



FACTS: Human Trafficking = Modern Day Slavery

Two Forms of Human Trafficking

1. **Sex trafficking** in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion.
2. **Labor trafficking** in which persons are forced to labour against their will.

Definition under U.S. Federal Law

Human trafficking always includes: the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, debt bondage, or slavery. Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000

Victims of human trafficking include:

- minor children involved in labor or sex trade
- adults age 18 or over who are coerced or deceived into commercial sex acts
- laborers/ workers held against their will; e.g., in a home, farm-workers, housekeeping in hotels, or food- service workers

Statistics

- The number of trafficking victims in the U.S. is largely unknown. However, thousands of U.S. citizens, including minors, are estimated to be at risk of human trafficking.
- **100,000 U.S. children are commercially sexually exploited every year in the U.S.** -- the number may be as high as **300,000**.
- An estimated **40 million** people, including children, are held in slavery worldwide -- **despite the fact that in every single country, slavery is outlawed.**

Of these, worldwide:

- 68% of them are trapped in forced labor.
- 26% of them are children.
- 55% are women and girls.

Of these in the United States:

- **82%** of U.S. incidents involved sex trafficking
- **98%** involved are **women & girls**
- **95%** of victims experienced physical or sexual violence during trafficking
- The majority of trafficking victims are between **18 and 24 years** of age

Why is there human trafficking?

- Every year, human traffickers generate billions of dollars in profits –more than \$150 billion.
- Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world – **even though it is illegal in every country in the world.**

Who are the victims? There is no one consistent face of a trafficking victim.

Trafficked persons can be: rich or poor, men or women, adults or children, runaway youth, U.S. citizens, or foreign nationals.

How are victims identified? The Internet is a major source for predators' hunting, recruitment and trapping unsuspecting and/or innocent victims. This includes sexting and sextortion. Traffickers

“advertise” the availability of commercial sex using online escort ads such as Backpage.com and social media sites, such as Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, WeChat, Tumbler, Twitter, QZone or QQ. Victims might innocently connect with a predator and be unable to “disconnect.” Human trafficking is a crime that preys on youth and society’s most vulnerable people.

Who are the traffickers? There is no one consistent face of a trafficker. Traffickers include a wide range of criminal operators: including individual pimps (men or women), small families or businesses, loose-knit decentralized criminal networks, international organized criminal syndicates, or gang members.

Labor trafficking products in our homes . . . Most people in America have worn, touched, or consumed a product of slavery at some point, often without knowing it. Products can include: coffee, chocolate, rice, fish, fresh produce, gold jewelry, or athletic shoes.

Actions – some things you can do:

1. **Engage in advocacy and build awareness** about the issue and how it can be addressed:
 - Become well-informed
 - Contact your elected legislators
 - Provide direct assistance to victims
 - Talk with peers, parents, friends, family about this issue
2. **Be a Voice**
Talk to your children:
 - especially have your men speak to each other and to your sons about respect for women and girls
 - make sure all understand how they could be at risk, including on social media
3. Sponsor events or educational opportunities where human trafficking is explained and possible actions or solutions are explored
4. Find groups and/or organizations to partner with in addressing this tragedy
5. Continue your efforts in buying and selling fair trade items
6. Know where and how products you purchase are made or grown; whether slave labor is involved
7. Learn as much as you can and share what you know
8. Report anything that seems suspicious to local law enforcement or call the national hotline

Hotlines to call:

Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888

Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE) and TTY 1-800-787-3224

Call your local law enforcement

Call 911 if danger is eminent

Sources: Polaris Project at www.polarisproject.org, International labor organization at <http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm> (11-2017)