

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Overview: Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. Victims of human trafficking are young children, teenagers, men, and women. According to the United States (U.S.) Department of State, approximately 800,000 to 900,000 victims annually are tracked across international borders world wide, and between 18,000 and 20,000 of those victims are trafficked into the U.S. Victims of human trafficking are subjected to force, fraud, and/or coercion, for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor.

Many victims of human trafficking are forced to work in prostitution or the sex entertainment industry, but trafficking also occurs in forms of labor exploitation, such as domestic servitude, restaurant work, janitorial work, sweatshop factory work, and migrant agricultural work.

After drug dealing, trafficking in persons is tied with arms dealing as the second largest criminal industry in the world, and is the fastest growing.

Federal Legislation: The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 made human trafficking a federal crime and made certified victims of human trafficking eligible for federally-funded benefits and services to the same extent as refugees. The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003 extended eligibility for federally-funded benefits and services to certain family members of victims.

California Legislation: Senate Bill 180 (Chapter 239, Statutes of 2005) and Assembly Bill 22 (Chapter 240, Statutes of 2005) became laws on January 1, 2006, making human trafficking a crime in California, and establishing the California Alliance to Combat Trafficking and Slavery (CA ACTS) Task Force to study the problem of human trafficking in California and develop strategies for combating the crime. In 2006, Senate Bill 1569 (Chapter 672, Statutes of 2006) “Services and Benefits for Non-Citizen Victims of Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, and Other Serious Crimes” was introduced. This bill was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger on September 29, 2006 and became law effective January 1, 2007. This legislation established a state-funded program for victims who are not eligible for federal benefits and services to the same extent as persons admitted to the U.S. as refugees.



LOOK BENEATH THE SURFACE

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

A victim of trafficking may look like many of the people you see everyday.

Ask the right questions and look for clues. You are vital because you may be the only outsider with the opportunity to speak with a victim.

There are safe housing, health, immigration, food, income, employment, legal and interpretation services available to victims, but first they must be found.

If you think someone is a victim of trafficking, call **1.888.3737.888**
For more information about human trafficking visit www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking.



Look Beneath the Surface

Human Trafficking is Modern-Day Slavery

Any child engaged in commercial sex is the victim of human trafficking. Children made to work against their will (such as in farm labor, domestic servitude or sweatshop factories) are victims of human trafficking.

There are safe housing, health, immigration, food, income, employment, legal and interpretation services available to child victims, but first they must be identified.

If you think a child may be a victim of human trafficking, call toll-free **1.888.3737.888**.
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Can you recognize victims of human trafficking among the people you help everyday?

As a social service provider, you can help liberate victims of human trafficking.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human Trafficking is Modern-Day Slavery

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery, widespread throughout the United States today. Trafficking of humans is the second largest criminal industry in the world after drug dealing, and is the fastest growing. Many victims of trafficking are forced to work in prostitution or sex entertainment. But trafficking also occurs in forms of labor exploitation, such as domestic servitude or restaurant work, sweatshop factory work or migrant agricultural work.

Force, fraud and coercion are the methods used by traffickers to press victims into lives of servitude and abuse:

- Force – Rape, beatings, confinement, marriage, better life
- Fraud – False offers of employment, marriage, debt-bondage, psychological abuse

Victims of trafficking can be found in:

- The sex industry
- Domestic situations (nannies or servants)
- Sweatshop factories
- Construction
- Farm work
- Fisheries
- Hotel or tourist industries
- Panhandling
- Janitorial services
- Restaurant services

Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking

Victims of trafficking may look like many of the people coming to your organization for assistance everyday. Victims are young children, teenagers, men and women. By looking beneath the surface and asking yourself these questions, you can help identify potential victims:

- Is the person accompanied by another person who seems controlling (possibly the trafficker)?
- Can you detect any physical or psychological abuse?
- Does the person seem submissive or fearful?
- Does the person have difficulty communicating because of language or cultural barriers?
- Does the person have any identification?

Gaining the trust of a victim of human trafficking is an important first step in providing assistance.

Sample Questions to Ask Potential Victims of Human Trafficking

If you get the opportunity to speak to or question the person alone, asking the following questions can help you determine if you are dealing with a victim:

- Can you leave your job or situation if you want?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you been threatened if you try to leave?
- Has anyone threatened your family?
- What are your working or living conditions like?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom?
- Is there a lock on your door so you cannot get out?

Before questioning a person who may be a victim of human trafficking, discreetly separate the person from the individual accompanying her/him, since this person could be the trafficker posing as a spouse, other family member or employer.

Support for Victims of Human Trafficking

If you suspect someone is a victim of trafficking, call the Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline at 1.888.3737.888 to obtain information and to access supportive services through the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). This hotline will help victims safely and securely rebuild their lives by connecting them to basic services related to:

- Housing
- Health care
- Immigration assistance
- Food
- Income
- Employment
- Legal

Victims of human trafficking who are non-U.S. citizens are eligible to receive benefits and services through the TVPA to the same extent as refugees. Victims who are U.S. citizens are already eligible to receive many of these benefits.

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Understanding Victims of Human Trafficking

Understanding the mindset of human trafficking victims is important to helping them restore their lives.

Consider the following points when helping someone who could be a victim of human trafficking:

- Most victims do not speak English and do not understand American culture.
- Most victims do not know what city or country they are in because they are often forced to move.
- Most victims have a strong sense of distrust because they fear deportation.
- Most victims do not see themselves as victims and do not realize what is being done to them is wrong.

Confidentiality is vital for victims of human trafficking. Enlist the help of a staff member who speaks the victim's language and understands the victim's culture.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Administration for Children and Families

