

# Domestic Violence & Human Trafficking



## Human Trafficking

### Overview

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. People are concealed, bought, relocated, and sold as slaves in the United States and countries around the world. This activity occurs through sexual and/or labor exploitation of persons. Human trafficking is an enterprise that exists on the principles of supply and demand. Traffickers thrive on the ability to reap lucrative profits and incur minimal risks and impunity.

### Impact

Widespread are the negative impacts of human trafficking. Victims may experience physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse. They may be lured with a promising job, education, citizenship, or a happy marriage—only to discover they were forced, coerced, or defrauded into bondage. Minors are robbed of childhoods through the physical abduction of their person. Severe global effects include threats to health, contribution to and proliferation of organized crime, and the deprivation of human rights.

**Legal Definition:** The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000

- (a) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for purpose of a commercial sex act in which the sex is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age;
- (b) or (b) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. 22 U.S.C. §7102



### The Facts

- U.S. born and foreign nationals can be trafficked.
- People can be trafficked into, within, and out of a country.
- Each year, 17,500 foreign nationals are trafficked into the U.S. (U.S. Department of Justice)
- Approximately 1.2 million children trafficked worldwide (UNICEF)
- Human trafficking is the second largest and fastest growing organized criminal activity in the world.

## Link Between Domestic Violence & Trafficking of Persons

Domestic violence and human trafficking are different forms of victimization. However, between these types of violence against persons, there are similarities and points of intersects. As advocates who serve diverse populations, the chances that you are already working with human trafficking victims, are highly probable. To assist human trafficking victims, it is important to use and build on your existing knowledge and experience in working with survivors of abuse.

**What Is the Connection?** **Intimate partner violence is NOT Asked for. Human trafficking is NOT voluntary. Perpetrators use a relationship of trust to their advantage** (e.g. economic gain through a girlfriend or employee). **Abusers and traffickers can be anyone. Victims can be anyone** (e.g. children, women and men of all nationalities, socio-economic status, race, age, and faith). **Abusers and traffickers often threaten victims into a life of silence and compliance. Intimate partner violence and human trafficking violate a person's freedom. Victims may have experienced attacks of violence across their lifespan: street violence; sexual assault; war; political turmoil. Victims/survivors need assistance from various people, agencies, and organizations.**



Traffickers use a wide variety of technologies to exploit.

The U.S. Department of Education reports traffickers target minor victims through telephone chat-lines, clubs, on the street, through friends, and at malls, as well as using girls to recruit other girls at schools and after-school programs.

### Do I Witness Human Trafficking?

*It can happen.*

- Migrant Farm Work.**
- Internet (e.g. Craigslist for recruitment) & Newspapers.**
- Domestic Servitude.**
- Construction. Begging.**
- Pornography. Food Industries. Hair & Nail Salons. Massage Parlors. Window Cleaning. Strip Clubs. Hotels. Mail order bride or foreign brides. Factories. Brothels. Retail Companies.**

### Sources

This material was adapted from the Family Violence Prevention Fund publication entitled Collaborating to Help Trafficking Survivors: Emerging Issues and Practice Pointers.

Handbook on Human Trafficking, Second Edition 2004, developed by the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Domestic Sex Trafficking: The Criminal Operations of the American Pimp developed by Polaris Project.

U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Public Affairs.

U.S. Department of Justice

U. Department of Education

International Labour Office, UNICEF

## The Traffickers

Human trafficking happens everyday in plain sight and behind closed doors. The reality is that traffickers are individual men and women, families and organized criminal groups. A list of possible traffickers may include: neighbors, friends, acquaintances, village chiefs, community leaders, business owners, diplomats, faith leaders, pimps, and drug traffickers (Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence). In the U.S., traffickers prey on vulnerable populations such as : runaway and at-risk youth, substance abusers, undocumented migrants, and marginalized groups (Polaris Project). Traffickers frequent various places in order to recruit child and adult victims. Homeless shelters, schools, parks, playgrounds, courtrooms, bars and restaurants are among the common sites. Within the slave trade, traffickers may assume the role of recruiters, transporters, and/or guardians.

### What is the income generated from trafficking in persons?

In an analysis conducted by Polaris Project, an anti-human trafficking non-profit, one pimp made an estimated income of "\$632,000 in one year from four young women and girls."

## Unique Needs of Human Trafficking Survivors

While there are similarities between domestic violence and human trafficking, survivors of trafficking, have **complex** needs that require an appropriate community response. When assisting U.S. and foreign-born survivors, a multidisciplinary approach is recommended to meet housing, medical, trauma, legal, immigration, education, employment, and literacy issues.

**SAFETY & CONFIDENTIALITY ARE OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE. To prevent or retaliate against loss of "property," profit, and/or prosecution, traffickers may threaten, beat and even take the lives of victims [and advocates].**

## Safety Planning

Following are tips for domestic violence advocates to consider when safety planning with human trafficking victims/survivors.

Before crises:

- Form partnerships with local & federal law enforcement.

During:

- Continue to employ a victim centered approach.
- Build trust.
- Explain your role as an advocate and your agency's responsibilities.
- Explain what will happen with the information they provide you.
- Be aware of traffickers' presence in the community.
- Assure interpreter does not have ties to the trafficker.
- Be aware that client may not know they are a victim.
- Be aware of the legal remedies that assist victims.
- Be aware of the benefits available to victims.
- Maintain confidentiality .

### Where do I find Human Trafficking Assistance?

*For immediate law enforcement response: 9-1-1*

*To report human trafficking, make referrals, and request training & technical assistance: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) National Human Trafficking Resource Center, 1-888-3737-888*

*To report human trafficking directly to FBI line: U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), 1-888-428-7581*

*To report missing or the sexual exploitation of children: 1-800-843-5678*