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# The Quest to End Human Trafficking: An Educational and Practical Guide for Everyone Who Wants to Help Break the Bonds and Assist Survivors

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# **THE** QUEST TO **END HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

An Educational and Practical Guide for *Everyone*  
Who Wants to Help Break the Bonds  
and Assist Survivors



**DENNIS MCCARTY, PH.D.**

WITH ASSISTANCE FROM MEMBERS OF THE  
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY STUDENTS STOPPING TRAFFICKING OF PEOPLE (SSTOP)

“It’s funny, because we all read history and we think, ‘Oh, I would ... have risen up, I would have fought, I would have been an abolitionist,’ And I tell them, ‘No, you wouldn’t have. If you would have, you’d be doing that right now. You know trafficking exists, you’ve heard of it, but you don’t want to look” (Ballard, n.d.).

Tim Ballard (Operation Underground Railroad)



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*The Quest To End Human Trafficking is being made available at no charge to facilitate its dissemination to anyone interested. Those who download the Guide in whole or in part are asked to donate to the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST), Agape International Missions, the NOMI Network, Love 146, or another nonprofit that assists trafficked survivors.*

Albany, New York  
March 2023

For Mom, Dad, and Chris.  
They gave me the academic foundation and values I needed to begin this project.

And for Tanette, Michelle, and Meghan.  
They provided the love and support I needed to finish it.



## Table of Contents

Author’s Page.....	vii
Acknowledgments.....	viii
Preface.....	ix
The Purpose and Scope of the Guide.....	x
Where to Find Help if You Are Being Trafficked.....	xii

### Part 1. Getting Started

<b>I. Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
• What is human trafficking?.....	1
• The challenge of measuring the extent of human trafficking.....	3
• What the data suggest about people who are trafficked .....	5
• Human trafficking in the United States (and yes, it’s probably happening in your community, too).....	6
• Why we should care - How human trafficking impacts each of us .....	7
• Better laws and more police officers aren’t enough. Everyone needs to help. ....	8
• People who have made a difference.....	11
• <u>You</u> can make a difference! .....	15
• The takeaway .....	18
<b>II. What Everyone Needs to Know and Do.....</b>	<b>19</b>
• U.S. legislation .....	19
• Human trafficking in the media.....	20
• Behind the numbers: Learn from survivors .....	23
• Establishing a strong foundation.....	27
• How to recognize and report suspected trafficking .....	31
• Ten websites to know and check frequently .....	38
• Staying informed.....	46
• The takeaway .....	47
<b>III. Knowledge is Power: Suggestions for Taking it to the Next Level .....</b>	<b>48</b>
• Resources for advanced learning regardless of how much time you have .....	48
• Online courses .....	57
• Developing your own course of study .....	58
• A small sample of topics and sources to consider .....	59
○ Human trafficking: History and major concepts.....	59
○ Major types of trafficking in different parts of the world.....	62
○ What it’s like to be trafficked .....	69
○ Assisting survivors .....	70
○ Gender and cultural issues .....	72
○ Children .....	74
○ Trafficking that puts food on your table .....	77
○ Trafficking that makes the clothes you wear .....	78
○ The use of technology by traffickers and law enforcement .....	79
○ Global crises impacting human trafficking.....	82

- Strategies for ending human trafficking .....84
- Informational tours .....90
- The takeaway .....91

**Part 2. Resources for Key Allies**

- IV. Service Providers .....92**
  - Common denominators.....92
    - The importance of vigilance and empathy.....92
    - Screening tools.....93
  - Public Safety .....95
    - Law enforcement .....95
    - Police lockup and jail staff.....100
    - Prosecutors.....100
    - Public defenders and legal advocates .....101
  - Health care providers .....106
  - Social workers and mental health professionals .....112
  - The takeaway .....121
- V. Business Partners .....122**
  - Private businesses and human trafficking.....122
  - Human trafficking in corporate supply chains.....122
  - Principles, standards, and resources.....125
  - Convenience stores .....130
  - Lodging .....131
  - Tourism.....137
  - Airlines.....138
  - Transportation.....140
  - The takeaway .....144
- VI. Community Influencers .....145**
  - Public officials .....145
  - The press and public media .....147
  - Spiritual leaders .....150
    - Judaism .....153
    - Christianity.....154
    - Islam.....157
    - Hinduism.....157
    - Buddhism .....157
    - Baha’i.....158
  - The takeaway .....158
- VII. College instructors .....159**
  - Human trafficking’s place in a college curriculum.....159
  - Planning shortcuts.....164
  - Assignments and extra credit.....165
  - Activities.....166

- Other ways for faculty to be part of the solution .....167
- The takeaway .....168

### **Part 3. What will YOU do?**

<b>VIII. Choose a Strategy .....</b>	<b>169</b>
• Everyone can make a difference .....	169
• Tools for all strategies.....	170
• Increase awareness.....	174
○ Framing the issue in a way that gets attention .....	175
○ Talk to your friends (without being a buzzkill) .....	177
○ Tees and totes with a message .....	179
○ Help publicize special days that highlight human trafficking .....	181
○ Organize public displays and events.....	196
• Political advocacy .....	210
○ Types of initiatives.....	210
○ Issues warranting attention .....	213
○ Staying informed.....	218
○ Effective advocacy.....	218
• Prevention .....	223
○ Parents.....	223
○ Teens .....	225
○ Teachers .....	229
○ Mentors .....	235
○ Online Safety .....	236
• Reduce demand (Shop Wisely!) .....	238
○ So what can I do? Ethical consumerism and feel-good economics .....	240
○ Boycotts .....	243
○ Fair Trade and other certifications.....	244
○ Shopping wisely: Finding ethically sourced goods and services.....	246
• Survivor intervention and aftercare .....	255
○ Purchase and promote items made by trafficked survivors .....	258
○ Make/collect items for shelters .....	264
○ Volunteer locally or remotely .....	266
○ Volunteer abroad.....	267
○ Help fund needed services .....	269
▪ Selecting organizations to support.....	269
▪ Traditional contributions.....	279
▪ Painless ways of giving.....	282
▪ Organizing a fundraiser.....	286
▪ Ways that businesses can assist .....	287
○ Legal assistance .....	288
• The takeaway .....	288
 <b>IX. Activism and Career Opportunities for High School and College Students.....</b>	 <b>289</b>
• Learning about human trafficking .....	291
• Internships and community service .....	297
○ The value of experiential learning .....	297

○ Finding an internship .....	298
○ Organizations that offer anti-trafficking internships.....	303
○ International internships and Junior year abroad.....	310
○ Community service .....	311
• Campus organizations.....	314
○ Starting a club .....	315
○ Possible affiliations.....	316
○ Activities .....	318
• Careers fighting human trafficking or assisting survivors.....	323
○ Nongovernmental organizations .....	323
○ Government agencies.....	325
• The takeaway .....	329
<b>X. Commit!</b> .....	331
• Sympathy doesn't help .....	331
• Draft a personal mission statement.....	332
• Make a pledge.....	333
• Spread the word .....	335
• Adopt a slave-free lifestyle .....	336
• Choose a project to call your own (Make it fun!).....	336
• Travel proactively .....	339
• Provide financial support .....	340
• Generate support from local civic groups and your place of worship .....	340
• Volunteer.....	341
• Staying motivated .....	343
• The takeaway .....	345
<b>XI. Now What?</b> .....	347
• Easy ways to check all the boxes.....	347
○ If you can spare some time .....	348
○ If you can spare some money .....	348
○ If you can't spare any time <u>or</u> money .....	348
• Final thoughts .....	350
<b>Resources and references</b> .....	352
<b>Index</b> .....	

## **Author's Page**

Dennis McCarty, Ph.D., is a lecturer at the New York State University at Albany. He has taught for the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity, the Honors College, and the School of Criminal Justice.

Dr. McCarty held several positions in the New York State criminal justice system before retiring as an Assistant Director of what was then known as the New York State Office of Homeland Security. His volunteer work includes service with the Peace Corps in Guatemala and assisting at a shelter for survivors of domestic violence. He has also helped homeless and vulnerable youths in New York City and advocated on behalf of crime victims in town court.

Professional honors include a Gubernatorial commendation for developing and coordinating the NYS Law Enforcement Counter-Terrorism Training Program following the attacks of 9/11. Academic honors include a Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching, a President's Award for Excellence in Teaching, and an Adjunct Undergraduate Teaching Award from the UAlbany College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity. Other honors include the 2021 UAlbany Terra Award for helping the university become a Fair-Trade institution and a Certificate of Excellence from the UAlbany Student Association as an Outstanding Faculty Adviser for his work supporting UAlbany Students Stopping Trafficking of People (SSTOP). Additional information can be found in the author's profile on [LinkedIn](#).

## Acknowledgments

The Quest to End Human Trafficking highlights many of the ideas and strategies that activists developed long before research began on this project. We offer this resource with great humility, fully acknowledging that our contribution consists mainly of organizing the work that others who came before us have already accomplished.

I prepared the Guide with assistance from several members of the University at Albany's Students Stopping Trafficking of People (SSTOP). UAlbany students founded SSTOP in 2017 "to express our outrage at the many forms of human trafficking that exist in the world today and to assert our belief that everyone has a role in ending modern slavery." Despite its short history, the club has already won many honors, including a university Presidential Award for Leadership and the Minerva Award for Most Empowering Student Association. SSTOP also had a key role in helping UAlbany achieve designation as a Fair-Trade institution in February 2021.

Emily Kilcer and Lindsay Van Berkom provided invaluable technical guidance in their roles as UAlbany librarians who oversee the Scholars Archive and Scholarly Communications generally. They, along Rian Davis and Ms. Van Berkom's Graduate Assistant, Daniel Coutu, ensured that all sources were credited appropriately and in accordance with exacting technical standards. Rian additionally served as an extraordinary ally in other ways while preparing the manuscript for publication. I couldn't have done it without her.

I would also like to express my gratitude for the research that Heli Patel and Gabriella Bartley conducted during the preparation of the Guide. Other contributors included Tyler Kluge, Grace Larocco, Jesse Parent, and Nino Niniashvili.

Dr. David Rousseau gets a big shout-out for introducing me to the topic of human trafficking. Dr. Rousseau was serving as the Acting Dean of the UAlbany College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity (CEHC) in 2016 when he gave me the opportunity to teach a course on this subject. What I subsequently learned motivated me to make the war on trafficking my top personal and professional priority.

I want to express my profound gratitude for the ongoing support that I have received from the current Dean of the CEHC, Dr. Robert Griffin, Assistant Dean Dr. Jennifer Goodell, and the College's Director of Student Success, Michael Baumgardner. I am also grateful to Dr. Hui-Ching Chang for her encouragement and for allowing me to offer courses on human trafficking to the extraordinary students of the UAlbany Honors College.

The outstanding faculty of the University at Albany's School of Criminal Justice provided the academic foundation that enabled me to pursue a rewarding career in both the professional and academic sectors. I will always be in their debt and want to especially acknowledge the guidance I received from Drs. David Duffee and Hans Toch. I would not be where I am today without them. Dr. Dana Peterson, the school's current Senior Executive Director, also deserves a special mention for helping to keep me going when the broad scope of the Guide had me feeling a bit overwhelmed.

The collective contributions of the people mentioned above provide ample proof of the book's central thesis: One does not need to be an expert to have a meaningful role in the war on human trafficking. *Everyone* can help.

## **Preface**

I like to think that I'm reasonably well informed, especially in my chosen discipline of criminal justice. I have a Ph.D. in that field as well as 30 years of full-time experience working for several agencies in New York State and the Massachusetts Department of Correction. I have also taught a variety of criminal justice courses at the collegiate level for more than 20 years. Mom and Dad would be proud.

In 2016, the University at Albany (New York) College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity invited me to teach an upper-level undergraduate class about human trafficking. My knowledge of the topic was limited, but I had taught courses on crime victims and spent a summer working with homeless, at-risk juveniles in New York City. I looked forward to building on that foundation as I developed what would hopefully be some interesting objectives and lesson plans.

I spent the summer of 2016 immersing myself in trafficking literature and watching countless online videos as I prepared to offer the course for the first time. I was horrified by what I learned and quickly realized how little I knew about the subject. Two questions came to mind early in my research: (1) How could I have known so little about a crime that is so vicious and common throughout the world? and (2) What, if anything, could I or the average person on the street do to help?

The answer to the second question began to emerge when several of my students decided to form what was initially known as UAlbany Students Stopping Trafficking and the Exploitation of People (SSTEP) and asked me to serve as their adviser. Club members subsequently distributed handouts in the Campus Center and sponsored free movie nights to raise awareness. They also circulated petitions to raise the minimum marriage age in New York from 14 to 18, thereby changing a law that essentially allowed girls to become child brides. Other activities included raising funds and making blankets for a shelter that served survivors of sex trafficking in New York City.

The determination and energy that the club members displayed made me wonder what other kinds of things students might do. I gained additional insights during 2018 and 2019 when I taught a one-credit version of the trafficking course for the UAlbany Honors College. Students took short quizzes on the lectures and required reading, but the course grade was mostly based on the quality of a project that each student completed to reduce trafficking and/or assist survivors. Those wishing to see a powerful five-minute video that one student made and learn about some of the other projects can read an article I published about their work in [Homeland Security Today](#).

The creativity and value of the students' efforts exceeded all expectations. With that in mind, I began thinking it might be helpful to write another article that briefly described various strategies that other concerned individuals could utilize. What I initially thought might be a three-week project took more than two years to complete.

The final product would have to be much longer than it is to incorporate all the relevant material. I nevertheless hope that the Guide will have some value for those who are unfamiliar with human trafficking or are looking for ways to help stop it.

## **The Purpose and Scope of the Guide**

A lot of information is available in print and online to help those who wish to fight human trafficking. This document seeks to complement that rich base by organizing some of the best available information in a concise, user-friendly way. In so doing, the author hopes that the Guide will prompt spirited conversations and motivate more people to act.

It may be helpful to note in this context that few individuals paid much attention to the environment fifty years ago. It was not until the issue became widely publicized that people began to recognize the importance of recycling, and [we now recycle or compost about a third of our solid waste](#) (USI Web Services, n.d.). Perhaps we can generate a comparable level of concern about human trafficking.

The Guide does not explore the many strategies that federal, state, and local governments use to fight human trafficking. Such efforts are essential, but they will only be noted in passing. Those seeking an academic analysis of the many topics associated with human trafficking will also have to look elsewhere. The Guide provides background information and an overview of many key issues, but the content mainly focuses on activities that will enable anyone to make a difference. The Guide is for doers.

Some readers may wonder if this type of resource is necessary since more than a half-dozen books with a similar purpose have already been published. These books are still worth consulting, but some are several years old. Others have an explicit religious orientation that will not appeal to everyone, and hard copy books cannot provide hyperlinks to facilitate easy access to important resources.

Another source of skepticism may relate to the fact that powerful search engines are already available to assist those who want to learn more. The Internet is unquestionably an extraordinary tool, but the sheer number of results for even the most straightforward searches can be overwhelming. The research needed to prepare this Guide required countless hours of reviewing, comparing, and categorizing relevant sources. In addition, casual observers may not know where to start or how to evaluate competing claims. Complicating the task further is that many articles that Internet searches recommend tend to be repetitious and/or superficial. Consequently, it is easy to miss both the big picture and important details by reading “Three things you can do to fight human trafficking” or a short article about helping trafficked survivors.

I worked with several former students to address these challenges by sifting through and organizing information from hundreds of sources so the reader won’t have to. Knowledgeable readers will find some of the information fairly basic in nature, but an explicit goal of this initiative is to reach as broad an audience as possible. In fact, we are especially excited about the possibility of reaching people who know very little about human trafficking. Anyone who thinks that he/she might be interested in the topic can download all or part of the Guide 24/7 at no charge.

Most people have neither the time nor the desire to read a document as long as [The Quest to End Human Trafficking](#). Consequently, the Guide has a detailed Table of Contents that enables users with a specific interest to “cut to the chase” without getting distracted or bogged down by extraneous information. Those who want to hear podcasts or watch TED talks about trafficking, for example, can find recommendations in Chapter III (“Knowledge is Power: Suggestions for Taking it to the Next



Level.”) Readers who want to learn where they can buy ethically sourced goods and items made by trafficked survivors can go directly to the “Reduce Demand - Shop Wisely!” section of Chapter VIII. Students may be especially interested in Chapter IX (“Activism and Career Opportunities for High School and College Students”). The content does not have to be read sequentially or in its entirety to meet the reader’s needs.

Other features of the Guide include the following:

- A concise overview of major concepts and laws;
- A structure that was consciously designed to assist everyone regardless of academic background or religious belief;
- Links to a wide array of resources anyone can use as well as links to resources that were developed specifically to assist people with a particular occupation or role in the community;
- Ideas for student term papers and service projects, as well as information about career and travel opportunities;
- Practical suggestions to help readers start meaningful conversations about human trafficking with relatives and friends;
- An overview of five major antitrafficking strategies to help readers who might want to concentrate on an area that best matches their skills and interests;
- Recommendations that activists can use to fight trafficking regardless of how busy they may be;
- Ways to support trafficked survivors financially without writing a check; and
- Strategies for staying informed long after the Guide is published.

### A word about hyperlinks

The Guide has hyperlinks to more than 1,100 articles and websites, giving readers immediate access to additional information and free resources. All links were functioning when the Guide was released. The “References and Resources” section additionally contains many permalinks to facilitate long-term access to source material. The ever-changing nature of websites and the Internet in general may nevertheless make it difficult in some instances for readers to find certain citations or the exact wording for a particular quotation.

*The author welcomes and encourages constructive criticism, recommendations for future updates, and other comments that readers would like to share. Please send your thoughts to [dmccarty@albany.edu](mailto:dmccarty@albany.edu) under the subject of “Human Trafficking Guide Feedback.”*

## **Where to Find Help if You Are Being Trafficked**

*What I have been through is not who I am.*

“In this documentary we meet Katrina, whose childhood abruptly ends when she is manipulated and sold for sex by a trafficker. Her compelling story proves that with understanding and support, victims can become survivors. The first step is to see survivors in terms of their humanity, value and potential, and not their past” (What I Have Been Through Is Not Who I Am, n.d.).

According to federal law, any minor under 18 who engages in commercial sex work is a victim of sex trafficking even if the person facilitating these acts has not used force, fraud, or coercion. ***If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, please call 911.***

***If you believe you are a victim of human trafficking or have information about a potential trafficking situation,*** please visit the [National Human Trafficking Hotline website](#) or call 1 (888) 373-7888. The number is available 24/7. You can also text BeFree (233733) if you cannot speak on the phone. Trained counselors will provide you with information, support, and referrals to services in your community (Polaris, 2021b). There is no shame in being trafficked, but building a new life without support is extremely difficult.

***If you are not ready to leave a trafficking situation,*** you may at least want to consider contacting the [Crisis Text Line](#). The Text Line provides access to free, 24/7 support to anyone who is experiencing suicidal thoughts or another type of crisis. Text HOME to 741741 to reach a Crisis Counselor (Crisis Text Line, n.d.).

***If you are a survivor and would like to connect with other survivors*** from around the world, you may want to consider joining the [Survivor Alliance](#). You just need an email address and identify as someone who has experienced a form of slavery or human trafficking. Survivor Alliance does not provide direct services such as housing, therapy, or legal support, but it will provide referrals to organizations that do. Members also gain access to training resources and an online networking space (Survivor Alliance, n.d.).

***If you are a parent or legal guardian whose child is missing or a possible victim of exploitation,*** contact the [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#) (NCMEC). The Center has a 24-hour hotline (1-800-843-5678) and a website with suggestions on “What to do if your child is missing” and “How NCMEC can help” (National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, n.d.-b).

## Part 1: Getting Started

The Quest to End Human Trafficking has three main sections. Part I introduces the reader to human trafficking and provides the information necessary to acquire a good working knowledge of this complex global crime. The remaining two sections provide tools, resources, and strategies that activists can use to maximize the impact of their antitrafficking efforts. Readers already familiar with trafficking may want to go directly to Part II.

### I. Introduction

*“There is a reason fairy tales most commonly end with happy endings. It is because nobody wants to face the realization of human depravity” (Don Brown, n.d.).*

Dr. Asa Don Brown

This chapter begins by defining human trafficking and addressing the controversy concerning the phrase “modern slavery.” The chapter then documents the nature and extent of the problem. The author argues that human trafficking should concern everyone because nearly all of us purchase goods and services from companies that use exploited workers in their supply chains. The conclusion features people from all walks of life who have made significant contributions to fighting human trafficking. You, too, can make a difference!

#### What is human trafficking?

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons at a meeting in Palermo, Italy, on November 15, 2000. The agreement became effective on September 29, 2003, and 169 nations had [ratified it by 2017](#) (International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children, 2017). The [Protocol](#) defines trafficking in persons to 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*” (emphasis added to highlight the principal forms of trafficking) (General Assembly resolution 55/25, 2000).

Human trafficking has three major components: Action, Means, and Purpose (A-M-P). [The U.S. Office of Homeland Security offers the following summary of each:](#)

“The first component is an action. Common types of relevant action include:

- *Recruiting* (the proactive targeting of vulnerability and grooming behaviors),
- *Harboring* (isolation, confinement, and monitoring),
- *Transporting* (movement and arranging travel),
- *Providing* (giving to another individual), and
- *Obtaining* (forcibly taking, exchanging something for the ability to control)” (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children & Families - Office on Trafficking in Persons, n.d.)

“The means that traffickers use encompass force, fraud, and coercion.

- *Force* includes physical restraint, physical harm, sexual assault, and beatings. Monitoring and confinement are often used to control victims, especially during the early stages of victimization, to break down the victim’s resistance.
- *Fraud* includes false promises regarding employment, wages, working conditions, love, marriage, or a better life. Over time, there may be unexpected changes in work conditions, compensation or debt agreements, or the nature of the relationship.
- *Coercion* includes threats of serious harm to or physical restraint against any person, psychological manipulation, document confiscation, and shame and fear-inducing threats to share information or pictures with others or report to authorities” (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children & Families - Office on Trafficking in Persons, n.d.)

“The purpose refers to the intent of the trafficker. Common purposes include

- *Commercial Sex Act* is any sex act on account of anything of value given to or received by any person.
- *Involuntary Servitude* is any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that, if the person did not enter into or continue in such condition, that person or another person would suffer serious harm or physical restraint; or the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process.
- *Debt Bondage* includes a pledge of services by the debtor or someone under the debtor’s control to pay down known or unknown charges (e.g., fees for transportation, boarding, food, and other incidentals; interest, fines for missing quotas, and charges for “bad behavior). The length and nature of those services are not respectively limited and defined, where an individual is trapped in a cycle of debt that he or she can never pay down.
- *Peonage* is a status or condition of involuntary servitude based on real or alleged indebtedness
- *Slavery* is the state of being under the ownership or control of someone where a person is forced to work for another” (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children & Families - Office on Trafficking in Persons, n.d.)

The Protocol states that authorities should consider children to be a special case because a child cannot give consent. Consequently, prosecutors only need to prove two of the components described above (action and purpose) to establish that a child has been trafficked.

Many observers use the A-M-P criteria to define human trafficking more broadly. Several countries, for example, consider arranged marriages, especially those involving girls younger than 18, to be a form of trafficking even though the practice is both common and accepted elsewhere.

Those wishing to read a short but informative overview of human trafficking may want to review a 24-page document that the International Justice and Peace Center published in 2019: [Human Trafficking: Understanding the Who, What, Where, Why and How to Act](#) (Niese & End Slavery Cincinnati Coalition, 2019). Another excellent summary is Professor Annalisa Enrile’s [Human Trafficking Resource Guide](#) (Enrile, 2017). Chapters II and III of the Guide contain additional background information.

Thousands of articles address the topic of human trafficking, but some scholars prefer the term “modern slavery.” The [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime first used the phrase in 2008](#) when it announced that “two hundred years after the end of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, we have the obligation to fight a crime that has no place in the twenty-first century. Let’s call it what it is: modern slavery” (Costa, 2008).

[Joanna Ewart-James](#), the executive director of Freedom United, supports this perspective. “I’m not saying we should use the term modern slavery because it has shock value or because being sensationalist helps us. I am very much against sensationalizing anything on this topic, as in fact, I find it very unhelpful. That’s not the reasoning. My reasoning is to get people to recognize that what they’re seeing doesn’t align with their values. That’s a job to do. And I just think we’re already part way there when we use the term modern slavery because people know that’s not acceptable – they just don’t see what’s happening” (Freedom United, 2020d).

Other activists take a different view. [The National Survivor Network](#), for example, argues that using the term slavery to describe human trafficking minimizes the history of the transatlantic slave trade (National Survivor Network, 2022). [Dressember](#), a collaborative movement that seeks to restore dignity to trafficked victims and survivors, agrees and adds that “while human trafficking is a horrific crime, it cannot be compared to the experience of slavery in the 16th - 19th centuries” (Schaulis, 2021). Officials at [The National Sexual Violence Resource Center](#) additionally argue that historical slavery never ended and that historical slavery was legal while human trafficking is not. “There is nothing modern about this form of exploitation, and there is no established definition of what constitutes modern slavery” (National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 2018). Officials at [Love 146](#) further note that the youth they serve do not associate their experience with slavery and would not identify as slaves in any case (Love146, 2021b).

### **The challenge of measuring the extent of human trafficking**

Regardless of the term one prefers to use, valid data regarding the extent of this crime are notoriously difficult to obtain. Estimates from even the best sources tend to be wildly disparate. The data are inconsistent because definitions vary, a lot of trafficking is hidden or unreported, resources needed to do the necessary research are lacking, and projections made by computer modeling may utilize questionable assumptions. Some people who are being trafficked do not even see themselves as victims. (“He’s not a pimp! He’s my boyfriend.”)

Complicating the challenge still further is the fact that the [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#) (UNDOC) reported in 2009 that many countries lack the necessary legal instruments or political will to implement the Palermo Protocol effectively. Twenty percent of the 155 countries studied for the UNODC report had not recorded a single conviction for trafficking (United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, 2009). Suffice to say that traffickers were almost certainly active there during the period reviewed.

The Washington Post has published several articles that challenge the validity of available statistics. The entire series is available online. Four examples are listed below.

- [Why you should be wary of statistics on “modern slavery” and “trafficking.”](#) (Kessler, 2015a).
- [The false claim that human trafficking is a \\$9.5 billion business in the United States.](#) (Kessler, 2015b).
- [The four-Pinocchio claim that “on average, girls first become victims of sex trafficking at 13 years old](#) (Kessler, 2015c).
- [The fishy claim that 100,000 children in the United States are in the sex trade.](#) (Kessler, 2015d).

The Coronavirus has made the task of calculating valid estimates even more difficult. In addition to claiming more than [six million lives](#) by early 2022, the virus has caused a global economic crisis that is expected to rival or exceed any recession in the past 150 years (Worldometer, n.d.). In the worst-case scenario, the [International Labour Organization](#) estimates that as many as 25 million people will lose their jobs worldwide (Wagner & Hoang, 2022). Unemployment and limited access to healthcare are making millions of people more desperate and vulnerable than ever. Many take high-interest loans to survive, thereby increasing the risk of falling into debt bondage. The virus has also stranded migrant, undocumented, and informal workers who face an increased risk of exploitation. According to [Freedom United](#), India's virus lockdown has created a "perfect storm for slavery" (Freedom United, 2020c).

While the quality of available data is limited at best, human trafficking is undeniably a real and very serious problem. The 2009 [UNODC](#) report cited earlier was the first major study to assess the scope of human trafficking and the efforts that nations were making to fight it since the Palermo Protocol became effective six years earlier. UNODC identified more than 21,000 known victims of trafficking. The authors reported that sexual exploitation, predominantly involving women and girls, accounted for 79% of the cases. Forced labor is less frequently detected than trafficking for sexual exploitation and accounted for just 18% of the studied cases. The authors also found that women made up the largest proportion of traffickers in 30% of the countries that provided information about the traffickers' gender. In some parts of the world, women trafficking women was the norm (United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, 2009).

In 2017, the Walk Free Foundation, the International Labour Organization, and the International Organization for Migration developed [Global Estimates of Modern Slavery](#). These estimates provided the starting point for what became known as the Global Slavery Index (GSI). According to the Index, modern slavery exists in all countries, including the most developed ones (Walk Free, 2018a). The Index estimated that 40.3 million men, women, and children were victims of modern slavery on any given day in 2016 and that [the number had increased to 49.6 million by 2022](#) (Walk Free, 2022). By contrast, the [U.S. State Department's 2020 Trafficking in Persons Report](#) asserted that just under 25 million people are victims of human trafficking (U.S. Department of State, 2020).

Part of the discrepancy is due to the fact that the GSI definition includes those who are trapped in forced marriages. Many authorities assert that while this practice is troubling, it does not fall within the definition of human trafficking. Adding to the confusion is the fact that the GSI data suggest that 62% of trafficked victims are in forced labor. This estimate is obviously much higher than the 18% that UNODC reported in 2009 (United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, 2009).

We will never know how many people are being trafficked, but authorities are now exploring a variety of [new strategies to get better insights](#). In 2019, for example, Great Britain established a \$12.5 million research center with experts from academia, nongovernmental organizations, and private companies to calculate the true scale of modern slavery and expose trafficking networks (Guilbert, 2019). Their work will be interesting in part because the [Center for Social Justice and the anti-slavery charity Justice and Care](#) released a report in 2020 suggesting that there may be more than 100,000 victims of modern slavery just in the United Kingdom. This finding is ten times higher than the British government's official estimate (Justice and Care, 2021).



The [Traffik Analysis Hub](#) is another innovative resource. The Hub has been described as “a revolutionary partnership across industries and sectors including financial institutions, NGOs, law enforcement and government agencies unified by the common goal of sharing data to stop human trafficking. The platform uses IBM Watson Artificial Intelligence, machine learning, data visualization, data analytics, and a wide range of open-source data to augment the data provided by the program partners. Analysts are using this information to better identify trafficking patterns, networks, and hotspots and to thereby better focus anti-trafficking resources in the right way” (Traffik Analysis Hub, n.d.).

### **What the data suggest about people who are trafficked**

Experts agree that while traffickers exploit people of all races and backgrounds, racism and other forms of discrimination based on gender and class result in most victims being people of color. Many observers further maintain that “[the racialized sexual exploitation of people of color that developed during slavery and colonization](#) impacts cultural expectations and beliefs about the availability and use of children of color for commercial sex today” (Butler, 2015). Stated differently, efforts to ensnare new victims often target certain racial and ethnic groups, indigenous women, and migrants. Trafficking in women and girls in particular frequently involves racist attitudes and perceptions (Keller, 2018). People of color forced into the sex trade are further victimized by a [system that is more likely to view them as criminals and sexual deviants than victims](#) (World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, 2001). By way of illustration, 153 (73%) of the 210 referrals that the [Connecticut Department of Children and Families](#) received during 2018 for high-risk or confirmed victims of human trafficking were children of color (Young et. al, 2019).

[LGBTQ youth](#) likewise experience higher rates of violence, discrimination, and homelessness. As such, they tend to be more vulnerable than most (Polaris, 2020d). Predators are quick to take advantage of this vulnerability by offering a sense of acceptance, belonging, and security in return for certain favors.

Traffickers exploit children as well as adults. As many as 20% of all trafficking victims may be children, and children appear to constitute the majority of victims in parts of West Africa. Those who would like to learn more about this troubling finding can learn “10 quick facts” about child trafficking in a five-minute video from [Love 146](#), an international human rights organization that works to end child trafficking and exploitation (Love146, 2020).

Many people trafficked in western industrialized nations are first victimized in the countries where they were born. Other victims are lured from foreign countries by traffickers who offer well-paid positions and false promises of a better life. One example of this dynamic occurred in 2005 after [Hurricane Katrina](#) devastated parts of several southern states. Traffickers loaned several thousand dollars to foreign workers to pay for plane tickets and arranged for them to get jobs helping with the cleanup. The traffickers did not pay them, however, and many had to survive with little food while being forced to live in poor, overcrowded housing (Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Task Force, 2018).

Whatever the actual numbers, it is clear that traffickers cause extraordinary suffering. It is also clear that there are substantial economic ramifications. [Some estimates](#) suggest that human trafficking generates about \$150 billion of profit each year (Human Rights First, 2017) If so, [it is](#)

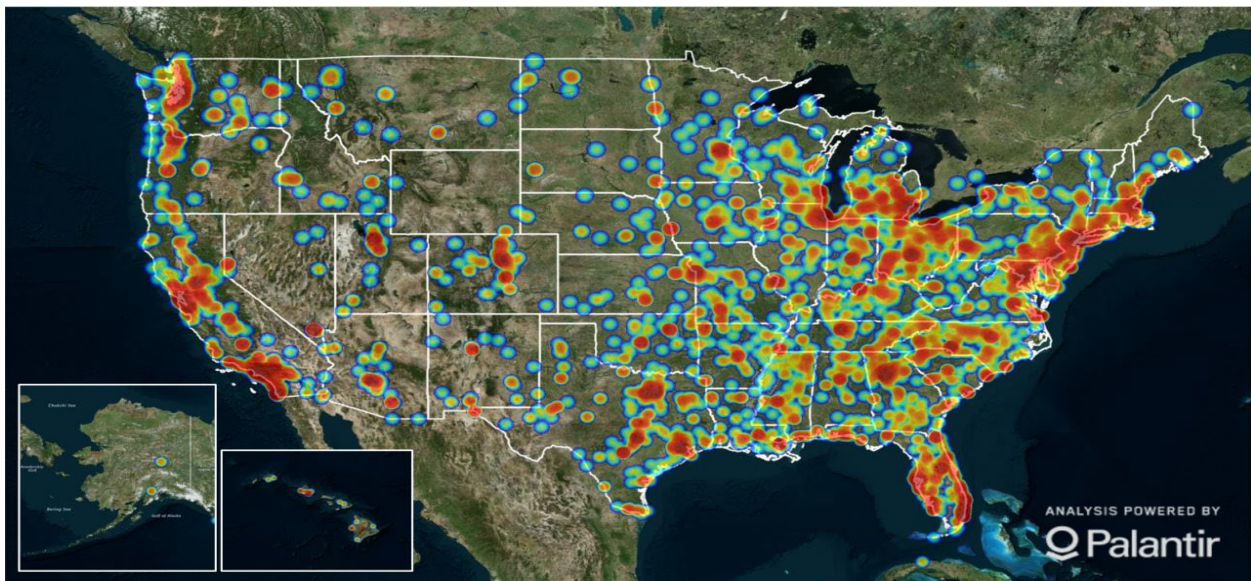
[second only to drug trafficking as the world's most profitable form of transnational crime](#) (Gould, 2017).

## **Human trafficking in the United States**

**(and yes, it's probably happening in your community, too.)**

There is a common misconception in developed countries that trafficking is exclusively a problem in Third World nations such as Thailand and Cambodia. That is not the case, but even the best estimates are unlikely to capture the full extent of this crime because definitions vary and because an unknown amount of trafficking is never reported.

According to the U.S. State Department, "[Trafficking happens 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in every zip code.](#) Those trafficked work in all sectors and represent all races, religions, cultures, ages, and genders. Modern day slavery is right in front of us all the time" (Exchange Admin, n.d.). The [map of trafficking hotspots](#) below shows visual evidence of this conclusion. The map demonstrates that traffickers are active throughout the country and do not limit their activities to major metropolitan areas (Polaris 2022b).



This material was created by Polaris and licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-No Derivatives 4.0 International license](#).(Polaris, 2019)

[The Global Slavery Index](#), which uses surveys and projections to estimate the prevalence of trafficking, estimates that about 58,000 people in the United States meet the criteria for slavery (Plante, 2017). Researchers at Polaris, by contrast, track data that come to their attention through the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Between 2007 and 2019, [Polaris](#) claims to have identified 59,962 victims with “high indicators” of trafficking, 12,000 of whom were discovered just in 2019 (Polaris, 2022a). The [University of Texas School of Social Work](#) estimated in 2016 that there were approximately 313,000 victims of human trafficking in Texas alone (Brionez, 2021).

Traffickers use their prey in many ways. Polaris staff studied more than 32,000 cases of trafficking that callers reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline between 2007 and 2016. The data set was one of the largest researchers ever compiled on human trafficking in the United States. Polaris’ analysts identified [25 types of trafficking](#). Six of the seven most frequently reported



types involved sex. When organized by order of frequency, escort services appeared to be the most common form of sex trafficking. Other sexual activities, in order, included illicit massage, outdoor sexual solicitation, residential brothels, bars & strip clubs, pornography, personal sexual servitude, arts and entertainment (e.g., exotic dancing without sex acts), and remote interactive sexual acts (e.g., webcams, chats, phone sex) (Polaris, 2020c).

Domestic work was the most common form of labor trafficking in the Polaris study. Other types within this category, again arranged in the order of frequency, encompassed domestic work, traveling sales crews, restaurants, peddling and begging, agriculture and farm animals, health and beauty (e.g., nail salons), construction, hotels, landscaping, illicit activities (e.g., drugs), commercial cleaning, factories and manufacturing, carnivals, forestry and logging, health care, and recreation (e.g., lifeguards, camp counselors (Polaris, 2020).

Barry Koch, a former assistant district attorney in New York County, effectively summed up the situation when he noted, “[The general public does not have a real awareness of the magnitude of the problem](#). Whether it’s labor trafficking or sex trafficking, the number of victims is staggering, yet many of them remain hidden in plain sight. These people suffer unthinkable psychological, physical, and social trauma and are part of a global problem that we, as Americans, see, touch, and support every day without knowing it” (Roberts, 2017). The following list provides links to a small but representative sample of local newspaper articles to illustrate the extent and diversity of the trafficking happening throughout the United States.

- [Portsmouth, Ohio](#) (Pilcher et al., 2020)
- [Des Moines, Iowa](#) (Spoerre, 2020).
- [Manchester, New Hampshire](#) (Hayward, 2018).
- [Caddo Parish, Louisiana](#) (Talamo, 2016).
- [New York City](#) (Peirce, 2019).
- [Lewisville, Texas](#) (Hechtman, 2019).
- [Lawrence, Kansas](#) (Zeff, 2017).
- [Albany, NY](#) (Bump, 2021).
- [Nebraska](#) (Nebraska Public Media, 2017).
- [Massachusetts](#) (Martin, 2017).
- [Portland, Oregon](#) (U.S. Attorney’s Office District of Oregon, 2022).

### **Why we should care – How human trafficking impacts each of us**

*“Fighting human trafficking isn’t just about rescuing someone from a bad situation. The movement concerns what we, as a culture and society, allow. It has to stop.”*

Source unknown

Human trafficking is a humanitarian and social justice issue that impacts millions of people. Those affected endure an extraordinary amount of physical and psychological suffering. The crimes additionally destabilize communities and sometimes help to fund dangerous extremist groups. Even [UN Peacekeepers](#) and [government officials](#) have facilitated human trafficking, thereby [undermining efforts to bring peace to troubled areas](#) (“The Whistleblower”, 2022; McAllester, 2011; Bigio & Vogelstein, 2019).

Such concerns seem distant to many Americans. Most will acknowledge the inhumanity of this crime but take comfort knowing that they don't own any slaves or take advantage of trafficked children abroad. There seems to be a consensus that only the government has the power and resources necessary to fight human trafficking in any case. The average person may thus wonder, "Does human trafficking even affect me?"

The answer to that question is simple and direct: Human trafficking affects each of us. Beyond the compassion that we all hopefully have for everyone who is suffering, it is important to acknowledge that no one gets to pick their parents or place of birth. The fate of those who are trafficked could have been our destiny as well. In the words of Jesuit priest Fr. Greg Boyle, "[There is no 'them,' there is only us](#)" (New Jersey YMCA State Alliance, 2014).

