eating fish caught by slave workers. One 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 obvious cases of human trafficking.

In 2015, fishermen locked in a cage and buried under fake names on the remote Indonesian island were discovered. Their catch was traced to the U.S., leading to more than 2,000 slaves being freed. But thousands more remain trapped far from shore.

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 Asian nations to take the dangerous jobs, earning 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.

In Hawaii, federal contractors are paid to monitor catches 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." (<http://www.staradvertiser.com/business/business-breaking/hawaiian-seafood-caught-by-foreign-crews-confined-on-boats/>)

## Economic Pressure Brings Reform

Thailand is now installing a new system, meant to reduce overfishing as well as root out forced labor.

Earlier fish were often offloaded to a massive 'mothership,' a type of way station and marketplace floating on distant seas, hundreds of thousands of

miles from Thai shores. There, slave-caught fish could get mixed in with legal catches.

But under new rules every batch of fish will be recorded in an extensive digital log book. Once fully operational, this should illuminate the entire supply chain so that "any factory, any consumer, should be able to check where the fish actually came from."

In addition, every boat carrying 60 tons or more will be outfitted with a GPS-style monitoring system that that will record where the boat is located at all times.

Boats will undergo rigorous inspections at newly installed "control centers" each time they leave or return to port. Thai officers will check equipment, inspect nets full of fish, and determine that crew records match the actual fishermen on board.

Two years ago the EU threatened to ban all seafood shipments from Thailand if illegality continued unabated. That threat remains in place.

## 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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Sign on: [www.stopenslavement.org](http://www.stopenslavement.org)



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# Tackling Forced Labor in Company Supply Chains

## Scale of the Problem

The *International Labour Organization* estimates that 24.9 million people are victims of forced labor around the globe. 16 million people are exploited in the private sector such as domestic work, construction or agriculture; 4.8 million persons in forced sexual exploitation, and 4 million persons in forced labor imposed by state authorities. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by forced labor, accounting for 99% of victims in the commercial sex industry, and 58% in other sectors.

(<http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang-en/index.htm>)



(Photo)  
Forced cotton harvesting in Uzbekistan

## Consumers Care

California, which as of 2016 boasts the world's sixth-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.

CA consumers demand that producers provide greater transparency about goods brought to market, and utilize this information to drive their purchasing decisions. Various indicators suggest that Californians are not alone. A recent survey of western consumers showed people are willing to pay extra for products 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.

## 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.

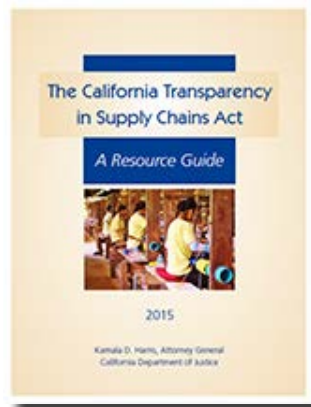
Companies subject to the Act must post disclosures on their Internet websites related to five specific areas: verification, audits, certification, internal accountability, and training.

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.

## 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://www.fairtradeamerica.org/>
- 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. Use: <http://www.betterworldshopper.com/>
- Avoid industries potentially linked to human trafficking, eg. sexually-oriented businesses.



## Get the Guide:

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



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# Forced Labor as Domestic Servants

## Maria Enslaved in Texas

As the sole provider for her children and mother, Maria was desperate to support her family. In 2007 Maria began working as a housekeeper for an El Paso businessman. For the next nine years Maria endured physical, psychological, economic and sexual abuse at the hands of her employer.



After the first week of work, Maria was forced not only to care for her employer's home but also perform housekeeping duties at a local motel and various rental properties owned by her employer. On average, Maria worked 16-18 hours a day for \$200 a week, far below minimum wage and overtime standards.

Maria's employer controlled who she was allowed to speak with and severely restricted her movements. For one month, Maria was imprisoned without contact with anyone in a motel room. To prevent her escape, she was tied to the bed. Maria's employer also claimed that he and Maria were in a romantic relationship, at times calling it a marriage; he used these claims to wrongly justify sexually and economically abusing Maria.

