

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

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This issue highlights the dangers to and exploitation of youth in U.S. labor settings.

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Exploitation of Young People in Labor Settings

The *Child Labor Coalition* (CLC) estimates that as many as 50,000 children work as youth peddlers on any given day of the year. These 'candy kids' sell magazine subscriptions, candy, and other consumer items door-to-door in residential neighborhoods and on city street corners. The CLC estimates that this industry makes millions of dollars annually in untaxed sales revenue.

A business can expect a visit by a federal labor inspector once every 50 years according to the *National Safe Workplace Institute*.

U.S. child labor laws contain a dangerous double-standard. Children can work for hire in *agricultural settings* at far younger ages, for far longer hours, and in far more hazardous conditions than all other working children. Bad for children, this loophole is discriminatory. Poverty often presses farmworker children to work. And 80% of hired crop workers are Hispanic.



California

"We used to sell every day. The van would pick me up at 3:30 p.m. and I'd work until 10 p.m. on weekdays and until midnight on weekends. The driver would have 20 kids in his van. First we'd sell in Vallejo and then we went all over. One time we were in Livermore, 50 miles away, and the van broke down. I didn't get home until 3:30 next morning.

I sold the candy for \$5 a box and kept \$1 for myself. On a good night I could sell ten boxes. One time the driver left a boy in Napa, and he had to walk 15 miles home at night. The driver just forgot him. Another night I waited for two hours on the corner to get picked up." 13-year-old boy from Vallejo, CA. (http://money.cnn.com/magazines/fortune/fortune_archive/1993/04/05/77695/index.htm)

New York

In February 2010 a NY policeman saw a 12-year-old girl and a 13-year-old boy standing on street corner without adult supervision after 6 p.m. Due to the cold temperature, the officer stopped to investigate. The kids had been dropped off in the area by an adult to sell candy and other items, allegedly for a *Youth Club*.

Officers later learned 11 other children, ages 12 to 15, were also involved and unaccounted for; eventually all were found. A 25-year old man was charged with resisting arrest and 11 counts of endangering the welfare of a child. (<http://www.longislandpress.com/2010/02/01/man-accused-of-child-endangerment-for-kiddie-candy-sales/>)

Washington

An 11-year-old girl, selling candy alone at 10 p.m. on a school night 160 miles from home, was struck and killed by a passing car.



Awareness

'Candy Kids': Scams & Trafficking

'Candy kid' rings are controlled by crew leaders. They pick the kids up by van early in the morning, drop them off in malls or neighborhoods far from home, and at times return 12 hours later. Often the children go without food, water or a bathroom break during their shift.

Leaders tell the kids what to say and sometimes give them laminated identification cards to show customers. There is no supervision. Some candy kids were mugged or raped while working.

One of the crews investigated gave the children 40 cents for each \$2.50 candy they sold. The bars wholesaled for 35 cents, so the crew leaders made the profit. If the children showed up late to meet the van or disobeyed on the ride home, the crew leader took their pay.

Two crew leaders actually had criminal records. One man for battery, possession of heroin and receiving stolen property. The other for firearms violations, as well as cruelty to animals, drug dealing and shoplifting.

Too often police departments aren't trained or equipped to tackle the problem and labor departments are chronically understaffed. If authorities do crack down, candy crew leaders just move across state lines. (<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/story?id=5213468&page=1>)

Traveling Sales Crews

After graduating from high school, a young man was approached by a recruiter who told him he could travel around the U.S. and make \$350 a week selling skincare products. The young man joined a crew traveling in a van around the Midwest. The crew leaders charged exorbitant fees for transportation, lodging, food, and set fines if members were late or failed to meet sales quotas. If a crewmember failed to make the quota for several days, he or she was denied food, and sometimes abandoned without any money.

After being assaulted by a crew leader, the young man decided that he needed to leave. He called a friend from a pay phone, who helped him contact the NHTRC. (The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) recounted this story, changing the details to protect the client.)