But the answer to the question of what human trafficking has to do with us encompasses far more than just a broad sense of empathy for others. Whether we want to acknowledge it or not, *nearly all of us directly benefit from human trafficking*. In addition, we unwittingly support slavery and exploit laborers through many of our daily purchases and lifestyle choices. Evidence for this unsettling assertion is all around us:

- The clothing we buy on sale at the mall may have been made by exploited laborers in Bangladesh, India, and elsewhere.
- The ethnic restaurants and nail salons we enjoy patronizing may utilize trafficked workers who live in deplorable conditions and cannot leave because they are deeply in debt to the people who lured them here.
- Slaves in Thailand catch and process much of the fish we buy for ourselves and our cats.
- The gold in our jewelry and electronic devices may have come from Burkina Faso, where children are forced to work in unsafe mines and are exposed to dangerous chemicals with no protective equipment.
- Much of the chocolate we consume originates in West Africa, where trafficked children help to cultivate and process the cocoa.
- Traffickers often exploit agricultural workers who grow the food we purchase.
- Most of the toys that the United States imports comes from China, where employees have to work under terrible conditions for very little pay.

The list goes on and on. The sad reality is that even our most innocent purchases can make us complicit in human trafficking. Those interested in learning how many slaves work to support their lifestyle can find out by answering 11 short questions at [www.slaveryfootprint.org](http://www.slaveryfootprint.org). The U.S. State Department developed the methodology in cooperation with the nonprofit that has posted the questionnaire on its website (Slavery Footprint, n.d.). The algorithm may not be perfect, but the estimates provide troubling indicators of how much we *all* benefit from slave labor.

### **Better laws and more police officers aren't enough. Everyone needs to help**

National and state governments have a moral responsibility to enact meaningful anti-trafficking laws. Many have done so, and the Palermo Protocol was an essential first step at the international level. Other noteworthy developments include the following:

- 2003: [Washington became the first state to criminalize human trafficking](#). Since then, every state has enacted laws to punish traffickers who seek to profit from the forced labor or sexual servitude of others (National Conference of State Legislatures. n.d.).

- 2012: California adopted the [Transparency in Supply Chains Act](#). The Act requires businesses working with suppliers or subcontractors that violate anti-trafficking laws to disclose violations and discontinue the contracts (Harris, 2015).
- 2015: Government leaders at the United Nations agreed to support several [Sustainable Development Goals](#). The Goals call on all countries to promote gender equality and take immediate measures to end forced labor, modern slavery, human trafficking, and child labor in all its forms (UNICEF USA, 2016b).
- 2015: The [U.K. Modern Slavery Act](#) required organizations with a turnover of more than £36 million operating in the UK to publish an annual “slavery and human trafficking statement” (Modern Slavery Act, 2015). The statement must explain how the companies address this type of exploitation in their supply chains and business operations (Modern Slavery Act, 2015).
- 2018: The United States adopted the [Stop, Observe, and Respond \(SOAR\) to Health and Wellness Training Program](#) to identify potential human trafficking victims. The program also enables the Department of Health and Human Services to work with law enforcement, report and facilitate communication with victims, and refer survivors to appropriate service providers (H.R.767, 2018).

Additional legislation was pending when the Guide was made available in early 2023. These bills include the [Put Trafficking Victims First Act](#) of 2019 and the [Save Our Girls from Sex Trafficking Act](#) of 2020 (H.R.507, 2019; H.R.5740, 2020).

Much work remains to be done. By way of illustration, the [Minderoo Foundation’s Walk Free initiative](#) issued a report in 2019 citing several initiatives that various governments had launched to increase trafficking prosecutions and enhance victim support services. “Overall, however, the measurements in this report underscore that global progress in tackling modern slavery has been hugely disappointing. We know that 47 countries globally have not yet recognized human trafficking as a crime in line with international standards. Nearly 100 countries still fail to criminalize forced labour, or, if they do, the penalty for this form of exploitation amounts to nothing more than a fine. Less than one-third of the countries protect women and girls from the terrible harm of forced marriage. This is not a situation that any of us should tolerate” (Forrest, 2018).

The foundation also asserted that anti-trafficking legislation often has minimal impact. The Transparency in Supply Chains Act in California that the Guide mentioned earlier, for example, has been criticized for having a structural flaw that may ultimately [“cause more harm than good”](#) (Cusumano & Ryerson, 2017). All things considered, [“progress made to ending these abhorrent practices has been disgracefully marginal](#) (emphasis in the original) (Forrest, 2019).

Problems associated with developing meaningful legislation also impact well-intentioned reformers at the United Nations. According to Dr. Kevin Bales (2007, p. 140), the UN is “hamstrung by national governments, stymied by bureaucrats in its own ranks, and scattered and disorganized across a range of its own agencies” (Bales, 2007, p. 140).

The bottom line is that human trafficking is flourishing, and governments are not getting the job done. This failure could be due to a lack of resources, corruption, indifference, the fact that other

initiatives have a higher priority, or any number of other factors. Whatever the reason, the sad reality is that people being trafficked desperately need help they are not getting. [Heather Barr](#), the Acting Co-Director of the Women's Rights Division at Human Rights Watch, describes the problem this way:

“Effective responses to cross-border trafficking demand effective international cooperation by both law enforcement and service providers, and many governments fail at this. They are immobilized by coordination challenges, logistical difficulties, language barriers, political dynamics, corruption, and apathy about violence against women. During armed conflicts, when resources are thinly stretched, and humanitarian needs are many, trafficking survivors are often left out of the scope of available assistance.

Trafficking survivors may need urgent medical care for problems ranging from injuries due to abuse to sexual and reproductive health needs, including abortion for unplanned pregnancies resulting from rape. They need shelter as sometimes they cannot return to families that were complicit in their trafficking. They need legal assistance to ensure that the justice system - which too often lets trafficking victims down - is responsive to their needs for accountability and compensation. Many need financial assistance.

These services are rarely available or adequate where they exist. We have also seen harmful government responses, including treating victims as immigration violators, jailing and deporting them. In some cases, officials confine survivors in locked shelters, forcing them to undergo invasive questioning or examinations, and policymakers make no distinction between trafficking victims and sex workers” (Barr, 2020).

There is clearly room for improvement in the ways that world governments address the many problems associated with human trafficking. Government officials are not, however, the only ones who can make an important difference. [Patagonia](#), for example, has explicitly expressed a commitment to justice and is doing the best it can to keep forced labor out of its supply chains (White, 2015).

Less positive is [Nestle](#), a multi-billion-dollar corporation whose brands include Gerber baby food, Cheerios, KitKat bars, Haagen-Dazs ice cream, and Purina pet food. Nestle admitted in 2015 that it was using slave labor to produce seafood sourced from Thailand (Reuters, 2018). In 2018, [a United States appeals court](#) voted unanimously to reinstate a lawsuit against the American divisions of Nestle and Cargill for ignoring child slavery on cocoa farms in the Ivory Coast to get lower prices for the beans that grow there. “Not content to rely on market forces to keep costs low, defendants have taken steps to perpetuate a system built on child slavery to depress labor costs” (Cooper, 2018). The court condemned the actions of the companies, which were reportedly “well aware that child slave labor is a pervasive problem in the Ivory Coast. They continued to provide financial support and technical farming aid even though they knew their acts would assist farmers who were using forced child labor and knew their assistance would facilitate child slavery” (Cooper, 2018). [Hershey’s](#), the largest producer of chocolate in North America, has also been accused of exploiting slave labor on African cocoa farms but insists that it is taking steps to address the problem (Whoriskey et al., 2019).

Putting an end to human trafficking will ultimately require a broad methodology that goes far beyond laws and civil litigation. Jeffrey Goltz et al. developed this theme in detail in their 2017 book, [Human Trafficking: A Systemwide Public Safety and Community Approach](#). The authors describe their book this way:

“While most texts on the topic of human trafficking take a social theory, human rights/advocacy, or victimization perspective on the topic, few take a pragmatic, ‘applied’ systems-wide approach to human trafficking. [Human Trafficking](#) stretches across multiple disciplines and is intended for multiple audiences within academia, as well as for practitioners in the field. It does this by suggesting a model and methods that can be used to address human trafficking systematically at the community and regional levels. This book is an ideal tool for educators, law enforcement, corrections, private security, first responders, social service and healthcare professionals, judges, court, administrators, and many more” (Goltz et al., 2018).

Society will also have to address the root causes that make trafficking possible and do more to assist survivors. [Free the Slaves](#) has developed a “Community Liberation Model” that provides a concise overview of what needs to be done. The model “identifies four key strategies which, working together, create systemic and sustainable change” (Free the Slaves, n.d.-b).

- The first strategy, Education Mobilization, provides rights education, fosters constructive norms, forms anti-slavery groups, and develops action plans to rally the public.
- The second strategy is Liberation Care Reintegration. The first component of the strategy consists of supporting the authorities who rescue slaves and trafficked workers. Other activities include providing survivors with medical care, vocational training, and legal aid.
- The third strategy focuses on the Rule of Law. This part of the model calls for stronger laws, police officers to be better trained, and for the perpetrators to be arrested.
- The final strategy addresses Socio-economic Security. The goal here is to improve a variety of services and to provide micro-enterprise training for survivors. Accomplishing the related objectives will improve survivors’ physical and social well-being while simultaneously decreasing their social and economic vulnerability (Free the Slaves, n.d.-b).

It is unlikely that the world will fully launch this type of comprehensive initiative. Responsibility does not, however, lie exclusively with governments. As [the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#) (UNODC) has noted, “the call to action is not only to Governments. We encourage everyone to take action to prevent this heinous crime” (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2020). “Everyone” includes you and me.

### **People who have made a difference**

Change is ultimately driven by the individuals who make it happen. History recognizes many people who have had significant roles in the fight against slavery and human trafficking. [William Wilberforce](#) was one of them (“William Wilberforce”, 2022). Wilberforce headed a campaign against slavery for twenty years and eventually convinced Parliament to pass the [Slave Trade Act of 1807](#) (“Slave Trade Act 1807”, 2022). This Act effectively ended the British slave trade. Wilberforce continued to work for the complete abolition of slavery after the bill was approved (“William Wilberforce”, 2022) In so doing, he helped facilitate the adoption of the [Slavery Abolition Act of 1833](#), which abolished slavery in most of the British empire (“Slavery Abolition Act 1833”, 2022).



Several excellent books are available for those who want to learn more about the early abolitionists. One, which was a finalist for the 2005 National Book Award for Nonfiction, is [Bury the Chains: Prophets and Rebels in the Fight to Free an Empire's Slaves](#) by Adam Hochschild (National Book Foundation, 2020). Another valuable resource is Julie Roy Jeffrey's [The Great Silent Army of Abolitionism: Ordinary Women in the Antislavery Movement](#). Dr. Jeffrey's book received the Choice Award for Academic Book of Excellence and an honorable mention for the Frederick Douglass Prize that Yale University's Gilder Lehrman Center bestows annually (University of North Carolina Press, 2016). Another fascinating book is [Unsung: Unheralded Narratives of American Slavery & Abolition](#). *Unsung* “[places] well-known documents by abolitionists alongside lesser-known life stories and overlooked or previously uncelebrated accounts of the everyday lives and activism that were central in the slavery era but are mostly excised from today’s master accounts” (Penguin Random House, n.d.).

All three books note that 19<sup>th</sup>-century abolitionism was the first significant social movement to involve women in every aspect of the initiative. Elizabeth Heyrick, for example, was one of the most prominent female activists of the 1820s. She criticized other anti-slavery campaigners for their "gradualist" approach and encouraged shoppers to boycott sugar imported from the West Indies. Adam Hochschild asserts in [Bury the Chains](#) that the act of boycotting a product was the first of its kind, and many believe the boycott tipped the scales in the fight to end the slave trade (Hochschild, 2005).

The women's activism happened at a time when women were not allowed to vote and had few educational or professional opportunities. For over three decades, anonymous women with few resources or influence nevertheless formed sewing circles to make clothes for slaves. Other activities included raising money, circulating petitions, sponsoring lecture series, supporting third-party movements, and assisting fugitive slaves. The campaign to end slavery was very controversial, moreover, so the women had to endure both verbal and physical abuse. “What is not emphasized enough is what many of the leaders realized: without women, abolitionism would have been far more marginal a movement for change than it was.” (Hochschild, 2005, p. 11)

Other women who had vital roles fighting the slavery of blacks in the United States include Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Donaldina Cameron (dubbed the “Angry Angel of Chinatown” and worse by Chinese tongs) was a Presbyterian missionary who focused on the slavery of Asians. Her “tireless efforts saved thousands of Chinese women and girls from sexual slavery and labor bondage” in San Francisco's Chinatown in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Some historians criticize Cameron for not integrating Chinese culture in her shelter and forcing residents to convert to Christianity, but her contribution was nevertheless significant. [The White Devil's Daughters: The Women Who Fought Slavery in San Francisco's Chinatown](#) by Julia Flynn Siler provides additional information about her work (Kamiya, 2019).

The struggle to end all forms of human trafficking continues. Rachel Lloyd, Don and Bridget Brewster, and Dianna Mao are among today's trailblazers. Chapter II includes short descriptions of their many accomplishments and descriptions of the organizations they founded. A few of today's other leading advocates are listed below.

- [Kevin Bales](#) is a Professor of Contemporary Slavery at the University of Nottingham, UK (Bales, 2016). Dr. Bales helped get trafficking on the world's agenda when he published his groundbreaking book [Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy](#) in 1999. The book was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and has been published in ten languages. A film

(“*Slavery: A Global Investigation*”) that he co-wrote about the book won a Peabody Award and two Emmys (University of California Press, n.d.). Dr. Bales has written extensively about slavery and co-founded the nonprofit organization “[Free the Slaves](#)” (Free the Slaves, n.d.-e).

- Derek Elleman and Katherine Chon co-founded [Polaris](#) immediately after graduating from Brown University in 2002. Polaris is named for the North Star, which slaves in the United States used as a guide to navigate their way to freedom. Polaris’ work includes administering the National Human Trafficking Hotline. The Hotline is a 24/7 operation that has identified and responded to more than 50,000 cases of human trafficking (Polaris, n.d.-f)
- [Bradley Myles](#) is a consultant who served as Polaris's Executive Director and CEO for ten years. Under Myles' leadership, Polaris helped build Washington DC's first-ever Human Trafficking Task Force, researched how human trafficking works, and used that knowledge to develop strategies which disrupt and prevent human trafficking (Skoll, 2021).
- [Lois Lee](#), Ph.D. and J.D., established [Children of the Night](#) in 1981 in Van Nuys, California, to help children who were selling themselves to obtain money for food and a place to sleep. Children of the Night was initially a daytime refuge where children could take showers, have a nap, get food and clothing, and get referrals for medical and dental care. They slept on the streets at night because no shelters were available for juveniles who engaged in commercial sex work. In 1992, Children of the Night opened a 24-bed shelter for these children. The home has an on-site school, case managers, outing directors, and 24-hour childcare (Children of the Night, n.d.-b).
- [Dr. Celia Williamson](#) is a professor of social work at the University of Toledo in Ohio. She hosts the oldest and largest international academic human trafficking conference in the world. Dr. Williamson has more than 25 years of anti-trafficking experience and has been named one of the 30 most influential social workers alive today. She also launched the Emancipation Nation podcast series to provide advocates and those who want to be advocates with information they can use to fight human trafficking effectively (Celia, 2021).

The U.S. State Department’s annual [Trafficking in Persons Report](#) describes the work of many more antitrafficking leaders. The Department uses the Report in part to honor individuals around the world who have devoted their lives to the fight against human trafficking. “These individuals included NGO workers, lawmakers, government officials, survivors of human trafficking, and concerned citizens who are committed to ending modern slavery. They are recognized for their tireless efforts - despite resistance, opposition, and threats to their lives - to protect victims, punish offenders, and raise awareness of human trafficking trends in their countries and abroad” (U.S. Department of State, 2020). Those interested can [search for TIP heroes](#) by country, primary focus, or year of recognition. The text box below features one of the heroes mentioned in the [2020 report](#).

## SOPHIE OTIENDE (KENYA)



“Sophie Otiende is a champion for victims of human trafficking, advocating for their rights and elevating human trafficking as a priority, in Kenya. Her expertise, patience, and bravery have positioned her as a source of inspiration and a confidant for other survivors of trafficking she meets and serves. For the last ten years, she has worked with grassroots organizations in Kenya to provide services to trafficking victims and survivors, building Kenya’s victim assistance infrastructure and capacity. Otiende was responsible for setting up the structures and systems for the first shelter exclusively for victims of trafficking in Kenya and led the development of regional principles of practice for assisting victims of trafficking. Otiende has been responsible for the development of curriculum to train women on entrepreneurship, and has coauthored manuals on victim services and child trafficking as well as a toolkit for raising awareness among local communities. She is currently a board member and survivor advisor at Awareness Against Human Trafficking (HAART), where until recently she worked as a Program Consultant. While at HAART, she was responsible for assisting more than 400 victims of trafficking since 2014 and helped identify victims both within and outside of Kenya. She is currently the Africa Region Operations Manager for the NGO Liberty Shared and provides technical support to anti-trafficking organizations across Africa “(U.S. Department of State, 2020, p. 51).

The annual Top 100 Corporate Social Responsibility Influence Leaders List also frequently includes notable activists. The list recognizes professionals who have made compelling contributions to corporate social responsibility (CSR). In order to be considered, “an individual must have been directly involved in the management of a CSR program during the year in question, be a leader in his/her space or industry, speak at industry events, and raise awareness of CSR issues both within their organization and abroad.” Some of those selected for the [2020 list](#) include the following:

- *Lydia Hultquist*. “Ms. Hultquist is the founder of the Silicon Valley Conflict Minerals & Human Trafficking Forum. She has more than 20 years of supply chain experience and is an expert in procurement, materials management, and new program implementation, focusing on human trafficking. Ms. Hultquist has also been a member of the Slavery & Trafficking Risk Template Development Committee since 2017.”
- *Carry Somers*. “Carry Somers is the founder and director of the luxury hat brand Pachacuti. In 2013, she created the Fashion Revolution, a nonprofit organization that promotes ethics, sustainability, and transparency in the fashion supply chain. Ms. Somers has also encouraged



and inspired industry change through annual roundtable debates at the British House of Commons and House of Lords.”

- *Kristen Sullivan.* “Kristen Sullivan leads Deloitte & Touche LLP and Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited’s Sustainability Risk Advisory and Assurance services. Her responsibilities include advising clients on sustainability risk, conflict mineral compliance, and reporting human trafficking in supply chains. Ms. Sullivan also contributes to the Social Responsibility Alliance by offering insights into the needs of companies and suppliers working to improve their human trafficking and slavery programs.”

One final example of someone who has made a big difference comes from a U.S.-based nonprofit organization known as the [Asia Society](#). The Society’s activities include identifying leaders from 31 countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific region under the age of 40. The Society’s ‘Class of Asia 21’ Young Leaders includes Ta Ngoc Van. Van is the “chief lawyer and founding member of the Blue Dragon Children’s Foundation, a Hanoi-based nonprofit organization that rescues Vietnamese women and girls trafficked to China for the sex trade as well as victims of forced labor. He has secured the freedom of more than 800 trafficking victims and provided legal representation to 90 victims of human trafficking and sexual abuse” (Quy, 2019).

### **You can make a difference!**

*“I always wondered why somebody doesn’t do something about that. Then I realized that I was somebody” (Tomlin, n.d.).*

Lily Tomlin

The collective work of the nineteenth-century female abolitionists demonstrates unequivocally that activists do not need elected positions or prestigious degrees to make a lasting impact. Readers should also note that the contemporary activists mentioned in the previous section included survivors, academics, recent college graduates, and corporate executives. The diversity of their backgrounds makes it clear that there is a place in the anti-trafficking movement for everyone. There are no prerequisites.

Many anti-trafficking activists are well-known within the field for their extraordinary work. But they can’t do it alone. As the nameless women who worked tirelessly in the nineteenth century to end slavery taught us, successful social movements require the work of many foot soldiers. These soldiers seldom receive and may not even want formal recognition. Their role is nevertheless indispensable.

Each person can draw on their interests and skills to support the antitrafficking cause in a way they find rewarding. Indeed, a nondescript adjunct college instructor wrote this Guide with the help of some students without grants or administrative overhead. You don’t need a network of supporters or a prestigious corporate position to make a difference.

One of the many people who made a difference while still in college is Brian Trifon. Brian enrolled in a Human Trafficking course that I taught at the University at Albany during the fall of 2019. He was already a certified Emergency Medical Technician who was volunteering for the university’s Five Quad ambulance service. Brian subsequently developed new policies and procedures to strengthen Five Quad’s role as a prehospital health care provider in combatting human

trafficking. He also worked with three other class members to train EMTs about human trafficking and domestic violence. The importance and quality of the instruction were such that Five Quad and the Regional Emergency Medical Organization (REMO) agreed to award official Continuing Education Units to those who attended.

Brian also volunteered to serve on the Stony Brook University Medical Center's Committee on Human Trafficking. The Committee is part of a coalition of hospitals that works with the federal government and the Suffolk County (New York) Police Special Anti-Trafficking Task Force to combat trafficking on Long Island. Brian's role included helping to evaluate the effectiveness of the hospital's human trafficking policies and the related training that the hospital provided to its employees. The Director of Social Work Services at the Medical Center subsequently shared these thoughts with the author about Brian's contribution:

“Brian became involved in multiple aspects of my efforts on a hospital-wide basis. He was able to see the issue of human trafficking from a micro patient care level to a macro public health issue to a legal, criminal, and security issue without any judgment. His approach to the topic was empathetic, forward-thinking, and conducive to making change. He was able to build relationships in the department outside the scope of his job that would help enhance the efforts the department was making on issues around human trafficking.

Brian's efforts were so outstanding that I made him a permanent committee member even though he was not a full-time employee at the hospital. It is important to note that this is a large committee comprised chiefly of hospital leadership. Brian is the only attendee who is not a Master's level or supervisor or Director level member. Brian will be continuing to assist in collecting data and analyzing our Human Trafficking Identification efforts in the hospital. The data include the number of cases, response to cases, referral for safe transitions to care, referral for law enforcement should patients desire this, and referral to other community services including behavioral health services.”

There are many unsung heroes like Brian throughout the world. A few are listed below.

- *Anthony Brown* is a retired occupational psychologist in East Lancashire, England. He decided to support the war on trafficking by holding concerts with his band and donating the proceeds to an appropriate organization. The band raised much-needed funds, but Mr. Brown went on to organize an active anti-trafficking group within his church. He then formed an alliance with a Detective Chief Inspector to heighten awareness about human trafficking and encourage residents to alert the police whenever they suspected it might be occurring locally. More details about the work that “the cop and the pensioner” are doing appear in the [press](#) and his [parish website](#) (Llana, 2015; Parish of Our Lady of the Valley, 2022)
- *Debby Fowler* was an American housewife with a high school education when she spent two years in Kuwait while her husband was on assignment there (Snow, 2019). She was shocked to learn about Kuwaiti domestic slavery and wrote a book, [Fragrance in the Desert](#), about her experience when she returned to upstate New York (Fowler, 2014). Ms. Fowler subsequently established a second-hand store called [Eyes Wide Open](#) to raise funds for trafficked survivors (Biggs & Buckowski, 2017). The pandemic later forced Eyes Wide Open to close, but she continues to participate in community forums to increase public awareness.
- *Ella Cobbs* recorded a TEDx talk about human trafficking in the United States while she was a high school junior in Mountain Brook, Alabama. She contrasted her situation as a young

adult with much to look forward to with that of a sex slave whose future is extremely bleak (Cobbs, 2019). Her message is a concise call to action for people of all ages.

- [Zach Hunter](#) was 12 years old when he launched “Loose Change to Loosen Chains” to raise awareness and funds to help end slavery. Students told stories of modern-day slaves during the campaign and collected loose change in yellow cups (Hunter, 2011b). When Zach was 19, he published [Be the Change: Your Guide to Freeing Slaves and Changing the World](#) (Hunter, 2011a). Zach has also discussed his efforts to fight for justice in brief YouTube videos.
- *Leslie Hughes* was teaching in Crescent Springs, Kentucky when she saw an Oprah Winfrey program about children who were being forced to do dangerous work on fishing boats in Ghana. She shared the story with her class of 50 eighth-grade students, who then adopted the issue for a special service project. “They set a high goal – to rescue and rehabilitate forty kids, half a world away. The students learned how to design and put up a website. They created brochures and slide shows on slavery to educate other students, business leaders, and faith congregations. They donated babysitting money and allowances; they baked cookies and sold lemonade. And in six weeks, they raised over \$28,000.” (Bales, 2010, p. 260)
- [Amirah](#) is a nonprofit organization that assists survivors of sex trafficking in Woburn, Massachusetts (Amirah Inc., n.d.-b). Amirah included the following story in its September 4, 2019 newsletter. The story exemplifies the value and importance of even the simplest acts of kindness.

“Many years ago, I received a phone call from a struggling parent. Her daughter had run away again, falling back into a cycle of addiction. She was distraught and at the end of her rope. Grace and patience were running out after years of struggling to watch her daughter be taken away from her by this disease.

She had called me because her daughter had reached out and was ready for some help, but the mom didn’t know if she could do it again this time. I listened to the mom cry out for some help, so I asked what I could do. Apparently, all of the daughter’s clothes had been at a friend’s house, and the mom just couldn’t make it there to get her clothes. She asked if I would be willing to drive over and get them and then bring these to her daughter at the hospital. “Sure,” I said.

I drove over to the home, and more details began to unfold. This “friend” was someone that had been used again and again by this disease as well. They were tired and at the end of their rope. All of this woman’s clothing had been put into two trash bags, everything she owned, and left outside for her to come and get them whenever she saw fit. I don’t know how long they had been sitting out there, but it was a rainy spring, and I could smell the mold setting in on these things as I picked the rags up and put them in my car.

I couldn’t bring this daughter moldy clothes, so I drove home with them and did some laundry. It took two or three washes in some cases, but I made sure that everything smelled amazing before they went back into new bags. I stopped off at Target on my way to the hospital and picked up some new underwear and some comfy, warm socks and put those in the bags as well.

When I got to the hospital, the daughter was sitting with her mom, ready to try again at a life of sobriety. I handed her her clothes, prayed, and let them know I was here if they needed anything more. But I never heard from that mom or daughter again.

*I think about this day often. I am often asked, “What on earth can I do to help a victim of sex trafficking?” and all I can think is, “Sometimes you just have to wash the addict’s clothes.”*

## **The takeaway**

This chapter defined human trafficking, established that it exists throughout the world, and briefly described how this terrible violation of human rights impacts all of us.

Some professionals are especially well-positioned to get traffickers off the streets, make youths less vulnerable, or help survivors rebuild their lives. Several personal vignettes toward the end of the chapter nevertheless demonstrated that individuals of *all* ages and occupations can help in meaningful ways. Some people won major awards, while others worked just as hard without receiving comparable recognition. Each of them can be proud of what they accomplished. Their work should inspire all of us.

Trafficking is not like drought or an incurable disease beyond our ability to fix. On the contrary, the main takeaway of this chapter is that we can end this type of exploitation if enough people are willing to join the struggle. Tate Johnston, the author of Everyday Abolitionist, puts it this way:

“To turn the tide on trafficking, we need not just the nonprofit sector or the legal sector or law enforcement or justice systems or governments. We also need corporations and universities, faith communities, civic groups, news and media, international aid and development, the transportation industry and the fashion industry, established institutions and social enterprises, small businesses and Silicon Valley startups, angel investors and educators, digital natives and digital nomads, stay-at-home dads and mompreneurs, single people and single parents, billionaires, bakers and bankers, indie artists and entertainment moguls, feminists, philanthropists and freelancers, vegans and vloggers, poets, priests and politicians, grassroots workers and musicians, ragamuffins and royalty, truckers, teachers, ten-year-olds and tattoo artists, survivors and scholars and scholar-survivors, second cousins twice removed, teens, tweens, and great grandparents...and everyone in between, including you and me, no matter our age, background or bias, becoming an international, interpersonal, interconnected society of everyday abolitionists” (Johnston, 2018, p. 141)

One person can make a difference! **You** can make a difference! This Guide tells you how.

*“Nothing happens just because we are aware of modern-day slavery, but nothing will ever happen until we are” (End Slavery Now, n.d.-j).*

Gary Haugen, CEO of the International Justice Mission

## II. What Everyone Needs to Know and Do

Chapter I may have motivated some readers to make a donation or look for opportunities to assist trafficked survivors. Such actions are commendable, but the author strongly encourages those who are unfamiliar with human trafficking to acquire a working knowledge of this complex phenomenon.

Thousands of books, articles, and websites are available to help anyone who wants to learn more. Skilled researchers welcome the abundance and variety of information. Those who are just beginning to explore this topic, by contrast, could easily feel overwhelmed. They also risk spending a lot of time on sources that are neither reliable nor particularly informative. This type of experience can be frustrating and may even cause the casual learner to seek another cause to support.

Years of study may be necessary to acquire a thorough understanding of whatever aspect seems to be most interesting. Territo and Kirkham, for example, have edited a 500-page book that focuses exclusively on [International Sex Trafficking of Women & Children](#). Cronin and Ellis (2017, p. xix) needed nearly 300 pages to cover trafficking’s “emerging legal issues and applications” in a book they describe as being “a point of departure for further discussion” (Territo & May, 2020).

Activists do not need to be experts. They should, however, be familiar with critical concepts that go beyond the basic legal foundation found in the last chapter. Even a modest investment of time will enable aspiring activists to discuss trafficking intelligently and make informed choices about the types of activities they are likely to find most rewarding.

Chapter II provides the basic information that everyone in the movement should know. It begins with a brief overview of important legislation that addresses human trafficking in the United States. The importance of learning from survivors is discussed next, along with tips about recognizing and reporting suspected acts of trafficking. The final section identifies easy ways to stay informed about relevant developments. Chapter III offers additional insights for those who want to learn more.

### U.S. legislation

The most important piece of relevant American legislation is the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA). Congress passed the Act in 2000, making human trafficking a federal crime. The Act also describes the “3 P’s” that the Government uses to fight trafficking: Protection, Prosecution, and Prevention. The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) provides a concise overview of the 3 P’s :

**“Protection:** The TVPA provided increased protections for trafficking victims in the United States in several key ways:

- By making foreign victims eligible for federally funded or administered health and other benefits and services and by requiring federal agencies to expand the provision of such benefits and services to victims, regardless of their immigration status; and
- By creating immigration protections for foreign national victims of human trafficking, including protection from removal for victims of trafficking (the T visa) and victims of certain crimes (the U visa); and by allowing certain nonimmigrant status holders the opportunity to adjust to permanent resident status.

**Prosecution:** The TVPA sharpened and enhanced the capacity of federal prosecutors to bring human traffickers to justice for their crimes. Before the TVPA, the Department of Justice filed human trafficking cases under several federal statutes related to involuntary servitude and slavery, but the criminal laws were narrow and patchwork. The TVPA addresses the inadequacy of the legal framework by:

- Adding new criminal provisions prohibiting forced labor, trafficking concerning peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, or forced labor, and sex trafficking of children or by force, fraud, or coercion;
- Criminalizing attempts to engage in these activities;
- Mandating that traffickers pay restitution to their victims, and providing for forfeiture; and
- Strengthening penalties for existing trafficking crimes.

**Prevention:** The TVPA strengthened the U.S. Government’s prevention efforts by providing for international initiatives to be established and carried out to improve economic opportunity for potential victims as a means of deterring trafficking” (U.S. Department of Justice, 2017).

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 was another significant milestone. This Act classified producers of child pornography as human traffickers. It also provided resources to establish or enhance human trafficking task forces, support the prosecution of traffickers, and offer services to trafficking survivors (U.S. Department of Justice, 2017).

Other pertinent federal legislation includes the [Runaway and Homeless Youth Act](#). Congress first passed the Act in 1974 and has reauthorized it several times. The National Network for Youth has applauded this legislation as a “monumental step to ensuring that more youth, young adults, and young families experiencing homelessness have a safe place to call home and are better able to avoid being trafficked for sex, labor, or both” (Bardine, 2019).

Several states have also taken significant steps to address human trafficking. In 2008, New York became the first state to pass [safe harbor legislation](#) to shield juvenile victims of sex crimes from prosecution for offenses their abusers forced them to commit (Goodman & Leidholdt, 2013). In 2013, New York established the first [Human Trafficking Intervention Courts](#) to identify and divert sex trafficking survivors of all ages whom the police have arrested for prostitution-related offenses (Center for Court Innovation, 2013). Even states that don’t typically come to mind when one thinks of human trafficking have taken action to fight it. [South Dakota](#), for example, passed a law that took effect in 2020 to better protect and assist local trafficking survivors (South Dakota News, 2020).

### **Human trafficking in the media**

Human trafficking has little in common with how many Americans think of it. Our flawed understanding is partly shaped by the fact that the media focuses almost exclusively on sexual exploitation and essentially ignores the many types of labor trafficking that are also horrific. Some films, such as [The Whistleblower](#) and [Lilya 4-Ever](#), are based on actual events and offer viewers thought-provoking insights into the reality of sex trafficking (IMDb, n.d.-c; IMDb, n.d.-b). More typically, however, the films and television programs that depict sex trafficking are sensational in character. They rarely provide an accurate picture of the way that traffickers work.



The 2020 film [365 Days](#) is representative of this genre. It tells the story of a mafia boss who abducts and sexually abuses a woman and then gives her one year to fall in love with him. The film offers a thrilling storyline and has the distinction of reaching the number-one position on Netflix's most-watched list (IMDb, n.d.-a). The Welsh singer Duffy is a rape survivor who has argued forcefully that the film "[glamorizes the brutal reality of sex trafficking, kidnapping, and rape](#)" (Today Headline, 2021). She has asked viewers who liked the movie to "reflect on the reality of kidnapping and trafficking, of force and sexual exploitation, and of an experience that is the polar opposite of the glossy fantasy depicted in '365 Days.' You have not realized how '365 Days' has brought great hurt to those who have endured the pains and horrors that this film glamorizes for entertainment and for dollars. What I and others who know these injustices need is the exact opposite – a narrative of truth, hope, and to be given a voice" (Today Headline, 2021).

"[Taken](#)" stars Liam Neeson and is another successful film about trafficking with a highly improbable plot. "While vacationing with a friend in Paris, an American girl is kidnapped by a gang of human traffickers intent on selling her into forced prostitution. Working against the clock, her ex-spy father must pull out all the stops to save her. But with his best years possibly behind him, the job may be more than he can handle" ("Taken", 2022). One reviewer described Neeson's character as a "relentless attack machine who is impervious to fists, bullets and fast-moving cars. He uses a variety of martial arts skills to knock out more opponents than Mike Tyson and casually kill those he doesn't KO" ("Taken, 2022). Portrayals of international gangs and conspiracies have broad commercial appeal, but trafficking is most often done by relatives, acquaintances, pimps posing as boyfriends, and other predators whom the victim knows.

"Taken" cost \$25 million to make and has grossed more than \$225 million in ticket sales ("Taken", 2022). The film may be entertaining, but it does not offer a realistic representation of human trafficking. One of the author's colleagues teaches human trafficking at another college and begins her course with an excerpt from this film to illustrate what trafficking is *not*. Scenes highlighting efforts to provide job training for poor women who are vulnerable to trafficking make poor television, but putting the spotlight on the value of prevention would undoubtedly be far more informative.

Another shortcoming of popular films and television programs about trafficking is that they almost always feature attractive white females. White juveniles and young adults get victimized, but the exploitation is greatest among minorities and people who have been pushed to the fringes of society. In the United States, for example, nonwhite children accounted for 358 (78%) of the 460 child sex trafficking cases that the [Department of Justice](#) investigated between 2008 and 2010 (Keller, 2018). Most of the children were African American and Latino. [Native Americans](#) also suffer disproportionately because of historical exploitation, severe poverty on reservations, and cultural discrimination. In [Thailand](#), hill tribes and stateless children who have been denied fundamental rights and protections are most vulnerable to the trafficking that occurs there (Keller, 2018).

Law professor Cheryl Butler published an excellent article about "The racial roots of human trafficking" in a 2015 issue of the [UCLA Law Review](#) (Butler, 2015). An informative but shorter analysis of the role that race and racism have in trafficking can be found in an excellent [blog entry](#) that a student prepared for a course on Global Human Trafficking at Ohio State University. The entry is aptly titled, "Human Trafficking in the U.S.: Misconceptions vs. Reality" (Young.2336, 2018).

[Video resources](#) include a conversation between Mary Speta of [Amirah, Inc.](#) and Audrey Morrissey, the Associate Director of [My Life My Choice](#), about “Race and Sex Trafficking: Survivor Perspectives” (Amirah, Inc, 2020). The conversation analyzes "the life" of sexual exploitation and considers how systemic racism presents barriers for women and girls of color at each significant moment in the cycle (Amirah, Inc, 2020).

Yet another limitation of Hollywood human trafficking films is that the storylines seldom mention boys. Many boys are trafficked to grow cocoa in Ghana and the Ivory Coast (McAlmont, 2019). Armed groups worldwide have [forced young boys \(and girls\) to fight in regional conflicts](#) (Child Soldiers International, n.d.). In Vietnam, a recent study found that nearly 6% of the children there may have had experiences related to child trafficking and that boys and girls are equally at risk. Those interested in learning more about sexually exploited boys can listen to an episode on this topic in the “Ending Human Trafficking” [podcast](#) series (Morgan, 2017).

It should also be noted that traffickers can often control their victims with psychological ploys just as effectively as they can with the chains and violence that the movies typically highlight. In fact, the tactics that traffickers most frequently use are very similar to those which batterers use in domestic violence situations. [Barasch and Kryszko](#) have written a short but excellent article that describes the nexus between domestic violence and trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation (Barasch & Kryszko, 2013).

The [Monterey Herald](#) (California) published an interesting account of another way that traffickers use psychological tactics. The story involved two Thai sisters who had been sent to San Francisco and lived in a room adjoining the restaurant their stepmother ran. The stepmother instructed the girls not to tell anyone where they lived because the city had only coded the room for use as part of a restaurant. “In their case, there was no barbed wire, there were no locks — they were allowed to go to school every day - but they felt like they were required to return to the restaurant and work every night. That’s really the crux of human trafficking. They didn’t feel like they could escape because their stepmother threatened them. The sisters attended school, but they also were forced to work from 3 to 11 p.m. at the restaurant seven days a week. The abuse lasted years until a teacher noticed one of them falling asleep in class, uncovered the problem, and sought help” (Taylor, 2012).

A common variation of the Monterey scenario involves recruiters and employers who collaborate to deceive vulnerable workers who are then isolated in a strange culture and forced to accept harsh terms of employment. Such cases often occur in plain sight. [Car washes in Great Britain](#), for example, employ thousands of people who work 12 hours a day for little or no pay. “These are cash businesses, easy to run and hide criminality - ideal for exploiting people while generating high turnover. The victims are mostly men lured from Eastern European countries with promises of paid work, housing, and better job opportunities in the future. They are trapped in debt bondage, forced to live and work in squalid and unsafe conditions, stripped of their documents, and subjected to threats, abuse, and violence. Some are also coerced to commit crimes - afraid for their lives and families if they refuse. British police are aware of the problem, but most victims are too scared to speak. Many people don’t even consider themselves victims because 1 pound (\$1.30) an hour is better than earning nothing at home” (Guilbert, 2017).



## **Behind the numbers: Learn from survivors**

*“I want you to listen...in the hope that after you listen to me you can understand.”*

Dina Chan, a former sex slave, Cambodia, 1999

(Bales & Trodd, 2008, p. 1.)

Survivors experience trafficking in many ways. Their ability to cope with and recover from trafficking varies by many factors, including the type and length of trafficking, personal resilience, cultural attitudes, and family support. And since two people can respond to the same kind of trafficking in very different ways, there is no “one-size fits all” treatment plan. Survivors’ experiences before, during, and after their exploitation provide critical insights for our understanding of trafficking generally and for developing appropriate laws and programs.

Many experts, including U.N. special rapporteur on trafficking Siobhan Mullally, fervently believe that initiatives that survivors lead are best able to respond to changing trends, reach out to victims, and challenge the stigma associated with being trafficked. The human rights arm of the Organization for Security and Cooperation of Europe (OSCE) shares this view and established the [International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council](#) in 2021. The Council’s Advisory Board includes 21 survivors of human trafficking from 14 nations. OSCE hopes the Council will inspire countries worldwide to ensure that survivors inform and lead anti-trafficking efforts (Guilbert, 2021).

