

KNOW THE FACTS





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Section 1

HUMAN TRAFFICKING OVERVIEW

Human trafficking is the illegal trade of human beings, mainly for the purposes of forced labor and sex trafficking.

United Nations Definition of Human Trafficking

Article 3(a) “Trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.¹

U.S. Department of State Definition of Human Trafficking

According to the U.S. Department of State, human trafficking involves “the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud or coercion.”²

Global Human Trafficking Statistics

- It is estimated that anywhere between 20.9 million³ and 45.8 million⁴ people are held in slavery today.
- Approximately 71% of human trafficking victims are women and girls.⁵
- Up to 50% of female victims are minors.⁶
- Human trafficking generates an estimated USD \$150.2 billion per year.⁷
- Traffickers face a mere 1% chance of ever being prosecuted.⁸

Main Forms of Human Trafficking

FORCED LABOR

- Forced labor is when a person is forced to work in captivity with little or no pay.
- Forced labor is well documented in extractive industries—industries that consist of having children remove non-renewable raw material out of the earth such as oil and minerals.⁹

SEX TRAFFICKING

- Forcing, deceiving, or coercing a person to perform a commercial sex act.
- Sex trafficking can include forms of commercial sexual exploitation in sex tourism, pornography, and strip clubs.¹⁰

BONDED LABOR

- Also known as debt bondage or peonage.
- Bonded labor is often made to look like an ordinary employment agreement at first, but in the agreement the worker starts with a debt to repay. This worker finds out later that this debt is impossible to repay, thus making their enslavement permanent.¹¹
- Workers may also inherit intergenerational or ancestral debt in more traditional systems of bonded labor.¹²

INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE

- Forcing a person to work and live in the same place for little or no pay.
- Involuntary domestic servitude consists of an individual working in a private residence. This makes inspection by authorities more difficult.¹³
- Domestic workers often are not given the same basic benefits and protections that are ordinarily bestowed upon workers.¹⁴

CHILD SOLDIERS

- Unlawful recruitment or use of children—through force, fraud, or coercion—as combatants, or for labor or sexual exploitation by armed forces.¹⁵
- Thousands of children, some as young as 8 years old, are currently serving as child soldiers around the world. These children are being forced into sexual slavery, fighting on the front lines, participating in suicide missions, and acting as spies, messengers, or lookouts.¹⁶

Section 2

HOW TRAFFICKING HAPPENS

Causes of trafficking

- Poverty and the desire for a better life are leading causes for why people become victims of human trafficking.¹⁷
- Human trafficking is a demand driven model.¹⁸
- Trafficking victims require little overhead. Traffickers face a mere 1% chance of being prosecuted, making it a low risk and high profit criminal industry.¹⁹
- Cultural norms can be used to justify human trafficking and criminal activity. Norms that maintain inequality and violence against women are associated with both sex and labor trafficking. It is more difficult for governments to make efforts to prevent human trafficking when the crime is socially accepted.²⁰

Methods: Force, Fraud, and Coercion

FORCE

- Victims are sometimes kidnapped and forced into modern-day slavery. The truth is that a victim can be anyone, anywhere, at any time.²¹

FRAUD

- Traffickers frequently recruit victims through false advertisements for jobs.²² In addition, traffickers charge the victim additional recruitment fees, and/or confiscate their legal documents.²³

COERCION

- It is common for traffickers to lure victims by appearing to meet an emotional, physical, or relational need/desire. Traffickers target victims with promises to care for them, when in reality the plan is to exploit them.²⁴ Female victims are often coerced into human trafficking through men alleging to be a loving boyfriend.

Role of Technology

Traffickers are sophisticated in their use of technology to recruit, manipulate, and lure innocent people into dangerous situations.

- The main types of technology used by traffickers are cell phones and tablets, social media platforms and websites or other classified sites where girls are forced to put advertisements online as “escorts.”²⁵
- Chat rooms are often used to exchange information about sex tourist locations while social media is used to “target, stalk, and land victims as well as to convey, buy, and sell pornographic records of sex trafficking.”²⁶
- Traffickers may also utilize biometric data, chips, and global positioning systems.²⁷

Section 3

HOW TO SPOT TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is often hidden in plain sight. By becoming aware of the indicators related to possible human trafficking scenarios, victims can be identified. If you suspect that human trafficking is occurring, do not hesitate to report it to one of the hotline numbers provided.