Traveling sales crews typically recruit U.S. citizen youth ages 18 to 25, sometimes younger, with promises of travel, a carefree life, and the ability to make a lot of money. A 'crew' consists of an average of 3 to 40 youth, under the direction of a manager, who moves the crew from city to city every few weeks. Crewmembers receive a small daily stipend of \$8 to \$15 or less to cover the cost of meals and personal items.

Among the possible dangers of working on traveling sales crews: murder, robbery, assault, reckless driving, desertion, exposure to weather elements, arrest, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking.

Many crew members worked six days a week and 10 - 14 hours a day. Unscrupulous traveling sales companies charged young workers for expenses like rent and food that required them to turn over all the money they ostensibly made from selling magazines or goods. When they tried to quit or leave the crew, they were told they couldn't.

Disreputable companies have been known to seize young workers' money, phone cards, and IDs and restrict their ability to call their parents. A *New York Times* report in 2007 found that crew members often made little money after expenses were deducted. On some crews, lowest sellers were forced to fight each other or were punished by being made to sleep on the floor.

The *Better Business Bureau* (BBB) warned consumers in May 2009 that deceptive sales practices are common in door-to-door sales. BBB received 1,100 complaints in 2008. "Experience tells us that customers aren't the only victims of [these scams]," said a representative of BBB in Indiana. "The young salespeople are also potentially being taken advantage of by their employers and forced to work long hours, endure substandard living conditions and have their wages withheld from them." (<http://www.stopchildlabor.org/index.html>)

Parent Watch, the industry watchdog, estimates that as many as 30,000 to 40,000 individuals are involved in traveling sales crews — selling magazines, candy, household cleaners, and other items door-to-door each year. Sales crew operators are estimated to cumulatively earn \$50 million annually. The *National Consumer League's Child Labor Coalition* ranks traveling magazine sales among the five worst jobs for teenagers.



Awareness

Sales Crews & Trafficking

Peddling and begging rings and sales crews become trafficking when the employer uses force, fraud and/or coercion to maintain control over the worker and to cause the worker to believe that he or she has no other choice but to stay and continue to work. Common means of control include:

- Force* – Isolation and removal from familiar surroundings; physical and sexual abuse; abandonment for non-compliance.
- Fraud* – False promises of an opportunity to travel the country and earn money quickly; misrepresentation of the work, working conditions, wages, or immigration benefits; visa fraud.
- Coercion* – Elaborate systems of rewards and punishments; sales or begging quotas; verbal and psychological abuse; exploitation of a foreign national’s unfamiliarity with the language, laws and customs of the U.S.; sexual harassment; threats of harm to the victim or victim’s family.

Vulnerability of Crew Members

Removal from Familiar Settings

Youth and young adults who sign up for a sales crew job are quickly removed from familiar surroundings and are kept isolated from their social support network of friends and family. If a crewmember is non-compliant with crew rules or fails to make daily sales quotas, he or she risks being left behind by the crew in an unfamiliar city with no money to get home.

Targeted Recruitment of Marginalized Populations

Begging and peddling rings often target immigrants, who are vulnerable to exploitation due to language barriers and a lack of alternative job options. They target young adults, many with low levels of income and formal education. Often victims have a history of or are vulnerable to homelessness.

Lack of Labor Protections

Sales crews are structured so that crewmembers are classified as independent contractors, thus shielding the companies from regulation, taxes and liability. Furthermore, as outdoor sellers, crewmembers are exempt from most federal and state minimum wage and overtime requirements. State level investigations and prosecutions are often hampered by the fact that crewmembers are rarely allowed to work in their home state and the crews move frequently from state to state. (<http://www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/labor-trafficking-in-the-us/peddling-a-begging-rings>)

‘Marcos’

‘Marcos’ began cutting Christmas trees in North Carolina when he was 12. He sometimes skipped school, wielded a chainsaw, and breathed pesticides. During summers he harvested tomatoes and cut strawberry roots. No one ever asked him how old he was. He said, “*You just come if you can work.*” (Excerpted from: <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2010/11/16/tough-and-dangerous-way-spend-childhood>)

Farmworker Children

Hundreds of thousands of children like Marcos are working for hire on farms across the U.S.— weeding, harvesting, and packing fruits, vegetables, cotton, tobacco and other crops. Farmworker children typically start at age 11 or 12, work 10 or more hours a day during summers and weekends, and sometimes on school days. Many start even as young as 7.