The [Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States 2013-2017](#) provides many insights into the problems that survivors face and the challenges that survivors represent for those who want to help them (President’s Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2014). The Justice Department’s 2022 [National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking](#) reaffirmed the importance of survivor-centered values and established the nation’s latest goals and objectives for fighting trafficking generally (U.S Department of Justice., 2022).

The [Butterfly Longitudinal Research Project](#) is another valuable resource. The study began in 2010 to study the reintegration of 128 male and female survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation for ten years. The study seeks to understand the perspectives and experiences of survivors throughout the service delivery process as they rebuild their lives in the community (Tsai et al., 2018).

Those who have time to read one or more books that a trafficked survivor has written will be able to see the faces and hear the stories that lie behind published research articles. Some survivors can rebound because of a strong faith in God, while others rely more on their internal strength. Many recover simply because someone took the time to notice and befriend them.

Published first-person accounts include historical books such as [Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl](#) by Harriet Jacobs. First published in 1861, the book provides a fascinating portrayal of pre-civil war slavery (Jacobs & Child, 2003).

Those who prefer to focus on recent times may want to consider [To Plead Our Own Cause: Personal Stories by Today’s Slaves](#) by Kevin Bales and Zoe Trodd. The book presents more than a hundred brief narratives by people who had been enslaved throughout the world in a wide variety of

situations (Bales & Trodd, 2008). Another excellent source is [Survivors Perspectives on Successful Reintegration After Trafficking](#). The authors published the report in 2020 following research that “was carried out in Bangladesh and Cambodia to understand the experience of reintegration among trafficking survivors, what they think constitutes successful reintegration, and what they feel would best support them in their reintegration journeys. The research team conducted in-depth interviews which focused on the details of survivors’ personal experiences and perceptions of reintegration. This study attempts to recenter the discussion of reintegration around survivors’ experiences as agents in shaping their own lives rather than from the perspective of providing services” (Kasper & Chiang, 2020, p. 5). The complete analysis can be found in the report mentioned above, but the authors also used the research findings to publish a shorter version (23 pages) called [Resilience and Reintegration: Our Stories as Trafficking Survivors](#) in 2022 (Chiang et al., 2022).

Other first-person accounts appear in books such as [Standing in the Way: From Trafficking Victim to Human Rights Activist](#) by Anjali Tamang and Sarah Symons, [Girls Like Us](#) by Rachel Lloyd, and [Paid For: My Journey Through Prostitution](#) by Rachel Moran. The genre also includes [Dancing for the Devil](#) by Anny Donewald, [Scars and Stilettos](#) by Harmony Dust, [No Longer Untouchable](#) by Sarah Davison-Tracy, and [Out of Darkness: A Survivor’s Story](#) by Alicia Joy. Holly Austin Smith makes a similar and eloquent contribution in [Walking Prey](#). A Discussion [Guide](#) is available for anyone who would like to use [Walking Prey](#) for a class or book club.

Videos and documentaries featuring trafficked survivors are available for free on the Internet and often have an especially powerful impact. One such film is [Very Young Girls](#). [IMDb](#) describes the plot this way:

The title “*Very Young Girls*” reflects the fact that in the United States, the average age of entry into prostitution is just thirteen. The film takes us into the work of a former sexually exploited youth-turned-activist named Rachel Lloyd, who started the New York City organization GEMS (Girls Educational and Mentoring Services) to help victimized young women escape their pimps and find another way of life. We meet teenage girls at different stages of this transition. Some have been so psychologically manipulated by their pimps that they feel compelled to return. Others have successfully broken with their pasts. As we come to know these girls better, they emerge as well-rounded individuals full of unexpected laughter and insight. One chilling element the film uncovers is a videotape - confiscated by police - of two pimps recording their activities with the intent of making a reality television show. Later we see Lloyd get recognized for her work at a human rights awards ceremony shortly after the song “It’s Hard Out Here for a Pimp” wins an Academy Award” (IMDb, n.d.-d).

*Very Young Girls* lasts 80 minutes and is well worth the time needed to watch it (Schisgall & Alvarez, 2022). Many shorter accounts, however, are also available. They include:

- [Holly Austin Smith: A Survivor Story](#) (24 minutes) (Darkness to Light, 2014).
- [Human Trafficking Survivor Story: Dellana California](#) (14 minutes) (Casjustice, 2012).
- [Sex trafficking survivor tells Megyn Kelly her harrowing story](#). (17 minutes) (Today Show, 2018).
- [END IT MOVEMENT: Jeanita's Story](#) (7 minutes) (End it Movement, 2016).
- [Escaping the Pain of Human Trafficking by Markie Dell](#) (11 minutes) (TEDx, 2019a).
- [Faces of Human Trafficking: Focus on Youth](#) (7 minutes) (Office for Victims of Crime, 2016).
- [From Being Trafficked as a Toddler to Claiming Victory and Joy in Life](#) (6 minutes) (Christian Broadcast Network, 2021).

Activists can gain additional insights about survivors and the challenges they face by learning about some of the many outstanding organizations that work on their behalf. The four described below illustrate the variety of strategies they use to assist survivors. The first two support survivors in the United States, while the last two operate in Asia. Most of the information was taken directly from the websites.

### Thistle Farms

*Headquarters:* Nashville, TN

*The Founder:*

[Rev. Becca Stevens](#) is an Episcopal priest and social entrepreneur (Becca Stevens, 2021). She has written several books, including a 2013 memoir, [Snake Oil: The Art of Healing and Truth-Telling](#). The memoir describes her own sexual abuse and how her subsequent healing and ministry led to the founding of Thistle Farms in 2001 (Stevens, 2014).

*Mission/About Us:*

Thistle Farms is a nonprofit social enterprise based in Nashville, TN, dedicated to helping women survivors recover and heal from trafficking, prostitution, and addiction. We provide a safe place to live, a meaningful job, and a lifelong sisterhood of support because we believe love is the most powerful force in the world. To date, more than 50 organizations nationwide have created programs based on Thistle Farms' model of recovery.

Thistle Farms sells various products online and in person made by trafficked survivors who work at the Farms. Products include home goods (e.g., candles, essential oils, kitchen and bath supplies), bath & body, apparel & accessories for children and adults, travel accessories, and gifts for him/her/kids. In 2013, Thistle Farms opened a café that employs survivors of prostitution, trafficking, and addiction" (Thistle Farms, n.d.-b).

Thistle Farms has earned [Charity Navigator's](#) highest rating of four stars as well as Guide Star's Gold Seal of Transparency (Charity Navigator, 2021c).

### Girls Education and Mentoring Services (GEMS)

*Headquarters:* New York, NY

*The Founder:*

Rachel Lloyd was born in England and was trafficked in the sex industry as a teenager. She moved to New York City in 1997 when she was 22 and began studying for her GED high school equivalency test. She subsequently earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Marymount Manhattan College and a Master's degree in Applied Urban Anthropology from the City College of New York.

While working for an organization serving adult women emerging from the commercial sex industry, Rachel spent many nights on the streets doing outreach. She spent many of her days visiting homeless shelters and the jail at Rikers Island. Through her work, Rachel began meeting girls as young as 11, overwhelmingly low-income girls of color, and children who had been arrested and charged with prostitution. At the time, the word 'trafficking' hadn't even entered the lexicon, and the girls she was meeting were treated as pariahs by law

enforcement, service providers, and child welfare workers. Rachel, on the other hand, saw only smart, strong, resilient girls and young women, who had been manipulated and coerced, women who desperately needed love, support, and practical resources like housing, clothing, and access to education.

In 1998, Ms. Lloyd participated in the first International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth in Canada. The event inspired her to found GEMS on her kitchen table with \$30 and a borrowed computer later that year to support girls and young women who had been victimized by the commercial sex industry. GEMS is now one of the largest service providers in the United States for this target audience (Girls Educational & Mentoring Services, n.d.e).

*Mission/About Us:*

For the past 20 years, Girls Educational & Mentoring Services (GEMS) has served as the nation's leading organization for empowering commercially sexually exploited and domestically trafficked girls and young women. Through cultural change, advocacy, training, and survivor leadership, GEMS is committed to shifting public perception and policy.

GEMS' unique Victim, Survivor, Leader™ program model is the gold standard for organizations serving trafficking victims and survivors across the country. GEMS trains thousands of professionals every year in its best practices.

GEMS co-wrote—and helped pass—the NYS Safe Harbor for Exploited Youth Act: the first bill in the nation to stop the criminalization of commercially sexually exploited children” (Girls Educational & Mentoring Services., n.d-d).

GEMS has earned Guide Star's Gold Seal of Transparency and received three of four possible stars from Charity Navigator” (Charity Navigator, 2021a).

### **Nomi Network**

*Headquarters:* Corporate offices in New York City (serves India and Cambodia)

*The Founders:*

Diana Mao was traveling in Cambodia doing micro-finance research in 2007 when she met a single father of seven children in a small village. At the end of the visit, the father offered his 7-year-old daughter Nomi to Diana's male colleague. ‘Looking into his eyes, Diana saw sadness and desperation. This moment was a paradigm shift for Diana--in her mind, human trafficking was perpetrated by criminal networks. Here, she saw firsthand how exploitation begins in homes crippled by poverty.’ Diana subsequently founded the Nomi Network with Supei Liu and Alissa Moore-Williams to be the network behind Nomi. Nomi Network provides training and economic opportunities for survivors and women at risk of human trafficking so they can become financially independent.

*Mission/About Us:*

Our mission is to create economic opportunities for survivors and women at risk of human trafficking. Nomi provides services in three states in Northeastern India, where there are high rates of trafficking. Nomi also works in the fashion industry of Phnom Penh, where it provides safe employment opportunities for survivors and women at risk of human trafficking.

Nomi provides life and technical skills training while connecting women to jobs and promoting fair labor standards. Staff seek to create transparent supply chains by connecting corporate brands with fair sourcing and consumers with ethically-made products. Nomi also raises awareness about human trafficking generally and advocates for an end to modern-day slavery.

[Great Nonprofits](#) “is a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit organization based in the United States with a website where donors, volunteers, and clients review and share their personal experiences with charitable organizations, essentially providing crowdsource information about the reputability of these organizations” (GreatNonprofits, 2022). Great Nonprofits included the Nomi Network among its “Top-Rated” organizations in 2020 (GreatNonprofits, n.d.). Nomi also has a Gold Rating “Seal of Transparency” from Guide Star and an overall score of 100 out of 100 from [Charity Navigator](#) (Charity Navigator, 2021b).

### **Agape International Missions**

*Headquarters:* Svay Pak, Cambodia

*The Founders:*

Bridget and Don Brewster, a former pastor of Adventure Christian Church, founded Agape International Missions (AIM) in California in 1989. They subsequently sold their home, quit their jobs, and moved to Cambodia, where AIM began operating in 2006. The AIM website has a 12-minute video that includes interviews with the Brewsters who explain why they moved there with no real expertise or qualifications to help sexually trafficked girls (Agape International Missions, n.d.-b).

*Mission/About Us:*

Agape International Missions is a nonprofit, non-denominational, non-governmental organization working to rescue, restore, and reintegrate girls who are victims of child sex trafficking in Cambodia. It has staff in California and Southeast Asia and carries out housing, education, health, employment, rehabilitation, and community care initiatives in Cambodia.

The website has an online store (AIM Shop) that sells apparel, jewelry, and other products made by survivors. The Shop gives much-needed employment to survivors and generates income to support the organization's initiatives (“Agape International Missions”, 2022).

Agape International Missions received [GuideStar's](#) “Gold Seal of Transparency” in 2019 (“Candid (organization)”, 2022). [Charity Navigator](#) gave AIM its highest rating of 4 stars and a perfect score of 100 for accountability & transparency (“Agape International Missions”, 2022).

### **Establishing a strong foundation**

Listening to trafficked survivors is a powerful starting point for anyone who wants to help fight human trafficking. In order to have a strong foundation for the work that awaits, however, it is also necessary for activists to understand applicable laws, the broader context in which the crime occurs, and other critical aspects of the trafficking dynamic. This section offers a strategy for acquiring that foundation.

Chapter I cited the Palermo Protocol as an authoritative source of how the international community views human trafficking. Reading the [Protocol](#) and the recommended [Principles and Guidelines](#) that nations developed to help implement it will provide an unfiltered look at these core materials. Each document is ten pages or less.

Another foundational resource is the State Department's annual [Trafficking in Persons Report](#). The State Department describes the TIP Report as "the U.S. Government's principal diplomatic tool to engage foreign governments on human trafficking. It is also the world's most comprehensive resource of governmental anti-trafficking efforts and reflects the U.S. Government's commitment to global leadership on this key human rights and law enforcement issue" (U.S. Department of State, 2020).

Each year's report is typically more than 400 pages, but an informative introduction/overview rarely exceeds 60. The balance of the report provides a concise summary of what every country in the world is doing to fight human trafficking.

The Report assigns each country to one of several tiers depending upon the effort they are making to fight trafficking. The 2020 Report included the following findings:

- Tier 1: Countries that fully comply with the Trafficking in Persons Act's minimum standards for eliminating trafficking. **Thirty-four countries (18%) are in Tier 1.**
- Tier 2: Countries that do not fully comply with the minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance. **Eighty-nine countries (47%) are in Tier 2.**
- Tier 2 Watch List: Countries on Tier 2 require particular scrutiny because of a high or significantly increasing number of victims; failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking in persons; or an assessment as Tier 2 based on commitments to take action over the next year. **Forty-five countries (24%) are on the Watch List.**
- Tier 3: Countries that neither satisfy the minimum standards nor demonstrate a significant effort to come into compliance. Countries in this tier are subject to potential non-humanitarian and non-trade sanctions. **Nineteen countries (10%) are in Tier 3**

Libya, Somalia, and Yemen were designated "special cases" because civil conflict and humanitarian crises made it nearly impossible to obtain meaningful information. Also noteworthy is that the 2020 report identified ten countries that engage in government-sponsored forced labor. 2020 was the first year in which the United States declared other governments to be complicit in human trafficking (U.S Department of State, 2020).

Reasonable people disagree about many things, so it should not be surprising that authorities disagree about some of the rankings that the State Department assigns in the TIP Report. The [Seafood Working Group](#), for example, is a global coalition of labor, human rights, and environmental non-governmental organizations. The Group strongly objected to the State Department's decision to maintain Thailand's ranking within Tier 2 in the 2020 report. The Group objected because of what they claimed was "detailed and comprehensive evidence demonstrating the weaknesses of the Thai



government's efforts in the areas of prosecution, protection, and prevention of human trafficking in 2019" (Seafood Working Group, 2020).

Humanity United went a step further. Humanity United is a nonprofit that a diverse group of independent organizations founded in 2008 to improve the lives of people and societies. [Humanity United](#) argues that the United States no longer deserves to be placed in Tier 1 with the countries that fully meet the minimum standards established to eliminate trafficking. They reached this conclusion in part "because of the harmful immigration policies that heighten the vulnerability of trafficking victims and increase the risk of their exploitation. Mark Taylor, a former State Department employee who led a team of 15 human trafficking experts in drafting 10 Trafficking in Persons Reports from 2004 through 2013, agrees. According to Mr. Taylor, 'Awarding the United States another unwarranted gold star will tarnish the report for years to come'" (Macher, 2020).

Luis C. deBaca has expressed even broader concern about the report. Mr. C. deBaca is a former U.S. Ambassador to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and served as a Senior Fellow at Yale University's Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition. He is currently on the faculty of the University of Michigan law school. The Ambassador believes [the report is a "warning of storm clouds on the horizon"](#). The 2020 Report shows a weakening of victim protections even in countries considered exemplary, a seeming lack of urgency on the part of governments to get real results, and a reversion to an almost exclusive focus on sex trafficking...It is now time for the U.S. Government as a whole to take the TIP Report's facts and recommendations as a self-critical call to action, just as it expects of its foreign counterparts when reading their country's narrative" (deBaca, 2020).

Activists should also become familiar with the 2021 [National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking](#). The Plan lays out a "broad-based, multi-disciplinary, whole-of-government approach to addressing this crime and its harmful impacts on crime victims, their communities, and our national security" (U.S. Department of Justice, 2021). The Plan includes the following Priority Actions:

- "Expand interagency enforcement initiatives aimed at increasing high-impact prosecutions of forced labor, sex trafficking of adults by force, fraud or coercion, and transnational sex trafficking, and work with the Department of Homeland Security to launch a labor trafficking enforcement initiative.
- Engage relevant stakeholders, including state, local, tribal and territorial law enforcement and survivors and survivor organizations, to strengthen their prosecutions related to child sex trafficking.
- Dismantle organized criminal human trafficking enterprises by targeting their financial networks, communication systems, and other infrastructure and by targeting facilitators of human trafficking.
- Develop improved technology for human trafficking interdiction and identify technical barriers impeding investigations.
- Enhance capabilities to locate missing children, including those who have run away from foster care and are vulnerable to human trafficking.
- Ensure the safety and well-being of human trafficking victims in the course of FBI investigations by using and promoting a victim-centered, trauma-informed approach among all federal, state, local, territorial and tribal law enforcement partners.
- Conduct comprehensive training covering the collection of restitution and transfer of forfeited funds to victims.

- Prioritize the Office for Victims of Crime’s housing program to support safe, stable housing options for human trafficking victims.
- Consider enhancements to the model task forces program to increase collaboration between victim services, law enforcement, and community and survivor stakeholders.
- Seek to establish federally-funded human trafficking task forces that are sustainable and state, tribal, territorial, or locally led.
- Release a self-guided training on integrating trauma-informed engagement in supporting individuals and communities impacted by human trafficking.
- Support research and develop the evidence needed to better prevent and respond to trafficking in persons in the United States” (U.S. Department of Justice, 2021).

Those with the necessary time can significantly enhance their understanding of critical issues by reading a textbook such as [Human Trafficking, A Comprehensive Exploration of Modern Day Slavery](#) by Wendy Stickle, Shelby Hickman, and Christine White. The authors published the book in 2020. It provides a thorough overview of trafficking, the traffickers, and the people whom the traffickers exploit (Stickle, Hickman, & White, 2019).

Reading a book will be very helpful. Taking or auditing a live college course would be even better because it allows students to participate in discussions and ask any questions they may have. Many colleges do not offer trafficking courses, but several are available online. Freedom United, for example, offers [Understanding Contemporary Slavery](#) for \$10 and estimates that students can complete it in just 15-20 hours. Freedom United’s description of the course can be found below.

“You may already know a lot about this complex issue but would like to fill in some gaps in your understanding, or you may have no prior knowledge of it at all. Either way, *Understanding Contemporary Slavery* is an online open course designed to help you.

Covering both academic research and practical aspects of modern slavery, this course was developed by the University of Nottingham, one of the leading institutions in contemporary slavery research, in collaboration with Freedom United, the world’s largest anti-slavery community.

*Understanding Contemporary Slavery* covers the following topics:

- Detailed introduction to different forms of slavery, definitions, perspectives, and attempts to measure the incidence of slavery around the world today;
- Looking to the ‘usable past’ – the historical origins of slavery and lessons we can draw from abolitionists’ tactics;
- National solutions for ending slavery, covering laws, policies, and community mobilization;
- Survivor voices both in history and their role in leading contemporary anti-slavery movements; and
- Supply chains, worker mobilization, and consumer action, as well as exploring links between slavery and the environment” (Freedom United, 2021b).

Each section includes a video, a transcript if there is no time to see the video, and a “Dive Deeper” section to learn more (Freedom United, 2021b).



Aspiring activists can also gain valuable insights by watching films about human trafficking. Several outstanding ones are available. [Not My Life](#) (64 minutes) is a particularly compelling documentary. The title came from an interview with an African advocate who said that many people deny the reality of contemporary slavery because it is an uncomfortable truth, saying, "No, this is not my life" ("Not My Life", 2022). "Narrated by Glenn Close, *Not My Life* comprehensively depicts the cruel and dehumanizing practices of human trafficking and modern slavery on a global scale. Filmed on five continents in a dozen countries, *Not My Life* takes viewers into a world where millions of children are exploited through an astonishing array of practices, including forced labor, sex tourism, sexual exploitation, and child soldiering" ("Not My Life", 2022). Amazon Prime rents the film for \$2.99 and sells it for home use for \$12.99 (Amazon, n.d.-c). Vimeo rents the documentary for \$4.99 and sells it for home use for \$14.99 (Vimeo, n.d.). Those interested may be able to watch the film at no charge at their local library.

A shorter video (20 minutes) that also offers a powerful overview of human trafficking is "[Shine a Light on Modern Day Slavery](#)." The film features a TEDx talk that Lisa Kristine gave in 2013 and can be watched for free. "Photographer Lisa Kristine travels the world documenting the unbearably harsh realities of modern-day slavery. She shares hauntingly beautiful images -- miners in the Congo, bricklayers in Nepal -- illuminating the plight of the 27 million souls enslaved worldwide" (TEDx, 2012a). Her presentation has more than 3,000,000 views (TEDx, 2012a).

The sale of human organs is a type of trafficking that neither of the films mentioned above addresses. The practice is nevertheless highly problematic. Several videos that focus exclusively on organ trafficking can be found on the Internet. A very good one is "[Nepal's black-market organ trade](#)" (10 minutes) (RT Documentary, 2020).

A different type of organ trafficking involves the sale of body parts that criminals take from Albinos for use in witchcraft. "[Albino Africa - Tanzanian albinos despised for their white skin](#)" describes this practice in 26 minutes (RT Documentary, 2014).

Novice activists can use carefully chosen legal documents, books, courses, and films to build the foundation they need to fight human trafficking effectively. Those interested in studying a particular aspect of trafficking can then continue their studies with the confidence that they understand the broader issues and context. Chapter III will discuss specific strategies for taking a basic knowledge of trafficking to the next level.

### **How to recognize and report suspected trafficking**

*"What haunts me is that the prevalence of human trafficking, particularly the sex trafficking of underage girls and young women, means that I have almost definitely seen one of these individuals in my daily life. I've sat next to them on the bus or ordered coffee right behind them. Were their eyes begging for my help, and I simply overlooked or, did not notice?" (Etwaroo, n.d.).*

Shenita Etwaroo, human rights activist

There are several challenges associated with identifying the people whom human traffickers exploit. Part of the difficulty stems from the fact that while many victims are born here, foreign victims are often brought into the United States secretly and/or illegally. These individuals are usually

unaware of their rights, cannot speak English, and do not understand American law. In addition, traffickers often like to isolate their victims. Communication with the outside world is frequently limited to those who work for the trafficker, other victims, and in the case of sex trafficking, the customers. Victims held under these conditions then become even more dependent on their traffickers. [They may not even consider themselves victims if they borrowed money to arrive at their destination](#) (Clawson & Dutch, 2008).

[An unknown percentage of trafficking is thus hidden, but a considerable part is in plain sight. Those who know what to look for can often identify it](#) (Roberts, 2017). Trafficked workers may be the ones serving us at restaurants. They may work on the farms where we buy fresh produce or bring our children to see baby animals. The maids whom some of us hire to clean our houses may also be victims of trafficking. [Electricians, plumbers, and other laborers may encounter situations of domestic servitude during their visits](#), but either don't understand what they are seeing or do not want to get involved (ERASE Child Trafficking, 2018). Teachers, airline stewardesses, truckers, and others "Business Partners" discussed in Chapter V are also well positioned to identify potential victims as they go about their business.

The potential contribution of an informed public is beyond dispute. The [West Midlands Police](#) in the United Kingdom, for example, recently freed 400 trafficked Polish workers after charity staff noticed an increasing number of Polish people attending one of its soup kitchens and contacted law enforcement (Karasz, 2019). Another British case involving the use of exploited workers from Eastern Europe in [London car washes](#) was mentioned earlier in this chapter. London police recorded 112 cases involving 700 potential victims between October 2016 and August 2017. Two-thirds of the cases were referred to authorities by members of the public who were taken aback by the very low prices that the car washes charged. "It is so important to get the public to understand what they are looking at," said Justine Currell, executive director of Unseen. "If it appears too good to be true, it probably is." (Guilbert, 2017).

These are two examples of success stories. Far more common, however, are situations in which people see something but say nothing. As Kevin Bales succinctly pointed out in his book, [The Slave Next Door](#), "The best defense against modern-day slavery is a vigilant public. Be the nosy neighbor" (Bales & Soodalter, 2010, p. 255).

### **Recognizing the Signs**

Many people are not interested in studying the sordid details of human trafficking. Everyone, however, should be able to recognize the most common indicators and know where to report their suspicions. A good place to begin might be to watch Dr. Kanai Titchen's excellent TEDx presentation on "[How to Spot Human Trafficking](#)." Dr. Titchen is an Adolescent Medicine Fellow at Children's Hospital in Montefiore, New York, and Co-chair of Physicians Against the Trafficking of Humans. As Dr. Titchen explains in her talk, she encountered human sex trafficking for the first time during a gynecologic rotation while in medical school but did not understand the signs that would have been apparent to a trained observer (TEDx, 2017c).

### **Generic Indicators**

Human trafficking practices vary widely, so the signs of possible trafficking also vary. Observers need to consider cultural differences, the type of trafficking, and the context in which they

observe suspicious activity to make an informed judgment. Each indicator will not be present in every situation. The presence of several indicators does not prove that someone is being trafficked. When in doubt, members of the public should report suspicious behavior to appropriate authorities who can investigate further.

Several organizations have prepared lists of common signs indicating that trafficking may be problematic. [The National Human Trafficking hotline](#) and the Department of Homeland Security's [Blue Campaign](#) are two of them. The following list draws from published sources and organizes common signs within several categories.

### Conditions

The individual in question

- Is not free to leave or come and go at will
- Is under 18 and is providing commercial sex acts
- Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp/manager
- Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Works excessively long and/or unusual hours
- Is not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work
- High-security measures exist in work and/or living locations (e.g., opaque windows, boarded-up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)
- Is living and working on site
- Experiences verbal or physical abuse by their supervisor
- Is not given proper safety equipment
- Is not paid directly
- Is forced to meet daily quotas
- Is a large group of adult or child beggars moved daily to different locations but returned to the same place every night?
- Is a large group of children guarded by an adult? (Blue Campaign, 2022d; Polaris, 2020a).

### Poor Mental Health or Abnormal Behavior

The individual in question

- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement or immigration officials
- Shows signs of substance use or addiction (Blue Campaign, 2022d; Polaris, 2020a).

### Poor Physical Health

The individual in question

- Shows signs of poor hygiene, malnourishment, and/or fatigue
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture (Blue Campaign, 2022d; Polaris, 2020a).

### Lack of Control

The individual in question

- Has few or no personal possessions

- Is frequently monitored
- Is not in control of their own money, financial records, or bank account
- Is not in control of their own identification documents (I.D. or passport)
- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating) (Blue Campaign, 2022d; Polaris, 2020a).

### Other

The individual in question

- Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where they are staying/address
- Does not know what city he/she is in
- Appear to have lost sense of time
- Shares scripted, confusing, or inconsistent stories
- Protects the person who may be hurting them or minimizes abuse (Blue Campaign, 2022d; Polaris, 2020a).

Some indicators will be apparent in a variety of settings. The signs listed on the next page are more closely associated with specific types of trafficking.

### **Child Sex Trafficking**

The Lifeway Network has identified the following indicators of possible [child sex trafficking](#):

- “Unexplained absences from school for a period of time
- Chronic running away from home or foster care
- Inappropriately dressed for age and/or weather
- Engaged in sexual situations or behaviors beyond age-specific norms
- Has a noticeably older ‘boyfriend’ (i.e., 10+ years, 15 years old child with 25-30-year-old boyfriend)
- Frequent travel to other cities, living in a hotel, having hotel keycards or business card
- Expensive gifts, clothing, having more than one cell phone
- Suspicious jewelry and/or tattoo branding child or showing ownership (‘Daddy’s Lil Girl,’ barcode)
- Child may not be the biological child of the ‘parent’ in the home – are they ‘working for aunt or uncle’?
- Child responsible for childcare, elder care, or cleaning- may be often hidden as ‘chores’” (LifeWay Network, 2017).

[Stop the Traffik](#) prepared the following list of questions to consider in cases of suspected labor exploitation and domestic servitude:

### **Labor Exploitation**

- “Do workers show signs of psychological or physical abuse? Do they appear frightened, withdrawn, or confused?
- Do workers have restricted movement on leaving or entering the premises? Are they always accompanied?
- Are workers forced to stay in accommodation provided by the employer? Is the housing overcrowded?

- Are workers forced to give incorrect information or claim not to know personal details?
- Is the employer or somebody other than the worker holding the employee’s passport and legal documents?
- Do workers lack the necessary protective equipment or suitable clothing? Have they received basic training?
- Does a group of workers with a similar nationality/age/gender have a representative who appears to have ‘coached’ them?” (Stop the Traffik, n.d.-c).

### *Domestic Servitude*

- “Does the person seem held in the employer’s home and forced to provide household support, such as care for children, cleaning, and cooking?
- Does the person appear to be working more than normal hours?
- Does the person ever leave the accommodation unaccompanied?
- Is there any indication the person has been subject to abuse, insults, threats, or violence?
- Does the person interact much with the family? Are they forced to eat alone?” (Stop the Traffik, n.d.-c).

[Polaris](#) has developed a list of signs associated with the six occupations listed below. Its website has additional information about trafficking practices in each situation.

- Healthcare
- Hotels and motels
- Trucking
- Nannies, house cleaners, home health aides
- Familial trafficking
- Agriculture, forestry, and construction (Polaris, 2022c).

Even the most knowledgeable activists may find it difficult to remember all the details. Consequently, concerned citizens should consider carrying a small card or key tag that summarizes essential information. The Blue Campaign offers two such [resources](#) that are outlined on the following page.

- Indicator Cards. This 3.5x2-inch plastic card fits in a wallet, pocket, or glove compartment.



(Blue Campaign, n.d.-d)

- Key tags. Key tags are similar but come in different sizes. The smallest version identifies ways to report trafficking and can be easily attached to a key chain. A larger tag lists the signs of human trafficking in addition to the necessary reporting information (Blue Campaign, 2022b).

### **Reporting Hotlines and Special Apps**

Anyone who sees a person clearly in danger should immediately call 911 to notify local police. Cases of suspected human trafficking that are not life-threatening can be reported to the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#).

Polaris established the Hotline in 2007. Hotline staff can connect survivors to service providers and will contact law enforcement agencies when warranted. “The toll-free phone and SMS text lines and live online chat function are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Help is available in English or Spanish, or in more than 200 additional languages through an on-call interpreter. Hearing and speech-impaired individuals can access the Hotline by dialing 711, the free national access number that connects to Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS)” (National Human Trafficking Hotline, n.d.-a). The public can also reach the hotline by writing [help@humantraffickinghotline.org](mailto:help@humantraffickinghotline.org). An image with contact information for the hotline appears on the following page.



**NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE**

**CONTACT THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE**

Do you **want to get out of the life**?  
 Are you being **forced to work** against your will?  
 Or **threatened or tricked** by your boss?  
 Do you know someone who may be?

**CALL**  
 1-888-373-7888

**TEXT**  
 "BeFree" (233733)

**LIVE CHAT**  
 HumanTraffickingHotline.org

✓ Get help.  
 ✓ Report a tip.  
 ✓ Find services.  
 ✓ Learn about your options.

**24/7 • Toll free • Confidential • 200+ languages**

ACF Polaris received \$1.75 million through competitive funding through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Grant #9020134-01-00. The project will be financed with 42.75% of federal funds and 56.25% (\$2.25 million) by non-governmental sources. The contents of this flyer are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

OPERATED BY  
**Polaris**

(National Human Trafficking Hotline, n.d.-b).

The National Hotline primarily collects information about suspected trafficking in the United States. Other countries may have their own preferred hotline. The United Kingdom, for example, uses the [Modern Slavery Helpline](#), which began operating in October 2016 (Unseen, 2022).

Several apps are also available to facilitate reporting. In 2016, Stop the Traffik launched the [STOP APP](#), a specialized application supporting seven languages. Anyone anywhere can use the app to submit suspicious activity quickly and anonymously via a range of media, including text messages, photography, and video. “All reported information is fed directly into Stop the Traffik’s secure database, where it is analyzed alongside multiple different datasets on human trafficking and modern slavery activity. Our analysts transform this raw data into useful insights that contribute to a better understanding of global human trafficking activity globally. The insights are developed into informative and easily digestible visualized reports, which are then shared with appropriate authorities, organizations, communities, and individuals to enable an informed and targeted response to prevent and combat human trafficking” (Stop The Traffik, n.d.-e.).

Another more specialized app is [Safe Car Wash](#). The app was launched in 2018 to encourage the public to report potential indicators of labor exploitation at car washes. The app helped identify nearly 1,000 suspected cases of human trafficking at car washes across the United Kingdom in the first five months before stabilizing at a rate of about 200 alerts per month. Unfortunately, research indicates that only 18% of those who submitted the information followed the advice they received to call the slavery hotline after analysts concluded there were sufficient signs of trafficking (Freedom United, 2019a).

Reporting apps are well-intentioned but are far from an unqualified success. In 2017, researchers identified 63 apps related to trafficking through Apple and Google Play, the largest app stores for mobile devices. Seventy-five percent listed fewer than 100 downloads, and 45% showed fewer than ten. In addition, significant parts of the apps often did not work as intended. These failures are problematic partly because users may believe they submitted a case for review when the report failed to send. [In some cases, it was not even clear who was responsible for the app](#) (Mendel & Sharapov, 2020).

[Wired](#) published an interesting article about this issue in 2021. One of the author's concerns was that the marketing fails to reach the people who are being trafficked or living in vulnerable communities. More than half of the tools are only accessible in English, moreover, and app designers often failed to involve survivors. "Subtle details, such as allowing users to choose their usernames and photos - rather than automatically pulling images and details from their public profiles - make a huge difference. Survivors' voices are invaluable to projects like these" (Ding & Redfern, 2021).

The [3Strands Global Foundation](#) offers summary guidance about reporting suspected acts of human trafficking. The summary includes a QR code that activists can scan with the camera on their phone if they wish to add the National Human Trafficking Hotline to their contact list and forward the information to a friend.

### **Ten websites to know and check frequently**

Polaris created the [Global Modern Slavery Directory](#) in 2014 "to assist all stakeholders in the global anti-trafficking field: service providers, potential victims, survivors, community members, researchers, students, and others looking to identify or connect with resources." The Directory "includes organizations that address all types of human trafficking, including sex trafficking, forced labor and debt bondage, forced marriage, and child marriage, child trafficking, child pornography, organ trafficking, trafficking within international adoption, and international marriage brokering mechanisms ("bride trafficking"). Organizations include direct service providers, as well as groups that carry out awareness, advocacy and prevention efforts, or organizations that may assist victims of trafficking while addressing related issues, such as labor exploitation, child protection, or domestic violence" (Global Modern Slavery Directory, n.d.). The Directory also enables users to identify regions and countries where services for victims are lacking or non-existent. The Directory contains information [on about 2,687 organizations and agencies in 199 countries](#) (Polaris, 2021c).

The Directory is an extraordinary resource. Anyone interested in a specific country, type of trafficking, or organizational category (faith-based, service providers, etc.) can do a focused search to find the relevant website URLs. There are far too many sites for even the most dedicated activists to review, but they should at least become familiar with some.

The Guide seeks to address this challenge by recommending ten websites that every activist should be familiar with. Readers are encouraged to visit the ones that best meet their interests on a regular basis.

Other activists would recommend different "top ten" lists. *Many* websites that are not cited here also merit attention. The author used the following criteria to make the selections listed below as meaningful and as diverse as possible:

- Each website had to be hosted by a respected organization with a strong anti-trafficking track record.
- The list needed to encompass a wide variety of organizations to illustrate the range of resources and opportunities that might interest aspiring activists.
- Each website had to be a rich source of information, current events, and action items.
- Each website had to be easy to use with many tabs to help visitors find desired information quickly.
- The list had to include organizations within and outside the United States.
- There had to be at least one website where interested readers can review scholarly analyses of relevant issues.
- At least one organization had to have a mission that focused primarily on exploited children.
- The list needed one organization with a religious affiliation to illustrate the spiritual component of the anti-trafficking movement.

The list is not presented in the order of perceived importance, prestige, or value. *Most of the information was taken verbatim from the cited website.*

### *The Blue Campaign*

*Headquarters:* Washington, D.C.

#### *About Us/Mission*

The Blue Campaign is a project of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. It is a national public awareness campaign designed to educate the public, law enforcement, and other industry partners to recognize the indicators of human trafficking and how to respond appropriately to possible cases. Blue Campaign works closely with DHS to create general awareness training and materials for law enforcement, first responders, convenience retail employees, youth caretakers, and others to increase the detection of human trafficking victims (Blue Campaign, n.d.-a).

#### *Comments/Notable features of the website*

Visitors are likely to find the “Resources” tab especially helpful. Sections include:

- Document Library
 

The library contains a comprehensive collection of all publications and materials available to download and print from the Blue Campaign. The library includes information sheets, pamphlets, cards, infographics, toolkits, and posters that can be displayed to heighten awareness about such topics as sex trafficking, forced labor, and domestic servitude. Some of the materials have been drafted to meet the specific needs of law enforcement, health professionals, faith-based and community groups, first responders, and non-governmental organizations (Blue Campaign, 2022e).
- Awareness Training
 

DHS provides a web-based training course to law enforcement officials to train officers on recognizing human trafficking and responding appropriately. Four videos depicting human trafficking scenarios that law enforcement officers may encounter during routine duties form the basis for this interactive, 30-40-minute course.

The Campaign also offers training for the U.S. Government acquisition workforce. The training teaches students how to use pertinent provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) to combat human trafficking (Blue Campaign, 2022a).

- Awareness Videos  
The website has videos on topics such as general awareness, labor trafficking, and sex trafficking (Blue Campaign, 2021a).
- Fiscal Year Strategic Action Plan  
The plan describes how the Blue Campaign and the federal government support victims of human trafficking (U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2022a).

The Department of Homeland Security also offers an informative newsletter about human trafficking. Those who would like to subscribe can register on the Homeland Security [website](#) (U.S. Department of Homeland Security, n.d.).

### *Polaris*

*Headquarters:* Washington, D.C.

*About Us/Mission:*

“Polaris is a leader in the global fight to eradicate modern slavery. Named after the North Star that guided slaves to freedom in the U.S., Polaris systemically disrupts the human trafficking networks that rob human beings of their lives and freedom. Our comprehensive model puts victims at the center of what we do – helping survivors restore their freedom, preventing more victims, and leveraging data and technology to pursue traffickers wherever they operate” (Polaris, 2014).

Polaris operates the National Human Trafficking Hotline and led the development of the Global Modern Slavery Directory. Polaris staff have taught 77,000 service providers, law enforcement officers, corporate leaders, and others how to identify and stop trafficking. It has also partnered with the Wyndham Hotel Group to prevent human trafficking within its business. Wyndham is the world's largest hotel company, with approximately 7,590 hotels (Polaris, 2014).

*Comments/Notable features of the website*

Polaris offers a wide variety of free resources for those who want to learn more about Survivor Support, Children and Youth, Supply Chains, and other aspects of human trafficking. Visitors can use the Resources tab to download free reports on several topics. Reports include: “How to Identify Potential Victims of Human Trafficking,” “The Typology of Modern Slavery: Defining Sex and Labor Trafficking in the United States, A Roadmap for Systems and Industries to Prevent and Disrupt Human Trafficking,” and “Reaching Out for Help: A Guide for LGBTQ Youth on How to Receive Support and Services from the National Human Trafficking Hotline” (Polaris, n.d-f).

## *Freedom Collaborative*

*Headquarters:* [Liberty Shared](#) operates Freedom Collaborative from its base in Hong Kong.

### *About Us/Mission:*

Freedom Collaborative is an online interactive multi-service community platform that unites anti-human trafficking stakeholders from around the world. It provides a space to identify, meet, share and access an extensive catalog of resources and open research tools for improving and aiding the care of victims and the fight to end modern slavery and exploitation across civil society, the private sector, and academia (Freedom Collaborative, n.d.-a).

