



Human Trafficking in Our World Today

Sisters of the Divine Compassion... Our Vision

challenge injustice...strive to liberate
and heal...offer hope...

What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery that is widespread throughout both the United States and the World. After drug dealing, human trafficking is the second largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world. Victims of human trafficking are forced to engage in prostitution, pornography, sweatshop factory work, migrant agricultural labor and other forms of sexual and labor exploitation.

Where can victims of trafficking be found?

- Commercial Sex Industries
- Domestic situations (nannies or servants, etc.)
- Sweatshop factories; Construction
- Farming and Landscaping; Fisheries
- Hotels and Tourism Industries
- Janitorial Services; Restaurant Services, etc.

What are the most common methods of pressing victims into human trafficking?

- Force: rape, beatings, confinement
- Fraud : false offers of employment, marriage, education, wealth or simply a better life
- Coercion: threats, debt-bondage, psychological abuse, especially threat to harm families.

How do you recognize a victim of human trafficking?

- Is the person accompanied by another person who seems controlling?
- Can you see any signs of physical or psychological abuse?
- Does the person seem overly frightened or submissive or anxious?
- Does the person have trouble communicating because of a language barrier or have someone with him/her to do the speaking?
- Does the person have any identification?
- Is the person a child who looks hungry, even malnourished?
- Is the person a child with a poor or non-existing record if school attendance?
- Is the person living in a cramped space with many people or moving frequently?
- Is the person rarely seen in public except for work?
- Does the person have any identification papers?

What can you do to help a suspected victim of human trafficking?

If you suspect a person is the victim of human trafficking, consider the options:

- In emergency situations, call 911.
- Call the National human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888.
- Call your local law enforcement office
Westchester County Police (914) 864-7700.
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“Slavery, Prostitution, the selling of women and children and disgraceful working conditions, in which people are treated as mere instruments of gain, poison human society and debase victims and perpetrators alike.” (Gaudium et Spes, #27)

Human Trafficking Fact Sheet

- About 700,000 persons, primary women and children, are trafficked annually within or across international borders.
- It is not necessary for a victim to cross a border. Women and children, who are domestically trafficked for prostitution and/or forced labor within the United States, are considered trafficked.
- Women and children are the key target groups for human trafficking because of their marginalization, limited economic resources and predominance in the “invisible” informal labor sector.
- Trafficked victims frequently come from less developed countries and are taken to more developed countries.
- Root causes of trafficking include greed, demand for sex or for cheap products, economic or political instability, corruption, and a myriad other social factors.
- Criminal groups engage in human trafficking because it is highly profitable and less risky than some other crimes. Unlike the trafficking of other commodities, people may be sold repeatedly without a large capital investment.
- The United States is one of the highest chosen destination countries. Victims of trafficking originate from such nations as Russia, the Ukraine, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, the Czech Republic, Mexico and India.
- Traffickers move women and children into the U.S through many ports of entry; the most common are: Los Angeles, New York, Miami, Chicago, and San Francisco. Recently, traffickers have extended their operations to include Atlanta, Cleveland, Houston, Orlando, and Washington, D.C.
- In recent major trafficking cases, there have been reports of trafficking instances in every state, with most cases occurring in New York, California, Texas and Florida.
- An estimated 2.5 million people are forced into human trafficking at any given time worldwide.
- People are reported to be trafficked from 127 countries to be exploited in 137 countries, affecting every continent and every type of economy.
- The majority of trafficking victims are between 18 and 24 years of age.
- An estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked each year.
- Victims of human trafficking may work up to 20 hours a day, 365 days a year and are paid little or nothing.
- For more information on human trafficking, visit the Department of State website at www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking; the UN website at <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>; and the website of the Sisters of St. Joseph (Boston) at http://www.csiboston.org/human_trafficking.html.

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