There is no minimum age for work on small farms with parental permission. Children 12 and older can work for hire on any farm. These children are exposed to pesticides, to dangerous equipment, may face lack of proper sanitation or toilet facilities. They die on the job more often than children in any other occupation.

School hours are off-limits, but otherwise there are no restrictions on how many hours farmworker children can work. Long hours take a toll on their education. When children work for too long, at such young ages, in such dangerous jobs, their future is compromised. The drop out rate for young farmworkers is four times the national rate. Children who drop out of school to work the fields are often left with few options besides a lifetime of farmwork and the accompanying poverty.

The fact that the work is legal presents it as a legitimate choice. But the U.S. government doesn’t sacrifice the health and education of poor children in other industries. The loophole in federal law must be closed by amending the U.S. *Fair Labor Standards Act* to apply the same protections to children hired in agriculture as already applies to all other working children.

Missing!



Ian Daniel Ladd, age 18, last seen 2011.04.12 at San Bernardino, CA Greyhound bus station toward Los Angeles. Working with a mag crew (*Dynasty Technologies/ MTS Circulation*) possibly in northern CA; may be headed to Las Vegas with a crew manager named ‘Roxanne’.
Catherine (Catiebug) Lorene House, age 20, last seen 2011.02.06 working for *Hollywood Florida Working Magazine Sales Crew*. (<http://www.parentwatch.org/missing/missing.html>)



Awareness

Magazine Sales

Jennifer Hammond and Tracy Jones saw help-wanted ads promising travel, excitement and high earnings. Both took the offer - selling magazine subscriptions door-to-door for managers employed by *Atlantic Circulation Inc.*, part of the \$150 million-a-year traveling magazine sales industry.

Within months of their employment, both disappeared while selling alone - Hammond in 2003 at a trailer park, Jones in 2006 at a truck stop. Both were abducted and murdered. Jones' body was found 11 days later in a roadside ditch in Memphis, TN. There were repeated stab wounds to her skull.

In October 2009 a hunter discovered Hammond's skull and jaw deep in the woods of upstate New York. Years later, both cases remain unsolved.

With two women confirmed killed while selling for the same company, former *Atlantic Circulation* employees began speaking publicly about alleged exploitation and abuse of young sales crewmembers.

Atlantic Circulation lured young magazine sellers with sexy-sounding ads, but ordered crew managers and "enforcers" to subject non-performing sellers to physical, emotional and sexual abuse. One former "enforcer" and car handler for *Atlantic Circulation* said, "You have a lot to lose if you don't want to sell because you are thousands of miles away from home. You really don't have options." Magazine sellers also recounted being allowed to read mail from home only after it was opened and read by the company's central office.

Crews worked six days a week. Work began with a 7:00 a.m. sales meeting to rehearse selling pitches. Crews typically worked until 10:00 p.m. or midnight. While some could earn up to \$100 on good days, many didn't reach their sales quotas and faced lost wages. "You have to lie and scam people, telling them that it's for the local school, soccer team or your study abroad," an informant said. "You couldn't sell anything if you are honest."

An "enforcer" recalled putting one teen worker out of a vehicle "in the middle of nowhere." Another time he traveled with 14 other *Atlantic Circulation* employees in a van that crashed, killing two teenage girls. The van was speeding when one of its tires burst, causing it to roll over five times on Highway 666 in NM according to news reports. "We packed 15 people in a van with bald tires because we had no money for new tires," he said.

Parent Watch, which tracks labor abuses in door-to-door sales, runs an emergency hot line for abandoned sellers. They receive up to six calls a day, many from broke and "dumped" employees, who need a bus ticket home. In 2006, in response to a similar increase in calls, the *National Runaway Switchboard* began training its operators to handle such cases. (<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/02/21/us/21magcrew.html>)

"These schemes are nothing short of theft of the labor and the wages of hundreds, if not thousands, of young people."