### *Comments/Notable features of the website*

- **Community Newsfeed**  
The newsfeed is the list of stories in the middle of your home page. You can post news articles, resources, and questions for the Freedom Collaborative community. You can also use the newsfeed to promote opportunities such as job vacancies, events, and grants. You can filter the newsfeed by both topic and country.
- **Organization Directory**  
The directory hosts the list of organizations and groups registered on the platform. You can search for organizations and potential partners by location and focus area, view their profiles to learn more, and send private messages.
- **Resources**  
Our resource library includes research papers and programmatic and legal resources. You can search by topic, country, or type of resource. We regularly update the library with resources that Freedom Collaborative members send us or post on the newsfeed.
- **Webinars and Publications**  
Freedom Collaborative produces webinars on industry, regional or practical topics, and publishes guidance documents with community members. You can listen to the live webinars or access recordings anytime under the Resources tab.
- **Legal Impact Hub**  
The Legal Impact Hub is a platform and community on Freedom Collaborative for NGOs, law firms, corporations, the judiciary, and other stakeholders across Southeast Asia. The Hub promotes the development of legal/regulatory mechanisms that address human trafficking in Asia and identifies better methods for prosecution.

The Collaborative offers a [free weekly newsletter](#) with information about critical issues and anti-trafficking efforts worldwide (Freedom Collaborative, n.d.-a).

## *Free the Slaves*

*Headquarters:* Washington, D.C.

### *About Us/Mission:*

“Free the Slaves was founded in 2000—and today, we are considered a leader and pioneer in the modern abolitionist movement. We have helped awaken the world to the fact that slavery still exists, why it does, and where it’s worst. We’ve developed a global blueprint for change to inform governments, international institutions, faith communities, businesses, and the public what they can do.

We’re now implementing our community-based strategy in strategically selected countries, demonstrating that our model works and is both scalable and replicable. Our groundbreaking research and rigorous evaluation inform our policy advocacy to strengthen anti-slavery laws and rid slavery from manufacturing supply chains and business practices" (Free the Slaves, n.d.-f).

### Our Strategy

“Our strategy is to reduce people’s vulnerability, help those in slavery to freedom, and transform the political, economic, cultural, and social circumstances that make slavery possible” (Free the Slaves, n.d.-f).

- *Mainstream* anti-slavery work into field programs at international relief and development organizations.
- *Integrate* Free the Slaves community-based anti-slavery approaches into organizations that already work at a community level in slavery hot spots.
- *Focus* on slavery-proofing entire communities rather than rescuing individuals, creating sustained community resistance and resilience (Free the slaves, n.d.-f).

### Our Process

- *Train* field staff in anti-slavery strategies, utilizing the Free the Slaves Community Liberation Toolkit.
- *Coach* field staff implementing anti-slavery techniques by embedding Free the Slaves mentors as technical assistance advisers.
- *Measure* impact by implementing Free the Slaves techniques to assess a community’s ability to avoid enslavement of residents in the future (Free the slaves, n.d.-f).

### Our Model

Since our founding in 2000, we have freed more than 15,000 people from slavery, reached more than 650,000 people in trafficking hot spots through awareness-raising and rights education to prevent their enslavement, and had more than 300 traffickers arrested (Free the Slaves, n.d.-f).

### *Comments/Notable features of the website*

This website has resources that can help activists with a broad range of interests. The tabs collectively have sections on policy advocacy, slavery-free commerce, coalitions and affiliations, books, videos, and training & conferences.



Free the Slaves offers free subscriptions to a very informative quarterly [newsletter](#)(Free the Slaves, n.d.-g).

### **Freedom United**

*Headquarters:* Raleigh, NC

*About Us/Mission:*

Freedom United is a global advocacy and awareness nonprofit organization with an online community that campaigns on issues of modern slavery and human trafficking. It is the world's largest anti-slavery community, with over two million members who have taken action on advocacy campaigns and a Facebook community of over 5 million people.

Initially launched in 2012 as WalkFree.org in February 2017, WalkFree.org relaunched as Freedom United, expanding its focus to include educational resources, fundraising tools, and expanded digital and offline advocacy capabilities. The organization aims to raise public awareness and change policies through campaigns, events, letter writing, and partnerships.”

*Comments/Notable features of the website*

The website invites visitors to “explore different topics related to the issue of modern slavery” in-depth in the learning hub, Freedom University (Freedom United, 2021b). Click through each topic to find interactive lessons, quizzes, articles, and even more information to get you up to speed. Then share what you’ve learned with people you know – or take action on one of our related campaigns. The university allows visitors to filter human trafficking information by several categories, including child slavery, products of slavery, domestic slavery, and forced marriage.

The website “Act” section features several anti-trafficking campaigns that visitors can support by signing online petitions, writing letters, and taking other types of action.

Freedom United publishes a free [weekly news digest](#) featuring relevant current events from around the world (Freedom United, n.d.-d).

### **End Slavery Now**

*Headquarters:* Cincinnati, Ohio

*About Us/Mission:*

End Slavery Now partners with antislavery organizations in the United States and across the globe. “Our goal at End Slavery Now is for the public to learn about the issue, connect with organizations, and take action to end slavery. Through this, we are building a community of activists that can come alongside the lawyers, law enforcement, and service providers to not just address the victims and consequences of slavery, but to truly end the practice” (End Slavery Now, n.d.-a).

*Comments/Notable features of the website*

End Slavery Now launched in 2009 in Washington, DC. In 2013, the organization moved to Cincinnati, Ohio - the former gatekeeper to the Underground Railroad - and joined

the [National Underground Railroad Freedom Center](#). “Today, End Slavery Now is owned and operated by the Freedom Center as a part of its contemporary antislavery program” (End Slavery now, n.d.-a).

End Slavery Now offers several valuable tools. The tools include a large Action Library, the AntiSlavery Directory, and various other resources such as books, films, modern slave narratives, photo galleries, and activists’ stories. Those interested can register to receive regular [Action Updates](#) (End-Slavery Now, n.d.-f).

### **ECPAT-USA**

*Headquarters:* Brooklyn, NY. ECPAT-USA is a member of [ECPAT International](#), which is based in Thailand. ECPAT International is a network of organizations in 104 countries working together to eliminate the sexual exploitation of children (ECPAT International, 2021).

#### *About Us/Mission:*

More than twenty-five years ago, ECPAT-USA became the first U.S.-based nonprofit to work on the issue of commercial sexual exploitation of children. ECPAT-USA started with sex tourism, helping to get legislation passed which ensured that Americans who traveled abroad to buy sex with minors could be prosecuted in the U.S. for sexually exploiting children in other countries. ECPAT-USA is now the leading policy organization in the U.S. seeking to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children (ECPAT-USA, n.d.-q)

#### *Comments/Notable features of the website*

ECPAT-USA has four major initiatives. The first is Community Education. “Preventing child trafficking and sexual exploitation begins with community education and engagement” (ECPAT-USA, n.d.-e) sponsors programs and events to inform our communities about this human rights crisis. It also conducts research and publishes reports “to raise awareness about the forms that child sexual exploitation takes” (ECPAT-USA-, n.d.-d).

Another priority is Youth Education. ECPAT-USA “[empowers] youth to take the lead in anti-human trafficking efforts with our Youth Against Child Trafficking (Y-ACT) program. We are involving our primary stakeholders, America’s children, in advocating against sexual exploitation and trafficking. ECPAT-USA trains students to be the foremost advocates in their communities, educating them on the facts, misconceptions, and risks of trafficking. We provide them with the tools needed to identify the warning signs and proper resources to protect themselves and their peers” (ECPAT-USA, n.d.-r).

Third, there is Legislative Advocacy. “ECPAT-USA has been at the forefront of the fight for legislation that will protect children who are commercially sexually exploited” (ECPAT-USA, n.d.-i). “ECPAT-USA works with federal legislators and policymakers to improve the nation’s ability to prevent child exploitation and respond when children are identified as victims of trafficking” (ECPAT-USA, n.d.-i).

ECPAT-USA also “provides guidance, policy recommendations, and advocacy support to organizations in states across the country to improve the legal and system response to exploitation” (ECPAT-USA, n.d.-i).

Finally, there is Private Sector Engagement. For decades, ECPAT-USA has worked with government officials, policymakers, and airlines to improve the nation's ability to prevent child exploitation and respond when children are identified as victims of trafficking (ECPAT-USA, n.d-k).

ECPAT-USA does not publish a newsletter, but the website has a "Newsroom" that features articles about current events and relevant initiatives.

### **The Anti-Trafficking Review**

*Headquarters:* Bangkok, Thailand

#### *About Us/Mission:*

The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women publishes the Anti-Trafficking Review. The Alliance is a network of more than 80 non-governmental organizations from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America focused on advancing the human rights of migrants and trafficked persons. An International Secretariat coordinates the activities of the Alliance, collects and disseminates information, and advocates on behalf of the Alliance at regional and international levels (Anti-Trafficking Review, n.d.).

"The Anti-Trafficking Review is the first open access, peer-reviewed journal dedicated to the issue of human trafficking. It explores trafficking in its broader context and intersections with gender, labour, and migration. Each issue relates to an emerging or overlooked theme in the field of human trafficking. The Review's focus is global in nature, exploring micro and macro levels of anti-trafficking responses and the commonalities, differences, and disconnects in between. The journal contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular, Goal 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions)" (Anti-Trafficking Review, n.d.).

#### *Comments/Notable features of the website*

The Review is primarily an e-journal that the Alliance publishes twice a year. The journal presents rigorously considered, peer-reviewed material in clear English. Each issue relates to an emerging or overlooked theme in the anti-trafficking field. Themes of past issues have included "Public Perceptions and Responses to Human Trafficking," "Irregular Migrants, Refugees or Trafficked Persons?" and "Life After Trafficking" (Anti-Trafficking Review, n.d).

### **International Justice Mission**

*Headquarters:* Washington, D.C.

#### *About Us/Mission:*

The International Justice Mission is a nonprofit organization with 17 field offices in Africa, Latin America, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. It also has five partner offices in North America, Europe, and Australia that work to eliminate the slave trade everywhere (International Justice Mission, n.d.-a).

IJM works to combat sex trafficking, child sexual assault, cybersex trafficking, forced labor slavery, and property grabbing. It also addresses police abuse of power and citizenship rights of minorities. The bulk of IJM's work focuses on sex trafficking (International Justice Mission, n.d.-d). IJM's Year in Review for 2021 reported that in that year alone, IJM and its partners rescued 9,967 people from slavery and helped convict 1,816 suspected slave owners and other criminals. IJM requires all employees to be practicing Christians.

#### *Comments/Notable features of the website*

The website features brief stories about real slaves, how they became trafficked, and how they reached their freedom. There is also a "Breaking News" section about the campaigns that IJM is waging against slavery. The "Findings and Studies" section has more than 30 papers featuring research from around the world. Those interested can sign up for IJM emails to "get stories from the field, hear about events in your area and learn how you can make an impact" (International Justice Mission, n.d.-f)."

### **The CNN Freedom Project**

*Headquarters:* Atlanta, Georgia

#### *About Us/Mission:*

"Since 2011, CNN has been shining a light on modern-day slavery [by] traveling the world to unravel the tangle of criminal enterprises trading in human life, amplifying the voices of survivors, [and] holding governments and businesses accountable. Slavery is not a thing of the past" (CNN, n.d.).

#### *Comments/Notable features of the website*

CNN established the Freedom Project to raise public awareness of human trafficking. Consequently, the website features many articles and videos designed specifically with that purpose in mind. The Project sponsors an annual event known as MyFreedomDay on March 14. CNN encourages students to post short messages about their freedom across social media on that day following a designated theme (CNN, 2022). The website also has a "Freedom University" resource educators can use to teach about human trafficking (CNN, n.d.).

### **Staying informed**

Learning the basics of human trafficking is an essential first step for all activists who want to make an impact in this area. It is important to remember, however, that human trafficking is complex, global, and constantly changing. The fact that most of us have limited free time to pursue our many interests makes the task of staying informed about relevant developments very challenging.

Activists can do several things to ensure that they remain up to date. Potential strategies include the following:

- Register for free newsletters.

Several organizations, including many that the Guide has already mentioned, publish weekly newsletters in a user-friendly format. The newsletters feature stories that receive little publicity in the mainstream media and require 10 minutes or less to read. Another benefit of subscribing is that the newsletters often have "action items," such as signing a petition that allows readers to support important causes in an easy, quick

manner. Newsletter articles occasionally offer practical tips on such topics as how to have a Fair-Trade summer barbecue.

- *Follow influencers on LinkedIn or other social media platforms.*  
Respected influencers such as Dr. Kevin Bales and Dr. Celia Williamson frequently use social media to comment on a wide range of human trafficking topics. Activists can also follow experts with more limited areas of interest. Those who are especially concerned about responsible sourcing, for example, might want to follow some of the individuals included in the annual list of [Top 100 Corporate Social Responsibility Influence Leaders](#). The list is independently curated on behalf of Assent Compliance. Assent Compliance is an organization that “helps companies by providing transparency, traceability and a real understanding of their supply chain data so they can protect their brands, remove market access barriers, and reduce operational and financial risk” (Assent, n.d.-a). The list recognizes individuals who have played a prominent role in influencing positive change regarding the environment, human rights, ethical business, and the response to COVID-19 (Worden, 2020). In 2017, Assent published a separate list of the [Top 100 Human Trafficking & Slavery Influence Leaders](#) (Assent, 2017a).
- *Visit the U.S. Department of Justice’s Human Trafficking Press Room.*  
The Department frequently issues press releases about major arrests and other relevant legal developments around the country.
- *Select two or three anti-trafficking websites to visit regularly.*  
This strategy requires little time and can be done 24/7 to fit anyone’s schedule.
- *Attend local panel discussions about human trafficking.*  
Colleges and church groups periodically sponsor events that feature trafficked survivors and those who work on their behalf. These events are almost always free and very interesting. They also provide opportunities to meet other activists with similar interests.

## **The takeaway**

*“For me, I am driven by two main philosophies: Know more today about the world than I knew yesterday and lessen the suffering of others. You’d be surprised how far that gets you” (Shubach, 2021).*

Neil deGrasse Tyson

Those who strive to be effective anti-trafficking activists need to learn as much as possible about the causes and dynamics of human trafficking. The task involves more than just memorizing essential facts and statistics. We must pause and think about what we have just read. Only then will we truly grasp the horror that human trafficking represents.

This chapter identified many resources that readers can use to build a good foundation for what could easily be a lifelong study. We just need to remember that reading a book or registering for a free newsletter will not suffice. As Dale Carnegie once observed, “Knowledge isn’t power until it is applied” (Rivera, 2019). Becoming informed is just the first step.

### III. Knowledge is Power: Suggestions for Taking It to the Next Level

*“You want weapons? We're in a library. Books are the best weapon in the world. This room's the greatest arsenal we could have. Arm yourself!” (Davies, n.d.).*

Russell T. Davies

Chapter II outlined several strategies an individual can use to acquire a working knowledge of human trafficking. This chapter is offered to assist those who want to take their understanding to a higher level. The suggested resources include short videos, podcasts, and other materials that will enable anyone interested in learning more to do so in efficient, flexible ways.

#### **Resources for advanced learning regardless of how much time you have**

Many types of educational tools are available to assist motivated activists. Some, such as [Human Trafficking Search](#) (HTS), are comprehensive and far-ranging. HTS is a private foundation that strives to promote creative and innovative solutions to address human trafficking, trauma, poverty, and inequality. It hosts a global resource database on human trafficking and modern-day slavery and publishes original research. “HTS also uses its platform to share the research and initiatives of other trafficking-focused campaigns and organizations. Launched in 2006, the global database has grown to manage thousands of multilingual resources from around the world. HTS strives to deliver everything you need to know about human trafficking in one place. Follow HTS on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn to get notified about new blog posts, key wins in the movement, and issues you should be aware of on modern slavery and every type of human trafficking” (Human Trafficking Search, n.d.).

Human Trafficking Search is likely to feel a bit overwhelming to those who are new to human trafficking. Fortunately, there are several ways to gain valuable insights even when time is limited and regardless of whether an individual prefers to study in a quiet setting or learn while on the go.

#### **Guides and Toolkits**

Guides and toolkits are widely available and easy to use. Professor Annalisa Enrile of the University of Southern California’s Dworak-Peck School of Social Work has written a guide titled [Freedom’s Journey: Understanding Human Trafficking](#). The guide provides “an in-depth look at the areas where trafficking is most prevalent, the forms of exploitation that exist, and the root causes of this epidemic.”

A toolkit is a lengthy brochure with many pictures and relevant links. Students and community activists can download toolkits from several sources at no charge. They make excellent handouts and can be easily shared online. UNICEF, for example, has a four-page End Trafficking Toolkit “designed to help you gain a basic knowledge of human trafficking as it occurs in the United States and around the world. In addition to learning about the problem, you will learn about efforts to fight human trafficking and how you can take action within your community” (Enrile, 2017a).

The [DHS Blue Campaign](#) offers a wide variety of toolkits specifically written for students, faith-based/community groups, and workers in the hospitality and transportation sectors. Toolkits from other sources include the following:



- The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families has prepared a 16-page [WI Youth Sex Trafficking Awareness Partner Toolkit](#). Sections include “6 Things You Can Do, Example of Web or Newsletter Content, Using Hashtags to Engage Online, Campaign Messages, Best Practices, Social Media Platforms, and Online Resources” (Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, 2018).
- The [Anti-Human Trafficking Division of the Houston Office of the Mayor](#) offers a toolkit featuring 24 ready-to-post images with customized messages for both youth and parents/caregivers. The Toolkit includes platform-specific messaging information to support marketing efforts and collaborative partnerships, a campaign information sheet and accompanying calendar, and a partner tracker. The kit also has a datasheet that allows users to enter and summarize data about their impressions, reach, and engagement (City of Houston Mayor’s Office of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence & Love146, n.d).

### **Books**

An advanced course of study should include at least one book. Those with access to a library can borrow the text(s) at no charge. Online booksellers also offer a broad selection of books, many of which can be purchased used at a substantial discount.

Zealous activists might be tempted to purchase several books at one time to launch their new avocation. The risk in doing so is that well-intentioned readers may put the books aside until they are forgotten and ultimately ignored. (There is even a Japanese word, *tsundoku*, that describes a person who owns a large amount of unread literature) (Macdonald, 2014). One practical and enjoyable way to prevent that from happening is to form a book club in which members get together regularly to discuss specific chapters.

There are many outstanding books in the trafficking genre. It is best to take a few minutes to check the reviews, date of publication, and the author’s credentials before making a final selection.

Activists should read at least one book written by a trafficked survivor. Chapter II identified several first-person accounts that warrant consideration.

A few of the many other books worth reading are briefly described below. Additional recommendations appear later in this Chapter in the context of topics that might be of particular interest to some readers.

- An older but classic text with a broader perspective is [Disposable People in the Global Economy](#) by Kevin Bales, one of the world’s top authorities on modern slavery. First published in 1999, [Disposable People](#) “reveals the tragic emergence of a ‘new slavery,’ one intricately linked to the global economy. The new slaves are not a long-term investment, as was true with older forms of slavery, explains Bales. Instead, they are cheap, require little care, and are disposable” (Beall, 2000). Desmond Tutu described the book as [“a well-researched, scholarly and deeply disturbing expose”](#) (Amazon, n.d.-b). An 80-minute documentary, “Slavery: A Global Investigation,” is based on the book and can be watched for free on [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo](#) (Roux, 2017; Free The Slaves, 2012b).

- A more recent (2017) book that may interest some readers is [Ending Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery](#). Dr. Annalisa Enrile, a professor of social work at the University of Southern California, edited this text. “Bringing together conceptual, practice, and advocacy knowledge, [Ending Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery](#) explores the complexities of human trafficking and modern-day slavery through a global perspective. This comprehensive, multidisciplinary text includes a discussion of the root causes and structural issues that continue to plague society, real-life case studies and vignettes, the words of human trafficking survivors, and insights from first responders and anti-trafficking advocates. Each chapter includes a ‘call to action’ to inspire readers to implement a range of strategies designed to disrupt, eradicate, or mitigate human trafficking and modern-day slavery” (Enrile, 2017b).
- Another text that provides important insights is [Hidden in Plain Sight: America’s Slaves of the New Millennium](#) by Dr. Kimberly Mehlman-Orozco. The publisher describes the book as “an intellectually rigorous and emotionally affecting account of modern enslavement” (Kirkus Reviews, 2017). According to one reviewer, “Mehlman-Orozco’s prose is lucid and emotionally stirring. She often illustrates her points with personal anecdotes to paint a picture that transcends statistical analysis” (Kirkus Reviews, 2017).
- [Human Trafficking: A Systemwide Public Safety and Community Approach](#) by Jeffrey Goltz et al. “introduces an applied, systematic approach to human trafficking that covers all aspects of the problem in an informed and well-analyzed social science sense. While most texts on the topic of human trafficking take a social theory, human rights/advocacy, or victimization perspective, few take a pragmatic, ‘applied’ systems-wide approach to human trafficking. It is a compilation of the components of the response to human trafficking by the diverse array of professionals that deal with this problem: investigators, prosecutors, judges, social service professionals, criminal justice professionals, and educational institutions. As such, [Human Trafficking](#) stretches across multiple disciplines. It is intended for multiple audiences within academia, as well as for practitioners in the field” (West Academic SCA, n.d.).
- [Where Were You? A Profile in Modern Slavery](#) by Matthew Friedman invites readers to “enter the world of human trafficking and explore what we can do together to end this global crime. ‘We’re not winning the fight against human slavery. Relying solely on the anti-slavery community around the world to tackle the scourge of modern slavery and the criminals behind it simply is not working. Unless something drastic changes, this trend will continue unabated.’ This book not only reveals the plight of human trafficking victims, but Friedman also offers valuable advice and guidance related to his personal experiences working in the counter-trafficking and development world. He offers valuable lessons for those thinking about entering this field” (Friedman, 2021). Mr. Friedman, the CEO of an organization of Hong Kong-based private sector business leaders who have joined forces to fight human trafficking in Asia, published [Where Were You?](#) in 2021. The author shared a ten-minute overview of his work in a 2015 [TEDx talk](#) (TEDx, 2015b).

## Podcasts

A podcast is an audio file that users can download to hear at their convenience. The median podcast lasts about 40 minutes, but listeners can pause or continue them at any point. While some vendors charge a monthly fee for premium accounts, a vast selection is available at no charge.

Podcasts started becoming popular in 2005 when Apple made more than 3,000 available for free on iTunes. Altogether, authorities estimate that there are now about 700,000 podcasts, a number that increases every day (Sisario, 2019). [In 2018, about 73 million Americans listened to one or more each month](#) (Lee, 2019). One happy user noted, “As a content-obsessed millennial, [I have made podcasts part of my daily routine for years](#). I listen while commuting, cooking, running errands, putting away laundry, washing dishes, or during any relatively mindless activity that can be done while wearing wireless headphones” (Smith, 2019).

Older readers who are unfamiliar with podcasts should invest 10 minutes to read “[A Beginner’s Guide to Getting into Podcasts](#).” The article provides basic information about how to get started and then offers recommendations for finding the right app to keep and organize podcasts. The guide also offers advice in different price ranges for sound-canceling headphones and wireless earbuds. These devices are especially useful when listening to podcasts on trains and buses. Other suggestions include purchasing an inexpensive portable Bluetooth speaker that the user can carry around the house while doing chores (Smith, 2019).

Those seeking recommendations for good podcasts on almost any subject can find them in places such as [Reddit’s podcast subreddit](#), “[Podcasts We Listen To](#),” and the [New York Times Podcast Club](#) (Wiretap Studios, 2008; The New York Times, 2017). Feedspot has a team of more than 25 experts who aim to discover and rank popular blogs, podcasts, and YouTube channels in several niche categories. The Feedspot team has published what it considers to be the “[Top 15 Human Trafficking Podcasts You Must Follow in 2020](#)” (Feedspot Media Database Team, 2022). In January 2022, Feedspot released a list of “the best 15 human trafficking podcasts.”

One of the podcast sources included on the list is Emancipation Nation. Emancipation Nation is an Apple podcast “devoted to helping advocates and those who want to be advocates find ways to competently fight various forms of human trafficking. EN will bring on guests who have been successful and will provide the audience with valuable, practical, best practice information that can be implemented” (Williamson, n.d.-c). [Dr. Celia Williamson](#), who Chapter I cited among the people who have made a difference, hosts the podcasts. The Nation features [more than 145 episodes on a wide variety of trafficking topics](#) (Williamson, n.d.-c).

[Ending Human Trafficking](#) hosts another outstanding website for those seeking relevant podcasts. The Global Center for Women and Justice launched the Ending Human Trafficking podcast in 2011. It passed the 250-podcast milestone ten years later and now has listeners in 148 countries. “Our mantra is ‘Study the Issues. Be a voice. Make a difference.’ We believe that you may say or do the wrong thing if you do not study first. The National Family and Youth Services Clearinghouse has promoted EHT as ‘a good way to get up to speed on human trafficking’. Our audience includes students, community leaders, and even government leaders. EHT listeners come from all corners of the world, and that accomplishes our mission of building a global community that works together to end human exploitation” (Global Center for Women and Justice, n.d.).

Other organizations that have released podcasts about trafficking include:

- The *International Justice Mission*. IJM sponsors [The New Activist](#) podcast. The podcast features conversations with “activists and leaders who are tackling some of the world’s biggest problems” (International Justice Mission, n.d.-g). Podcasts address a wide range of topics, including racial reconciliation, immigration, and veterans in addition to human trafficking. Episodes can be accessed through a variety of podcast apps and websites, including apple podcasts and google podcasts.
- *Freedom Collaborative*. Freedom Collaborative is an online platform that facilitates cross-border cooperation among anti-trafficking service providers in Asia. “We are the largest community of professionals and other activists working to end human trafficking, forced labour, and exploitation globally” (Freedom Collaborative, n.d.-a). The Collaborative publishes a [free weekly newsletter](#) that frequently shares information about new podcasts (Freedom Collaborative, n.d.-b).
- [Freedom United](#). Freedom United sponsors Rethink Freedom, “a podcast dissecting modern slavery around the world with guests on the cutting edge of activism” (Karmali & Gray, n.d.). Rethink Freedom is a fairly new initiative and only had five episodes in July 2022 (Karmali & Gray, n.d.). Others are likely to be added in the future.
- *Trafficking Matters*. The Human Trafficking Institute sponsors [Trafficking Matters](#), a website that puts a spotlight on “trending cases, news, and articles as part of an ongoing effort to gather the latest resources and reports throughout the anti-trafficking community” (Human Trafficking Institute, n.d.-d). The Resource Portal has more than 400 reports that researchers can search by date, resource type, keywords, and organization type. Trafficking Matters recently began developing podcasts as well and had 14 available for download in May 2022 (Human Trafficking Institute, n.d.-d).

The Institute also publishes the [Federal Human Trafficking Report](#) each year. The Institute describes it “as a tool for justice sector professionals, government agencies, and everyday advocates to understand the U.S. federal response to human trafficking and promote improvements. This project is essential to evaluating how well the United States prosecutes suspected traffickers because this massive collection of data is not available anywhere else. We are the only organization to compile statistics from every criminal case since the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 formally made human trafficking a federal crime. Check out the full Report and learn how well the federal justice system in your state is addressing human trafficking” (Human Trafficking Institute, 2021).

### **TED and TEDx Talks**

“[TED Talks](#)” are filmed recordings of presentations that speakers have made since 1990 at annual TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) Conferences (TED, n.d.-a). The TED Talks website has more than 4,000 presentations on nearly every imaginable topic. Each presentation lasts approximately 20 minutes, and transcripts are available for many of them (TED, n.d.-d). Administrators report that the [talks are viewed or listened to more than 3 billion times annually](#) (TED, n.d.-b).

“[TEDx Talks](#)” are similar. TEDx is “a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience” (TED, n.d-c) TED representatives schedule more than 3,000 events annually (TED, n.d.-c).

There are more than a hundred TED and TEDx programs about human trafficking. Topics sometimes overlap (e.g., sex trafficking and child trafficking), so someone with a particular interest should be as specific as possible when searching for content. Those who see a program they consider particularly interesting can search to see if the presenter has written a book or published other pertinent material. People who enjoy the talks should check the websites frequently for new presentations.

### **Specialized Journals**

Academic journals are valuable resources for scholars, students, and others seeking high-quality research. Some peer-reviewed articles can be read for free online, but many journals charge substantial subscription fees. University and community libraries often have or can obtain copies of desired reports at no cost to eligible patrons who make the request.

[JSTOR](#) (short for Journal Storage) is a digital library containing more than 12 million academic journal articles, 85,000 books, and 2 million primary source documents in 75 disciplines. It currently provides full-text searches of almost 2,000 journals. More than 8,000 institutions in more than 160 countries have access to JSTOR. Most access requires a subscription, but some of the site's public domain and open access content is available free of charge (JSTOR, n.d.-a) A search for “human trafficking” in January 2022 yielded more than 55,000 results (JSTOR, n.f.-b). A more specific search (e.g., sex trafficking in Cambodia) would provide a more manageable list of sources to consider.

Journals that focus exclusively on human trafficking include:

- [The Anti-Trafficking Review](#)  
The *Anti-Trafficking Review* “is the first open-access, peer-reviewed journal dedicated to the issue of human trafficking. It explores trafficking in its broader context and intersections with gender, labour, and migration. Each quarterly issue relates to an emerging or overlooked theme in the field of human trafficking. The *Review*’s focus is global in nature, exploring micro and macro levels of anti-trafficking responses and the commonalities, differences, and disconnects in between” (Anti-Trafficking Review, n.d.)
- [Journal of Human Trafficking](#)  
The *Journal of Human Trafficking* “supports the greater understanding of human trafficking by publishing diverse scholarship on all forms of contemporary slavery.” The Journal “seeks applied research, theory, and practice on topics including, but not limited to: Child trafficking, Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), Forced marriage, Organ and tissue extraction, Forced labor and slavery, Involuntary domestic servitude, Debt bondage, Child soldiers, Behavioral and medical consequences of human trafficking, Anti-trafficking policy and legislation, Survivor issues, outcomes, and resources. *Journal of Human Trafficking* welcomes research that contributes to policy development. The Journal also invites scholarship that supports progress towards [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) (UN SDGs): #5

(Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment), #12 (Responsible Production and Consumption), and #16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).” In early 2022, the Journal charged \$103/year for an online subscription. The Journal charged \$117/year for paper subscriptions (Taylor & Francis Online, n.d).

### *Webinars*

A webinar is a web-based video conference that uses the Internet to connect the host with his/her audience. Hosts can show themselves speaking, share films and PowerPoint slides, and invite viewers to ask questions. Webinars are often recorded so that viewers can watch them at their convenience.

Many webinars are free, but some organizations charge a fee to offset expenses. Girls Education and Mentoring Services (GEMS), for example, periodically offers webinars on topics such as “How to Be a Good Ally to Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Domestic Trafficking” for \$49.

Those who want to watch webinars about human trafficking can find them by conducting topical Internet searches and checking the websites of appropriate nonprofit organizations. Many organizations send announcements of upcoming webinars and events to everyone on their mailing list. Four of the many sources for relevant webinars are listed below.

- [\*National Human Trafficking Hotline and U.S Department of Health and Human Services\*](#)  
This website includes links to webinars that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Anti-Human Trafficking in Persons Division began hosting in 2007. Categories include Combating Human Trafficking, Minors and Runaway & Homeless Youth, Outreach, and Victim Identification and Assistance (National Human Trafficking Hotline, n.d.-d).
- [\*Freedom Collaborative\*](#) offers webinars that “bring together experts and practitioners working on front lines around the world to share their experiences and insights. Discussions range from trends and developments in anti-human trafficking to programmatic advice, available resources for organizations, and industry conversations” (Freedom Collaborative, n.d.-c).
- [\*The Online Training Initiative to Address Human Trafficking\*](#) has a library of about 20 free webinars on topics such as the root causes of trafficking, leveraging digital technologies in the fight to end human trafficking, and how to build a transitional house. Other webinars address human trafficking from the perspectives of survivors, the law, law enforcement, and health care (MCIS Language Solutions, n.d.).
- [\*Assent\*](#) “helps companies by providing transparency, traceability, and a real understanding of their supply chain data so they can protect their brands, remove market access barriers, and reduce operational and financial risk. Assent offers a variety of webinars, some of which focus specifically on human trafficking in supply chains. If you are unable to attend a live webinar, you can still register and receive a copy of the slides and recording” (Assent, n.d.-b).



### *Annual reports*

Nonprofit organizations almost always publish free annual reports. The reports typically provide data about existing initiatives and describe programs that officials plan to launch soon. Many reports also feature case histories about survivors the organization helped during the reporting period. [Polaris' 2020 report](#) is an interesting example.

There are at least three reports that warrant special attention:

- The U.S. State Department issues an annual *Trafficking in Persons Report* about world trafficking trends and American policy. The [2021 report](#) has about 60 pages of background material and another 400 pages that describe and assess the anti-trafficking efforts of every country in the world (U.S. Department of State, 2021).
- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime publishes the [Global Report on Trafficking in Persons](#) every two years. The report uses data from 148 countries to identify patterns of human trafficking at global, regional, and national levels (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2020a).
- The [United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking Annual Report](#) is prepared by a group of “eight survivor leaders who bring their expertise and experience to advise and provide recommendations to the President’s Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons to improve federal anti-trafficking policies” (Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2020). The report is relatively brief, but it includes important policy recommendations from the Underserved Population Committee and the Survivor-Informed Leadership Committee (Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2020).

### *Special Reports*

Several government agencies periodically release special reports that will interest many anti-trafficking activists. One example that Chapter II mentioned is the Justice Department’s 2022 [National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking](#).

The authors of grant-funded initiatives publish summaries of their work in scholarly journals but do not always disseminate the final report in readily available ways. Similarly, nonprofit organizations may issue press releases that summarize the principal findings of their research, but the releases seldom provide the level of detail that some readers will want. The best place to locate a complete report is often the website of the organization that wrote or funded it. The Polaris Project, for example, conducted groundbreaking research in 2017 to develop a [Typology on Modern Slavery](#) (Polaris, 2017). Activists can access the Typology and other interesting reports through the Polaris website.

### *Documentaries and Filmed News Stories*

Many outstanding documentaries about human trafficking can be viewed for free or purchased online. Those interested will be able to find the films through Internet searches and by checking sources such as [Frontline](#) and the CNN [Freedom Project](#). Two examples of documentaries worth seeing are described below.

- [\*When the Moon is Dark\*](#) is a documentary that film Director Anja Dalhoff spent several years producing. “This is the first time a Danish documentary shows the increasing problem of trafficking of Nigerian women to Denmark. From Copenhagen (it could have been any city in Europe) to Lagos in Nigeria, Joy and Anna tell their horrifying stories, revealing the suffering endured by many victims of trafficking. They were forced into prostitution by violence, constantly threatened by unscrupulous criminal networks, and systematically treated as criminals instead of victims by the social authorities” (LaStrada International, n.d). The film also shows the many challenges that trafficked survivors face even when they can return home.
- [\*Sands of Silence: Waves of Courage\*](#) “shares the 15-year quest of world-reporter Chelo Alvarez-Stehle as she exposes the underworld of sexual exploitation and trafficking from Asia to the Americas. Her journey leads to the windswept beach where her childhood ended, and family secrets began. She first documents the transformation of sex-trafficking survivor Virginia Isaias — a Mexican American woman whose past is engulfed in a cycle of sexual exploitation — into an inspiring advocate committed to breaking that pattern. Chelo then undertakes a parallel journey of healing and introspection and sets out to shatter the silence about sexual abuse in her own life” (Sands of Silence, n.d). Those interested can rent or purchase the documentary at [the film’s official website](#).

Many documentaries, including those that must be purchased or rented, are available at no charge through colleges and libraries that subscribe to services such as [Academic Video Online](#) (Avon) and [Kanopy](#). Avon has 70,000 titles and claims to be the most comprehensive video subscription available to libraries (Alexander Street, n.d). Kanopy “partners with public libraries and universities to bring you ad-free films and series that can be enjoyed on your TV, mobile phone, tablet, and online. If you are a member of a participating public library, you can start watching by signing up with a valid public library card number and PIN/password. If you are a currently registered student or faculty member of a participating college university, you can start watching by signing up with a valid university login” (Kanopy, n.d.). Those who wish to take advantage of these resources should encourage their library or college to subscribe if they do not already do so.

### **Short Videos**

People who only have time to watch short videos (30 minutes or less) will find a vast selection on the Internet. This chapter recommends several of them in the section titled “A small sample of topics and sources to consider.”

The field of human trafficking is so broad that even well-informed activists can learn a great deal from these films. The videos are also valuable educational tools that teachers can incorporate into their history or social studies classes.

### **Discussion Groups**

Activists can form discussion groups with local friends and colleagues or join an online group such as [The Abolitionist Book Club](#). The club is “for everyone who wants to see the end of human trafficking” (Michael, 2020). The group’s founder, Glen Michael Miles, has a long record developing successful projects to research, analyze and support at-risk and exploited youth from impoverished neighborhoods around the world. Topics that club members have discussed in the past include

grooming for sexual abuse and exploitation, trauma-based care, and International Child Safeguarding Standards. Dr. Miles invites those with ideas for future meetings to let him know (Michael, 2020).

## **Online courses**

Those with the time to take a more structured approach to their study should consider taking an online course. Courses that are taught synchronously allow the instructor and the students to engage directly. They also enable students to ask questions and interact with others taking the course. Asynchronous courses do not offer the same kind of personal connection. They do, however, allow students to proceed at their own pace and at times that are convenient for them. Chapter II recommended a good introductory-level online course that requires less than 20 hours to complete.

Students of human trafficking can take many online courses for free. The National Human Trafficking Hotline, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, offers an outstanding selection in addition to the webinars mentioned earlier. The website has more than [50 online courses](#) on human trafficking, sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and child trafficking. Some courses are available in Spanish and French (National Human Trafficking Hotline, n.d.-d)

Sources that offer a more limited selection include the following:

- [CSR \(Catholic Relief Services\) University](#) sponsors a course with seven modules that address different aspects of human trafficking. Each module includes reading, videos, discussion questions, and field-based case studies (CRS University, n.d-b).c
- The Global Labour University, a network of trade unions, universities, and the International Labour Organization, has developed a free online course about [International Labour Standards: How to use them](#). “The course offers a mix of video lectures, readings, discussion questions, and self-learning options to provide students with the knowledge and practical skills for using International Labour Standards to promote and defend worker’s rights worldwide. Those who complete the course or quiz exam may purchase a Certificate of Participation or Certificate of Accomplishment for less than \$60. Scholarships are available” (Global Labour University & International Labour Organization, n.d.).
- Open Culture offers more than 1,500 free courses from some of the world's top universities and more than a thousand [Massive Open Online Courses \(MOOCs\)](#) (Open Culture, n.d.). Open Culture had very little material about human trafficking while the author was conducting research for this Guide, but the site might be worth checking periodically in the future.

Some individuals may prefer to pursue a remote course of study in a more thorough, systematic way. Vanguard University offers one such option. Vanguard is a private liberal arts Christian university that offers an online [Anti-Human Trafficking Certificate](#). “Taught by practitioner-experts in the subject matter, these 13 courses provide novices and professionals with the knowledge to identify roles, promising practices, and strengthen community efforts to combat all aspects of human trafficking and exploitation” (Vanguard University, n.d.). Two courses, Human Trafficking, and Ethics & Human Trafficking, are required. Students then choose two courses from the remaining 11 to complete the certificate requirements (Vanguard University, n.d).

## Developing your own course of study

Both in-person and online courses can be very informative. The most rewarding long-term strategy, however, might be to develop a curriculum focusing on the topics with the most personal interest. The focus can be on a particular type of trafficking, trafficking within a specific industry or country, or any number of other themes. Some activists, for example, might want to learn about coerced labor practices in Asia and Eastern Europe. Others might prefer to study organ trafficking. Social workers will probably find it helpful to acquire skills they can use to assist survivors more effectively. Developing a personal plan with specific learning objectives and a loose timetable for getting everything done is a powerful and effective way to move forward.

