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# THE POLICY CIRCLE

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING



# ➤ WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING? ◀

HUMAN TRAFFICKING, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, AND MODERN SLAVERY ALL REFER TO “THE RECRUITMENT, HARBORING, TRANSPORTATION, PROVISIONING, PATRONIZING, SOLICITING OR OBTAINING” OF A PERSON FOR THE PURPOSE OF A COMMERCIAL SEX ACT (SEX TRAFFICKING) OR FOR LABOR OR SERVICES (LABOR TRAFFICKING) BY MEANS OF “FORCE, FRAUD, OR COERCION.” IN THE CASE OF CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING, WHEN THE VICTIM IS UNDER THE AGE OF 18, THE MEANS OF COERCION IS NOT NECESSARY FOR THE SITUATION TO BE DEFINED AS TRAFFICKING; EVEN WITHOUT THE USE OF FORCE, MINORS ARE AUTOMATICALLY CONSIDERED TO BE EXPLOITED IN THESE SITUATIONS BECAUSE THEY LACK THE ABILITY TO CONSENT.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING CAN CROSS INTERNATIONAL BORDERS WHEN VICTIMS ARE RECRUITED ABROAD, OR BE ENTIRELY DOMESTIC. EVEN THOUGH THE TERM TRAFFICKING IS FREQUENTLY ASSOCIATED WITH PHYSICAL TRANSPORTATION, IT’S NOT REQUIRED. “FOR A PERSON TO BE A VICTIM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING...THE INDIVIDUAL MUST FIND HIM OR HERSELF IN A CONTEXT OF EXPLOITATION,” BY MEANS OF FORCE OR FRAUD.



# FACTS TO KNOW



HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN ALL 50 U.S. STATES, WASHINGTON, D.C., AND SOME U.S. TERRITORIES. ROUGHLY 11,500 HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES INVOLVING OVER 22,000 VICTIMS WERE REPORTED TO THE U.S. NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE IN 2019.

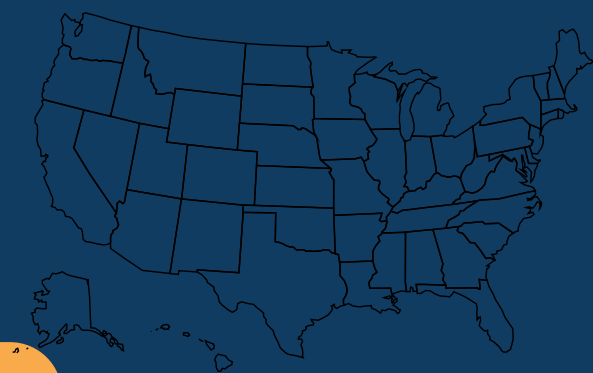
THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION ESTIMATES THERE ARE ALMOST 25 MILLION VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING WORLDWIDE, WITH APPROXIMATELY 20 MILLION VICTIMS OF LABOR TRAFFICKING AND 5 MILLION VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATION METHODS HAVE HELPED SPREAD THE PROLIFERATION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

APPROXIMATELY 70% OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAPPENS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THE MOST PROFITABLE SECTORS ARE CONSTRUCTION, MINING, MANUFACTURING, AGRICULTURE, AND DOMESTIC SERVITUDE.

GLOBALLY, HUMAN TRAFFICKING GENERATES OVER \$150 BILLION ANNUALLY, MAKING IT SECOND ONLY TO DRUG TRAFFICKING IN TERMS OF PROFIT. ESTIMATED ANNUAL PROFITS PER VICTIM ARE \$22,000 FOR SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS AND ABOUT \$5,000 FOR LABOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS.



# ➤ GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT ◀



THE 2000 TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT (TVPA) BECAME THE CORNERSTONE OF U.S. FEDERAL LAW ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING. IT WAS RENEWED IN 2003, 2005, 2008, 2013, AND 2018, EACH TIME INCORPORATING ADDED PROTECTIONS RANGING FROM PROSECUTION MEASURES TO LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING TO INTERNATIONAL AID MEASURES.

THE TVPA ESTABLISHED PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (PITF). OVER FIFTEEN FEDERAL AGENCIES MAKE UP THE PITF, INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID) TO COMBAT TRANSNATIONAL TRAFFICKING, AND THE OFFICE OF THE U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WHICH MUST ADHERE TO FEDERAL LAWS THAT PROHIBIT IMPORTING GOODS MADE WITH TRAFFICKED LABOR. THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, THE OFFICES OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, AND THE DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL ALSO PARTICIPATE..