R. Abrams, former NY Attorney General

Exploitation of Magazine Crews

A lawyer for the *National Field Selling Association*, which represents about 60% of the magazine sales industry, estimated that 2 - 3% of all magazine subscriptions, or at least \$147 million worth in 2005, were sold by door-to-door salespeople, up from about 1%, or \$69 million in 2000.

The industry consists of layers. While the bulk of subscriptions are sold directly by publishers and through direct mail, insert cards and the Internet, many magazine publishers also hire clearinghouses. These companies then subcontract with crew managers who hire door-to-door sellers. Generally, the clearinghouses get about 40% of the subscription money and the publishers about 10%. The crew leaders get the other 50%, out of which they pay all expenses on the road, including providing the sellers' commissions.

Regulating the industry has been difficult because the companies, many of them operating only out of post office boxes, are small and frequently change names. "The local police can't keep up because the crews leave the state before they get alerted and the feds don't bother with them because they say it is a state's issue," said a representative for the *Illinois Department of Labor*.

In 1987, a U. S. Senate committee reviewed the records of one company and found that of its 418 sellers, 413 had finished the year in debt to the company, even though the company itself had reported large annual profits. Sellers had to spend their earnings to cover daily deductions for room expenses, gas and meals.

The sellers have few labor protections because they are classified as independent contractors, which also insulates the companies from regulation, taxes and liability. Categorized as outdoor sellers, the door-to-door peddlers are also exempt from most federal and state minimum wage and overtime requirements. (<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/02/21/us/21magcrew.html>)



Advocacy

5 U.S. Labor Laws for Minors

The *Fair Labor Standards Act* (FLSA) sets 14 as the minimum age for most non-agricultural work. However, at any age, youth may deliver newspapers; perform in radio, television, movie, or theatrical productions; work in businesses owned by their parents (except in mining, manufacturing or on hazardous jobs); perform babysitting or perform minor chores around a private home. Also, at any age, youth may be employed as home workers to gather evergreens and make evergreen wreaths. Different age requirements apply to the employment of youth in agriculture. (See pg. 3) (<http://www.dol.gov/elaws/faq/esa/flsa/029.htm>)

Where both the FLSA and state child labor laws apply, the higher minimum standard must be obeyed. (<http://www.dol.gov/elaws/faq/esa/flsa/026.htm>)

Must young workers be paid minimum wage?

The *Fair Labor Standards Act* (FLSA) requires payment of at least the federal minimum wage to covered non-exempt employees. However, a special minimum wage of \$4.25 per hour applies to employees under the age of 20 during their first 90 consecutive calendar days of employment with an employer. After 90 days, the FLSA requires employers to pay the full federal minimum wage.

Other programs, which allow for payment of less than the full federal minimum wage, apply to workers with disabilities, full-time students, and student-learners employed pursuant to sub-minimum wage certificates. These programs are not limited to the employment of young workers. (<http://www.dol.gov/elaws/faq/esa/flsa/003.htm>)

When and how many hours may youth work?

Under the FLSA hours worked by 14- and 15-year-olds are limited to non-school hours; three hours on a school day; 18 hours in a school week; eight hours on a non-school day; 40 hours on a non-school week; and hours between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. (except from June 1 through Labor Day, when evening hours are extended to 9 p.m.). Youth 14 and 15 years old enrolled in an approved *Work Experience and Career Exploration Program* (WECEP) may be employed for up to 23 hours in school weeks and 3 hours on school days (including during school hours). The FLSA does not limit the number of hours or times of day for workers 16 years and older.

What kinds of work may youth perform?

Regulations governing youth employment in non-agricultural jobs differ somewhat from those pertaining to agricultural employment. In non-agricultural work, the permissible jobs, by age, are as follows:

1. Workers 18 years or older may perform any job, hazardous or not;
2. Workers 16 and 17 years old may perform any non-hazardous job; and
3. Workers 14 and 15 years old may work outside school hours in various non-manufacturing, non-mining, non-hazardous jobs.