### A word of caution

Those who design their own curriculum need to select their sources very carefully. As previously noted, Hollywood films about human trafficking are often unrealistic and misleading. Documentaries made for television programs can also be sensationalistic and scripted in ways that entertain more than inform. Even data from seemingly credible organizations can be problematic. Well-intentioned activists do not help the cause if they repeat information that reinforces common but incorrect stereotypes.

Someone unfamiliar with the literature may also be unaware that some prominent people in the field built their reputations on false claims of having been trafficked. One is [Somaly Mam](#), a Cambodian woman who began working against sex trafficking in 1996. She wrote an autobiography, established the Somaly Mam Foundation, appeared on major television programs, and spoke at several international events about her work. The [Cambodia Daily](#) alleged in 2012 that Ms. Mam lied about her background. [Newsweek](#) ran a cover story in May 2014, which also claimed that she had fabricated stories of abuse about herself and others. Ms. Mam subsequently resigned from the position she held at her foundation, and the foundation ceased operating five months after the Newsweek expose (“Somaly Mam”, 2022)

Similar allegations have been made against [Chong Kim](#), whose story of slavery and survival has received extensive publicity worldwide. Ms. Kim’s claim that she was kidnapped and sold into a domestic human trafficking ring in the mid-1990s inspired the 2012 film [Eden \(Abduction of Eden\)](#). The film was a *New York Times* Critics' Pick, and a reviewer for the *Village Voice* wrote that Eden “is a powerful addition to the small collection of films dedicated to spreading awareness of this horrific crime” (“Eden (2012 film),” 2022). Ms. Kim continues to speak widely about her experiences, but [private investigators concluded in 2014 that they had "found no truth to her story"](#). In fact, we found a lot of fraud, lies, and most horrifically, capitalizing and making money on an issue that so many people are suffering from" (Breaking Out Corps, 2014). The investigators accused Ms. Kim of defrauding several organizations and reported that a court had ordered her to pay \$15,000 to a human trafficking victim and activist in Minnesota (Breaking Out Corps, 2020).

Allegations of fraud aside, one can find conflicting information about human trafficking even in peer-reviewed articles. Those who develop their own course of study should make a conscious effort to read critically and incorporate information from several sources.

## **A small sample of topics and sources to consider**

Eleven illustrative topics and several resources for studying each appear below. It is important to note that the categories often overlap. A film about boys forced to work on cocoa farms in Africa, for example, would fit equally well in the sections about “major types of trafficking in different parts of the world,” “children,” and “trafficking that puts food on your table.”

The list of subjects is by no means complete. It is only meant to give people new to the field a small sample of the many issues that are related to this far-reaching criminal practice. Students can also use this section to identify interesting topics for research papers.

The suggested resources offer a blend of books, videos, webinars, and TED Talks to make the learning process as enjoyable as possible and to give the reader a sense of what is available. Watching videos from several topical areas will also enable viewers to learn about a variety of issues very quickly.

### ***Human trafficking: History and major concepts***

Human trafficking has many moving parts. Consequently, it will be helpful to understand the big picture before specializing in a particular area. As previously noted, reading a textbook such as [Human Trafficking, A Comprehensive Exploration of Modern Day Slavery](#) by Stickle, Hickman, and White can establish an excellent foundation for those who are new to this topic (Stickle, Hickman, & White, 2019). Other valuable sources appear below.

- [The Great Silent Army of Abolitionism](#) (1998)  
Julie Jeffrey  
Runner-up, First Frederick Douglass Book Prize and a 1999 *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title  
“By focusing on male leaders of the abolitionist movement, historians have often overlooked the great grassroots army of women who also fought to eliminate slavery. Here, Julie Roy Jeffrey explores the involvement of ordinary women--black and white--in the most significant reform movement prior to the Civil War. She offers a complex and compelling portrait of antebellum women's activism, tracing its changing contours over time. For more than three decades, women raised money, carried petitions, created propaganda, sponsored lecture series, circulated newspapers, supported third-party movements, became public lecturers, and assisted fugitive slaves. Indeed, Jeffrey says, theirs was the day-to-day work that helped keep abolitionism alive. Drawing from letters, diaries, and institutional records, she uses the words of ordinary women to illuminate the meaning of abolitionism in their lives, the rewards and challenges that their commitment provided, and the anguished personal and public steps that abolitionism sometimes demanded they take. Whatever their position on women's rights," argues Jeffrey, their abolitionist activism was a radical step that challenged the political and social status quo as well as conventional gender norms" (University of North Carolina Press, 2016).

- [Human Bondage and Abolition](#) (2018)  
Elizabeth Swanson and James Stewart, editors  
“Slavery's expansion across the globe often escapes notice because it operates as an underground criminal enterprise rather than a legal institution. In this volume, Elizabeth Swanson and James Brewer Stewart bring together scholars from across disciplines to address and expose the roots of modern-day slavery from a historical perspective as a means of supporting activist efforts to fight it in the present. They trace modern slavery to its many sources, examining how it is sustained and how today's abolitionists might benefit by understanding their predecessors' successes and failures. Using scholarship also intended as activism, the volume's authors analyze how the history of African American enslavement might illuminate or obscure the understanding of slavery today and show how the legacies of earlier forms of slavery have shaped human bondage and social relations in the twenty-first century.” World authority Dr. Kevin Bales describes the book as ‘expansive yet detailed, rich with discovery, this is slavery scholarship at its best’” (Cambridge University Press, 2018).
- [The Racial Roots of Human Trafficking](#) (2015)  
Cheryl Nelson Butler  
This article from the UCLA Law Review “explores the role of race in the prostitution and sex trafficking of people of color, particularly minority youth, and the evolving legal and social responses in the United States. The article argues that race and racism have played a role in creating the epidemic of sex trafficking in the United States and have undermined effective legal and policy responses. Race intersects with other forms of subordination, including gender, class, and age, to push people of color disproportionately into prostitution and keep them trapped in the commercial sex industry. Moreover, today’s antitrafficking movement has failed to understand and address the racial contours of domestic sex trafficking in the United States. It even perpetuates the racial myths that undermine the proper identification of minority youth as sex trafficking victims” (Butler, 2015).
- [Traces of the Trade](#) (2008)  
This film has five episodes, each lasting about an hour. The first episode costs \$7.50 to rent or \$15 to purchase if the viewer intends to use it for personal use. The [Trailer](#) provides a preview.  
  
“Producer/Director Katrina Browne tells the story of her forefathers, the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. Given the myth that the South is solely responsible for slavery, viewers will be surprised to learn that Browne’s ancestors were Northerners. The film follows Browne and nine fellow family members on a remarkable journey which brings them face-to-face with the history and legacy of New England’s hidden enterprise” (Mullen, Camara, & Handcranked Productions, 2013).
- [The Cause and Consequence of Human Trafficking: Human Rights Violations](#) (2019)  
Jacquelyn Meshelemiah and Raven Lynch  
The authors of this e-book are both social workers who “have written this book to educate the reader about human trafficking and human rights violations from multiple lenses” (Meshelemiah & Lynch, n.d., p.1). The book has six sections: Introduction to Human Trafficking, Sex Trafficking, Labor Trafficking, Various Forms of Human



Trafficking, Action, and Resources. The sections contain chapters that include an abstract, learning objectives, key words, definitions, content on a specific aspect of trafficking, images, interactive quiz items, a case study, a summary, and supplemental learning materials. “Each chapter is intended to educate the reader, engage the reader and equip you with the tools (information, steps, etc.) to do something. ‘Doing something’ will look different from person to person, but this book is a call to action. We all can do something. As you read through this book, you will start to realize what you are able to do” (Meshelemiah & Lynch, n.d., p.1).

- [Human Trafficking: Applying Research, Theory, and Case Studies](#) (2018)  
Noël Bridget Busch-Armendariz, Maura Nsonwu, and Laurie Cook Heffron  
“This practical, interdisciplinary text draws from empirically grounded scholarship, survivor-centered practices, and an ecological perspective to help readers understand the meaning and scope of human trafficking. Throughout the book, the authors address the specific vulnerabilities of human trafficking victims, their medical-psycho-social needs, and issues related to direct service delivery. They also address the identification of human trafficking crimes, traffickers, and the impact of this crime on the global economy. Using detailed case studies to illuminate real situations, the book covers national and international anti-trafficking policies, prevention and intervention strategies, and promising practices to combat human trafficking. It also covers responses of law enforcement and service providers, organizational challenges, and the cost of trafficking to human wellbeing” (Busch-Armendariz, Nsonwu, & Heffron, 2018).
- [The Storm Makers](#) (2014)  
55 minutes  
“*The Storm Makers* is a chilling exposé of Cambodia's human trafficking underworld and an eye-opening look at the complex cycle of poverty, despair, and greed that fuels this brutal modern slave trade. More than half a million Cambodians work abroad, and a staggering third of them have been sold as slaves. Most are young women, held prisoner and forced to work in horrific conditions, sometimes as prostitutes, in Malaysia, Thailand, and Taiwan. The film tells its story from the perspective of a former slave whose return home is greeted with bitterness and scorn by her mother; a successful trafficker (known in Cambodia as a “storm maker” for the havoc he and his cohorts wreak) who works with local recruiters to funnel a steady stream of poor and illiterate young people across borders; and a mother who has sold to the recruiter not only local girls but also her own daughter. The film explores the political and economic roots of human trafficking as well as the moral choices being made by those on both sides of the equation. Asks Suon: ‘Would you sell your neighbor or even your child to a trafficking network in order to save your family? Which one of your children would you sacrifice?’ What becomes of your humanity once you decide to exploit another human being for profit?” (Otto, 2017). Readers can watch the [Trailer](#) by clicking on the hyperlink.

- [Human Trafficking-21<sup>st</sup> Century Slavery](#) (2012)  
Faridoun Hemani (TEDx)  
18 minutes  
“Faridoun Hemani is a broadcast journalist and founder of the independent production company Linx Productions. In 2010, Faridoun co-produced a 6-part series on Human Trafficking that aired on BBC World Television. The series was supported and funded by End Human Trafficking Now, a Geneva-based organization that encourages businesses to take an active role to stem this modern form of slavery” (TEDX, 2012e).

### **Major types of trafficking in different parts of the world**

There are many types of human trafficking. The underlying causes and characteristics are often similar worldwide, but the traffickers and the strategies they use can differ widely. The resources in this section provide an overview of global trafficking practices.

#### **Slavery and forced labor**

- [Modern Slavery: An exploration of its root causes and the human toll](#)  
Council on Foreign Relations  
Modern Slavery is a short but very informative InfoGuide. It blends text with short video clips to describe several types of slavery that are still exploiting people in many countries (Albert, n.d.).
- [The Slave Next Door](#) (2009)  
Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter  
“In this riveting book, authors and authorities on modern slavery Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter expose the disturbing phenomenon of human trafficking and slavery that exists now in the United States. In The Slave Next Door, we find that these horrific human rights violations are all around us; people sold into slavery are often hidden in plain sight: the dishwasher in the kitchen of the neighborhood restaurant, the kids on the corner selling cheap trinkets, the man sweeping the floor of the local department store. In these pages, we also meet some unexpected modern-day slave owners, such as a 27-year-old middle-class Texas housewife currently serving a life sentence for offenses including slavery. Weaving together a wealth of voices—from slaves, slaveholders, and traffickers as well as from experts, counselors, law enforcement officers, rescue and support groups, and community leaders—this book is also a call to action. It tells us what we, as private citizens and political activists, can do to raise community awareness, hold politicians accountable, and finally bring an end to this horrific and traumatic crime” (Bales & Soodalter, 2010).
- [Labor Trafficking](#)  
Florida State University  
This toolkit provides a concise overview of labor trafficking in the United States. Brief sections describe typical victims, the perpetrators, common sites of labor trafficking, recruitment strategies, and control tactics (The National Prevention Toolkit, n.d.).

- [Photos That Bear Witness to Modern Slavery](#) (2012)  
19 minutes  
“Photographer Lisa Kristine travels the world documenting the unbearably harsh realities of modern-day slavery. In this TED talk, she shares hauntingly beautiful images -- miners in the Congo, bricklayers in Nepal -- that illuminate the plight of the 27 million souls enslaved worldwide” (Kristine, 2012).
- [Trafficked in America](#) (2018)  
55 minutes  
“FRONTLINE and the Investigative Reporting Program at U.C. Berkeley tell the inside story of Guatemalan teens who were forced to work against their will on an Ohio egg farm in 2014” (U.C Berkeley, 2018).
- [Seafood from Slaves](#) (2016)  
Associated Press  
“Over the course of 18 months, Associated Press journalists located men held in cages, tracked ships, and stalked refrigerated trucks to expose the abusive practices of the fishing industry in Southeast Asia. The reporters’ dogged effort led to the release of more than 2,000 slaves and traced the seafood they caught to supermarkets and pet food providers across the U.S. AP won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for doing this investigation. The articles are presented here in their entirety” (Associated Press, 2016).
- [A Woman Captured](#) (2017)  
89 minutes  
“This traumatic documentary about a Hungarian woman forced into domestic servitude is an outstanding example of how filmmaking can make a difference. It’s rarely possible to make a documentary in the open about someone being worked as a slave rather than having to work undercover to expose it. However, in one of the boldest investigative stories of recent years, Hungarian filmmaker Bernadett Tuza-Ritter’s shocking film shows the exhaustion of being entrapped as a slave and what it takes to get out of it. The bravery in front of and behind the camera deserves high praise. Marish, the captured woman of the title, has been an unpaid domestic worker for ten years. Aged 53 but looking at least 25 years older, Marish has been separated from her family and friends and stripped of her possessions and dignity. Psychologically broken, she is all facial lines, skinny bones, painful body, and utter resignation when we first meet her. But in the 18 months that Tuza-Ritter follows her, her confidence grows, and her awareness of the brutality of Eta and her family becomes stronger and more intolerable” (Éclipse Film, 2017)
- [Saving Russia’s Brick Slaves: We’re Taking Them Home](#) (2017)  
12 minutes  
“Thousands of Russia’s most vulnerable men and women are taken from cities every year and driven to the remote republic of Dagestan, where they are enslaved in rural brick factories or farms. This film shows the efforts of two anti-slavery activists who risk their lives trying to help these people escape” (The Guardian, 2017).

- [The Dark Secret Behind Your Favorite Makeup Products](#) (2019)  
19 minutes  
“Lexy Lebsack explores the unethically sourced ingredient that's in almost all makeup products. She travels to the mica mines in India to uncover the truth about child labor rings behind this mineral. Watch to see what really goes into making your makeup!” (Refinery29, 2019).
- [Argentina: Cross Border Trafficking – Latin America Investigates](#) (2016)  
25 minutes  
“Thousands of people are trafficked across unguarded parts of the border between Argentina and Bolivia each year to work in textile factories, brothels, and agriculture. The film's producers went undercover to explore this practice and see how traffickers obtain false papers for minors” (Al Jazeera English, 2016b).
- [Unchained: The Scourge of Human Trafficking](#) (2020)  
27 minutes  
“Millions of human trafficking victims are hidden in plain sight. Traffickers coerce their victims into forced labor and prostitution. Great Decisions shares the untold stories of trafficking survivors” (Foreign Policy Association, 2020)
- [Slaves of Dubai](#) (2012)  
15 minutes  
“This webinar exposes a particularly harsh form of slavery/bonded labor. The problem begins when people in Asia borrow money to pay agents who promise lucrative construction jobs in the Middle East. After arriving, the immigrants are forced to work in extreme heat without pay and to live in appalling conditions” (VICE, 2012).
- [Invisible Chains: Bonded Labor in India’s Brick Kilns](#) (2017)  
12 minutes  
“This film shows workers who do exhausting labor in hot and very difficult conditions. The people are routinely exploited, and the woman and children who work in the kilns are seldom paid at all” (Anti-Slavery International, 2017).

### Sex trafficking

- [Sex, Slavery and the Trafficked Woman](#) (2017)  
Ramona Vijeyaras  
“[Sex, Slavery and the Trafficked Woman](#) is a go-to text for readers who seek a comprehensive overview of the meaning of human trafficking and current debates and perspectives on the issue. It presents a more nuanced understanding of human trafficking and its victims by examining - and challenging - the conventional assumptions that sit at the heart of mainstream approaches to the topic.

A pioneering study, the arguments made in this book are primarily drawn from the author’s fieldwork in Ukraine, Vietnam, and Ghana. The author demonstrates how a law enforcement and criminal justice-oriented approach to trafficking has developed at the expense of a migration and human rights perspective. She highlights the importance of viewing trafficking within a broad spectrum of migratory movement.

The author contests the coerced female victim archetype as stereotypical and challenges the reader to understand trafficking in an alternative manner, introducing the counterintuitive concept of the 'voluntary victim.' Overall, this text provides readers of migration and development, gender studies, women's rights, and international law a comprehensive and multidisciplinary analysis of the concept of trafficking" (Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, n.d.).

### United States

- [Sex Trafficking in the United States: Theory, Research, Policy, and Practice](#) (2016)  
Andrea Nichols  
"Nichols meticulously organizes the text, providing an accessible path for readers with varying levels of knowledge regarding sex trafficking. Each chapter builds on the theories and definitions presented before, culminating in a call to action in the final chapter. Nichols provides discussion questions to synthesize major themes at the end of each chapter. This is incredibly useful for both academics seeking to use the text in a classroom setting and students or individuals outside of academia seeking to understand these concepts. These questions highlight essential definitions (such as the legal distinctions between trafficking and other forms of violence); challenging theoretical or moral conversations (such as the power dynamics involved in commercial sex); or personal reflections (such as the reader's own ideas for outreach programming on sex trafficking identification)" (Schwarz, 2017).
- [Sex Trafficking in the U.S.: Young Lives, Insane Profit](#) (2016)  
Yolanda Schlabach (TEDx)  
15 minutes  
"Yolanda Schlabach is a registered nurse and a member of Delaware's Human Trafficking Coordinating Council and Co-Chair of the Victim Services Committee. For the past few years, she has engaged in public awareness and professional education to bring the reality of human trafficking to the forefront in Delaware. This talk is eye-opening and heartbreaking. Yolanda Schlabach shows the reality of sex trafficking in the State of Delaware, a terribly unrecognized and under-prosecuted state of affairs. She guides us through the process by which girls are trapped and eventually lose their independent identity" (TEDx, 2016d).
- [Gridshock](#) (2019)  
60 minutes ([Trailer](#))  
A personal license to see the film costs \$10. An educational license that allows the owner to show the movie to others sells for \$325.  
"Vanessa McNeal, a filmmaker and survivor of sexual violence, sets out to explore the often-overlooked reality about why the sex trafficking industry thrives. The truth is that sex trafficking wouldn't exist without the unquenchable thirst and demand for it. On the quest to learn more, Vanessa discovers who the johns/buyers are and why there is a culture of impunity that hides and protects them. In this riveting and truly disturbing documentary, what you think you know about sex trafficking will be challenged. What is hidden will come to light, even in a midwestern state like Iowa. The film features survivors of sex trafficking, local and federal law enforcement,

advocates, politicians, and a recovering sex addict” (McNeal Media Production, n.d.). Ms. McNeil has also presented a [2018 TEDx talk](#) about her film (TEDx, 2018b).

- [I Was Sex Trafficked for Years. Brothels are Hidden in Plain Sight.](#) (2020)  
Cassandra Diamond (TEDx)  
17 minutes  
“Sex trafficking may be happening behind the walls of businesses you pass daily - including some of the massage parlors and holistic centers in your community. Casandra Diamond shares a harrowing story of her experience inside these modern-day brothels. In this raw and honest talk, learn about the systemic issues that enable businesses to operate in plain sight and how you can help to advocate for change” (TEDx, 2020).
- [Invisible: A Fight to End Human Trafficking Documentary](#) (2020)  
29 minutes  
“Human trafficking is a global issue that includes our own cities. Visit [Place of Hope’s website](#) to see what Place of Hope (Florida) is doing and other educational videos. Discover how you can do your part to protect family, friends, and the community by seeing the invisible” (Place of Hope PBG, 2020).
- [Tricked](#) (2013)  
75 minutes  
iTunes rents this film for \$3.99 and sells it for \$14.99.  
“This film documents human sex trafficking and its presence within the United States from the perspectives of the victims involved in sex trafficking, the ‘johns’ who pay for the sex, and the pimps responsible for instigating the illegal business. In addition to the various people interviewed in this documentary, the film follows law enforcement agencies and their efforts to crack down on this illegal enterprise. The film is meant to educate people on trafficking and help them understand and spot the scouting and manipulating techniques commonly used by traffickers. Filming for *Tricked* took place in New York City, Las Vegas, Denver, Chicago, and Washington D.C” (iTunes Preview, n.d).

### Asia

- [Bangladesh’s Biggest Brothel](#) (2017)  
25 minutes  
“The biggest brothel in Bangladesh - and possibly the world. The town of Daulatdia is home to 1,500 prostitutes, some as young as ten. In a ramshackle maze of dirty alleyways, women and girls work day and night in tiny cubicles, meeting the men who pour in from the nearby highway. Many prostitutes have always lived there, some were sold into prostitution by their families, and others were abducted from their villages. 101 East goes inside this sprawling brothel to discover how women and their children survive when hope is in short supply” (101 East, 2018).



- [The Day My God Died](#) (2003)

54 minutes

“This film puts a human face on the stories of several Nepalese girls who were forced into the international child sex trade. The industry has formed a pipeline, which starts in the villages of Nepal and feeds a continuous supply of girls to the urban brothels. Recruiters capture them, smugglers transport them, brothel owners enslave them, corrupt police betray them, and men rape and infect them. Everyone in the chain profits except the girls, who pay the price with their lives: 80 percent become infected with HIV. The film also introduces some of the movement's heroes to abolish child sex slavery” (Andrew Levine Productions, 2009).

### Africa

- [Trafficker](#) (2015)

60 minutes

The documentary can be rented on iTunes for \$5 or purchased for \$8. Those interested can also rent or buy the film on Amazon, Google Play, and Vimeo.

“Nigeria is a hub for human trafficking. Victims are transported to 33 countries, mostly as part of the \$100 billion sex trade. The documentary underlines the human costs behind the statistics. ‘For once in my life, I chose to do this,’ says one woman who was taken from Uganda to Denmark, fighting tears. ‘Just let me do it.’ But why? ‘Because I can't get out of it,’ she replies. Like many others, she is coerced using threats to her family back home. Other trafficked women undergo occult 'juju' rituals, which leave them fearing supernatural retribution for disobeying their pimps.

A prospective sex worker's future is bleak. She begins by taking on a large debt, typically \$40-45 000, to be smuggled to a European country: this might take six years to pay off. When she's finally able to send money home, she must continue to suffer abuse at the hands of clients and employers alike. Many prostitutes carry horrific knife wounds, some of which we bear witness to. Yet many end up traffickers themselves - completing the horrific circle of exploitation.

And desperate conditions across Africa ensure a constant supply of women available for trafficking. Some make the choice voluntarily; some are kidnapped; some are sold off as children by their parents. In one of the film's most shocking scenes, a trafficking researcher reports being offered children to take to Europe minutes after her arrival in a rural African village. Each additional child is merely a step on the road to starvation for the poorest families. Trafficked Women offers little hope to offset its darkness. But in opening eyes to what most are blind to, it is an immensely significant film” (JOURNEYMAN.TV., n.d.).

### Latin America

- [Virgins for Sale in Columbia in World's Biggest Brothel](#) (2014)

12 minutes

“This film highlights the sex trade in Medellin, the second-largest city in Columbia. The city became less violent following the death of Pablo Escobar in 1993, but the gangs now sell young virgins to generate additional revenue. The film's director shows

how easy it is for the gangs to seduce and manipulate these girls and interviews mothers who fear for their daughters' safety” (Channel 4 News, 2014).

### Eastern Europe

- [Bought and Sold](#) (2002)  
41 minutes  
“Based on a two-year undercover investigation, ‘Bought and Sold’ documents the illegal trafficking of women for forced prostitution out of Russia and the former Soviet Union and into Europe, Asia, and the U.S. Global Survival Network staff went undercover in meetings with the Russian mafia and in brothels around the world to get an insider’s perspective on how the international trade in women works. This groundbreaking documentary helped catalyze legislative reform on trafficking worldwide and new financial resources to address the problem” (WITNESS, 2012).
- [Lilya 4-Ever](#) (2002)  
1 hour 44 minutes (English subtitles)  
Clicking on the title will connect readers to the trailer.  
“*Lilya 4-ever* is a Swedish-Danish drama film that was released to cinemas in Sweden in 2002. *Lilya 4-ever* is a story of the downward spiral of Lilya, played by Oksana Akinshina, a girl in the former Soviet Union whose mother abandons her to move to the United States. The story is loosely based on the true case of Danguolė Rasalaitė and examines the issue of human trafficking and sexual slavery” (Hugo Cherque, 2015).
- [The Whistleblower](#) (2011)  
1 hour, 52 minutes  
Clicking on the title will connect readers to the trailer.  
“Human trafficking in postwar Bosnia is the grim subject of “The Whistleblower,” a topical political thriller based on true events anchored by a compelling performance from Rachel Weisz. She plays Kathryn Bolkovac, a cop from Lincoln, Neb., whose harrowing experience as a United Nations peacekeeper in Bosnia led to her exposing a network of sex trafficking and internal corruption” (Vinod Swami, 2018).

### Organ trafficking

- [Human Trafficking for the Removal of Organs and Body Parts](#) (2008)  
United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking  
Major chapters of this report address the issues of consent, the actors involved, modus operandi of traffickers, cooperative law enforcement and criminal justice responses, prevention strategies, and victim support and assistance. There are several discussion sections with questions that are ideal for classroom settings (United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, 2008).
- [The Declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism](#) (2008)  
“A Summit Meeting of more than 150 representatives of scientific and medical bodies from around the world, government officials, social scientists, and ethicists, was held in Istanbul in 2008 to address the growing problems of organ sales, transplant tourism,

and trafficking in organ donors in the context of the global shortage of organs. A Steering Committee that met in Dubai in 2007 did the initial preparatory work. The committee's draft declaration was widely circulated and revised based on the comments received. The revised draft was reviewed by working groups in Istanbul and finalized in plenary deliberations.

The Declaration states that all countries need a legal and professional framework to govern organ donation and transplantation activities. Countries are also urged to implement a transparent regulatory oversight system that ensures donor and recipient safety along with the enforcement of standards and prohibitions regarding unethical practices” (*The Declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism*, 2008).

- [Trafficking in Persons for the Purpose of Organ Removal, Assessment Toolkit](#) (2015)  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) convened a group of experts in 2010 to support international efforts to better understand and address the problem of organ trafficking and to identify the tools needed to do so. A second group of experts reviewed their recommendations in 2013. UNODC subsequently developed an assessment toolkit based on these discussions. The first part of the toolkit addresses the context in which trafficking in persons for organ removal can occur, the relevant legislative framework and international guidance, key actors, *modi operandi*, and good practice responses. The second part has specific questionnaires designed to better understand the crime and a more systematic collection of data (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2015).
- [Black Market for Body Parts Spreads Among the Poor in Europe](#) (2012)  
Dan Bilefsky  
This brief article illustrates the desperation that motivates impoverished Europeans to sell their organs. As one person interviewed for the story noted, ‘I will sell my kidney, my liver, or do anything necessary to survive’” (Bilefsky, 2012).
- [The Village of Stolen Kidneys – A True Story](#) (2013)  
9 minutes  
“The Village of Stolen Kidneys shows life in a village in Nepal where many residents have sold their kidneys on the black market. Villagers are tricked into thinking that their kidneys will grow back ‘like a mango in a tree,’ and they seldom receive the money or aftercare that was promised. The money they do receive is soon gone along with their means of survival” (Alanedit, 2013).

### ***What it’s like to be trafficked***

Trafficking impacts people in many ways. Variables include the type of trafficking the person experiences, the length of time trafficked, the individual’s resilience, and the amount of support the person receives when he/she is finally free. This section offers insights from survivors and a psychologist who has spent his career studying trauma.

- [To Plead Our Own Cause: Personal Stories by Today's Slaves](#) (2008)  
Kevin Bales and Zoe Trodd  
“Boys strapped to carpet looms in India, women trafficked into sex slavery across Europe, children born into bondage in Mauritania, and migrants imprisoned at gunpoint in the United States are just a few of the many forms slavery takes in the twenty-first century. There are twenty-seven million enslaved people alive today, more than at any point in history, and they are found on every continent in the world except Antarctica. To Plead Our Own Cause contains ninety-five narratives by slaves and former slaves from around the globe” (Bales & Trodd, 2008).  
  
“Told in the words of slaves themselves, the narratives movingly and eloquently chronicle the horrors of contemporary slavery, the process of becoming free, and the challenges faced by former slaves as they build a life in freedom. An editor's introduction lays out the historical, economic, and political background to modern slavery, the literary tradition of the slave narrative, and various ways we can all help end slavery today. Putting the slave's voice back at the heart of the abolitionist movement, To Plead Our Own Cause gives occasion for both action and hope” (Bales & Trodd, 2008).
- [Human Trafficking Survivor Story: Dellena, California \(2012\)](#)  
Dellena  
14 minutes  
“Dellena is a survivor of sex trafficking in California. In this powerful film, she shares the horrifying story of how she was abused at home while still very young and was subsequently forced to work as a prostitute for several pimps, including her boyfriend's mother. Dellena also discusses the ways that these experiences affected her life and how she recovered” (casjustice, 2012).
- [BBC HARDtalk - Nadia Murad Interviewed by Sarah Montague](#) (2016)  
25 minutes  
“Nadia Murad is an Iraqi Yazidi human rights activist who lives in Germany. In 2014, she was kidnapped from her hometown and trafficked by the Islamic State for three months. Murad is the founder of Nadia's Initiative, an organization dedicated to ‘helping women and children victimized by genocide, mass atrocities, and human trafficking to heal and rebuild their lives and communities.’ In 2018, she and Denis Mukwege jointly received the Nobel Peace Prize for ‘their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.’ She is the first Iraqi and Yazidi to be awarded a Nobel Prize” (Ian O’Reilly, 2016).
- [Human Trafficking: Neurons and Morons](#) (2018)  
Kirby Reutter (TEDx)  
15 minutes  
“Kirby Reutter is a psychologist who specializes in working with traumatized youth, immigrant populations, and survivors of sexual abuse/human trafficking. Kirby's talk explores the psychological impacts on human trafficking victims. He also dives into the physical changes that occur in the brain of these victims and snowballing implications they may have” (TEDx, 2018f).

## *Assisting survivors*

The task of helping trafficked survivors rebuild their lives is complex and multi-faceted. The sources below provide insights into the challenging nature of this endeavor.

- [Human Trafficking: A Literature Review](#) (2018)  
“The purpose of this review is to convey information and ideas on Human Trafficking that accredited scholars and researchers have published in Canada and worldwide over the past ten years. The review relates to the needs of survivors of Human Trafficking. It describes strengths, gaps, and weaknesses of the existing and recommended services and programs designed to help survivors” (Family Services of PEEL- Peel Institute on Violence Prevention, 2018, p. 3).
- [Comprehensive Services for Survivors of Human Trafficking: Findings from Clients in Three Communities](#) (2006)  
“To learn more about the victim services being provided with OVC funding, Urban Institute researchers conducted face-to-face interviews with survivors, case managers, and other key service providers in the three NIJ evaluation sites. The in-depth interviews document victims’ experiences using OVC-funded services and their perceptions of the OVC-funded collaborative networks between service providers. They also provide a unique opportunity to listen directly to the voices of the victims for whom these services are designed and to consider their input in future replications and refinements” (Aron, Zweig, & Newmark, 2006, p. 6).
- [What I’ve Been Through Is Not Who I Am](#) (2011)  
22 minutes  
“The commercial sexual exploitation of children is one of the worst, yet unaddressed, forms of child abuse in the United States. It happens in every city and small town; it traps children of all backgrounds in violence and trauma. In this short documentary, we meet Katrina, whose childhood as a good student in a middle-class home abruptly ends when she is manipulated and sold for sex by a trafficker. Her compelling and emotional story takes us from Atlanta to New York City to Atlanta again, from desperation to recovery and success. Katrina's inspiring story reminds us that victims can become survivors with understanding, opportunity, and support. This documentary brings together a diverse set of experts from juvenile justice, law enforcement, advocates, and services providers to speak about the traumatic effects of commercial sexual exploitation of children. They also share examples of how legislative reform measures and new approaches are helping shift our response from punitive to restorative” (ECPAT USA, 2011).
- [I Am Human, Not Cattle](#) (2016)  
Jennifer Kempton (TEDx)  
10 minutes  
“Jennifer Kempton founded Survivor's Ink, a non-profit organization that provides cover-up tattoos/removals to survivors of human trafficking and connects them with other direct services. A true survivor of human trafficking, Jennifer Kempton uses her experience to promote awareness of the issue and advocate for social change. Her

mission is to empower other survivors and break the psychological chains of enslavement by covering the 'brands' their captors gave them" (TEDx, 2016a).

- [Promising Practices for Shelters Part 1 & 2](#) (2018)  
58 minutes  
“The Promising Practices for Shelters webinar series was initiated as a resource for organizations in the process of setting up a shelter program and to share lessons learned. The first webinar discusses core values to guide approaches to shelter care and practical examples of how these values can be applied. The panelists discuss their practical experiences in managing challenges such as balancing values, protection, safety, working in low-resource environments, and staff management and care. The second webinar focuses on experiences in building effective referral systems, a staffing structure, and a crisis response system. The panelists also discuss their approaches to discipline and boundaries, follow-up and re-integration, measurement of results, and the tools they use” (Freedom Collaborative, 2018b).
- [A Novel Solution to Sex Trafficking](#) (2013)  
Sandy Skelaney (TEDx)  
12 minutes  
“[Sandy Skelaney](#) is an award-winning consultant and nationally recognized anti-trafficking expert who has trained more than 15,000 child welfare and victim services professionals. In this TEDx talk, Ms. Skelaney examines the dynamics of juvenile sex trafficking. She describes her efforts in Miami to develop ‘transformational relationships’ with vulnerable youths to keep them safe from traffickers and develop rewarding lives” (TEDx, 2013c).
- [Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Are Pervasive. What is Your Response?](#) (2019)  
Cynthia Terlouw  
14 minutes (TEDx)  
“Cynthia Terlouw (CeCe) has spent more than 30 years working with troubled teens. Recognizing the lack of housing and services in Minnesota for sex-trafficked women wanting to leave the life, she opened one of the first Safe Harbor programs in Minnesota for sex trafficked and exploited teen girls in 2014” (TEDx, 2019b).

### **Gender and cultural issues**

Many factors that facilitate human trafficking are deeply rooted in cultural practices generally and views toward girls and women in particular. These traditions severely limit girls’ access to education and employment opportunities in much of the world. The customs also collectively contribute to what is known as the “feminization of poverty.”

- [It’s a Girl!](#) (2018)  
64 minutes  
“In India, China, and many other parts of the world today, girls are killed, aborted, and abandoned simply because they are girls. The United Nations estimates that as many as 200 million girls are missing in the world today because of this so-called ‘gendercide.’ Girls who survive infancy are often subject to neglect. Many grow up to face extreme violence and even death at the hands of their husbands or other family



members. The war against girls is rooted in centuries-old tradition and sustained by deeply ingrained cultural dynamics that accelerate the elimination of girls in combination with government policies. Shot on location in India and China, *It's a Girl* asks why this is happening and why so little is being done to save girls and women. The film tells the stories of abandoned and trafficked girls, women who suffer extreme dowry-related violence, brave mothers fighting to save their daughters' lives, and other mothers who would kill for a son. Global experts and grassroots activists put the stories in context and advocate different paths towards change while collectively lamenting the lack of any truly effective action against this injustice" (TEDx, 2013a).

- [Worth of a Girl: Hope and Survival of Child Brides](#) (2019)

26 minutes

“*Worth of A Girl* looks at child marriage around the globe and explores how being a child bride affects girls economically, educationally, and emotionally. In a year-long project, Voice of America interviewed child brides from South and East Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and the Americas, including the United States. Their moving stories, told through their own experiences, vividly highlight life with the families they leave and the ones they join” (VOA News, 2020).

- [Cambodia: The Virginity Trade](#) (2018)

59 minutes

“Many Asian men believe that having sex with a virgin will bring them health and good fortune without the risk of getting AIDS. This perception has resulted in a huge demand for young girls. An individual in Cambodia may have to pay as much as \$1,200 to have sex with a 13-year-old girl. Once her virginity has been taken, the girl is sold to a brothel. This film features interviews with men who explain why sex with virgins is so important to them. There are also interviews with several girls whose lives they have ruined and representatives of organizations trying to help them” (Documentary Channel, 2019).

- [Save My Seoul](#) (2017)

60 minutes

[Trailer](#)

The film can be rented on Amazon Prime for \$3.99 or purchased for \$12.99.

“*Save My Seoul* follows two Korean-American brothers as they discover rampant prostitution and sex trafficking in Seoul, South Korea. With hidden cameras and access to pimps, johns, and sex workers, Eddie and Jason explore and unravel the complexity of the sex trade in Seoul. They learn that this problem is rooted in issues far deeper than lost girls and lustful men. Instead, it’s a consequence of the broken Korean culture that turns a blind eye to and condones one of the biggest human injustices of our generation” (End Slavery Now, n.d.-n).

- [Witness – Kidnapped Brides – Part 1](#) (2009)

10 minutes

“The practice of bride kidnapping has ancient roots in the central Asian republic of Kyrgystan and continues even today. This film shows young men planning such a kidnapping, the encouragement they receive from one of their mothers, and the heartbreak that the practice causes the victims” (Al Jazeera English, 2009).

## Children

Many people do not realize that human trafficking affects children as well as adults. Children are trafficked for both sex and labor throughout the world.

### Child Labor

- [Child Labor, Forced Labor & Human Trafficking](#) (2019)  
“Global estimates from the International Labor Organization (ILO) indicate that 152 million children between 5-17 years old were engaged in child labor in 2017, of which about 73 million were in hazardous labor. Concerted efforts by governments, workers, and employers have resulted in a reduction of nearly 94 million children engaged in child labor since 2000. While this decline has been a significant achievement, there are still far too many children in exploitive work. Child laborers are found carrying heavy loads and wielding machetes on farms; scavenging in garbage dumps and are being exposed to electronic waste; enduring physical, emotional, and verbal abuse as domestic servants; and fighting as child combatants in armed conflict. The ILO also estimates that 25 million people are trapped in forced labor, including over 4 million children. Children and adults are forced to climb into mineshafts in search of diamonds and gold; are coerced, deceived, and confined on fishing vessels by unscrupulous labor recruiters; and are trapped in bonded labor while toiling in the extreme heat of brick kilns” (Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking in the Bureau of International Labor Affairs, 2019).
- [Child Labor Trafficking Literature Review](#) (2016)  
The authors of this brief report (12 pages) reviewed 51 studies about child labor trafficking. The article provides a concise overview of the problem, the characteristics of victims, and relevant domestic/international legislation. The authors also discuss prevention and treatment programs (Department Services Group, Inc., 2016).
- [Child Labour in the Arab Region \(A Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis\)](#) (2019)  
“The Arab region has witnessed a large wave of armed conflicts and population displacement in recent years, believed to have brought with it an upsurge of child labour – the magnitude of which is yet to be fully measured. The impact of armed conflict has exacerbated pre-existing levels of child labour found in rural and urban areas across the Arab region, typically driven by economic vulnerability, poor education, and certain social norms. This report details the main profile and trends of child labour witnessed over the past ten years” (International Labour Organization et al., 2019).
- [Walking Merchandise](#) (2012)  
30 minutes  
“Walking Merchandise tells the story of children who are sent by their families from China to the United States, accompanied only by human smugglers known as ‘snakeheads.’ Following their arrival, they work for years in poor conditions for less than minimum wage to pay off smuggling debts as high as \$100,000. They have no say in their families’ decisions to send them to work and live on their own, thousands of miles away from home.”

- [Child Labour: A Day in the Life](#) (2006)  
15 minutes  
“Many children are taken out of school and put to work for long hours in dangerous conditions to help support their families. Only some of the children are trafficked, but this film demonstrates the sad impact that such labor has on all of the affected children” (Walking Merchandise, 2012).
- [In Bolivia, Legitimizing Child Labor](#) (2015)  
8 minutes  
“This film offers a sensitive portrayal of the laws and customs in Bolivia where children are often taken out of school to work at a very young age so that the family can get enough money to eat” (Meier, 2015).