BETWEEN 2004 AND 2013, ALL 50 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ENHANCED THEIR ANTI-TRAFFICKING LAWS. ADDITIONALLY, TO LOCAL AGENCIES IN HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND JUSTICE COORDINATE THEIR ACTIVITIES TO PROSECUTE TRAFFICKERS, PROTECT VICTIMS, AND PREVENT TRAFFICKING ACROSS STATE AND COUNTY LINES.

THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (BJA) UNDER THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAS DEVELOPED TRAINING PROGRAMS TO HELP LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS IDENTIFY AND RESCUE VICTIMS, BECAUSE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL ARE OFTEN THE FIRST TO ENCOUNTER VICTIMS. VICTIMS HAVE ACCESS TO STATE AND LOCAL SERVICES THAT ARE FUNDED BY BLOCK GRANTS. THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES' DOMESTIC VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROGRAM ALSO PROVIDES VICTIM ASSISTANCE GRANTS TO STATE, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS PROVIDING VICTIM-CENTERED SERVICES SO AS TO HELP "BUILD COMMUNITY ANTI-TRAFFICKING CAPACITY.





# ➤ FRAMING THE ISSUE ◀

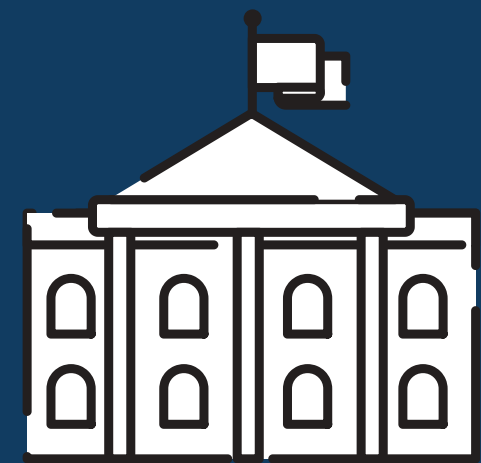


TO PROPERLY COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING, ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES NEED RELIABLE DATA, WHICH IS DIFFICULT TO ACQUIRE. PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION IS COMPLICATED BY THE SENSITIVE NATURE OF THE INFORMATION AND THE NEED TO ENSURE DATA INTEGRITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY. EVEN WITH CONSIDERABLE AMOUNTS OF GATHERED INFORMATION, COSTS OF BUILDING AND MAINTAINING DATABASES IS LIMITED TO COMMITTED GOVERNMENTS AND WELL-FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS. THE MAJORITY OF ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE WORLD RELY ON BASIC DATABASES OR EVEN PAPER FILES.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PERPETUATES BECAUSE THERE IS A CUSTOMER BASE. CREATING CULTURAL CHANGE BY REDUCING THE DEMAND FOR TRAFFICKING IS NECESSARY TO END TRAFFICKING; ACCORDING TO THE DEMAND ABOLITION INVESTIGATION, WHO BUYS SEX?, ACTIVE BUYERS OF PROSTITUTION SAY IT IS "A 'MOSTLY VICTIMLESS' CRIME AND ARE LESS LIKELY TO SAY THAT PROSTITUTION IS A CRIME 'WHERE SOMEONE IS HARMED'." IN REALITY, PEOPLE WORKING IN THE SEX TRADE ARE OFTEN EXPLOITED.

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE ESTIMATES THAT 16 MILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE WERE VICTIMS OF FORCED LABOR IN 2016, LEADING TO ONLY ABOUT 1000 PROSECUTIONS. PROSECUTION EFFORTS ACROSS THE WORLD TEND TO LEAN IN FAVOR OF THE PERPETRATOR. THERE ARE NO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR PROSECUTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING CRIMES. FOR EXAMPLE, LABOR TRAFFICKING CASES CAN SOMETIMES BE PROSECUTED UNDER EMPLOYMENT LAW FOR LABOR VIOLATIONS, RESULTING IN PENALTIES MUCH WEAKER THAN THEY WOULD BE IF PROSECUTED UNDER ANTI-TRAFFICKING LAW.