Must a youth have a work permit to work?

The FLSA does not require that youth get work permits or working papers to get a job. Some states do require work permits prior to getting a job. School counselors may be able to advise if a work permit is needed before getting a job. (<http://www.dol.gov/elaws/faq/esa/flsa/030.htm>)

Information on Young Worker Safety

- *Young Worker Safety & Health*
<http://www.youngworkers.org>
- *National Child Labor Coalition*
<http://www.stopchildlabor.org>
- *OSHA's Teen Worker Site*
<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/teen-workers/youngworkers.html>

Teen Tragedy

In 1999, seven individuals traveling as a sales crew were killed in an accident in Janesville, WI. Five other passengers were injured, including one girl who was paralyzed. The driver of the van, who was trying to elude a police chase, did not have a valid drivers license and attempted to switch places with another driver when the accident occurred. (<http://www.parentwatch.org/index.html>)

'Malinda's Act'

One of the fatality victims, *Malinda Turvey* age 18, inspired ground-breaking legislation, which passed in WI in April 2009.

'*Malinda's Act*' (Sec. 103.34 WI Statute) protects sales crews and sets industry regulations. Among its provisions, it requires at least semi-monthly payment of all wages earned, prohibits employers from abandoning employees and confines work hours between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Businesses that either recruit or use traveling sales crews in Wisconsin are now required to register with the *Dept. of Workforce Development's Equal Rights Division* (DWD 273 WI Administrative Code) and secure sales permits for each crew member. (<http://www.parentwatch.org/Wisconsin%20Department%20of%20Workforce%20Development.html>)



Advocacy

State Regulation of:

For-Profit Door-to-Door Sales by Minors Jan. 1, 2010

Door-to-door sales determined to be a hazardous occupation and prohibited:

- AK (1989) - Prohibited for minors under age 18
- FL (1991) - Prohibited for minors under age 16 except merchandise of non-profit organizations, such as the Girl Scouts of America or the Boy Scouts of America. Such organizations shall ensure that such sales are undertaken under close supervision.
- ID - Prohibited for minors under 14 to work in the distribution or transmission of merchandise or messages.
- ME (2001) - Prohibited for minors under age 16
- MI - Prohibited for minors under 16 years of age. Work permit required, adult supervision required, compliance with state Youth Employment Standards Act for ages 16 and 17.
- MO (1989/2002) & North Dakota (1993) - Prohibited for minors under age 16.

Door-to-door sales prohibited with certain exceptions:

- CA (1994) - Prohibited for minors under age six. Prohibited for minors under age 16 unless specific conditions are met. (See CA Labor Code sections 1308.1-1308.4; CA Code of Regulations, Title 8, Chapter 6, Subchapter 1, Section 11706.1). Furthermore, any persons 18 years or older who employs, transports, or supervises a minor under age 16 in door-to-door sales more than ten miles from the minor's residence must be registered with the Labor Commissioner (CA Labor Code sections 1308.1-1308.4; CA Code of Regulations, Title 8, Chapter 6, Subchapter 10, Sections 13670-13677).
- NE (2005) - Persons under 16 years-of-age shall not be employed or permitted to work as a door-to-door solicitor. However, persons under 16 years-of-age engaged in the distribution or delivery of newspapers or shopping news may be employed or permitted to work as a door-to-door solicitor of existing customers of such newspapers or shopping news. Additionally, persons under 16 years-of-age are permitted to work as a door-to-door solicitor if he or she is working on behalf of his or her own individual entrepreneurial endeavor.
- NV (2000/01) - Prohibited for minors under age 16 in counties where the population is 100,000 or more.
- PA (2002) - Prohibited for minors under age 16 unless certain conditions are met including parental consent, adult supervision, and working no later than 6 p.m.
- TX (1995/99) - Prohibited for minors under age 14 unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. Prohibited for minors under age 18 except with signed parental consent and with specified hours of work and supervision requirements. (2005) - Juveniles must be at least 11 years-of-age in order to engage in the delivery of newspapers. This activity only includes distribution of newspapers on, or the maintenance of, a newspaper route and not direct sales to the general public. (2007) Juveniles must be at least 16 years of age in order to engage in the direct sales of newspapers to the general public.