During the years, Maria was forced to work for her employer, he threatened her with deportation citing his many connections in law enforcement and the courts. When she found an opportunity to escape, Maria went to the *Mexican Consulate* and was connected to the *Labor Justice Committee*. At the time of her escape, Maria received a phone call stating that her employer had reported her to the police and *Customs and Border Protection (CBP)* so that she would be deported if she went anywhere near the border.

Maria shared her story because she feels that it is important for others to know and understand that they are not alone in these situations. Maria said it was difficult for her to leave her situation and she felt ashamed. She wants to help educate people on ways to identify and support victims of labor trafficking.

(From the 2017 *'Beyond Survival'* Report, pg. 30)

## Advocacy Is Slow

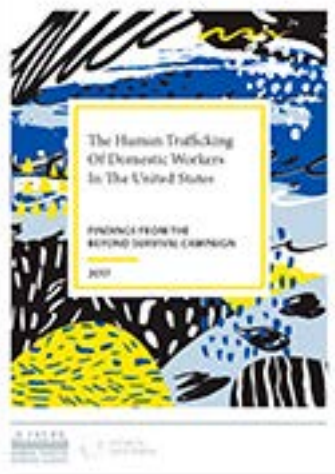
In the *Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA)* of 2008, Congress responded to reports of wage theft, abuse and trafficking faced by A-3 and G-5 workers and enacted statutory protections for these categories of workers.

These protections include mandated employment contracts with comprehensive worker protections. In implementing regulations, consular officials are required to provide visa applicants with *'Know Your Rights'* information and review contracts with workers.

Unfortunately, though these protections exist, no accessible mechanisms to report or enforce contract violations exist.

Interviewees were asked about the key services survivors seek from their organizations after escape. The most acutely needed services identified were access to food and housing. They also indicated need for: legal and medical referrals, employment training, case management, education, psychological counseling, more knowledge about life skills and the criminal justice system in the U.S.

(From the 2017 *'Beyond Survival'* Report, pg. 21, 29)



## 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>  
Paste in: hu13852fmYA

## 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)

*The Human Trafficking of Domestic Workers in the United States: Findings from the Beyond Survival Campaign, 2017'* [http://www.ips-dc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Beyond-Survival-2017-Report\\_FINAL\\_PROOF-1-1.pdf](http://www.ips-dc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Beyond-Survival-2017-Report_FINAL_PROOF-1-1.pdf)



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# Trafficking of U.S. Children

## U.S. Children Are Exploited

In the United States, labor trafficking often occurs in the context of domestic service, agricultural work, peddling, and hospitality industries (e.g., restaurants and hotels). Traffickers manipulate victims into working long hours in substandard conditions for little or no wages. Peddling is a prevalent yet lesser known form of child labor, where children sell cheap goods, such as candy, magazines, or other trinkets, often going door to door or standing on street corners or in parks, regardless of weather conditions and without access to food, water, or facilities.

It is important to remember that child victims of labor trafficking also may be sexually abused or simultaneously victims of sex trafficking.

Backpage.com, the so-called “world’s top online brothel,” continues to advertise children for sex. Between 2008 and 2016 there were 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.

Victims of both sex and labor trafficking are kept in bondage through a combination of fear, intimidation, abuse, and psychological controls. (<https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/sites/default/files/HumanTraffickinginAmericasSchools.pdf>) (<http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/crime/article178966551.html>)



## 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. *i:Care* is a \$50 training guide and DVD designed to improve service to child victims of sex trafficking in various health care settings.

(<https://sharedhope.org/store/>)

### 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 that Address 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 & 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 monitoring of efforts to protect children: <https://sharedhope.org/what-we-do/bring-justice/reportcards/>



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## Minors Are Not ‘Playthings’



An ad campaign by *Shared Hope International* in Washington D.C. to raise awareness about child sexual exploitation. (<https://sharedhope.org/about-us/our-story/>)

### While You Travel:

You may enjoy ‘people watching’ in airports or on airplanes or other modes of transportation. But are you seeing what may be happening?