### Child Sex Trafficking

- [Nameless: A Documentary about Child Sex Trafficking](#) (2019)  
48 minutes  
“*Nameless* is a documentary that addresses child sex trafficking in Washington, DC, and at-large. Through interviews with experts, advocates, and activists, child sex trafficking is reframed as a form of sexual violence that is often made invisible. Child sex trafficking is explored as an issue with deep historical-cultural roots, tackles misperceptions about which populations are most vulnerable to being trafficked, and illuminates systemic gaps in the current treatment of trafficking victims. Featuring 15 interviewees on the frontlines of the issue, *Nameless* mobilizes viewers to recognize and combat child sex trafficking” (Men Can Stop Rape, 2019).
- [The Day My God Died](#) (2003)  
54 minutes  
“*The Day My God Died* is a feature-length documentary that presents the stories of young girls whose lives have been shattered by the child sex trade. They describe the day they were abducted from their village and sold into sexual servitude as ‘The Day My God Died.’ The film provides actual footage from the brothels of Bombay, known even to tourists as ‘The Cages,’ captured with ‘spy camera’ technology. It weaves the stories of girls and their stolen hopes and dreams into an unforgettable examination of the growing plague of child sex slavery. The film also introduces us to several people and organizations that are working to abolish child sex slavery” (Sandoval, 2009).
- [Justice for Child Victims of Sexual Exploitation](#) (2014)  
Jessica Munoz (TEDx)  
“Jessica Munoz is a practicing nurse practitioner on Oahu, Hawaii. She is the President of Ho 'ōla Nā Pua (New Life for our Children), an organization committed to restoring the lives of underage girls rescued from human trafficking. Jessica's research and diverse nursing background with an extensive focus on pediatric trauma has exposed her to the harsh realities of understanding the comprehensive needs of children who experience trauma and the child's need for holistic services and a comprehensive approach to healing, wellness, and restoration” (TEDx, 2014b).

- [Born into Brothels](#) (2004)  
85 minutes  
[Trailer](#)  
Amazon rents this film for \$3.99 and sells it for \$9.99.  
“Documentary photographer Zana Briski journeyed into Calcutta's underworld to photograph the city's prostitutes. In return, she offered to teach the prostitutes' children the basics of photography so that the kids could document their own lives on the streets of one of the world's poorest cities. The resulting photographs, often astonishing, were exhibited around the world. Many of them are seen in this film, which won the Academy Award for the best documentary feature in 2005. The photography is rich in color and subject matter, and the video camera following Briski through the squalid red-light district, pausing to hear abusive mothers and drugged fathers deny their children passage into a better life, captures a world few know”  
[Born Into Brothels: Calcutta's Red Light Kids \(2004\) - Plot Summary - IMDb](#)
- [Children for Sale Documentary film](#) (2018)  
51 minutes  
“This powerful film describes some of the historical and cultural reasons that facilitate the selling of children in Cambodia. The film features several interviews with trafficked children and provides important insights into the family situations that resulted in their being trafficked. The film also interviews people working to stop the trafficking of children there” (Risbo.Rough Smoothy, 2018).
- [I Am Jane Doe](#) (2017)  
99 minutes  
[Trailer](#)  
Vimeo rents the film for \$9.99. Vimeo sells it for \$24.99.  
“This documentary chronicles the legal battle that several American mothers are waging on behalf of their middle-school daughters, who were trafficked for commercial sex on Backpage.com, the classified advertising website formerly owned by the Village Voice. The documentary reveals how, after rescuing their daughters, these mothers filed lawsuits against Backpage. The Jane Doe plaintiffs featured in the film include middle school girls from Boston, a 15-year-old violinist from Seattle, and a precocious 13-year-old girl from St. Louis. The documentary follows the journey of these young girls and their mothers in real-time as they run headlong into a collision course not only with Backpage but with judges, special interest groups, and Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act. This internet freedom law provides a safe haven for website publishers to advertise underage girls for sex” (50EGGS, Inc, 2017).

#### Child Marriage (sex and labor)

- [Too Young to Wed: The Secret World of Child Brides](#) (2011)  
11 minutes  
“Arranged/coerced marriages, especially those involving very young girls, are often considered a form of human trafficking even though the practice is both common and acceptable in many cultures. This film documents the magnitude of the practice and the impact it has on the girls who are forced to get married” (Pulitzer Center, 2011).

- [Child Brides in Nepal](#) (2016)  
7 minutes  
“Nepal has the third-highest rate of child marriage in Asia, with 37 percent of girls marrying before age 18, and 10 percent marrying before the age of 15, even though the minimum age of marriage is 20 under Nepali law. A smaller percentage of boys (an estimated 11 percent) marry before the age of 18. Nepal’s government has taken some action to stop the practice of child marriage, but a long-promised national plan to end child marriage has met with delays. Human Rights Watch research--based on interviews with 104 children and young adults who married as children – documents the economic and social pressures that lead to child marriage and the devastating results of those marriages” (Human Rights Watch, 2016).
- [India's Slave Brides](#) (2016)  
26 minutes  
“Decades of sex selection favoring male babies have left some Indian states with vastly more men than women, creating a lucrative and growing market for traffickers. In the patriarchal and feudal state of Haryana, where there's a shortage of women to marry, it's normal for men to buy young girls trafficked from other states. Known as "paros," a term implying they can be purchased, they are regularly raped, forced into marriages, and made to work as bonded labour. Their uneducated families are often tricked into agreeing to send them away, lured by the idea of a happy marriage for their daughters. But tragically, there is no ‘happily ever after’” (Al Jazeera English, 2016a).
- [I Was Abused as a Child Bride, and This is What I Learned](#) (2017)  
Samra Zafar (TEDx)  
18 minutes  
“Samra Zafar (a citizen of Abu Dhabi who was married to a man living in Canada) was trapped as a child bride in an abusive marriage for over a decade, with no hope of ever finding freedom and opportunities to live with respect. Toronto’s Life magazine featured Samra’s journey of survival in February 2017. Her feature on Yahoo Canada's Facebook page became the page's most-watched video of all time, with more than 6.6 million views. (TEDx, 2017a).

### **Trafficking that puts food on your table**

Most people routinely shop at grocery stores without thinking about where the products or the ingredients used to make them originated. Many of these items have a link to slavery or trafficked labor. Below is a small but illustrative sample of resources that address this problem.

- [Big chocolate’s child labor problem is still far from fixed](#) (2020)  
“As Americans stock up on chocolates for Halloween this month, they might want to consider this grim statistic: About 1.56 million children—many as young as five—are engaged in the back-breaking work of harvesting cocoa for that chocolate in Ivory Coast and Ghana. Those two West African countries supply about 70% of the world’s cocoa beans, the raw ingredient for the bars and treats made by the likes of Hershey, Mars, and Nestlé” (Walt, 2020).

- [Hidden in Plain Sight: Labor Trafficking in Upstate New York](#) (2015)  
14 minutes  
“This clip features two human trafficking specialists who were interviewed by a television station in Rochester, NY. The organization they worked for has been fighting against human trafficking in agriculture for more than 30 years. The program also shows a brief videotape of the living conditions that agricultural workers are often forced to endure” (Hofer & WXXI News, 2015).
- [Ghost Fleet VR - Slavery in the Thai Fishing Industry - 360 virtual reality video](#) (2019)  
9 minutes  
“Official Selection - Sundance Film Festival New Frontier. Ghost Fleet VR is an immersive look at the true story of modern slavery in the Thai fishing industry, told through the experience of one man's harrowing ordeal to escape a prison of water after ten years at sea. It is inspired by the feature documentary Ghost Fleet, which follows a small group of Thai activists who risk their lives to find justice and freedom for enslaved fishermen” (Sea Shepherd Conservation Society).

**Trafficking that makes the clothes you wear**

“Fast fashion isn’t free. Someone, somewhere is paying”  
(Stanton, 2023).  
Lucy Siegle

“[We all wear clothes, so trafficking in fashion affects all of us.](#) We are increasingly disconnected from the people who make our clothing as 97% of items are now made overseas. There are roughly 40 million garment workers in the world today, many of whom do not share the same rights or protections that many people in the West do. They are some of the lowest-paid workers in the world, and roughly 85% of all garment workers are women. The human factor of the garment industry is too big to ignore, as we consistently see the exploitation of cheap labor and the violation of workers’, women’s, and human rights in many developing countries across the world” (The True Cost, n.d.)

- [Made in Bangladesh – The Fifth Estate](#) (2014)  
42 minutes  
The collapse of a garment factory in Rana Plaza, Bangladesh, killed more than 1,100 workers and injured another 2,500 in 2013. “A lot of our clothes bear the label ‘Made in Bangladesh.’ But before the deadly collapse of a garment factory there last April, most of us never thought about the people who make them. After clothes bound for Canada were found in the rubble of Rana Plaza, Canadian companies reacted with surprise - how could such a tragedy happen? The Fifth Estate’s Mark Kelley went to Bangladesh and tracked down workers who say they are still forced to make clothes for Canada in dangerous conditions. Made in Bangladesh won the 2014 International Emmy® Award for Current Affairs programming” (CBC News, 2014).



- [Silk slaves: India's bonded laborers are forced to work to pay off debts](#) (2021)  
23 minutes  
“In India, the average silk worker is paid less than \$3 a day -- small compensation for an industry estimated to be worth more than \$14 billion globally. Part of the workforce is trapped in bonded labor, a form of modern-day slavery in which people work in often terrible conditions to pay off debt” (Pokharel & Page, 2021).
- [Fashion Revolution](#) (2017)  
Each of the three podcasts described below lasts 28 minutes.  
“Have you ever wondered who made my clothes? Or considered what life is like for the people who stitch our garments, what sort of conditions they might be working in, and how much they’re paid? This podcast series hosted by international fashion journalist Tamsin Blanchard explores the hidden stories behind the clothing we wear.
  - The first episode (*Garment Workers’ Voice*) asks us to consider the stories behind what we wear. It introduces an ambitious research project that collects data from garment workers worldwide. It also examines garment workers’ collective voice in effecting change, the obstacles that make unionization a challenge, and the progress being made.
  - Episode 2 (*The Garment Worker Diaries*) unpacks what the garment workers earn and buy, what their working and living conditions are like, and what sorts of things they do to get by on their meager income.
  - The final episode (*Working Together Towards Change*) explores the practical ways local, national, and international players can help bring about global justice for garment workers. Find out how you can get involved in Fashion Revolution and how to make your voice heard in the movement towards a cleaner, safer, fairer, and more transparent fashion industry” (Fashion Revolution, 2017).

### **The use of technology by traffickers and law enforcement**

Technology has transformed the scope and practice of human trafficking. Old-fashioned face-to-face exploitation continues as always, but traffickers now use the Internet, social media, and other related tools to trap far more people than they could have just 20 years ago. All activists should be familiar with the tools that traffickers now use and how society might limit the number of lives that traffickers ruin with modern technology.

- [Testimony Before the United States House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Hearing on The Role of Technology in Countering Trafficking in Persons](#) (2020)  
Anjana Rajan, Chief Technology Officer, Polaris  
“Technology plays a role in almost every aspect of human trafficking, including recruiting victims and carrying out trafficking operations. At the same time, technology can also be used to combat human trafficking, aiding in investigating and prosecuting traffickers and providing services and support to victims and survivors.” Polaris’s CTO Anjana Rajan explained this complex ecosystem at a hearing on technology and trafficking before the House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

“In her testimony, Anjana brought together data and lessons learned from Polaris’s 13 years of operating the National Human Trafficking Hotline and her professional expertise applying cryptography to human rights and national security issues. She emphasized the use of technology as one tool in a broader strategy to change the systems that make people vulnerable to sex and labor trafficking, and the opportunity to use technology to rebalance power back in the hands of victims and survivors” (Polaris, 2020a).

- [Global Emancipation Network](#)

“We strive to be the global clearinghouse for trafficking data worldwide, as well as to facilitate communication and technology-sharing initiatives between the numerous anti-trafficking stakeholders across the globe. Minerva, our multi-tenant data analytics platform, enables secure, individualized data sharing and the easy application of intelligent analytics. We collect our data on trafficking, including text and images, from the open and deep web and work with experts on the dark web like [Recorded Future](#) and [Owl Cybersecurity](#) to gain insight into the traffic on those sites and forums. We’ve gathered thousands of trafficking cases and convictions as well as international legislation. We enrich this data with public records and open web searches through image analysis tools. Most importantly, we make all this data available free of charge to our users, including law enforcement, government agencies, researchers, academia, and anti-trafficking nonprofits so they can combine our data with their own specialized datasets.

Our goal is to empower our users to concentrate on achieving their specific missions without worrying about resources and technology. We need easy, free solutions to make use of all available trafficking data and to join seemingly disparate data points to find connections. We cannot fight the battle against trafficking by standing alone on our own islands. But together, we can find every victim and stop every trafficker” (Global Emancipation Network, n.d.).

- [Traffik Analysis Hub](#)

Global efforts to counter human trafficking are ineffective and fragmented. The recent rise of the internet and technology has made it easy for traffickers to recruit and exploit. “STOP THE TRAFFIK and IBM have created the first-ever global data hub to facilitate the sharing of information about human trafficking across all industries and sectors. Only by working together, by sharing our data safely and enhancing every participant’s ability to deliver, can we make a real and lasting impact on a global scale” (Traffik Analysis Hub, n.d.).

- [Slave markets found on Instagram and other apps](#) (2019)

“This brief article presents key findings of a BBC News undercover investigation. The report identifies several advertisements of domestic workers for sale (“#maidsfortransfer”) that traffickers have posted on Facebook, Instagram, and other apps available from Apple and Google. The article also discusses the efforts that corporations have made to address this problem” (Pinnell & Kelly, 2019).

- [Anti-Trafficking Review](#), No. 14 (2020)  
Issue No. 14 of the [Anti-Trafficking Review](#) explores some of the assumptions people often make about the role of technology in facilitating or preventing human trafficking and the tools that purport to address this serious problem. It concludes that “the factors which most enable and sustain human trafficking, such as lack of decent jobs and social protections, or inhumane labour migration regimes, require political will – not tech solutionist fixes” (Anti-Trafficking Review, 2020).
- [How We Can Eliminate Child Sexual Abuse Material from The Internet](#) (2019)  
Julie Cordua (TED)  
14 minutes  
“[Reported files of abuse content on the open web have exploded by over 15,000% in the past 15 years, tripling between 2017 and 2019 alone.](#) Abusers are adept at exploiting emerging technology to build communities around the harm of children, and to disrupt the growth of those communities requires a coordinated, technology-led response.  
  
In this TED Talk, social entrepreneur Julie Cordua works on a problem that isn't easy to talk about: the sexual abuse of children in images and videos on the internet. At Thorn, she's building technology to connect the dots between the tech industry, law enforcement, and government so we can swiftly end the viral distribution of abuse material and rescue children faster" (Thorn Staff, 2020).
- [Combatting Modern Slavery through Data, Technology, and Partnerships](#) (2018)  
“This report prepared by the Freedom Collaborative is based on five webinars that brought together experts from different sectors including law enforcement, information and technology companies, the financial industry, NGOs, and the fishing industry. The experts share their differing perspectives and professional experiences with data to enhance our ability to keep more people safe from modern slavery. The panelists discuss the data universe and its boundaries, data collection methods, and how to combine disparate sources to utilize emerging technologies to increase impact. The webinars focus on bridging the gaps between industries and sectors and attributes of successful public-private partnerships” (Joyce, Odell, & Jepson, 2018) Those interested can view the [webinars](#) that provided the basis for the report by clicking on the hyperlink.
- [Leveraging Innovation to Fight Trafficking in Human Beings: A Comprehensive Analysis of Technology Tools](#) (2020)  
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe  
“The publication takes stock of technology tools and initiatives developed to combat trafficking in human beings in its different forms in the OSCE area and beyond. It also examines the ways technology can be misused to facilitate trafficking of human beings. It is the first known publication to conduct a global analysis of how different stakeholders, including law enforcement, civil society, businesses, and academia, can utilize technology to advance the fight against human trafficking crime. The publication also provides recommendations to governments and organizations funding technology projects on how to maximize the value of technology-based solutions” (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, 2020).

- [Code 8.7 \(Using Computer Science and AI to End Modern Slavery\) Conference Report \(2019\)](#)  
 “Code 8.7 fosters collaboration between artificial intelligence (AI), computational science, and anti-slavery leaders in the fight against forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking, and child labour in line with the United Nations’ Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Code 8.7 Conference Report summarizes the Code 8.7 two-day conference that took place in February 2019. The meeting was organized by Delta 8.7, The Alan Turing Institute, the Computing Community Consortium, Tech Against Trafficking, the Rights Lab, and the Global Security Initiative at Arizona State University. It brought together the artificial intelligence, machine learning, computational science, and anti-slavery communities.

The report highlights some of the critical conversations that occurred during the two days of the conference. The discussions included how best to combine Big Data and Small Data, the possibilities of information and communications technology (ICT) for survivor self-identification, and the roles of satellite remote sensing, crowd-computing, and open digital maps to visualize slavery locations better. Other topics included the next steps for continued collaboration between the anti-slavery and tech communities” (Alliance 8.7, 2019). [Key takeaways from each session](#) and a [PDF](#) of the symposium are available to anyone interested

- [World paedophile ring busted in sting operation \(2015\)](#)  
 8 minutes  
 “ABC’s Mark Willacy goes inside the covert sting operation that brought down a global paedophile ring, including its South Australian ringleader” (ABC News, 2015). The effort required several years and the cooperation of officials in four countries on three continents (ABC News, 2015).

### **Global crises impacting human trafficking**

Many people who read about natural disasters and other catastrophic events empathize with those affected. Their focus, however, tends to be exclusively on issues such as the suffering or loss of housing. They often don’t realize that human traffickers are quick to take advantage of any crisis that makes people vulnerable and easier to exploit. The resources below describe some of the ways that traffickers make bad situations even worse.

- [Human trafficking risks grow for women, children fleeing Ukraine, says new report \(2022\)](#)  
 “As the war in Ukraine drags on, women and children fleeing the country face a heightened risk of falling victim to human traffickers, a new report released Tuesday has warned. The [report](#), compiled by NGO La Strada International, warns that human trafficking mostly targets women and children, people traveling alone, and stateless or undocumented refugees. As a consequence of this mass displacement of people, an increased number of refugees run the risk of working in the sex industry or in jobs with poor conditions, according to the report” (Gijs, 2022).

- [The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on trafficking in persons and responses to the challenges](#) (2021)  
 “The COVID-19 pandemic has created larger pools of vulnerable persons who, due to their worsened economic situation, were recruited for labor or sexual exploitation in their local area. The report explores the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on (1) the scale and characteristics of trafficking in persons; (2) victims of trafficking; and (3) frontline organizations (law enforcement, prosecution services, the judiciary, and the protection and reintegration services provided by non-government organizations. The report also examines the different initiatives developed in response to the challenges created by COVID-19 and identifies promising practices” (Davy, 2021).
- [The Pandemic’s Hidden Human Trafficking Crisis](#) (2020)  
 “In times of emergency—be it a flood, a drought, a famine, a declaration of war, or a recession—support structures shift and collapse. Communities that were once strong become suddenly weak as people grapple with losing their families, homes, and jobs. For traffickers around the world, each disaster signals a sudden availability of potential prey. But few in the humanitarian sector appear to have anticipated the domino effect of exploitation that top-level experts assert the coronavirus has already kicked off—and that trafficking specialists are now scrambling to prevent across the globe. In interviews with a dozen members of the anti-trafficking community, each questioned whether NGOs on the front lines of the pandemic would be unable to handle an increase in trafficking—largely because most of them had neglected the issue until now” (Redfern, 2020).
- [Human trafficking is a Hidden Aftermath of Natural Disasters](#) (2017)  
 “And think about it in this disaster context: Your life was upended by a hurricane. Maybe you lost your home, your car. But you probably still have your phone. You may still be going online. A Texas nonprofit called Children At Risk recently did a study and found that adult ads on online sites doubled after Hurricane Harvey. Adult ads don’t necessarily equal trafficking. And plenty of people choose to be sex workers. Still, it’s hard not to cringe at the ones that imply sex in exchange for shelter after the hurricane. When everything has been lost, ‘choice’ becomes a vague term” (Garsd, 2017).
- [Dangerous Journeys: Rohingya Refugees in South and Southeast Asia](#) (2019)  
 90 minutes  
 “This audio webinar gives a general introduction to the Rohingya refugee crisis to help us understand what the situation is today. The panel discusses the challenges currently endured by the Rohingya as they attempt to resettle in Bangladesh, India, and Malaysia specifically, and the vulnerability to exploitation by traffickers they face as undocumented migrants in these countries” (Freedom Collaborative, 2019c).
- [In India, Climate Change is Increasing Refugees & Human Trafficking](#) (2020)  
 “Regular flooding and other ecological disasters are not only eroding people's land and livelihoods but the social fabric of these communities too. The dire circumstances force most families to send their young children away to work in factories or in cities. The traffickers take advantage of the situation, pose as job recruiters, or use local unemployed poor men to lure girls away with the false

promise of marriage. Once abducted, some girls are sold into prostitution, while others end up as domestic help and are abused. Sometimes they land as far away as the Middle East” (Dutta, 2020).

### **Strategies for ending human trafficking**

The following section highlights a few of the many ways that society is working to end human trafficking. In so doing, it demonstrates the diverse backgrounds of the people committed to this cause. The list includes parents, survivors, truck drivers, and musicians, among many others. The resources cited here also demonstrate the value of far-reaching partnerships connecting advocates with elected officials, corporations, and the community as a whole.

#### Basic concepts and the need for fundamental social change

- [The Politics of Trafficking: The First International Movement to Combat the Sexual Exploitation of Women](#) (2010)  
Stephanie A. Limoncelli  
Choice, the leading consumer advocacy group in Australia, selected this book as the winner of the 2010 Outstanding Academic Title Award. [The Politics of Trafficking](#) can be purchased as a regular book or as an [audiobook](#) lasting just under seven hours.  
“More than 100 years ago, the first international traffic in women for prostitution emerged, prompting a worldwide effort to combat it. *The Politics of Trafficking* provides a unique look at the history of that first anti-trafficking movement, illuminating the role gender, sexuality, and national interests play in international politics. Addressing an issue that is still of great concern today, this book sheds light on the ability of international non-governmental organizations to challenge state power, the motivations for state involvement in humanitarian issues pertaining to women, and the importance of gender and sexuality to state officials engaged in nation-building” (Limoncelli, 2010).
- [To Solve the World’s Biggest Problems, Invest in Women and Girls](#) (2017)  
Musimbi Kanyoro (TED)  
14 minutes  
“As CEO of the Global Fund for Women, Musimbi Kanyoro works to support women and their ideas so they can expand and grow. She introduces us to the Maragoli concept of ‘isirika’ - a pragmatic way of life that embraces the mutual responsibility to care for one another - something she sees women practicing all over the world. And she calls for those who have more to give more to people working to improve their communities. ‘Imagine what it would look like if you embraced isirika and made it your default,’ Kanyoro says. ‘What could we achieve for each other? For humanity?’ Let’s find out – together (TEDx, 2018e).
- [Ending Human Trafficking](#) (2018)  
Kristin Keen (TEDx)  
12 minutes  
“People tend to think of human trafficking as a female issue, but 99.9% of the buyers of these forced and coerced sex acts are men. Surprisingly, many of them use the same words that sex workers use to describe their experience—shame, scared, lonely,



trapped—to explain what drives them to buy sex. We must address this demand side of the equation with wisdom and compassion and acknowledge that a man’s journey to buying sex is just as broken as a woman’s journey to being sold. In so doing, we can hold men accountable in an empowering way to stop a commercial sex trade industry that is exploiting the most vulnerable people in our city and world.

Kristin Keen has spent her career creating business opportunities for women caught in human trafficking so they can have access to a new life. In 2005, she helped co-found Sari Bari, a thriving business that now employs more than 120 Kolkata residents who create handmade blankets and other products from traditional fabrics" (TEDx, 2018g).

- [Bought and Sold: Trafficking in America](#) (2018)  
Kaylen Runyan (TEDx)  
13 minutes  
“Kaylen Runyan has been involved in the anti-trafficking non-profit sector since 2013. She gained experience working directly with victims of human trafficking at Redeemed Ministries and The Landing before joining United Against Human Trafficking in Houston, where she teaches frontline professionals how to identify and respond to human trafficking cases. In this talk, Kaylen shares the realities of domestic human trafficking in Texas and answers the most common question people ask after learning about the reality of trafficking around them: ‘now what can I do?’” (TEDx, 2018d).
- [Turning Up the Volume: Bringing Human Trafficking Down](#) (2013)  
Ruici Tio (TEDx) |  
15 minutes  
“What happens when a social entrepreneur fueled by the power of music meets up with MTV EXIT's goal to squelch human trafficking? The universe makes way. In tune with combining the transformative power of technology, musicians, and education to kick start political and social change, Ruici is on a mission to stop the degrading and inhumane practice of this slavery” (TEDx, 2013b).
- [How to Combat Modern Slavery](#) (2010)  
Kevin Bales (TED)  
18 minutes  
“This TED talk was presented by Kevin Bales, an accomplished academic and the founder of Free the Slaves, whose mission is to end all forms of human slavery in the next 25 years. In this moving yet pragmatic talk, Dr. Bales explains the business of modern slavery, a multibillion-dollar economy that underpins some of the worst industries on earth. He shares stats and personal stories from his on-the-ground research -- and names the price of freeing every slave on earth right now” (Bales, 2010).

## Better laws

- [Exploring the Nature of Anti-trafficking Laws: A Content Analysis of State Statutes](#) (2021)

Caralin Branscum, Calli Cain & Seth Wyatt Fallik

“The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 set the tone for anti-trafficking legislation nationwide. Though all states criminalized human trafficking by 2013, policy adoption has not been widespread. This matters because criminal justice actors are constrained in their ability to respond to human trafficking when policies are limited. Furthermore, variation among state laws may displace crime and inhibit interagency coordination. The extent to which states have adopted anti-trafficking legislation has not been examined.

The current study analyzes 982 state anti-trafficking statutes nationwide through content analysis. Three themes were identified from state legislative approaches: (1) conceptualizing human trafficking, (2) offense severity and penalties, and (3) accountability for other parties. Overall, the nation’s anti-trafficking laws are best characterized as a patchwork of statutes. While several states made great strides to further existing legislative recommendations with innovative laws, implementation was inconsistent state-by-state” (Branscum, Cain, & Fallik, 2021).

## Recommendations from survivors

- [Human Trafficking](#) (2012)

Rachel Lloyd (TEDx)

20 minutes

“Rachel Lloyd is a trafficking survivor and an anti-human-trafficking advocate. She is the founder and Executive Director of the New York-based Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS). Since immigrating to the United States, Rachel has worked with incarcerated women and combatted the commercial sexual exploitation of children and young women within the United States. In this talk, Ms. Lloyd discusses some of the underlying dynamics of human trafficking generally, how she established GEMS, the challenges of helping survivors, and some of the legal and social changes that will be needed to end human trafficking” (TEDx, 2012d).

- [I was Human Trafficked For 10 Years. We Can Do More To Stop It.](#) (2015)

Barbara Amaya (TEDx)

8 minutes

“Barbara Amaya (Barbara is an anti-trafficking advocate, speaker, trainer, author, and survivor leader in the movement to end modern-day slavery and human trafficking. Ms. Amaya ran away at the age of 12 after being abused by family members. She was taken in on the streets of Washington, DC by a couple who seemed nice but ended up selling her into human trafficking. She was used for months and then sold to a man named Moses, who took her to New York and continued to traffic her for many years. Now Barbara fights for other victims of human trafficking and to change policies that treat victims as criminals” (TEDx, 2015c).

- [Child Sex Trafficking](#) (2014)  
Nacole (TEDx)  
12 minutes  
“This TEDx talk features ‘Nacole’ who became an influential advocate fighting to prevent child exploitation in 2010 when her youngest daughter became a victim of this horrible crime. Nacole subsequently helped to get several bills passed in the state of Washington to deal with this crime. She has also worked with Seattle's mayor to try to prevent the use of online sites to sell children as 'escorts.' Nacole, a mother of four, shares her story about her family's painful experience with this issue, the professional help they found, and the steps we can take to ensure that this does not continue" (TEDx, 2014a).
- [The Fight Against Sex Slavery](#) (2009)  
Sunitha Krishnan (TED)  
13 minutes  
“Sunitha Krishnan is galvanizing India’s battle against sexual slavery by uniting government, corporations, and NGOs to end human trafficking. Ms. Krishnan has dedicated her life to rescuing women and children from sex slavery. In this courageous talk, she tells three powerful stories, as well as her own, and calls for a more humane approach to helping these young victims rebuild their lives” (Krishnan, 2009).

#### Identification and rescue

Some organizations no longer use the word “rescue” and instead make plans to “recover” victims. [“Groups come in and rescue us, but in 90 days, we’re supposed to be ‘fixed,’ and the program is over. Where do we go without a job, a family, a home?”](#) Some rescue organizations have no plan for aftercare except to take them to another organization’s shelter, which may be full or under-resourced. Strategic planning must include safety for the victim, the rescuers, and the community around them. There must be a safe place secured for immediate care and assessment with plans for long-term aftercare resources for approximately two years” (End Human Trafficking, n.d.).

- [How A Truck Driver Sees and Saves Lives on America’s Highways](#) (2017)  
John McKown (TED)  
11 minutes  
“Human trafficking is a little-known and practically invisible problem plaguing highways across the US. Truck driver and former police officer John McKown has made it his mission to be an activist on the road and implores drivers of vehicles big and small to join him in protecting the approximately 293,000 children at risk of enslavement. In this eye-opening talk, McKown passionately advocates for others not to turn a blind eye and shares some easy ways to get you started as an ally on America's highways” (McKown, 2017).
- [Operation Underground Railroad](#) (2016)  
49 minutes  
“Tim Ballard, Founder & CEO of Operation Underground Railroad, is here to talk with Googlers about the recently released film entitled ‘The Abolitionists.’ Gerald Molen (Schindler's List, Jurassic Park) produced the film. It covers Tim and his team's mission to eradicate child sex trafficking. Tim’s background includes service with the

CIA and Homeland Security Investigations (US Immigration and Customs Enforcement). He left to start this non-profit, which has now rescued 549 victims and assisted in the arrest of 243 traffickers worldwide. He'll talk to us about that mission, what Google can do to help, and how we can help these children have a new shot at life" (Talks at Google, 2016).

- [Human Trafficking — Dreams and Realities](#) (2012)  
Diep Vuong (TEDx)  
11 minutes  
“As co-founder of Pacific Links Foundation (PALS), a US-based international NGO, Diep Vuong designed and spearheads an innovative program to combat human trafficking in Vietnam. PALS focuses on human trafficking prevention through scholarships, vocational training, and public advocacy in vulnerable communities. It is the only organization that operates two shelters for trafficking survivors at Vietnam's Southern and Northern borders" (TEDx, 212c).
- [Reinventing the Underground Railroad](#) (2012)  
Katherine Chon (TEDx) |  
18 minutes  
“Katherine Chon is the co-founder and President Emerita of Polaris Project, a leading nonprofit organization combating modern slavery in the United States and Asia. Sparked by a local newspaper article describing the enslavement of women in a brothel a few miles from her Brown University apartment, Katherine has spent the last ten years creating high-impact, measurable solutions to fight human trafficking. She piloted innovative victim outreach strategies resulting in a five-fold increase in victim identification. Katherine directed the creation of one of the first ethnically-diverse transitional housing programs for all victims of human trafficking. She also steered a partnership with the D.C. police and U.S. Attorney's Office to establish the DC Human Trafficking Task Force, which tripled the rate of successful prosecution of human traffickers. She has testified before U.S. Congress and worked in coalitions to pass landmark legislation bringing parity of services to human trafficking victims" (TEDx Brown University, 2012).

#### Follow the money

- [Using Anti-Money Laundering and Financial Investigation Tools to Combat Human Trafficking](#) (2019)  
Freedom Collaborative audio webinar  
57 minutes  
“Human trafficking remains one of the three most profitable criminal activities in the world, generating \$150 billion a year. These profits find their way into the formal financial system, opening opportunities for anti-money laundering actions. Yet significant gaps exist in understanding the links between trafficking in persons and money laundering and how to leverage those links to effectively attack the criminal enterprise of trafficking. This webinar engages the wider anti-trafficking community on this topic. It discusses the intersection between anti-money laundering and how financial industry tools such as typologies are developed and can be used by other actors. These actors include the broader private sector, civil society, governments, and

law enforcement to strengthen their anti-slavery efforts” (Freedom Collaborative, 2019b).

### Labor trafficking

- [The Price of Free](#) (2018)  
97 minutes  
“The Price of Free is a documentary about Nobel Prize winner [Kailash Satyarthi](#). The film premiered at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival and won the Sundance Grand Jury Prize. The film was also nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Social Issue Documentary at the 40th [News and Documentary Emmy Awards](#).  
  
The film depicts how Satyarthi left a career as an electrical engineer and started Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Save the Childhood Movement) to rescue children from slavery. In the decades since, he has saved more than 87,000 children and built a global movement, including one of the largest civil society movements, the Global March Against Child Labor, that demanded an international law on the worst forms of child labor. He also launched the 100 Million Campaign, a youth-driven call to action ensuring every child in the world is free, safe, and educated” (Participant, 2018).
- [Combatting Human Trafficking & Slavery in Apparel Supply Chains](#) (2017)  
Assent Compliance provides cloud-based SaaS solutions that help companies manage their supply chain data, facilitate stakeholder and supply chain education on regulatory and program requirements, and increase business transparency.) “*Combating Human Trafficking & Slavery in Apparel Supply Chains* is your best resource for understanding how these illegal activities occur within some of the world’s top brand supply chains. In this 30-page eBook, you will find information on human trafficking and slavery within the apparel industry, what it looks like, and how to mitigate the risk of exposure to these activities within your supply chain” (Assent, 2017b).

### Sex Trafficking

- [Sex Worker—The Truth Behind The Smile](#) (2015)  
Antoinette Welch (TEDx)  
15 minutes  
“Antoinette Welch, a former Assistant District Attorney in Nashville, TN, won a landmark case under an enhanced sex trafficking law. In this talk, she identifies and tackles the issues with the unequal societal perception of prostitution, how those views leave women drowning in the cycle of prostitution, and how a program that she founded, the Hannah Project, levels the playing field for those who want and need help to get out of the vicious cycle” (TEDx, 2015d).
- [3 Ways Businesses Can Fight Sex Trafficking](#) (2018)  
Nikki Clifton (TED)12 minutes  
“Sex buying doesn't just happen late at night on street corners in the shady part of town -- it also happens online, in the middle of the workday, using company equipment and resources. With this problem comes an opportunity, says attorney Nikki Clifton. It means that the business community is uniquely positioned to educate

and mobilize its employees to fight sex trafficking. In this TED talk, Ms. Clifton outlines how businesses can help, from setting clear policies to hiring survivors" (Clifton, 2018).

### **Informational tours**

Those with the necessary financial resources can learn about human trafficking in a compelling way by going abroad to study it in non-classroom settings. Participants pay their expenses and fees which may include a mandatory contribution to the host agency. Three examples are described below (The tours may be suspended while the pandemic is still problematic. If so, they may resume later.)

- [Nomi Network](#)

The Nomi Network leads occasional "[Vision Trips](#)" to India. Seven people went in 2010. "Two of our staff members led this group through three of our ten program sites in India – allowing them to participate in training sessions, shop at micro-enterprises run by our beneficiaries, and, most importantly, hear stories from the women who inspire us the most. During the trip, attendees were guided through two red-light districts in Siliguri and Kishanganj, where they witnessed women and girls being sold in broad daylight" (Dios, 2020).

The Network took another group to Cambodia for a six-day trip in 2018. The trip included tourism and shopping with Nomi's production partners. "This trip gave participants an invaluable perspective on the issues of human trafficking and exploitation. It also gave them the opportunity to meet major advocates in the fight to end modern slavery" (Dios, 2020).

- [ECPAT-USA](#)

"Join an ECPAT-USA Advocacy Journey to Colombia or Thailand and learn about the issue of trafficking firsthand and how the travel industry is combating it. As you celebrate another trip around the sun with friends, family, and loved ones, you can rally support for the children who need your help the most—children who are suffering from trafficking and exploitation.

Take a trip that matters. Travel with ECPAT-USA in February 2019 as we return to Thailand. As seen in [The New York Times](#), this trip will give participants an invaluable perspective on the issue of sex trafficking and exploitation and the opportunity to meet face-to-face with the luminaries in the fight to end this form of modern-day exploitation.

Our delegation will visit ECPAT International's headquarters in Bangkok, government offices, and advocates who are protecting children's freedom. This Advocacy Journey includes several cultural excursions, plus visits to the beautiful countrysides of Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai. Trip fee: \$3,530 per person, which includes a \$500 tax-deductible donation to ECPAT" (DeJonghe, 2020).

- [Bloomasia](#)

"Learn world-class cake decorating skills and experience the vibrancy of all that Cambodia has to offer! Looking for an amazing girls' getaway? Want to create special



memories on a mother-daughter trip of a lifetime? Take a short-term cake decorating course at Bloom! We'll teach you skills that will help you create special birthday memories for your family and friends for years to come! And in your spare time, you can explore the markets, taste delicious Khmer food and enjoy luxurious spa treatments from facials to full-body massages at a fraction of the price you're used to paying! Phnom Penh sightseeing tours allow you to discover vibrant Phnom Penh, shop the local markets and immerse yourself in the local culture.

The Bloom Asia Cake Decorating Tour offers a rare glimpse inside Bloom Training Centre – a world-class, not-for-profit cake decorating school that operates to bring healing, hope, and purpose to young women in Cambodia. The Bloomasia Cake Decorating Masterclasses include all equipment and materials for nine sessions with beginner or advanced options.

Not only will your trip provide you with a memorable trip to Cambodia, but you'll also make a real difference as your course fee will pay the cost for a young survivor of trauma to enter the training program and start a new life" (Bloom Asia, 2019).

Several orphanages in Third World countries offer similar opportunities. Most experts urge people to avoid them. [Freedom United](#), which claims to be the world's largest antislavery community, argues forcefully that, "criminals are profiting from the trafficking and abuse of children in orphanages around the world. Traffickers, attracted by the funding orphanages receive from donations and organizations offering 'voluntourism' placements, effectively turn children into commodities by ensuring a constant supply of children available to attract funding. Poor families are duped into giving up their children to orphanages with false promises of better care and an education. Instead, these children are often exploited, abused, malnourished, forced to work, and sometimes re-trafficked to other orphanages to repeat the cycle and bring in more funds. Child trafficking into and across orphanages is a global problem" (Freedom United, 2019d).

### **The takeaway**

Each academic discipline (history, psychology, criminal justice, etc.) brings a valuable but distinct perspective to our understanding of human trafficking. Taking our knowledge to the next level is thus both complex and complicated because activists have different interests, preferred methods of learning, amounts of free time, and energy levels. Selecting the topic(s) and resources that most interest you will make the journey more enjoyable. Doing so will also make it more likely that you will remain involved in this critical struggle. And you don't have to spend anything! All you need to invest is your time.

## **Part 2: Resources for Key Allies**

Part I of the Guide established the importance of fighting human trafficking and identified resources to help anyone interested acquire a solid understanding of the associated issues and challenges. Part II builds on that foundation and targets members of specific audiences who can assist in different ways. More specifically, this section of the Guide identifies tools with particular value for service providers, business partners, community influencers, and college instructors.

### **IV. Service Providers**

#### **Common denominators**

Many types of service providers have vital roles in preventing human trafficking, identifying victims, and assisting survivors. The specific nature of their contribution differs, but they often share many challenges that impede the efforts of even the most committed professionals. Common problems include inadequate staffing, stress from long hours and demanding assignments, and insufficient resources. Compounding the challenge is the fact that even supervisors who are sympathetic to the issue of trafficking may find it difficult to provide the necessary programmatic support because so many other matters also need their attention.