Door-to-door sales prohibited for some minors and regulated for others:

- OR (1985) - Prohibited for minors under age 16. Registration required for employers of 16- and 17-year-olds.
- VA (1991) - Prohibited for minors under age 16. Permit required for employers of 16- and 17-year-olds.
- WA (1989) - Prohibited for minors under age 16 unless the Department of Labor and Industries grants a variance. Registration required for employers of 16- and 17-year-olds.

Door-to-door sales regulated:

- MA (1990) - Certificate of registration is required for employers of minors under age 18. Law is applicable only to minors who reside away from home while so employed and who receive their primary source of income from such activity.
- OH (1990/91) - Registration is required for employers of minors under age 16. Special nightwork hours restrictions in door-to-door sales apply to minors under age 16 and to 16- and 17-year-olds.
- TN (1999) - Employers of minors under age 16, who transport the minors more than 5 miles from their residences, must comply with hours of work restrictions and record-keeping requirements.
- UT (1990) - Registration and local licensing is required for employers of minors under age 16.
- WI (1989) - Certification is required for employers of minors under age 18.

Other restrictions:

- AZ (1985) - Work in door-to-door sales is prohibited after 7 p.m. for minors under age 16.

(Source: Office of Performance, Budget, and Departmental Liaison, Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Dept. of Labor)

For details on state laws, go to:
<http://www.youthrules.dol.gov/states.htm>



Action

Maine's Child Labor Laws In Danger

A legislative bill (L.D. 516) put forth by Sen. Debra Plowman, R-ME, would allow minors to work longer hours and more often during weeks when school is in session.

The bill would increase their legal workweek to 24 hours, an additional four hours from current law, and allow students to work until 11 p.m. Groups representing restaurants and hotels support Plowman's bill.

Opponents say the proposal would erase child-labor protections enacted in 1991 to prevent employers from pressuring minors into working longer hours. The proposal would shift emphasis from education and school-sponsored, extracurricular activities say Barbara Burt of the *Frances Perkins Center** and Sally Greenberg, representing the *National Consumers League* and Co-chair of the *Child Labor Coalition*.

In an op-ed article they argued that to work until 11 p.m. on a school night may result in only four to six hours of sleep for working teens. According to the *National Sleep Foundation*,

more than one quarter of high school students fall asleep in class now with a 20-hour work limit.

Each year about 230,000 teens suffer work-related injuries. By increasing worker fatigue, the likelihood of injury also increases. Driving to and from the job is one of the most common ways teen workers are injured or killed. Being on the road after 11:00 p.m. increases their chances of falling asleep or encountering a drunk driver.

Teens who work at night in retail establishments are also at an elevated risk of assault. Working until 11 increases the chances that teens will be working alone or closing up. Last year, an Illinois teenager working late in a sandwich shop was abducted, beaten, and sexually assaulted.

(*Frances Perkins' efforts in the early 1900's against the exploitation of child labor culminated in the passage of 1938's *Fair Labor Standards Act*, which outlawed most forms of child labor in the U.S.) (Source: <http://new.bangordailynews.com/2011/03/29/politics/bill-to-loosen-child-labor-restrictions-heads-to-maine-senate/>)

What Can You Do?

Be a Wary Buyer

Be cautious of children selling something for charity in public places or door-to-door. Be especially alert to organizations that have children selling products at your door during unreasonable hours, i.e. before 7 a.m. or after 9 p.m. Scams exploit innocent children. Consumers can help break this chain.

Ask questions.

- Find out how old the child is and from how far away they have come.
- Ask if there are adults supervising them, where the adults are, and if they have a way to contact them.
- Ask to see literature about the organization they represent. Look for disclaimers, "*This is not meant to benefit any particular group or organization.*" Legitimate charities make sure the children are provided with information to answer questions about the charity. If it is for a school, call the school to verify.
- Ask the children if they receive any money from the sale of the products. Charitable organizations usually do not pay children for their sales efforts. Some will give special awards for large sales amounts.
- Ask to see the child's *State Department of Labor and Industries* identification card. If they don't have one, don't buy. Employers who hire minors to sell door-to-door but don't register with the state are breaking the law.
- If you have a concern about a group selling door to door in your community, contact your local authorities, the local *Labor and Industries* office, or the attorney general's office.