Physical indicators²⁸

- Signs of being denied food, water, sleep, medical care, or poor personal hygiene
- Sexually transmitted diseases, pelvic pain, urinary difficulties, infertility from chronic untreated STDs and unsafe abortions
- Bruising, scars, broken bones, or other signs of untreated medical problems
- Critical untreated illnesses including diabetes, cancer, or heart disease
- Post-traumatic stress or psychological disorders
- Signs of exhaustion
- Outward signs of abuse
- Inappropriate attire is worn in order to look older
- The victim has been branded by a tattoo
- The victim has unusual or excessive possessions

Situational Indicators²⁹

- Lives at the same premises as the brothel or work site
- Driven between quarters and “work” by a guard
- Domineering figure always seems to be present

- Kept under surveillance
- No passport or documentation
- Doesn't speak the language of the country
- Not allowed to make decisions or go anywhere alone
- Lacks control over their own money/earnings
- Suffers from verbal or psychological abuse designed to intimidate, degrade, and frighten the individual
- Has a trafficker or pimp who controls all the money
- Has a cell phone despite a lack of other basic belongings

Behavioral Indicators³⁰

- Extremely nervous
- Recently arrived in the country and does not speak the language of the country, or only knows sex-related or labor-related words
- Disappears often
- Displays significant behavioral changes or changes in personality
- Appears withdrawn
- Appears to be isolated from friends and family
- Has developed Stockholm Syndrome, a disorder where kidnapped victims become sympathetic to their captors
- Distrusts and is suspicious
- Coerced into drug use by his or her traffickers, or may turn to substance abuse to help cope with their enslavement
- Afraid to talk to outsiders and authorities, since they are closely monitored and controlled by their trafficker(s)
- Unable to keep his or her earnings
- Owes a debt they are working to pay off

Emotional Indicators³¹

- Anger
- Depression
- Detachment
- Fearful
- Hopelessness
- Insecurities
- Overly submissive
- Shame

Identify Victims in Crime-Related Settings³²

Many adults and children commit forced crimes during the course of their victimization. These crimes may include theft, prostitution, and illicit drug transportation.

Examples of Industries Where Trafficking Happens³³

Agriculture, Construction, Electronics, Fishing, Forestry, Healthcare, Housekeeping, Mining, Manufacturing, Transportation, Massage Parlors, Escort Services, Modeling, Sales Crews, Janitorial Services, Hospitality, Shipyards, Restaurants, Salon Services, Fairs and Carnivals, Elder Care, Peddling, Nannyng, and Domestic Service.

Section 4

HOW TO REPORT TRAFFICKING

If you suspect someone has been or is being trafficked, contact the authorities immediately³⁴ or call one of the hotline numbers below to make a report:³⁵

AUSTRALIA

→ Australian Federal Police: 131AFP (131237)

BULGARIA

→ National Human Trafficking Resource Line: 0800 20 100

EUROPEAN UNION

→ European Emergency Number: 112

GREECE

→ National Anti-Human Trafficking Hotline (24/7): 1109

NETHERLANDS

→ CoMensha (government-funded national coordination center for human trafficking): +31 33 448 1186

NORWAY

→ The ROSA Project (state-funded human trafficking NGO): 2233 1160

SOUTH AFRICA

→ South African National Human Trafficking Resource Line: 0800 222 777

THAILAND

→ One Stop Crisis Centre (OSCC) Hotline for reporting trafficking crimes or inappropriate media for children (pornography, violence, etc.): 1300

UKRAINE

- IOM supported Counter-Trafficking And Migrant Advice Hotline: 527 or 0 800 505 501
- La Strada Counter-Trafficking Hotline: 0800 500 225

UNITED KINGDOM

- United Kingdom Modern Slavery Resource Line: 08000 121 700

UNITED STATES

- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC): 1 (800) 843-5678 or 1 (800) THE-LOST
- National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) Toll-Free Hotline: 1-888-373-7888

For more global hotlines and contact organizations, visit:

<http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/other/2009/121161.htm>

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