### Warning Signs:

- The adolescent is not dressed appropriately for his/her route of travel or has few personal items.
- The adolescent has a tattoo with a bar code or the word “Daddy.”
- The adolescent cannot provide details of his/her departure location, destination, or flight information.
- The adolescent’s communication seems scripted or there are inconsistencies with his/her story.
- The adolescent is not allowed to move freely in an airport or on a plane, or they are being controlled, closely watched or followed.
- The adolescent seems afraid to discuss him/herself around others, deferring any attempts at conversation to someone who appears to be controlling them.
- The adolescent may be dressed in a sexualized manner or seem to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- The adolescent may appear to be malnourished and/or shows signs of physical or sexual abuse, such as bruises, scars, or cigarette burns.

If you see these signs, alert the appropriate flight attendant, conductor, or bus driver. They should know whom to contact.

### 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.

*“It’s very easy to side with the perpetrator. All they ask from us is our silence.”*

Judith Herman, Trauma & Recovery

### Runaways and Trafficking

- One in six of the 18,500 runaways reported to the *National Center for Missing and Exploited Children* in 2016 were likely sex trafficking victims, with 86% in foster care or social services.
- Girls become victims out of a false sense of having someone love or care about them, or to get out of their home life.
- An overwhelming number of sex trafficking victims endured sexual abuse at a young age. They had an unstructured childhood, experienced substance abuse, had a destructive self-image or impulsive, behavioral or mental health issues, or were truant.
- Pimps are master manipulators, who profit from selling a minor to a buyer. They are motivated by greed, and can be family members, foster parents, gang members, friends, trusted adults, or “boyfriends” showing victims affection and promising a better life.
- Pimps treat girls as their property by branding them. These brands or tattoos are a constant reminder to the child of what happened to her/him.
- Offenders use the Internet to seek out girls. They use social media, chat rooms, online gaming, and online advertising like Backpage.com.

([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/))



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# Forced Marriage of U.S. Citizens

## Against Her Will

An Idaho father in May 2016 drove across multiple state lines to ensure that his 14-year-old daughter marry the 24-year-old man who had raped and impregnated her. The couple were married in Missouri, where parental consent allows a child to marry. Eventually both the father and rapist were jailed for child abuse.

Based on marriage license data and accounts by advocacy groups, over 200,000 children, mainly girls, were married between 2000 and 2015 in 41 U.S. states. Children as young 10, 11 and 12 were given marriage licenses in Alaska, Louisiana, South Carolina and Tennessee.

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

Some women's rights groups, the American Civil Liberties Union, as well as some politicians, evangelicals, and abortion opponents are against marriage restrictions for minors.

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.

In many U.S. states laws fail to protect young girls, media coverage is poor, legislators do not act, and the societal impact of a child forced to marry is left unaddressed.

Currently, 25 states have no law specifying a minimum age, below which a child cannot marry. In 38 states and D.C. older minors (ages 16 and 17) can be approved by a clerk — with-

out 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 under age 16. In Virginia, between 2004 and 2013, 4,500 under age 18 were married. Nearly 90% of those marriages involved an adult spouse.

According to the *World Policy Analysis Center*, when a girl marries before 18, she is three times more likely to be beaten by a spouse, than if she were 21 or older. Girls who marry before 19 are 50% less likely to finish high school and four times less likely to graduate from college, increasing the likelihood of a lifetime of poverty. According to *Save the Children* reports, the U.S. trails behind 31 other countries in quality of life metrics for young girls.

(<http://www.tahirih.org/who-we-serve/forms-of-violence/forced-marriage/>)  
([https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/child-marriage-is-an-affront-to-womens-empowerment\\_us\\_](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/child-marriage-is-an-affront-to-womens-empowerment_us_))

## 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.  
(<http://preventforcedmarriage.org/>)

*"Judges only see a snapshot and they are not social workers. They don't see the 3-D image of all the kinds of threats that a girl might be facing outside that courtroom."*

Jeanne Smoot, Tahirih Justice Center.  
(<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/in-fight-over-child-marriage-laws-states-resist-calls-for-a-total-ban/>)

Noor Almaleki, an Iraqi-American, rejected an arranged marriage. She was then run over and killed by her father in Arizona in 2009.