Advice for Parents of Children

1. Always have the employer's name, address, phone number, schedule and place of work.
2. Always insure that children work with a friend.
3. Always have adult supervision in the immediate area.
4. Never allow children to travel farther than 10 miles from home.
5. Always have an emergency plan in place (what to do if the child is dropped off on the street corner; is taken across state lines; is asked to do something illegal, etc.).
6. Children should be instructed to never enter anyone's home.
7. Check with the local police or city/county clerk to see if the employer has a license to operate.
8. Be sure the children know their rights under the law.



Action

Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
National Human Trafficking
Resource Center
1.888.3737.888

Maryland Passed Critical Anti-Trafficking Laws

In April 2011 the Maryland General Assembly passed three critical pieces of anti-trafficking legislation. The Polaris Project, many in-state advocates, and over 27,000 online Change.org members helped achieve this victory.

Maryland is now the first state to ensure that school employees receive training materials on how to identify potential student victims of human trafficking. MD is also the second state to allow victims of sex trafficking to have prostitution charges expunged from their records.

HB 674- Human Trafficking Awareness and Training:

This bill, signed into law, provides human trafficking training materials to educators in the public school system.

HB 345/SB 299 - Human Trafficking Investigations: This bill, also signed into law, provides law enforcement with the additional tools to conduct surveillance and wiretapping in human trafficking investigations.

HB 266/SB327 - Human Trafficking Victim Protection Act: The bill was passed unanimously by both chambers. It is expected to be signed by Maryland's Governor in May 2011. This law removes prostitution convictions from sex trafficking victims' records, a critical step to allowing them to rebuild their lives.

HB 1304, which would have required truck stops, rest areas and bus stations in Maryland to post the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline number, passed the House but stalled in the Senate.

HB 418/SB 247, the Asset Forfeiture Bill, would have allowed courts to order the forfeiture of all ill-gotten gains of convicted traffickers, which would have gone to support victim services. It was prevented from being brought to a vote in the House by House Judiciary Chairman Joe Vallario for the second year in a row. (<http://news.change.org/stories/victory-maryland-passes-critical-anti-trafficking-laws>)

European Anti-Trafficking Websites

European Commission

The purpose of the Commission's website is to raise awareness of the problem of human trafficking and to show what is being done at EU-level and in the Member States to fight this injustice.

Go to: <http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/index.action>

"It is my hope that the website will also help to promote exchange of ideas and cooperation between all organizations and people involved in the fight against trafficking in human beings and the protection of victims." Cecilia Malmström, (Sweden) European Commissioner

Buy Responsibly Campaign

This website assists European consumers to learn about how to use their consumer power to combat human trafficking.

Go to: <http://www.buyresponsibly.org/>

Informative Web Sites:

(Each contains information related to human trafficking)

Child Labor Coalition

<http://www.stopchildlabor.org/index.html>

Info re. Door-to-Door Sales:

<http://www.magcrew.com/>
<http://www.travelingsalescrews.info/>
<http://www.parentwatch.org/index.html>
<http://www.southwesterndifference.com/>

Media Voices for Children

<http://mediavoicesforchildren.org/>

'Fields of Peril:

Child Labor in U.S. Agriculture'

<http://www.hrw.org/node/90126>

Human Rights Impact Resource Center

<http://www.humanrightsimpact.org/trafficking>

CNN 'Freedom Project'

During 2011 CNN will shine a spotlight on the horrors of modern-day slavery by amplifying the voices of the victims, highlighting success stories, and helping expose the complicated web of criminal enterprises involved in human trafficking.

The CNN 'Freedom Project' is found at: <http://thecnnfreedomproject.blogs.cnn.com/>

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!* <http://www.stopenslavement.org/index.html>

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