

What is Sex Trafficking?

Sex trafficking includes commercial sexual exploitation of children, as well as every instance where an adult is in the sex trade as the result of force, fraud, or coercion.

Sex trafficking can occur within numerous venues:

- ✓ Streets
- ✓ Hotels and motels
- ✓ Truck stops
- ✓ Online escort services
- ✓ Online websites such as www.backpage.com and www.craigslist.com
- ✓ Brothels
- ✓ Massage parlors
- ✓ Migrant camps
- ✓ Restaurants

Under U.S. and international law, commercially sexually exploited children found in the sex trade are considered to be victims of trafficking, even if no force or coercion is present (UNODC, 2012).

Who are traffickers?

Human traffickers are people who control, sell, or transport others to be commercially exploited for labor or service through force, fraud or coercion (or are minors) and people who purchase those who are commercially exploited for sex acts, or labor services. They could be:

- ✓ Pimps
- ✓ Women
- ✓ Under the age of 18
- ✓ Family members of the victim
- ✓ Involved in gangs, narcotics and other criminal activity
- ✓ Smugglers
- ✓ Employers at legitimate businesses
- ✓ People who purchase sex acts

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What is Human Trafficking?



What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where people profit from the exploitation of others. Human traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion against adult victims to manipulate them into engaging in commercial sex acts, or labor or services in exchange for something of monetary value (money, safety, transportation). When victims of human trafficking are minors there does not have to be force, fraud, or coercion present.

Human trafficking is considered to be one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world. Currently, it is second only to drug trafficking and produces \$32 billion dollars of annual revenue worldwide (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2012).

How is Human Trafficking Different than Human Smuggling?

Human trafficking is a crime against an individual in which the victim is used as a physical commodity to earn a profit for the trafficker.

Human smuggling is a crime against a border. Individuals typically work together to transport people from one country into another without permission from the destination country. Once the person who has been smuggled into the new country arrives at their destination they are free to go their own way.

There can be an intersection of human trafficking with human smuggling. Smuggling becomes trafficking if the smugglers do not allow the victim to leave or if they trade the victim to a trafficker. Additionally, trafficking occurs when the victim is forced, either mentally or physically, and/or defrauded into thinking they have to obey the people holding them as a part of an agreement. Victims might also be coerced through threats against family, deportation, etc. into providing labor or services (including sex acts) for the profit of the person(s) controlling them.





Victims of Trafficking

What is Labor Trafficking?

Labor trafficking occurs when a person is controlled through force, fraud, or coercion into providing labor or services for the economic advantage of the trafficker. Such labor and services can include domestic work at a private residence, farm labor, meat packing plants, factory work, restaurant work or nail salons. Emotional abuse that often accompanies labor trafficking includes:

- ✓ Separation from their loved ones
- ✓ Verbal, physical, and sexual abuse
- ✓ Fear of the consequences if they speak out against abuse or try to leave
- ✓ Concern or worry over debts to be pay off
- ✓ Fear for their physical safety or the safety of their loved ones
- ✓ Denied body autonomy
- ✓ Denied control over their decisions and choices
- ✓ Hopelessness

Debt bondage is illegal.

Most people in the U.S. have debts that they are paying off. However, people with debts are free to decide where they work and what jobs they perform to pay off these debts. A person in debt bondage is forced, defrauded, or coerced into paying off a debt in the manner and location decided by the debt holder.

Victims of human trafficking can include children involved in the sex trade and adults at least 18 years old who are coerced or deceived into commercial sex acts and anyone forced into different forms of "labor or services." The elements each of these situations has in common are: force, fraud, or coercion that are used to control people. However, when the victim is a minor force, fraud, or coercion does not need to be present for it to be human trafficking. While trafficked individuals in the United States can be any gender, age or race, Certain populations are at increased risk of trafficking due to the environments from which

they come.

- ✓ Children and adolescents who have run away from home or been thrown out of their homes
- ✓ Adults, adolescents, and children who are homeless
- ✓ People who have been sexually and/or physically victimized in the past
- ✓ U.S. and foreign nationals who are here for work
- ✓ People who live in extreme poverty
- ✓ People who come to the U.S. to support their family abroad
- ✓ Refugees
- ✓ Migrant workers
- ✓ People who hired others to help smuggle them into a destination country
- ✓ People who come from neighborhoods or families with a generational history of trafficking
- ✓ People with cognitive disabilities
- ✓ People with mental health issues
- ✓ People who have been trafficked in the past



What can be done?

Numerous counties across Pennsylvania are involved in efforts to help people who are victimized through trafficking and hold traffickers, and people who benefit from trafficking, accountable for their crimes. To learn more about efforts in your area, contact your local rape crisis center:

To find your local rape crisis center:

<http://www.pcar.org/contractor/search>

Additional information and resources:

- Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape
www.pcar.org, 1-800-692-7445
- Polaris Project
www.polarisproject.org
- US Department of State
<http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2012/>
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
www.missingkids.com

References

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2012). Global report on Trafficking in Persons Annual Report. Retrieved from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime website:
http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/Trafficking_in_Persons_2012_web.pdf