Chapter IV begins by discussing a core issue that applies to all service providers who may encounter trafficked individuals. The following section identifies some screening tools that personnel can use in a variety of settings. The chapter then zeroes in on resources specifically designed to assist public safety personnel, health care providers, and social work/mental health professionals.

#### ***The importance of vigilance and empathy***

Many professionals see their roles in fairly narrow terms. They should nevertheless always be alert to the possibility that they will encounter someone who is being trafficked. The extra effort is especially important during times of crisis when traffickers try to take advantage of vulnerable youths and others who are suffering. As the city of Houston has learned, “There is a nexus between natural disasters and increases in both labor and sex trafficking of displaced people and relief workers. The Mayor’s Office is proactively taking steps to mitigate the potential impact disasters have on human trafficking by developing a short- and long-term disaster response that can serve as a model for future disasters. Our response includes direct preventative outreach in disaster shelters and consular and corporate engagement long after the disaster. The Houston Mayor’s Office used the materials included in the Toolkit during Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath” (City of Houston Mayor’s Office of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence, n.d.-a).

Effective intervention requires more, however, than vigilance, the ability to recognize common warning signs, and knowing where to refer someone for service. Professionals also need to be sensitive to the trauma trafficked individuals have endured. Otherwise, it will be exceptionally difficult to establish the trusting relationship that survivors need to begin the healing process.

Activists can enhance their empathy by reading books that survivors have written and by watching videos they have recorded. Common themes include negative interactions survivors have had with police officers and others who may have meant well. Chapter II suggested several good

resources that readers can use to learn about these experiences in the section titled “Behind the numbers: learn from survivors” (page 23).

Dan Nash tells a powerful [story that illustrates the importance of empathy](#) when dealing with possible trafficking victims. Mr. Nash spent 26 years with the Missouri State Highway Patrol. His experience included serving as the Sergeant for the Human Trafficking Unit and supervising the enforcement side of the Missouri Attorney General’s Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force. The incident Mr. Nash shares below concerns a police officer, but the lesson he wants us to remember extends far beyond law enforcement.

I spoke with an officer who attended one of our trainings recently. The officer advised that he was on a call today and encountered a female who had warrants for her arrest.

During the contact, he stated ‘I noticed “The Look” that you guys discussed in class, the look of vulnerability, the look of despair, the look of just being lost.’ The officer advised that as he looked further, he also noticed the female had several tattoos that he learned from class might indicate possible trafficking. He advised that he asked her if she was okay and if she was safe. He asked her if she needed anything and said that he wanted to help if he could. He stated he continued to try and let her know he was there to help and asked if she was in “The Game.”

He stated that she looked at him with surprise that he used that language and then admitted to being in the game and told him more about being in the game. The officer stated that she never admitted to being a trafficking victim, but he suspected that she was. He then offered her services and contact with a local victim advocate. He said she took the information and thanked him for being kind and helping her. The officer said he felt bad that she had the warrants and stated that I did my best to ‘BE THE ONE,’ but I am not sure I was successful.

Most people may think this was not a big deal because she never disclosed, but that is not how this works. Most of the time, that is not how it happens. It takes time, it takes rapport, and it takes patience. This was a big deal. This officer recognized the indicators, treated this person with respect, was kind to her, and got her to talk about being in the game. He even helped her access a victim advocate and offered her services. He changed his behavior and how he interacts with people. That is a big deal. Over the next few weeks, who knows what may happen. Perhaps she will disclose, perhaps she will not. Maybe she will accept services and take a new path. Now she has options, she has a newfound respect for the police, and she has a chance. This is what we do. BE THE ONE!!! This officer was the one today. (Nash, 2022).

Activists from *every* profession can “Be the One.” They just have to know the basics and display the respect and empathy that trafficked individuals deserve.

### **Screening tools**

Everyone should be familiar with the common warning signs of possible trafficking. Accurately assessing the dynamic and level of danger, however, requires a formal assessment.

Some screening tools have been designed with a particular type of professional in mind and will be described in the appropriate sections later in the chapter. Selecting the most appropriate tool for a given situation requires practitioners to consider several variables. Relevant factors include

demonstrated validity, the amount of training needed to administer the assessment accurately, and the amount of time required. Other tools can be used more generally. Five are described below.

- [Screening for Human Trafficking: Guidelines for Administering the Trafficking Victim Administration Tool](#) is intended primarily for victim service agency staff and other social service providers who will use the tool to assess potential trafficking victims. “Law enforcement, health care, and shelter workers will also find it helpful in improving trafficking victim identification, especially in conjunction with the appropriate training or mentoring. The manual content is based on the results of research that the Vera Institute of Justice conducted in collaboration with leading legal and victim services agencies in the United States to produce the validated screening tool and best practices for identifying trafficked persons. Vera’s research found that the TVIT instrument is highly reliable in predicting both labor and sex trafficking in women and men and among foreign and U.S.-born victims. The screening tool can be used in its short version (consisting of 16 core questions, plus questions specific to migration for the foreign-born) without loss of predictive ability. It can also be used in its longer form, depending upon the situation and purpose of screening (VERA, 2014).
- The [New York City Trafficking Assessment Project](#) “developed a screening tool to identify likely victims of trafficking and an accompanying toolkit for service providers to support the administration of the screening tool. In the process, we developed and field-tested protocols for sustainable data collection and retention, which could serve as platforms for the wider sharing and aggregation of data. Employing ‘action research,’ we capitalized on the expertise of our partner agencies to create the screening tool and toolkit. We also sought to empower them to own and refine these resources to maximum benefit. Our partners included criminal justice agencies, community and faith-based organizations, and social and legal service agencies that have direct experience with obstacles, opportunities, and good practices for identifying likely trafficking victims” (Weiner & Hala, 2008).
- The National Human Trafficking Resource Center has developed a [Comprehensive Human Trafficking Assessment](#) that professionals can use to assess a client for potential signs that she/he has been a victim of human trafficking. Major sections of the assessment include General Trafficking Assessment Tips and Safety Checks, General Trafficking Assessment Questions, Sex Trafficking Specific Assessment Questions, Labor Trafficking Specific Assessment Questions, and Network-Specific Assessment Questions (National Human Trafficking Resource Center, 2011).
- The Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force has published a [Human Trafficking Screening Tool](#). The tool offers advice about human trafficking assessment, the screening environment, tone and body language, and screening language. The instrument also addresses safety, standardized trafficking screening questions, and what to do if you suspect a human trafficking situation. Appendix I features a screening protocol explicitly designed for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections and the Ohio Department of Youth Services (Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, 2013).
- The Indiana Protection for Abused and Trafficked Humans Task Force has prepared a [Human Trafficking Identification: Screening Tool and Report](#). “The purpose of this assessment is to provide a basic screening tool to be utilized by entities likely to encounter human trafficking victims, such as law enforcement, hospitals, low-income clinics, youth-serving organizations, social service providers, runaway and homeless youth shelters, etc. This tool will equip such

entities to identify potential human trafficking victims and conduct a more thorough interview once a potential victim has been flagged. The tool consists of three segments: Initial Screening Questions for Human Trafficking, Human Trafficking Detailed Interview Questions, and Human Trafficking Report” (Indiana Protection for Abused and Trafficked Humans Task Force, 2015).

## **Public Safety**

### **Law Enforcement**

Law enforcement agencies must be responsive to the communities they serve. They also have to prioritize the services they provide based on public feedback and the availability of resources. Part of the problem pertaining to human trafficking is that the public is usually more concerned about burglaries, homicides, and other crimes that could impact them directly. That said, all police officers should understand that human traffickers operate in rural, urban, and suburban settings throughout the country. This reality makes it very possible for School Resource Officers, officers who conduct routine patrols, and other law enforcement personnel to encounter trafficked and at-risk youth during their daily activities.

One of the things that officers need to remember is that minors cannot legally consent to have sex under any circumstances. Consequently, minors should not be arrested for committing a commercial sex act. Officers should instead try to establish a rapport with these juveniles and make appropriate referrals. [Building trust and helping survivors build new lives in the community is an important public service](#) even though this task is not typically seen as part of law enforcement’s mission. Arresting traffickers is important, but several victimization studies have shown that focusing exclusively on a perpetrator’s arrest does not necessarily result in greater safety for crime victims.

Officers who take the initiative to learn about human trafficking on their own should be commended. The best results, however, happen when an agency’s leaders commit to making the fight against trafficking a priority. This commitment can be operationalized in ways that include agency-funded training and the development of relevant policies and procedures. A clear public message about the agency’s determination to fight human trafficking also helps raise public awareness and will hopefully deter at least some criminals (Farrell et al., 2019).

### **Training**

State regulations typically mandate that all police officers complete regular in-service training on the use of firearms and deadly force. Officers who operate breath test instruments or perform other specialized functions also require periodic instruction to maintain their certification(s). Agencies absorb the cost of all in-service training and often pay officers overtime to attend.

Required instructional expenses can consume a large part of an agency’s training budget. The chief or his/her designee must then decide whether to use the remaining funds to educate officers about emerging homeland security issues or any number of other timely topics. Human trafficking is seldom at the top of this list.

One can nevertheless make a strong case that all officers should have a working knowledge of human trafficking and what to do when they encounter it. Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter argue forcefully in [The Slave Next Door](#) (2009, p. 266) that *every* local, state, and federal law enforcement

agency should provide such training. They succinctly point out, “It’s the only way to get the job done” (Bales & Soodalter, 2009, p. 266).

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) offers [a one-day training program on human trafficking at its academy in Virginia](#). Applicants must be federal, state, local, tribal, or military law enforcement officers or be sponsored by a law enforcement agency. The instruction is excellent, but the seats are limited (Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers., 2020). Sending an officer to FLETC might make the most sense for agencies that cannot afford to train all their officers but want to have at least one staff member who can take the lead when needed.

A better strategy is to train all officers when resources permit. Perhaps the least expensive option requires officers to complete the instruction online. Florida, for example, requires all law enforcement officers to complete [four hours of online training in identifying and investigating human trafficking](#) (Florida Department of Law Enforcement, n.d.). Anyone else who wishes to take the course can also do so.

Another low-cost option is to provide information in short modules at the beginning of each shift. The U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking is a nonprofit, faith-based organization with offices in Tampa, Washington DC, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Austin. The Institute offers [a five-segment roll-call certification series](#) designed to increase the identification of human trafficking victims. The series also seeks to increase the arrests of pimps, traffickers, and the consumers who purchase sexual services from trafficked victims. “The series includes information on federal law outlining the different forms of human trafficking common in the United States, including sex trafficking, labor trafficking, forced marriage, and domestic/involuntary servitude. This certification provides tools for identification as well as procedures for reporting and uncovering the crime. Second and third-level questioning using a domestic violence call and traffic stop examples are also presented. Other topics include an overview of trafficker types, recruitment and grooming strategies, indicators for identifying victims, and material on sex buyers. With the ever-changing landscape of human trafficking, this series provides information for law enforcement members on cyber trafficking, digital platforms, social media, and online sex trafficking grooming tactics” (U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking, n.d.-b). The Institute encourages officers to “Get Educated. Get Enraged. Get Engaged.”

Agencies that can afford to provide traditional face-to-face instruction can obtain it from several sources. The chief training officer may want to begin by contacting appropriate State agencies to see if relevant classes are available at no charge. The Texas Department of Public Safety, for example, sponsors an excellent course for patrol officers and child services professionals called [Interdiction for the Protection of Children](#). The course teaches students how to spot indicators of child-sex trafficking and conduct roadside investigations. “Texas state troopers have rescued 341 children during such rescues since the program’s inception, and virtually all of the troopers who were involved stated during formalized follow-up interviews that the training was a key factor spurring them to action” (Volk, 2018). According to the officer who had a leading role in developing the curriculum, “If this training becomes routine, we could be saving thousands of children” (Volk, 2018).

Training available from the private sector includes instruction provided by organizations such as the [Guardian Group](#). The Guardian Group is a “Team of Teams” comprised of former special operations military, law enforcement, and intelligence community professionals who work to disrupt



sex trafficking in the United States. “The offensive team utilizes the skills and expertise of these elite veterans to act as a force multiplier for law enforcement nationwide while reinvesting in our nation’s veterans. Our defensive team is staffed with acclaimed corporate trainers and educators, traveling throughout the United States providing the vital training necessary to disrupt sex trafficking here in the United States” (Guardian Group, n.d). The Guardian Group has converted its half-day in-person course into a two-hour self-paced online course that is free and exclusively available to law enforcement agencies and officers (Guardian Group, n.d.-b).

The McAfee Institute, a professional organization that administers several board certifications for the intelligence and investigative sectors, offers 31 hours of online instruction that allows officers to become [Certified Human Trafficking Investigators](#). “There are no boring theory lectures here. It’s all how-to-based tutorials, videos, and personal mentorship that helps you utilize the learning coming from the training program and be highly effective in your organization and/or agency as you progress” (McAfee Institute, n.d.). The course usually costs \$1,500, but McAfee often offers substantial discounts. Eligible students may qualify for reimbursement through the Veterans Administration if their agency does not pay for the instruction (McAfee Institute, n.d.).

Ultimately, of course, motivated officers can educate themselves if their agencies do not offer the desired training. Chapters II and III identified many free resources that anyone could use to learn about human trafficking. Sworn personnel may be especially interested, however, in reading a book that another officer wrote explicitly for them. Ryan Cantrell, for example, is a California police officer who wrote [Modern Slavery: Investigating Human Trafficking \(The Detective’s Guide\)](#) in 2013. It includes chapters on recognizing human trafficking and identifying victims, investigating human trafficking crime scenes, physical evidence, communicating with victims of human trafficking, legal tools for prosecution, and Internet investigations (Cantrell, 2013). A more recent book that can help investigators is [Following the Money: Compendium of Resources and Step-by-Step Guide to Financial Investigations Into Trafficking in Human Beings](#). The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, a pan-European security body with 57 participating States, released the Compendium in 2019 (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, 2019).

Both officers who self-educate and those who receive agency training may find it helpful to carry a card reminding them of common warning signs and basic screening questions. (Health inspectors, building inspectors, and others who routinely interact with the public may also find the cards useful.) Chapter II (p. 38) included a picture of a small plastic card that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Blue Campaign distributes at no charge. Organizations offering cards and other materials developed for police officers include [Rescue and Restore](#) and the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. DHHS provides the following materials to assist sworn personnel:

- Resource Overview ([PDF](#) (PDF) 57KB)
- Tips for Identifying the Crime of Human Trafficking ([PDF](#) (PDF) 48KB)
- Screening Questions to Assess Whether a Person is a Trafficking Victim ([PDF](#) (PDF) 66KB)
- Understanding the Mindset of a Trafficking Victim ([PDF](#) (PDF) 40KB)
- Communicating With Victims of Human Trafficking ([PDF](#) (PDF) 43KB)
- Tips for Identifying and Interacting with Victims of Human Trafficking ([PDF](#) (PDF) 50KB)
- PowerPoint Presentation for Law Enforcement Officers ([PPT](#) (PPT) 138KB)
- Pocket Assessment Card ([PDF](#) (PDF) 745KB)
- Rescue & Restore Logo ([PDF](#) (PDF) 210KB) (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children & Families Office on Trafficking in Persons, 2015).

## Tools and strategies

A well-trained officer can arrest traffickers and help victims become survivors. Law enforcement agencies that really want to make a difference in the fight against human trafficking, however, need to make the mission an organizational priority. Several excellent investigative and operational tools are available to help operationalize this type of initiative.

As previously noted in the context of modern technology (Chapter III), [The Global Emancipation Network](#) “[strives] to be the global clearinghouse for trafficking data worldwide, as well as to facilitate communication and technology-sharing initiatives among the numerous anti-trafficking stakeholders across the globe. Minerva, our multi-tenant data analytics platform, enables secure, individualized data sharing and the easy application of intelligent analytics. We collect our data on trafficking, including text and images, from the open and deep web. We also work with experts on the dark web like [Recorded Future](#) and [Owl Cybersecurity](#) to gain insight into the traffic on those sites and forums. We’ve gathered thousands of trafficking cases and convictions as well as international legislation. We enrich this data with public records, open web searches, and image analysis tools. Most importantly, we make all this data available free of charge to our users (law enforcement, government agencies, researchers, academia, and anti-trafficking nonprofits) so they can combine our data with their own specialized datasets. Our goal is to empower our users to concentrate on achieving their specific missions without worrying about resources and technology. We need easy, free solutions to make use of all available trafficking data and to join together seemingly disparate data points to find connections. We cannot fight the battle against trafficking by standing alone on our own islands. But together, we can find every victim and stop every trafficker” (Global Emancipation Network, n.d.).

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) offers another valuable tool. The [Enhanced Collaborative Model \(ECM\) protocol development checklists](#) “provide a list of items human trafficking task forces should consider when developing protocols specific to their local task force. These checklists encompass best practices, a trauma-informed and victim-centered approach, and are guided by the ECM, directing the development and implementation of strong and effective protocols” (International Association of Chiefs of Police, 2020). The checklists address the following topics:

- Information Sharing
- Language Access
- Trauma-informed Protocols for Accessibility of Services for Victims Who Are Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing
- Referrals to/from Law Enforcement and Victim Service Providers
- Communication and Working with the Media
- Confidentiality
- Data Collection
- Grant Reporting

Those seeking more information can contact the IACP Anti-Human Trafficking team at [humantrafficking@theiacp.org](mailto:humantrafficking@theiacp.org) or visit the [IACP Anti-Human Trafficking Webpage](#) (International Association of Chiefs of Police, 2020).

[Thorn](#), a nonprofit organization founded in 2012, “houses the first engineering and data science team focused solely on developing new technologies to combat online child sexual abuse”

(Thorn, n.d.-a). Thorn staff have developed a tool called [Spotlight](#) in response to the fact that more than 100,000 new escort ads are posted daily.

“When we surveyed underage sex trafficking victims, three out of four said they had been advertised online. Law enforcement doesn’t have enough time to navigate the online commercial sex market to find children and identify their traffickers. Spotlight takes this massive amount of data and turns it into an asset for law enforcement. Over 5,000 officers now use our web-based tool in all 50 states and Canada. According to our most recent survey, it is helping find more human trafficking victims faster. Spotlight has been used in 21,044 cases - identifying 12,328 adults, 5,791 children, and 6,553 traffickers in the past two years. With only a 25% response rate, we’re confident these numbers represent the low end of our impact. Over the past year, reports show that we are identifying on average eight kids per day and that law enforcement who use Spotlight daily see a 65%-time savings in their process. This combination of streamlining workflows and increasing successful victim identification has propelled Spotlight to its large user base” (Thorn, 2018).

Low-tech interventions can also have an impact. Officials in at least 40 American communities, for example, fight prostitution and the trafficking that often goes with it by [sending letters](#) to the homes of people who are known to have purchased commercial sex or are suspected of having done so. The letters make it clear that the person did not go unnoticed. “The strategy is typically implemented in one of two ways. The first is to send a letter to the registered owners of cars that were seen cruising known prostitution areas for the apparent purpose of soliciting sex. Some police departments have even distributed forms that members of the community can use to record the location of the event, the time, make, model, and color of the vehicle, and most importantly, the plate number. The letters make it clear that the police are not assuming that the vehicle’s registered owner was driving the car when the suspicious behavior was observed. The letter may, however, suggest that the registered owner’s vehicle is being used improperly and that he/she should take care not to allow others to use their vehicle for such purposes. The second approach is to send letters to the homes of arrestees” (Shively et. Al., 2012). More research is needed to determine how well these letters deter sex buyers, but it is a strategy that some departments may want to consider adopting.

Regardless of whether a law enforcement agency chooses to use the available technology, officials must work with other agencies and organizations to maximize the impact of their anti-trafficking efforts. [The Enhanced Collaborative Model to Combat Human Trafficking](#) describes one way to do this. “The model encourages human trafficking task forces to implement collaborative, sustainable approaches to investigation and prosecution in ways that are trauma-informed, victim-centered, and which seek to proactively identify and serve all victims of all types of human trafficking.” The model also “supports law enforcement agencies and victim service organizations by providing a range of cross-sector strategies for identifying victims of human trafficking, providing them needed services, and holding traffickers accountable” (International Association of Chiefs of Police, 2020).

[Operation Cross Country](#) is an example of how this approach combines proactive policing with the task of meeting survivors’ needs. The operation is the FBI’s annual effort to recover underage victims of prostitution. It also draws the public’s attention to the problem of sex trafficking generally. “A typical project involves 55 FBI field offices and 78 FBI-led Child Exploitation Task Forces composed of more than 500 law enforcement agencies. Hundreds of law enforcement personnel take part in sting operations in hotels, casinos, truck stops, and through social media sites frequented by pimps, prostitutes, and their customers. More than 100 victim specialists are available

as needed to provide on-scene services that include both crisis intervention and resources for basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, and medical attention” (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2017).

Finally, it is worth noting that the tools identified thus far in this chapter mostly originated within the United States. Several excellent resources have also been developed internationally. Hong Kong’s Civil Society Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, for example, prepared the [Handbook on Initial Victim Identification and Assistance for Trafficked Persons](#). The task force consists of 27 non-governmental organizations that “collectively seek to advance anti-trafficking efforts in Hong Kong by creating tools and training to address gaps in victims’ protection. The first edition of the Handbook, available in English and Chinese, identifies concrete guidelines and resources for government and non-government service providers. Potential users include health workers, lawyers, social workers, and other professionals who may encounter trafficking victims in their work” (Hong Kong SAR Civil Society Anti-Trafficking Task Force., 2018).

### **Police Lockup and Jail Staff**

Trafficked individuals often have to prostitute themselves and commit minor crimes under the direction of their trafficker. Knowing that the people under their control might get arrested, traffickers routinely instruct them not to cooperate with criminal justice officials. Compounding the problem still further for authorities is the fact that those trafficked from other countries often do not trust the police anyway and may be afraid to discuss their situation because they are here illegally. Their detention nevertheless represents a significant opportunity to intervene because it is one of the few times these individuals are away from their trafficker. Some victims might be eager to find a way out of their situation. Others will need patience, understanding, and repeated prompts from a kind officer before they feel comfortable asking for assistance. Either way, facility staff will almost always have to take the initiative for any meaningful intervention to occur.

It is very important that intake officers at police lockups and county jails receive the training necessary to identify trafficked prisoners. Those who supervise inmates on the tiers need specialized training as well. Other components of a well-structured plan include adopting a formal screening tool and procedures for helping those interested get assistance.

It is interesting to note that the City of Houston’s municipal jails did not allow prisoners to call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center or tip hotline for many years. Officials subsequently realized that the policy made little sense and reprogrammed the phones so inmates can now contact the Center directly to report a tip or self-identify. Houston also prepared a [detention toolkit](#) that it now shares with any city or county that wants to use it. The toolkit includes a poster that officers can hang over jail phone banks to promote reporting. The poster reassures victims that help is available and provides step-by-step instructions for reaching the hotline. Separate panels present the message in English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese Mandarin (Simplified), Vietnamese, and Thai (City of Houston Mayor’s Office of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence, n.d.-b).

### **Prosecutors**

Prosecuting human trafficking cases is often complicated and time-consuming. Some of the many challenges include applying complex state and federal laws, persuading victims to testify, and finding interpreters for victims and witnesses born abroad. The fact that most attorneys have little experience handling this kind of case makes the task even more problematic.

The following resources can increase the likelihood that trafficking prosecutions will be successful:

- [Prosecuting Human Trafficking Cases: Lessons Learned and Promising Practices](#). The Department of Justice prepared this study to examine relevant federal and state legislation from a prosecutor's perspective. The report identifies critical challenges and barriers associated with prosecuting trafficking cases (Clawson et al., 2008b).
- [National Human Trafficking Prosecution Best Practices Guide](#). The Women Prosecutors Section of the National District Attorneys Association released the Guide in January 2020 (NDAA Women Prosecutors Section, 2020).
- [Charging ahead: Prosecuting human trafficking cases without victim cooperation](#). This article from the April 2022 *Criminal Law Bulletin* “provides brief, practical guidance and resources to practitioners prosecuting human trafficking cases. More specifically, this article examines issues contributing to the non-cooperation of victims and protections employable to encourage victim participation. Using the victim-centered and prosecution-led approaches, this article then provides pre-trial and trial strategies for proceeding without victim and survivor cooperation” (Rodolph & Dunman, 2022).
- [AEquitas](#). AEquitas is a nonprofit organization named after the Roman goddess of equity and fairness. It employs a team of former prosecutors who offer training on the investigation and prosecution of gender-based violence and human trafficking. All training events are tuition-free, and scholarships may be available to help offset the cost of travel-related expenses. AEquitas also develops and publishes a wide range of resources and training materials on topics related to the organization’s mission (AEquitas, n.d.).

### **Public Defenders and Legal Advocates**

Trafficked survivors frequently need legal assistance to resolve problems related to their immigration status, crimes their traffickers forced them to commit, child custody disputes, and other pressing issues. Few survivors, if any, have the resources necessary to hire legal personnel to represent them.

Legal services for survivors are spotty at best. Only two states (Ohio and California) offer a network of support services to help victims of violent crime with the explicit understanding that the target audience includes victims of human trafficking (Alliance For Safety and Justice, n.d.). The [Univ. of Michigan Law School’s Human Trafficking Clinic](#), meanwhile, is the only law clinic in the country that exists solely to help trafficked survivors. The Clinic “provides a range of services, including direct representation of both domestic trafficking victims and foreign nationals trafficked into the United States, advocacy for trafficking victims, and community education and training. The Clinic also provides students with the opportunity to learn, practice, and improve essential advocacy skills. Students obtain real-world experience by working on behalf of victims of human trafficking. They also collaborate with various stakeholders, including survivors of human trafficking, law enforcement, government officials, and nongovernmental organizations, to identify solutions to combat human trafficking. Students are responsible, under supervision, for all of the cases and projects within the clinic” (University of Michigan Law School, n.d.).



The anti-trafficking movement values volunteers of all types, but lawyers have the knowledge and skills needed to make a particularly valuable contribution. In addition to assisting survivors directly, attorneys can help anti-trafficking organizations prepare amicus briefs for cases involving issues such as online child pornography. Those who work for a District Attorney or Public Defender's Office can raise the awareness of their colleagues about human trafficking generally and remind them occasionally that commercial sex work often involves trafficking. Lawyers may also be able to ensure that the local District Attorney is applying state Safe Harbor Laws in ways that prevent juveniles from being charged with prostitution.

Lawyers with trafficking cases should know that the [Human Trafficking Institute](#) in Fairfax, VA is there to help. Victor Boutros is the CEO and co-founder. He previously served as a federal prosecutor on behalf of the Department of Justice's Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit and has taught human trafficking at the FBI Academy in Quantico (Human Trafficking Institute, n.d.-a). Mr. Boutros established the Institute "to decimate modern slavery at its source by empowering police and prosecutors to stop traffickers. Working inside criminal justice systems, the Institute provides the embedded experts, world-class training, investigative resources, and evidence-based research necessary to free victims" (Human Trafficking Institute, n.d.-a). The "Trafficking Matters" section of the Institute's website has tabs for trending cases, news, articles, and other relevant resources.

In 2017, the Institute launched the [Douglass Fellowship](#) to identify and develop the next generation of anti-trafficking leaders. Fellows have included law students from Boston University, the University of Chicago, Harvard, Notre Dame, the University of Virginia, and Stanford. Each Fellow "spends one academic year supporting the Institute's efforts to provide clear, data-driven thought leadership to scholars and criminal justice practitioners combating human trafficking. Fellows assist with research projects, including collecting data for the Institute's Federal Human Trafficking Report, writing articles for the Institute's website, and facilitating advocacy events at their respective law schools. Fellows also assist in drafting amicus briefs, which are documents filed in court cases by parties outside of the court who have a strong interest or expertise in the subject matter. These briefs help to strategically shape the law in the United States as it comes through the system. Each Fellow receives mentorship from a senior leader in the anti-trafficking field. Past mentors have held senior positions at the FBI, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of State, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Human Trafficking Pro Bono Legal Center, Shared Hope International, and D.C.-based law firm McGuire Woods" (Human Trafficking Institute, n.d.-b).

Other opportunities are available through the International Justice Mission, an international non-governmental organization that primarily focuses on sex trafficking. [IJM offers summer legal internships](#) for law students in its Washington, DC office in addition to internships for undergraduates (International Justice Mission, n.d.-c).

#### Reference material

Attorneys who lack specific training in human trafficking can learn what they need to know from a variety of free sources. Several are listed below.

- Jill Laurie Goodman and Dorchen Leidholdt edited the [Lawyer's Manual on Human Trafficking](#). According to the Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin, Chair of the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts, "This volume's authors are among the leading state, national, and international anti-trafficking experts. For many of them, their efforts on



behalf of the anti-trafficking campaign date back to the time before trafficking commanded the public attention that it does today. This book represents their personal and collective wisdom. It is an impressive contribution to the global efforts to end the iniquity that is human trafficking” (Goodman & Leidholdt, 2013).

- Nora Cronin and Kimberly Ellis edited [Human Trafficking: Emerging Legal Issues and Applications](#). This book “offers practical, tested, and cutting-edge approaches to addressing human trafficking and remediating its victims. It explores new digital technologies used to investigate the crime, tools for attorneys representing victims in criminal, labor, and immigration cases, and ways to help child victims of sex trafficking. This book proposes unique solutions to human trafficking in the United States, Australia, and Europe that can be applied elsewhere in the world. It explores the intersection of human trafficking with other phenomena such as cults, drug trafficking, human rights, and gender issues. Importantly, this book unveils the cutting-edge Social Influence Model for admitting evidence of undue influence and coercion into court when trafficking victims find themselves on the wrong side of a prosecution. Written for practitioners working in the courts and on the ground, *Human Trafficking: Emerging Legal Issues and Applications* is an essential tool for righting the wrongs of human trafficking” (Cronin & Ellis, 2017).
- The National Association for Court Management published [A New Guide to Human Trafficking for State Courts](#) in 2014. The Guide “provides state court practitioners a comprehensive resource for:
  - clarifying the types and dynamics of sex and labor human trafficking involving U.S. citizens and foreign nationals present in jurisdictions across the nation;
  - identifying how traffickers and victims might appear in different types of state court cases, including criminal, family, juvenile, child protection, ordinance violation, and civil cases;
  - accessing tools and guidelines for using the tools to help courts identify and process cases where trafficking is involved; and
  - accessing links to other resources to help courts address trafficking-related problems” (State Justice Institute, 2013).
- The [Center for Court Innovation](#) was a pioneer in creating Human Trafficking Intervention Courts in New York State and continues to “plan and create off-ramps for justice-involved victims of human trafficking” (Center for Court Innovation, n.d.). The Center’s website has links to several articles about the ways that courts are responding to human trafficking. The website also has links to resources such as a [Planning Toolkit for Responding to Sex Trafficking in Your Jurisdiction](#) (Malongone, Mazur, & Goodman, 2015).
- The [Federal Human Trafficking Report](#) is an annual report that provides “an exhaustive account of every human trafficking case that the federal court system handles. The Report draws on court documents, press releases, and news sources to provide a comprehensive data set, including information about the type of trafficking, methods of coercion, the location of cases, and the age and gender of victims. The Report’s findings are not a prevalence estimate of trafficking in the United States but instead serve as an objective summary of what the federal system has done to address human trafficking. The Report does not capture data from state prosecutions, state civil suits, or unreported human trafficking cases” (Feehs, 2020).

- The [Human Trafficking Knowledge Portal](#) “is an initiative to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding the implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and specifically, the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*. The Portal hosts a Case Law Database on officially documented instances of trafficking in persons crime. By creating this portal, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is working to increase the visibility of successful prosecutions and, at the same time, promote awareness of the realities of this devastating crime. Such a portal enables users to read about human trafficking issues, consult court decisions and practices from different countries and broaden their knowledge of human trafficking crimes. The database contains details on victim and perpetrator nationalities, trafficking routes, verdicts, and other information related to prosecuted cases from across the world. In doing so, it provides not only statistics on the numbers of prosecutions and convictions but also the real-life stories of trafficked persons as documented by the courts. Interested readers can also get free newsletters to stay current with the latest updates” (U.S. Office on Drugs and Crime, n.d.).
- [Identifying and Responding to Sex Trafficking: A Guide for the Courts](#). “There is growing recognition that prostitution, chronic running away, homelessness, shoplifting, substance abuse, domestic violence, and loitering are all potential red flags for sex trafficking. Given this reality, courts can play a crucial role in identifying victims of sex trafficking and linking them to needed services. This guide provides judges and court staff with concrete steps to enhance their ability to respond effectively and sensitively to these difficult cases” (Center for Court Innovation, 2014).
- [Just for Kids Law](#) was founded “to help children and young people overcome all the difficulties they face, from problems at school and issues with immigration status to trouble with the police” (Just for Kids Law, n.d.). The nonprofit established the [Youth Justice Legal Centre](#) “to provide much-needed legally accurate information, guidance, and training on youth justice law. YJLC is a center of excellence in youth justice law in England and Wales. It offers:
  - Guidance and expertise in youth justice law to safeguard children’s rights in the youth justice system;
  - A dedicated website with comprehensive information, legal resources, and best practice guides for lawyers, judges, magistrates, youth offending teams, professionals, children, and families;
  - Training on youth justice issues for lawyers and non-legal professionals working with children; and
  - Free specialist legal advice for children, their families, youth offending teams, the judiciary, and lawyers” (Youth Justice Law, n.d.).

The website has several articles related to the many legal issues associated with child victims of trafficking.

### Training

Written materials such as those mentioned above are very informative. Specialized in-service training is often even more helpful, however, because it allows attendees to ask questions and because

it facilitates networking that can extend far beyond the conclusion of the class. The training is available from several sources, including the two listed below.

- The St. Thomas University School of Law hosts the [John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy](#) annually. The Academy “develops education programs, conducts research, and instructs law and policy to fight human trafficking worldwide and empower survivor leadership in our global community. The Academy addresses human trafficking from the perspective of human rights law and the integral human development of every person and the whole person” (St. Thomas University School of Law, 2020). The agenda of the [Summer 2020 Academy](#) provides a good overview of the Academy’s structure and activities.
- The [Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking \(CAST\)](#) “is a Los Angeles–based nonprofit organization that is working to put an end to modern slavery and human trafficking through comprehensive, life-transforming services to survivors and a platform to advocate for groundbreaking policies and legislation” (Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking, n.d.-a). CAST has an extraordinary set of legal services, resources, and opportunities for pro-bono work for attorneys interested in modern slavery. The following excerpt from CAST’s website provides an overview of the training opportunities that the organization offers:

- “Pro Bono Training

CAST’s pro bono program is a key component of CAST’s work with trafficking survivors and enables survivors to access critical legal services. Pro bono attorneys advocate on behalf of survivors of human trafficking and help them take important steps to rebuild their lives. CAST provides a variety of pro bono opportunities, including immigration advocacy, criminal victim-witness advocacy, and civil litigation.

All pro bono attorneys are required to attend CAST’s comprehensive legal training, “Human Trafficking 101,” which introduces human trafficking and legal advocacy on behalf of trafficking survivors. This training is offered at least twice a year in Los Angeles, CA, and gives participants 6 hours of MCLE credit.

- 16-Hour Legal Training

CAST’s training consists of a free, two-day legal training titled “A Practical Guide for Attorneys Serving U.S. and Foreign National Trafficking Victims.” This comprehensive 16-hour training provides an in-depth overview of the legal issues U.S. citizens and foreign national survivors face, including criminal victim-witness advocacy issues, criminal vacatur and sealing records, civil remedies, and immigration benefits. CAST will partner with the co-host to obtain CLE credits. In the past, CAST has provided up to 14 hours of MCLE credit to attendees.

- Legal Anti-Trafficking Weekly Working Group

The Legal Anti-Trafficking Working Group is an informal opportunity for attorneys and legal service providers to ask questions and share experiences about handling human trafficking cases. The Group also provides an opportunity to get technical assistance at no cost from legal professionals across the country. As an added benefit, you will have access to updates on

anti-trafficking legal and policy issues. The call is every Wednesday from 12-1 PM PST/3-4 PM EST.

- On-Demand E-Learning Course For Attorneys

This e-learning course for attorneys provides practical guidance on the legal remedies available for trafficking survivors and includes segments on the legal definition of human trafficking, T visas, and intake best practices. Most sessions are eligible for CA MCLEs. Contact your state bar to see if your jurisdiction will approve you for CLE credits for participating in this training” (Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, n.d.-b).

## **Health care providers**

A 2014 study published in the [Annals of Health Law](#) reported that nearly 88% of participants identifying as sex trafficking survivors had had some contact with health care professionals during their period of exploitation. A survey conducted by the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking in 2017 reached a similar conclusion. Data collected for the Coalition’s study indicated that over half of labor and sex trafficking survivors receive health care at least once while being trafficked. It also found that nearly 97% of the survivors had never been given information or resources about human trafficking while visiting the health care provider. The studies “underscore the reality that [health care providers are often unprepared to identify and appropriately respond to trafficked persons](#)” (CommonSpirit Health, n.d.). This conclusion is especially distressing in light of [research](#) showing that trafficking victims are more likely to talk to medical staff than the police (Schwarz et al., 2016).

The data are troubling for other reasons as well. One is that health care providers have a mechanism in place explicitly for the purpose of documenting suspected cases. The International Classification of Diseases, Clinical Modification (ICD-CM) is a diagnostic classification system that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention developed for use in all U.S. health care treatment settings. The 2019 Addenda to the ICD-10-CM List of Diseases and Injuries added several T [codes to report suspected and confirmed forced labor and sexual exploitation cases](#). It also added multiple Z codes for examining and observing human trafficking victimization (Reproductive Health National Training Center, 2019).

There are several [potential indicators of human trafficking](#) that are especially relevant for health care providers. They include:

- Any signs of physical or sexual abuse;
- Patients who delay seeking medical care;
- A pattern of injuries that doesn’t make sense;
- Reluctance to explain an injury or illness;
- Patients who come in with another person who seems overbearing, controlling, or who doesn’t want to leave the patient (especially if it is an unrelated male);
- Patients who are unaware of their location, date, or time;
- Someone else speaking for the patient; and
- Patients who seem overly fearful or anxious (Emily, 2018).