**Virginia**— the only U.S. state to legally limit marriage to adults ages 18 or older. In contrast, **New Hampshire**— girls, aged 13 and boys, aged 14, can marry based on an 111-year-old law.

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

Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948

## Learn — Then 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/>

### Learn 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)

In June 2017, Connecticut banned marriage before 16, New York raised its minimum marriage age from 14 to 17 and Texas set new rules that limit marriage to minors who have been emancipated — meaning a court has granted them the same rights as an adult. (<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/in-fight-over-child-marriage-laws-states-resist-calls-for-a-total-ban/>)

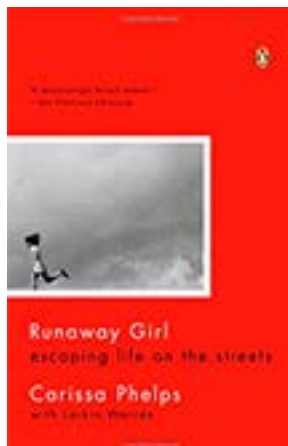




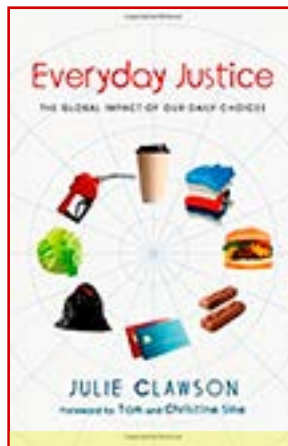
YOU can be:

- 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

## Resources



**'Runaway Girl'** is the true story of Carissa Phelps, a survivor. By the time she was twelve, she had run away from home, dropped out of school, and fled blindly into the arms of a brutal pimp. Even when she escaped him, she could not outrun the crushing inner pain of abuse, neglect, and abandonment. With little to hope for, she expected to end up in prison, or worse. But then her life was transformed through the unexpected kindness of a teacher and a counselor. Through small miracles, Carissa accomplished the unimaginable, graduating from UCLA with both a law degree and an MBA. She left the streets behind, yet found herself back, this time working to help homeless and at-risk youth discover their own paths to a better life. (2013)



Where does your chocolate come from? Does it matter if your coffee is fair trade or not? It matters—more than you might think. Julie Clawson, in her 2009 book **'Everyday Justice,'** takes us on a tour of everyday life showing how our ordinary lifestyle choices have big implications for justice around the world. She unpacks how we get our food and clothing and shows us the surprising costs of consumer waste. The more sustainable our lifestyle, the more just our world will be. We can live more ethically, through the little and big decisions we make every day, as shown in this insightful book.

### Eyes and Ears

**Airline Ambassadors International**

<http://airlineamb.org/>

**Truckers Against Trafficking**

<http://www.truckersagainstrafficking.org/>

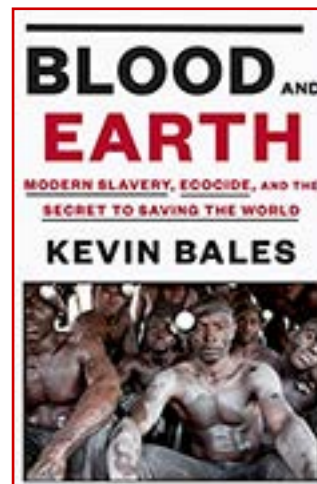
### Informative Websites:

- UN Office on Drugs and Crime: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/>
- U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip>
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security: <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/>
  - Polaris: <https://polarisproject.org/>
  - Human Trafficking Search: <http://www.humantraffickingsearch.org/>
- National Human Trafficking Hotline: <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/>
- Prostitution Research and Education: <http://prostitutionresearch.com/>
  - End Child Prostitution and Trafficking: <http://ecpatusa.org/>
  - Shared Hope International: <http://www.sharedhope.org/>
- National Center on Sexual Exploitation: <http://endsexualexploitation.org/>
- TED Talks: [https://www.ted.com/talks/roy\\_thrupkaew\\_human\\_trafficking\\_is\\_all\\_around\\_you\\_this\\_is\\_how\\_it\\_works](https://www.ted.com/talks/roy_thrupkaew_human_trafficking_is_all_around_you_this_is_how_it_works)
- US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking: <http://www.sistersagainstrafficking.org/>

Kevin Bales, co-founder of *'Free the Slaves,'* began to notice a pattern emerging as he traveled the world. Where slavery existed, so did massive, unchecked environmental destruction. Bales set off to learn more in a fascinating and moving journey that took him into the lives of modern-day slaves and along a supply chain that leads directly to the cellphones in our pockets.

What he discovered is that even as it destroys individuals, families, and communities, new forms of slavery that proliferate in the world's lawless zones also pose a grave threat to the environment. Simply put, human trafficking is destroying the planet.

Bales 2016 book, **'Blood and Earth,'** calls on us to recognize the harm we have done to one another, put an end to it, and recommit to repairing the world. This clear-eyed, inspiring book suggests how we can begin the work of healing humanity and the planet we share.



**Check out:**

<https://www.amazon.com/>

<http://www.amreading.com/2017/01/11/7-books-that-raise-awareness-about-human-trafficking/>

<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/human-trafficking>



## Action

### Practical Ways to Fight Human Trafficking

Toll-Free 24/7  
National Human Trafficking Hotline  
1.888.3737.888  
Text 'Help' at: BeFree (233733)  
help@humantraffickinghotline.org

1. **Learn the red flags** (<https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/indicators-human-trafficking>) 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>)
2. **Keep eyes and ears open** in places where trafficking may be happening, such as restaurants, nail salons, hospitality industry, sales crews, construction industry, agriculture, etc.. Is the massage parlor frequented only by men? Are there strange goings and comings at the house near you? Is that teenager acting afraid of someone, keeping strange appointments or coming home with a new unexplainable tattoo? Talk to those who are serving you. If there is reason for suspicion, call proper authorities.
3. 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.
4. **Be a conscientious consumer.** Certain industries have poor histories when it comes to child, forced and exploited labor. check out the U.S. 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/>) and download to your phone ILAB's *Sweat and Toil App* for 1000 pages of research. Discover your *Slavery Footprint* (<http://www.slaveryfootprint.org>).
  5. **Address pornography**, an industry that is fueling sex trafficking. The *National Coalition on Sexual Exploitation* (<http://endsexualexploitation.org/>) offers practical ways to do this.
  6. **Join/start anti-trafficking coalitions.** (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/contact-information-for-coalitions>)
  7. **Meet with and/or write local, state, and federal government representatives** to tell them what you care about. Find out what those in public office know about human trafficking and how they are or plan to address it.
  8. **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>).
  9. **Volunteer or donate funds or needed items** to a local anti-trafficking organization in your area.
  11. **Organize a fundraiser** and donate proceeds to an anti-trafficking agency.

#### 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/>

12. **Host a media awareness event** to watch and discuss a recent human trafficking documentary. On a larger scale, host a human trafficking film festival.
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.
15. **Businesses:** Provide internships, job skills training, and/or jobs to trafficking survivors. Encourage your business to take steps to investigate and eliminate slavery in its supply chains and to publish the information for consumer awareness.
16. **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. **Address social injustices.** Addressing homelessness, foster care reform, displacement and migration of peoples, racism, gender bias, poverty, and education makes a difference for people who are at risk of becoming trafficked victims.  
(<http://www.ethicsdaily.com/10-ways-you-can-put-a-dent-in-human-trafficking-cms-24516>)

**Stop Trafficking!** is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among USCSAHT members, organizations and concerned persons, collaborating to eliminate all forms of human trafficking.

To access back issues, go to:  
<http://www.stopenslavement.org/past-issues-chronological.html>  
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