ONE PIECE OF LEGISLATION THAT HAS GARNERED CONTROVERSY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS SECTION 230 OF THE COMMUNICATIONS DECENCY ACT. ACCORDING TO SECTION 230, A WEBSITE OR INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER CANNOT BE HELD LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT USERS OR THIRD-PARTIES PUBLISH ON THEIR PLATFORM. IN TERMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, CRITICS ARGUE SECTION 230 COULD BE SUBJECTING VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING TO INCREASED HARM. A NEW YORK TIMES INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED "AN EXPLOSION OF ABUSIVE CONTENT" ON TECH COMPANIES' PLATFORMS OVER THE COURSE OF 2018 AND 2019, INCLUDING OVER 45 MILLION PHOTOS AND VIDEOS OF CHILDREN BEING SEXUALLY ABUSED. UNDER SECTION 230, PLATFORMS ARE IMMUNE FROM LIABILITY, WHICH MAKES PROTECTING VICTIMS, PREVENTING FUTURE CRIMES, AND PROSECUTING TRAFFICKERS MORE DIFFICULT.





# SOLUTIONS



U.S. LAW ENFORCEMENT COLLABORATES INTERNATIONALLY, SUCH AS WITH MEXICAN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AT THE BORDER IN THE U.S.-MEXICO BILATERAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE.

DOMESTICALLY, THE 2019 TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT REQUIRES THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO APPOINT A U.S. ATTORNEY AS A HUMAN TRAFFICKING JUSTICE COORDINATOR IN EACH FEDERAL JUDICIAL DISTRICT, AND ANTI-TRAFFICKING COORDINATION TEAM (ACTEAM) INITIATIVE COMBINES RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL FROM THE DEPARTMENTS OF JUSTICE, HOMELAND SECURITY, LABOR, AND THE FBI TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT STRATEGIC ENFORCEMENT PLANS IN DISTRICTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

TRAINING INITIATIVES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEES IN INDUSTRIES SUCH AS HEALTHCARE, TRANSPORTATION, AND EDUCATION, AND INDIVIDUALS WILL ALSO HELP COMMUNITY MEMBERS UNDERSTAND AND IDENTIFY THE SIGNS OF TRAFFICKING, AND KNOW WHICH QUESTIONS TO ASK IF THEY BELIEVE SOMEONE IS BEING TRAFFICKED. COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN ALSO ENGAGE WITH THE U.S. NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE.

OPERATED BY POLARIS, THE HOTLINE FOCUSES ON ASSISTING VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS, BUT ANYONE CAN CONTACT THE HOTLINE (OR DIRECTLY CALL 911) TO REPORT A TIP OR A SUSPICIOUS SITUATION. THE HOTLINE HAS ALSO COMPILED RESOURCES FOR ANYONE LOOKING TO ENGAGE IN TRAINING OR VOLUNTEER EFFORTS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, WE AS INDIVIDUALS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE BY ADDRESSING THE PREVALENCE OF TRAFFICKING AND THE MORALITY OF EXPLOITATION. HAVING THESE DIFFICULT BUT IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS CAN HELP DISPEL MYTHS SO FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE AWARE OF THE RISKS AND UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH OF TRAFFICKING. EMPOWERED INDIVIDUALS ARE BEST EQUIPPED TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES.

# ➤ WHAT YOU CAN DO ◀

## MEASURE -

DO YOU KNOW HOW PREVALENT TRAFFICKING IS IN YOUR COMMUNITY OR STATE? WHAT ARE YOUR STATE'S ANTI-TRAFFICKING LAWS? IS THERE A COALITION OR TASK FORCE, OR DOES ONE NEED TO BE FORMED?



## IDENTIFY -

WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF TASK FORCES OR COALITIONS IN YOUR STATE? WHAT STEPS HAS YOUR STATE'S ATTORNEY GENERAL TAKEN?



## REACH OUT -

FIND ALLIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY OR IN NEARBY TOWNS AND ELSEWHERE IN THE STATE. FOSTER COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, AND SCHOOL BOARDS.



## PLAN -

SET MILESTONES BASED ON YOUR STATE'S LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR OR LOCAL COMMUNITY CALENDAR.



## EXECUTE -

BE A CONSCIENTIOUS CONSUMER – THE NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION'S DIRTY DOZEN LIST EXPOSING COMPANIES THAT PERPETUATE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IS A GOOD PLACE TO START. URGE LOCAL BUSINESSES TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING IN THEIR SUPPLY CHAINS. THINK ABOUT YOUR OWN WORKPLACE AND SCHOOLS, AND ENCOURAGE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROTOCOLS OR VICTIM-CENTERED BUSINESS PRACTICES. VOLUNTEER WITH YOUR LOCAL ANTI-TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS, OR CONDUCT AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS BY PARTNERING WITH LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS, PTAS, CITY COUNCILS, OR OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS ROTARY CLUBS.