These signs are often straightforward, and many scholars stress that encounters with health care personnel provide rare opportunities for significant intervention. That said, memorizing a list of potential indicators does not ensure a meaningful outcome. Clinicians must also know how to

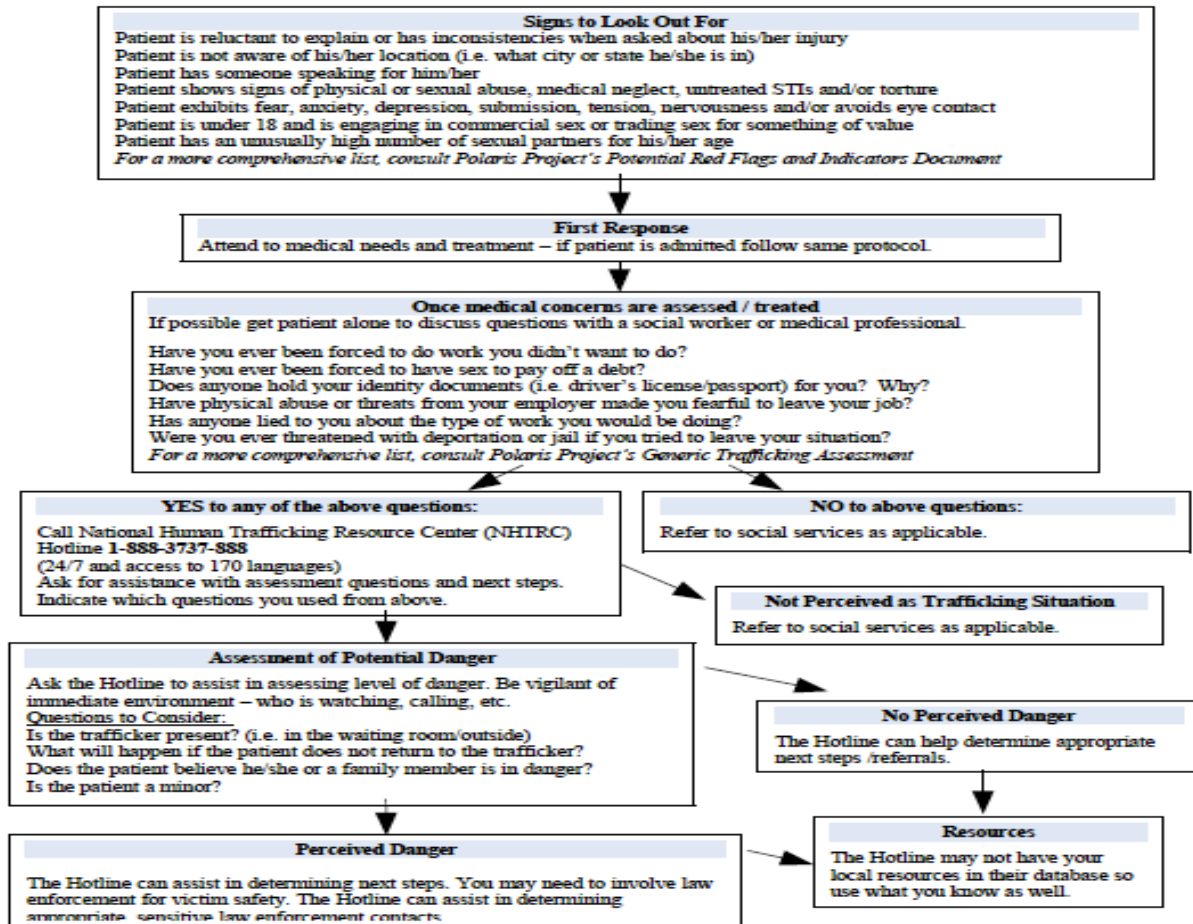
win their patients' trust. One nurse who shared her thoughts in [A Nursing Perspective on Human Trafficking](#) described her job as providing quality health care to trafficked individuals and "meeting them where they are emotionally and giving them a safe place for healing. If they don't want assistance, you respect their wishes" (Emily, 2018). A trafficked survivor added, "[They may not be ready to accept help now, but you may plant seeds so they'll be able to accept it later on](#)" (Andrews, 2018).

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Trafficking in Persons has established six "[Core Competencies](#)" that health care and behavioral health practitioners need to identify, respond to, and serve individuals who have experienced trafficking or are at risk of trafficking. HEAL (Health, Education, Advocacy, Linkage) Trafficking, the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children, and the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners collaborated in developing these competencies. The competencies are listed below. Additional information about each can be found on the DHHS website.


- Universal Competency: Use a trauma- and survivor-informed, culturally responsive approach.
- Competency 1: Understand the nature and epidemiology of trafficking.
- Competency 2: Evaluate and identify the risk of trafficking.
- Competency 3: Evaluate the needs of individuals who have experienced trafficking or individuals at risk of trafficking.
- Competency 4: Provide patient-centered care.
- Competency 5: Use legal and ethical standards.
- Competency 6: Integrate trafficking prevention strategies into clinical practice and systems of care (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children & Families Office on Trafficking in Persons, 2021).

Hospital and clinic officials should be very proactive in their efforts to help front-line personnel acquire these competencies. Supervisors must also ensure that strong assessment and referral procedures are in place to guide staff actions. The [Medical Assessment Tool](#) on the following page was created by Polaris. The image is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-No Derivatives 4.0 International license](#).

**Medical Assessment Tool | Polaris Project**



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(Polaris, 2010)

Reference material

Published research has documented specific ways that health care providers in several settings can benefit from having a better understanding of human trafficking. Searching for “human trafficking” on the [American Hospital Association](#) website alone will yield more than 3,200 results (American Hospital Association, n.d.). Resources include webinars, podcasts, and a wide variety of written documents. A few examples appear below.

- Clinicians might want to begin by reading [Human Trafficking: The Role of the Health Care Provider](#). “The purpose of this article is to provide clinicians with knowledge on trafficking and give specific tools that they may use to assist victims in the clinical setting. Definitions, statistics, and common health care problems of trafficking victims are reviewed. The role of



the health care provider is outlined through a case study, and clinical practice tools are provided. Suggestions for future research are also briefly addressed” (Dovydaitis, 2011).

- [Multidisciplinary Human Trafficking Education: Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Settings](#) appeared in a 2022 issue of the [Journal of Human Trafficking](#). “While it is common for trafficked persons (TPs) to access healthcare, few health professionals have had training and lack confidence in their ability to respond effectively. Additionally, healthcare does not have evidence-based education or policy for responding to TP. This study evaluated knowledge and confidence in responding to TPs among multidisciplinary participants from outpatient and inpatient settings. The study documents the benefits of education based on Health, Education, Advocacy, Linkage (HEAL) Trafficking’s recommendations. A follow-up survey shows that without ongoing education or awareness activity, key knowledge areas decline. Therefore, while policy and awareness education are important, health professionals need ongoing education as well as incentive to utilize the response policy and procedure” (Nordstrom, 2020).
- [What do EMS Professionals Know about Human Trafficking? Assessing the Impact of Training](#).  
This 2020 article demonstrated that “targeted training has resulted in increased identification of human trafficking (HT) by hospital staff. Such initiatives have not been replicated in Emergency Medical Services (EMS), which is problematic since these professionals are uniquely positioned to identify and intervene. To address this gap, this study evaluates the efficacy of an online training module designed for EMS personnel to recognize and intervene with human trafficking. Primary findings indicate that the likelihood of suspecting HT based on indicators of trafficking and self-reported knowledge and familiarity with HT indicators increased significantly after training ( $p < .001$ ). Further, respondents reported increases in suspected contact with trafficked persons in the past six months after training ( $p < .001$ ). This finding was not replicated for participants who had received previous training. The paper asserts that training equips EMS personnel to identify and intervene with HT. Implications for policy are discussed that promote training and maximization of community resources to increase advocacy efforts. Future research should examine effects on identification and reporting efforts” (Charron et al., 2020).
- [Training Residents on Understanding Trafficked Humans \(TRUTH\)](#) is a 2020 report which argues that “trafficked persons frequently seek healthcare, but many go unrecognized. Most residency programs provide little to no education on the topic. In this pilot study, our objective was to demonstrate that human trafficking education improves residents’ knowledge, confidence, and attitudes concerning the care of trafficked persons. Residents took part in a 1-hour didactic training on human trafficking. Physicians receiving education on the identification of trafficked persons, trauma-informed care, and community resource management report increased knowledge of potential trafficking indicators and increased confidence in identifying and providing care to trafficked persons. Improving the ability of healthcare professionals to identify trafficked persons, provide them with appropriate healthcare, and refer them to appropriate community resources in a trauma-informed manner contributes to UN Sustainable Development Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels” (Lo et al, 2020).

## Training

Health care professionals are mandatory reporters for suspected child and elder abuse cases. They routinely receive the instruction needed to do so and are often trained to recognize domestic violence. Few, however, learn about human trafficking either in their formal education or in hospital orientations. According to one report, 95% of the medical staff in emergency departments have *never* received formal training about treating victims of human trafficking. Another [study](#) that surveyed health care providers most likely to interact with victims of human trafficking found that 68% of the respondents had never received basic instruction about how to identify them (Lee et al, 2021).

The [American Public Health Association](#) calls unequivocally for “professional schools, societies, and certifying bodies to improve the training of licensed health professionals and to integrate human trafficking into existing curricula on intimate partner violence, domestic violence, and child and elder abuse. Moreover, private organizations and state and federal agencies should increase funding for responsible and necessary research at the intersection of public health and human trafficking” (American Public Health Association, 2015).

According to [Shadowen et al.](#), at least 17 studies have documented that even brief lessons can improve provider confidence in screening and treating trafficked patients (Shadowen et al, 2021). Sources of appropriate training for health care providers include the following:

- The Department of Health and Human Services’ [National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center](#) (NHTTAC) delivers training and technical assistance to “inform and enhance the public health response to human trafficking. By applying a public health approach, the Center holistically builds the capacity of communities to identify and respond to the complex needs of all survivors of human trafficking and address the root causes that make individuals, families, and communities vulnerable to trafficking. Medical and behavioral health practitioners, nonprofits, community- and faith-based organizations, licensed social workers, child welfare professionals, housing authorities, and public health agencies can provide comprehensive and survivor-informed services by building their skills and knowledge with NHTTAC” (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children & Families Office on Trafficking in Persons, 2020a).
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services offers training known as [SOAR \(Stop, Observe, Ask, Respond\)](#) to teach personnel in health care and social service settings how to recognize and respond to human trafficking. The SOAR training is delivered both [online](#) and in person. “After attending SOAR training, you will be able to:
  - **Stop** – Describe the scope of human trafficking in the United States;
  - **Observe** – Recognize the verbal and non-verbal indicators of human trafficking;
  - **Ask** – Identify and interact with individuals who have experienced trafficking using a victim-centered and trauma-informed approach; and
  - **Respond** – Respond effectively to potential human trafficking in your community by identifying needs and available resources to provide critical support and assistance” (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children & Families Office on Trafficking in Persons., 2019b).
- The American Medical Women’s Association founded [Physicians Against the Trafficking of Humans](#) (PATH) in 2014 to educate physicians, residents, and medical students about issues

pertaining to human trafficking. AMWA-PATH conducts webinars and supports local conferences about human trafficking as part of this effort. It has also prepared educational videos and an interactive website to educate medical professionals about sex trafficking victims (American Medical Women’s Association, n.d.).

- The Guardian Group is one of several organizations in the private sector that offers relevant training. As previously noted, [the Guardian Group](#) has an “offensive team” that assists law enforcement and a “defensive team” consisting of “acclaimed corporate trainers and educators who travel throughout the country to provide the vital training necessary to disrupt sex trafficking here in the United States” (Guardian Group, n.d.-a). The Guardian Group provides customizable in-person training for hospitals in addition to the training that it offers to other business sectors (Guardian Group, n.d.-a).

### Tools and Strategies

Training is important, but the [lack of broader organizational support](#) often complicates what is already a troubling dynamic. Many health care facilities lack institutional guidelines and social work coverage, for example, and senior officials may doubt that human trafficking occurs in their community (Bechtel et al., 2022). In one [study](#), a third of the participants surveyed were unsure if their organization even had a screening tool to identify trafficking victims. Only a third could confirm that their organization did (Gonzalez-Pons, 2021).

Concerned administrators may want to begin by reviewing some very informative research that the Polaris Project conducted concerning the way that trafficking victims and survivors experience health care. The report includes the following [recommendations](#):

- Require all staff at health care facilities to complete human trafficking training;
- Seek out resources to address implicit bias;
- Create Human Trafficking Identification & Response Protocols or adapt existing ones;
- Post the National Human Trafficking Hotline Number where patients can see it;
- Integrate trauma-informed care as a universal precaution;
- Develop interdisciplinary partnerships with anti-trafficking service providers;
- Develop interdisciplinary partnerships within health care;
- Engage in prevention with patients at risk; and
- Advocate for a comprehensive labor trafficking health study (Anthony, 2018).

Facility officials should issue a statement stressing the importance of having staff recognize the signs of human trafficking along with specific policies and procedures that establish the operational foundation for the training they provide. [HEAL \(Health, Advocacy, Education, Linkage\) Trafficking](#) is a valuable resource for officials who want to develop such a foundation. HEAL is a group of more than 3,800 (updated from 3,100) survivor and multidisciplinary professionals in 45 (updated from 35) countries dedicated to ending human trafficking and supporting its survivors from a public health perspective. Qualified individuals can join and serve on committees that address advocacy, direct service, education and training, media and technology protocols, and research (HEAL, n.d.-a).

HEAL has developed a [systems toolkit](#) to help professionals in health care settings draft a protocol outlining how staff should respond when they encounter a potential victim of human trafficking. “The toolkit presents an ambitious, comprehensive approach to protocol development,

portions of which may be adopted for particular contexts based on capacity. We aim to guide health care facilities through the process of creating safe procedures and spaces where professionals can provide exploited adults and minors not only the health services they need but also education about their options and empowerment to seek assistance” (HEAL Trafficking: Health, Education, Advocacy, Linkage, n.d.-c).

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has developed useful [Rescue and Restore Campaign Toolkits](#) for both health care providers and social service organizations. The kit for health care providers includes the following components:

- Resource Overview ([PDF](#))
- Tips for Identifying and Helping Victims of Human Trafficking ([PDF](#))
- Screening Questions to Assess Whether a Person is a Trafficking Victim ([PDF](#))
- Understanding the Mindset of a Trafficking Victim ([PDF](#))
- Communicating with Victims of Human Trafficking ([PDF](#))
- Health Problems Seen in Trafficked Victims ([PDF](#))
- PowerPoint Presentation for Health Care Providers ([PDF](#))
- Health Care Provider Poster ([PDF](#))
- Health Care Provider Brochure ([PDF](#))
- Health Care Provider Pocket Card ([PDF](#))
- Rescue & Restore Logo ([PDF](#)) (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children & Families Office on Trafficking in Persons, 2015).

Administrators can also use Internet resources to compare existing practices to ones that experts consider particularly good. The Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force, for example, has developed a [Model Human Trafficking Protocol for Health Care Settings](#) that covers identification, screening, nursing and medical provider responsibilities and documentation, assessment, and referral (Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force Healthcare Subcommittee, 2018).

The [Social Work Services Department](#) at Stony Brook University Hospital and Stony Brook Medicine in New York has also developed another praiseworthy model. The model includes a protocol for the “Identification, Treatment and Referral for Human Trafficking” along with a solid institutional component for sharing information and ensuring that the protocol is updated as needed. The Department Director routinely reaches out to community programs that help prevent and respond to human trafficking, chairs an internal committee to monitor the problem, drafts internal policies, and provides hospital-wide education (The Director additionally serves on a team that functions as part of the Suffolk County Committee on Human Trafficking. The County Committee is part of a coalition of hospitals that works with the Federal Government and the Suffolk County Police Special Anti-Trafficking Task Force to combat trafficking on Long Island<sup>1</sup> (Stony Brook Medicine, n.d.).

### **Social workers and mental health professionals**

Social work is a practice-based profession that helps individuals and groups such as families enhance social functioning and overall well-being. Social workers assess clients’ needs and support

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<sup>1</sup> This information was taken in part from correspondence that the author received from Susan McCarthy, the Director of Social Work Services at Stony Brook Medicine.

networks to identify their goals and help them adjust to challenges such as illness and divorce. Some have a private practice, while others work in mental health clinics, schools, human service agencies, hospitals, and shelters. Social workers interact with a wide variety of people and make an essential contribution to the community.

Social work is a demanding profession in part because the challenges that clients face often seem overwhelming. Social workers must also be able to work with clients of all races, cultures, and socio-economic backgrounds. Establishing the necessary working relationship is further complicated because some clients may have been repeatedly misled by people they trust. Other clients are openly hostile to figures of authority in general. As a result, intervention strategies that work well with one client will not always be appropriate for another.

Working with trafficked individuals raises additional problems. Those trafficked for sex may come from a country where people do not speak about sexual matters as openly as people in the United States. They may not speak English well, and those here illegally may fear that cooperating will ultimately result in deportation. Pimps also train females under their control to tell authorities that they are legally adults even though they are still juveniles. The girls may also resist efforts to help them because they do not see themselves as victims. (“He’s not a pimp! He’s the only one who ever cared about me.”)

Police officers and medical personnel can learn the signs of possible trafficking and respond appropriately where indicated, but social workers have the skills to help people in ways others cannot. Clinical social workers typically have a master’s degree and two years of post-master’s experience in a supervised clinical setting. They also need to get and maintain a license in the state where they practice. One of the author’s former students, Jessica Rogers, is now a social worker and argues persuasively that “with training on cross-agency collaborations, trauma, counseling, and human development, social workers are uniquely qualified to be leaders and educators as governments and agencies combat this global market treating people as commodities.”

There are no standard protocols for managing the treatment of human trafficking survivors. Many authorities agree, however, that [trauma-informed care is vital](#). This approach is crucial because it gives survivors a sense of empowerment and safety. The strategy also limits the risk of retraumatization and enhances the likelihood that survivors will follow the treatment plan (Iqbal et al., 2021).

With proper training and outreach, social workers can effectively identify victims, provide trauma-centered care, and establish the necessary continuity of services. By way of illustration, the [Ohio Human Trafficking Commission Standards for Service to Trafficked Persons](#) provide a blueprint for how mental health professionals and other service providers can develop a robust network to assist trafficked survivors. The standards encourage continuous quality improvement in trafficking-specific services, foster sharing of effective practices, and ensure that survivors have access to services that help them heal and rebuild their lives (Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, 2021).

Social workers who wish to learn more about human trafficking can establish a strong foundation by earning formal certification through programs such as the one that Florida State University offers. FSU’s [Professional Certification in Human Trafficking Prevention and Intervention](#) is fully online. The curriculum was developed by the FSU College of Social Work, the Center for the



Advancement of Human Rights, the Clearinghouse on Trauma & Resilience within the Institute for Family Violence Studies, and the Center on Academic and Professional Advancement (Florida State University Center for Academic & Professional Development, n.d.).

According to [Karen Oehme](#), director of the Institute for Family Violence Studies, “The certification takes a multidisciplinary public health approach to examine root causes and prevention of human trafficking. In addition, up-to-date social science research is used to highlight successful trauma-informed prevention and intervention strategies to assist survivors of human trafficking” (Oehme, 2020). The self-paced curriculum has seven chapters and 12 hours of course content with research-based readings, case scenarios, multi-media materials, 11 videos from experts in the field, assignments, and quizzes. FSU believes that the certification will give participants “confidence that they can incorporate knowledge of trauma-informed human trafficking prevention and intervention into their own services and practices. Participants also gain the ability to assist their leadership in establishing, strengthening, and maintaining trauma-informed services to trafficking victims throughout their organization” (Oehme, 2020). The certification usually costs \$699, but FSU offers group discounts and occasional individual rates as low as \$349 (Florida State University Center for Academic & Professional Development, n.d.).

### Reference Material

One of the best sources of online information about human trafficking for social workers and mental health professionals is the [Emancipation Nation Network](#). The Network offers webinars, podcasts, and regularly updated news about anti-trafficking grants, jobs, and research. Members can also message each other and collaborate. Dr. Celia Williamson, an American University of Toledo Distinguished Professor of Social Work and Executive Director of the University’s Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute, founded the Network in 2020. Dr. Williamson also founded the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition. This group includes local criminal justice, social service, and health care agencies, along with businesses, university members, churches, citizens, adult survivors, and the FBI Innocence Lost Task Force. The Network is free to join, but Dr. Williamson also offers online courses for a fee on topics such as “Effective Case Management with Human Trafficking Survivors” (Williamson, n.d.).

[Freedom Collaborative](#) has a library of over 50 webinars on human trafficking and is another excellent resource. One webinar that might be particularly interesting to social workers concerns “Client-centered approaches and social inclusion in CTIP (Combatting Trafficking in Persons) programming.”

“This webinar is the first in a series that will explore the vulnerabilities faced by populations experiencing trafficking at disproportionate rates and how support can be tailored to better address identity-specific concerns, considerations, and recommendations. Our panel of experts will discuss important client-centered principles, social identity and inclusion, and their perspectives on the successes and challenges in identity-informed practice. During this webinar, you’ll learn best practices that have helped define and develop client-centered approaches. You will also learn why social identity should be an important factor for CTIP programming and services, how social inclusion considerations can inform all aspects of CTIP work, and common barriers and pitfalls that continue to impede identity-informed practices” (Freedom Collaborative, 2021b).



Professionals who serve children may find it helpful to take advantage of a special service that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children offers. The Center calls the service [NCMEC Connect](#): “Your virtual gateway to training, resources and best practices related to missing and exploited children” (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, n.d.-a).

### Training

Many organizations offer training about human trafficking for social workers and mental health professionals. Several examples are listed below.

- [Freedom Network USA](#) claims to be “the nation’s largest coalition working to ensure that trafficked persons have access to justice, safety, and opportunity. Established in 2001, the network is comprised of trafficking survivors, legal and social service providers, researchers, advocacy organizations, and expert consultants. Together, we influence policy, provide training and technical assistance, and increase the capacity of its members and allies” (Freedom Network USA, n.d.-a).

The Freedom Network Training Institute (FNTI) “is the premier training resource for professionals in the human trafficking field. FNTI provides in-person and online training, fact sheets, tools, and templates that are based on a client-centered and trauma-informed approach. The Institute has trained thousands of professionals across the country, utilizing facilitators who are subject matter experts in the field” (Freedom Network, n.d.-b). The Institute also sponsors its own resource library and hosts an annual conference.

- Shared Hope is a Christian NGO that wants “to inspire change by informing and empowering activists, providing strategic guidance to local shelter and service partners, and influencing policymakers and first responders” (Shared Hope International, n.d.-e). Its projects include sponsoring an [annual JuST \(Juvenile Sex Trafficking\) Conference](#) that is reportedly the nation’s leading conference on juvenile sex trafficking. “Whether you are just getting started or have been working on the issue for years, we have something for everyone. Our training conference strives to provide intermediate or advanced presentations including core subjects, hot topics, criminal trends, and material rarely seen at other events” (Shared Hope International, 2021a).
- The [International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies](#) is an international interdisciplinary professional organization that promotes the advancement and exchange of knowledge about traumatic stress. Annual conferences “provide cutting-edge presentations that highlight the most up-to-date, innovative, and novel work being conducted by diverse professionals regarding the study of traumatic stress across the globe” (International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, 2020).
- [Runaway Girl](#) is a California Social Purpose Corporation. “Our reason for existing is to find a sustainable balance between making a return and making a positive impact. RG Trainings are tailored to your organization and community needs. We aim to raise Awareness, establish Belief, and help build the Capacity for effective responses to human trafficking in every community. We know that communities are in different places in terms of Awareness, so we want to make sure we are focused on what is most important to you and your team members. Whether you have one hour or three days, we will build a training that has a lasting impact

and leads to improved responses and action within your organization and community” (Runaway Girl, n.d.-b).

- [Restore NYC](#) works to end sex trafficking in New York and restore the well-being and independence of foreign-national survivors. “For ten years, we have pioneered innovative counseling, housing, and economic-empowerment solutions that give survivors access to improved well-being, safe homes, and real jobs - the things that our data tell us make freedom real. We train agencies across the United States to identify and serve survivors of sex trafficking. We’ve trained over 600 organizations nationwide, including law-enforcement agencies, other service providers, and hospitals” (Restore NY, n.d.-b).
- Girls Education and Mentoring Services (GEMS) has trained youth-serving professionals and law enforcement since 1998. GEMS offers two or three-day [“Victim, Survivor, Leader” \(VSL\) trainings](#). “The VSL trainings take participants through the key factors and approaches that make up successful GEMS programming and teach them how to utilize this model in their own organizations and work. We also offer a two-day ‘Survivors Guide to Leaving’ training for organizations and practitioners looking to help victims and survivors. Topics include Introduction to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) & Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST), Risk factors for sexual exploitation, Unpacking ‘choice’, and Recruitment strategies used by exploiters. Other modules address the Psychological & physical impact of trauma & exploitation, Pimp-controlled CSEC & trauma bonding, Identifying youth who are commercially sexually exploited, Roles & responsibilities of professionals at intervention points, Engaging with CSEC/DMST victims, and Barriers to intervention with sexually exploited youth. All GEMS curricula are survivor created” (Girls Education and Mentoring Services, n.d.-b).

Professional conferences are a common source of continuing education units (CEUs) that licensed professionals typically need to maintain their certification. Workers in any profession can register at [Eventbrite](#) to follow specific organizations and topics to learn about events that are relevant to them. Those who cannot attend for financial or scheduling reasons can often view keynote speeches on the Internet. Two human trafficking conferences that routinely offer CEUs are described below.

- [The International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Conference](#) “has been bringing researchers, practitioners, survivors, and other concerned professionals together since 2004. The 2020 conference had more than 99 presenters and 2,300 attendees from 43 U.S. states and 19 countries. The conference offers a maximum of 12 continuing education credits for social work, counseling, marriage & family therapy, chemical dependency, nursing, health education, public health, occupational therapy, Department of Developmental Disabilities, and law” (Williamson, 2020b).
- Wichita State University’s [Center for Combating Human Trafficking](#) provides “one of the only evidence-informed approaches for serving victims and survivors of abuse, exploitation, and trafficking. Our focus goes beyond rescuing victims to directly address the underlying issues that create a context in which human trafficking can occur” (Institute for Transformative Emancipation, n.d.-a). The Center’s long-term goal is to “prevent, assess, identify, evaluate, and intervene in cases of human trafficking and assist in the long-term integration and prosperity of survivors” (Institute for Transformative Emancipation, n.d.-a).

The Center offers several training packages in addition to sponsoring an annual conference that awards social work and nursing CEUs. The theme of the [2020 conference](#) was “Context Matters: Confronting a Culture of Exploitation” (WSU Strategic Communications, 2020).

### Legal Instruction and Services

Social workers and mental health professionals who work with trafficked survivors should have a working knowledge of the criminal justice system and the legal issues that survivors often face. It will also be helpful for them to know where clients can obtain legal assistance when necessary. State laws vary, so professionals should seek training in their own states whenever possible. Two examples of relevant service providers are CAST and the Joseph Project.

- The [Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking \(CAST\)](#) is a Los Angeles–based nonprofit organization that works to end modern slavery and human trafficking.
  - CAST periodically offers an 8-Hour Legal Services Training program for Social Service Providers. The class “promotes better understanding and partnerships between attorneys and social service providers. Trafficking survivors may have a range of legal needs across several judicial venues. This dynamic can increase the interactions between social service providers and various attorneys (i.e., legal service providers, prosecutors, and defense attorneys). Because it can be challenging and overwhelming to navigate numerous legal issues and the complex needs around survivor case management, this training provides the legal framework to help social service providers and their clients navigate complicated legal systems. The training will cover best practices in working with legal service providers, how to protect privilege/confidentiality, accessing public benefits, taking effective case management notes (so as not to negatively impact criminal/civil cases), ethical considerations, and what to do if subpoenaed” (Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking, n.d.-b).
  - The Social Services Monthly Technical Assistance Call “allows social service providers and case managers to speak with CAST attorneys about best practices when working with legal service providers. Relevant topics include protecting privilege/confidentiality, working with attorneys, accessing public benefits, and potential legal remedies for your clients. The call is every fourth Thursday from 3-4 PM Eastern Standard Time” (Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking, n.d.-b).
  - CAST gives “free individualized technical assistance to attorneys and social service providers who assist trafficking survivors with legal needs. Agency staff provide assistance in the following areas of law: Criminal Victim Witness Advocacy, Criminal Re-Entry, Immigration, Reporting to Law Enforcement, Civil, Referrals, Program Support, Ethics & More. Those wishing to take advantage of this service can submit case-specific questions through an online Technical Assistance Request Form. “We try to respond to TA requests within 72 hours. If the volume of requests is high, the response may be up to 7 days” (Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking, n.d.-b).
- The [Joseph Project](#) is a nonprofit organization in Michigan that “connects human trafficking survivors with pro bono legal services. It is inspired by the Biblical account of history’s earliest recorded survivor, who transitioned from exploitation to empowerment (Genesis 37-50). At The Joseph Project, the concept of enslavement extends beyond basic notions of

physical confinement. A survivor can be enslaved to a criminal record, an immigration challenge, or a debt burden. Empowerment is achieved when these obstacles are eliminated” (The Joseph Project, n.d.).

### Tools and strategies

An earlier section of this chapter described several screening instruments professionals of all types can use to identify trafficked individuals. Social workers and mental health professionals may also want to take advantage of tools experts developed specifically with them in mind. A small sample is described below.

- The [IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking](#) is an excellent resource for professionals who work directly with trafficked survivors. “The IOM (International Organization for Migration) has had some 13 years of experience in implementing counter-trafficking activities and has assisted over 14,000 victims of trafficking in all regions of the world. With a growing number of organizations, especially local non-governmental organizations, now assisting or intending to assist victims of trafficking, IOM would like to share its experience and lessons learned. This Handbook summarizes and systematizes this experience. IOM recognizes that each victim is unique and that victims both require and desire different types of assistance. In addition, the nature of trafficking is different around the world and is ever evolving, so it requires changing responses. Therefore, this Handbook is not meant to provide a single methodology for assisting victims of trafficking but to offer suggestions and guidance based on IOM’s many years of experience. IOM hopes that it will be helpful to all organizations providing such assistance to victims, but especially for organizations that are just beginning to develop victim assistance programs and can benefit from IOM’s experiences. This Guide provides guidance and advice necessary to effectively deliver a full range of assistance to victims of trafficking from the point of initial contact and screening up to the effective social reintegration of the individuals concerned” (International Organization for Migration, 2015). The Handbook is available in both softcover and electronic versions.
- [Identifying Minors and Young People Exploited Through Sex Trafficking: A Resource for Child Welfare Agencies](#) is another useful reference. Studies have shown that many young people who are trafficked have contact with child welfare and/or the juvenile justice system at some point in their lives. Personnel at these agencies are thus well-positioned to identify and assist trafficked minors. The Capacity Building Center for States developed this resource to help child welfare agencies understand the different types of available instruments. It summarizes the common risk factors for children and youth, lists ground rules for identifying trafficking victims, and presents steps to take before implementing a particular tool (Capacity Building Collaborative, 2016).
- Liberty Shared was a nonprofit organization based in Hong Kong that worked to prevent human trafficking until it recently closed. Liberty Shared staff developed a [Victim Case Management System](#) for anti-trafficking NGOs in Southeast Asia, but the system may also work for service providers elsewhere. “By vastly improving record-keeping, data collection, data security, management practices, and accountability, the program has enabled hundreds of users to offer more effective help to their clients. It is now easier to keep track of cases, monitor services, analyze data, and review outcomes, thus improving service provision and

the overall quality of care. Being able to show results supported with data and statistics along with evidence of ongoing operational improvements makes it easier to apply for funding and grants. These features are also extremely valuable for fundraising efforts” (RecollectiV, n.d.).

- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has prepared an [Online Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons](#). The Toolkit first addresses considerations before identification, guidelines on victim identification, and indicators of trafficking. The kit then focuses on the initial interview and the screening interview form that the International Organization for Migration developed. Other chapters feature checklists to facilitate victim identification, a healthcare providers’ tool for identifying victims, and interviewing tips for healthcare practitioners. The kit includes a separate law enforcement tool for victim identification, interviewing tips for law enforcers, ethical and safe interviewing conduct, victim certification, and a training material (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2008).
- Professionals from six non-governmental service providers and six survivor leaders who attended the 2017 Human Trafficking Leadership Academy developed [Toolkit: Survivor-Informed Practice Self-Guided Assessment](#). The authors used trauma-informed practices and survivor-informed principles to develop several recommendations that providers can use to enhance the quality of services they give to trafficking survivors and those at risk of being trafficked (Human Trafficking Leadership Academy Fellows, 2017).
- The New York State Office of Children and Family Services has a webpage featuring [Human Trafficking - Resources for Professionals](#). The page features Tools Required by the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, OCFS Anti-Trafficking Toolkits, and Trainings on Human Trafficking and the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. The page also has tabs for Additional OCFS Tools and Resources, and Further Reading (Division of Youth Development and Partnerships for Success, n.d.).

A final set of beneficial tools concerns tattoos. Pimps often tattoo their names on the women they control to establish ownership and to remind the women who they belong to each time they look in the mirror. The tattoos tend to be relatively large and are strategically placed on the neck or another visible part of the body. The meaning of these tattoos is apparent to many people who oppose commercial sex work and can limit subsequent employment opportunities. The tattoos are also a constant reminder of a terrible experience that survivors would like to put behind them. Social workers can help affected survivors transition to a new life by referring them to artists willing to remove the tattoos or cover them up at no charge. Two businesses that offer this type of service are described below.

- [Survivor's Ink](#) in Jackson, Ohio “exists to raise awareness and to empower human trafficking victims by breaking the psychological chains of enslavement through beautifying, removing, or covering their physical scars, markings, and brandings that are constant reminders of a violent past. Founded by the late trafficking survivor and formally branded woman, Jennifer Kempton, Survivor's Ink offers full scholarships to survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation to have their branding tattoo's covered or removed” (Survivors Ink, n.d.). As one survivor noted, "It took me a long time to make the decision to cover up my tattoo, but when I actually did, it felt like I was breaking every chain. I am no longer someone's property" (Survivors Ink, n.d.).



- [Soul Survivor Ink](#) “is a 501(c)(3) non-profit in Phoenix, Arizona focused on helping survivors of human trafficking and prior gang affiliation heal from the pain of their past through “branding” tattoo and scar removal. We pride ourselves on the use of only non-invasive removal technologies. We have exceptional partnerships with organizations that care for survivors who have been forced to endure such horrific experiences. We come alongside the survivor and are with them throughout the entire process. We partner with organizations nationwide to refer survivors to our certified and trained affiliate technicians. We ensure the safety and privacy of the procedures, so the survivor won’t have to endure additional traumas. Ultimately, the goal of Soul Survivor Ink is to eliminate all “branding” tattoos providing hope for an emotional, spiritual, and physical release from the survivor’s painful past” (Soul Survivor Ink, n.d.).

### Networking / Staying Connected

Social workers and mental health professionals can register with shelters, state agencies, and NGOs to get announcements about upcoming conferences, training opportunities, and other special events. They can also use these organizations to make contacts and grow professionally. Four groups, each with its own target audience, are described below to facilitate this type of networking.

- The [Global Association of Human Trafficking Scholars](#) (GAHTS) has more than a thousand members and allows members to connect directly with other anti-trafficking professionals. The Association promotes research and “is dedicated to an international partnership with an understanding of the historical, political and cultural components of human trafficking as they influence research, policy, and activism in each respective global community” (Global Association of Human Trafficking Scholars, n.d.-b). GAHTS offers four membership levels depending upon the background and interests of potential associates. There are no research or educational requirements for “Advocate Members” such as direct service providers, police officers, and survivors. They can also join for free. The criteria for joining at other levels vary, and annual fees range from \$60 - \$120. Those who need financial assistance can request that the fee be waived (Global Association of Human Trafficking Scholars, n.d.-a).
- The Guide identified the [Freedom Collaborative](#) earlier as a valuable training resource with a library of more than 50 webinars on human trafficking. The Collaborative also provides “an online, interactive multi-service platform for the counter-trafficking community. It gives users a space to read and share relevant news and updates, connect with new partners and service providers, obtain legal support, and access a large catalog of resources and open research tools.”
- The [National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance](#) is “a network of service providers committed to enhancing services and increasing access to care for survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation” (National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance, n.d.-a). Alliance officials cite studies which indicate that agencies offering shelter services for trafficked survivors have an average of just five years of experience. “With a field this new, we need to be intentional about supporting one another, continuously learning, and working together to advance the profession. Therefore, the Alliance has been established to offer a feature-rich online platform where members can share and learn, develop professional education to increase staff and leadership competencies, assert standards of care leading to levels of accreditation, and work together with service providers to ensure the highest quality of care for survivors.” The



Alliance has about 100 members in 35 states and sponsors three primary initiatives: the Alliance Referral System, a Knowledge Center, and Accreditation. Associate Members are not long-term restorative agencies but directly serve survivors with missions such as street outreach, drop-in centers, case management, advocacy, and awareness. Agencies with 501(c) 3 status and provide long-term, restorative services for survivors of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and/or prostitution qualify for General Membership (National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance, n.d.-b).

- Membership in [Freedom Network USA](#) is limited to those who deal directly with survivors of human trafficking and work at least half-time on anti-trafficking initiatives. The Network “is the largest and most comprehensive national coalition serving human trafficking survivors in the United States. Our network includes survivors, legal and social service providers, researchers, and expert consultants. Members are leading advocates in the anti-trafficking movement who come together to influence federal and state policy, provide training and technical assistance, and support each other in navigating complex systems. Their collective expertise creates a strong and unified voice informed by the survivors they serve on the ground every day. Freedom Network USA engages in advocacy, provides training and technical assistance, and works to increase the capacity of its members and allies. Our perspective is derived from the geographic scope and diverse expertise our members bring from working with human trafficking survivors in all forms of labor” (Freedom Network USA, n.d.-a). Eligible professionals who wish to join must first register for a probationary membership of 12 months to gain a better understanding of the network. This time also allows network members and staff to learn about the applicant's work. These “associate members” can apply for full membership after the mutual evaluation (Freedom Network, n.d.-c).

### **The takeaway**

Trained staff in many disciplines are in an excellent position to identify and assist victims of human trafficking. In order to be successful, however, these professionals need to learn the warning signs and acquire the skills necessary to build trust with a target audience that is often suspicious or even hostile.

This chapter provided a wealth of resources that law enforcement, police lockup and jail staff, health care personnel, and social workers can use to become effective agents of change. The nature of the training that each group will find most beneficial will vary, but they are all ultimately members of the same team. As Dan Nash stated at the beginning of this chapter, professionals should strive to “Be the one!” who helps transform a survivor's life.

## V. Business Partners

### **Private business and human trafficking**

Experts estimate that forced labor in the private sector generates more than \$100 billion in profits globally each year. These profits accrue with and without the knowledge of the businesses that benefit from it. The [four primary risk areas where companies may encounter human trafficking](#) are:

- Exploitation within a company's supply chain, such as in the use of forced labor by suppliers or subcontractors;
- Utilization of personnel supplied by third-party agents whose unscrupulous treatment of workers amounts to trafficking;
- Traffickers' use of a company's products, facilities, or services such as busses and airlines to keep someone in bondage; and
- Traffickers' use of a company's properties such as hotels and motels to victimize individuals for sex trafficking. (End Human Trafficking Now, 2006).

There is a growing consensus that respect for human rights is not just an ethical standard that businesses can ignore with impunity. Rather, it is "a corporate imperative because the interplay of industry standards, legislation, and litigation has reshaped the human rights risk landscape. [Corporate boards must now consider an array of legal, financial, and reputational risks when designing an effective human rights strategy](#)" (Enodo Rights & Liberty Global, Liberty Asia, 2018).

Chapter V addresses the vital role that corporations have in the fight against human trafficking. The chapter first considers significant supply chain issues that impact many industries. It then discusses some of the broad principles and strategies that businesses should consider embracing and several resources that can help them if they do. The final sections look at how five different types of businesses are addressing the trafficking problem. Other commercial sectors, such as [financial services](#), can also contribute, but the ones featured here are representative.

### **Human trafficking in corporate supply chains**

Many activists look for signs of human trafficking during their visits to stores and ethnic restaurants. Their efforts are praiseworthy, but it is also important to recognize the serious but less visible dangers associated with corporate supply chains.

Potential problems stem from the fact that companies often seek to decrease production costs by outsourcing goods and services to countries with lower labor standards. This practice leaves many businesses, particularly those with global supply chains, at risk of supporting forced labor practices abroad.

Research has found that executives at [71% of all companies believe that modern slavery is likely to be occurring somewhere in their supply chains](#) (Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, 2018). With regard to food alone, the State Department concluded in its [2018 Trafficking in Persons Report](#) that trafficking risks exist in the agricultural sectors of more than 90 countries (U.S. Department of State, 2018). Food and beverage supply chains are typically complex and opaque, moreover, so it is very difficult to trace specific products to worksites that engage in unscrupulous labor practices (U.S. Department of State, 2018).

In Great Britain, the Transparency in Supply Chains clause of the Modern Slavery Act requires a significant cross-section of private sector companies to reduce the risk of human trafficking in their supply chains (HTSC). Legislators drafted the law “to prevent modern slavery in organizations and their supply chains by increasing the transparency and accountability of companies to both shareholders and consumers, thereby driving best practice in HTSC risk mitigation. More specifically, the clause requires companies falling within specified financial and geographic thresholds to publish an annual statement outlining the steps they have taken to mitigate the risk of HTSC” (Ruiz-Benitez De Lugo, 2018).

The Transparency in Supply Chains clause was a significant development in British efforts to eradicate labor abuse from supply chains. Available data have nevertheless led some to question both the effectiveness of the law’s “comply or explain” approach and the adequacy of penalties for not complying. The [Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime](#) has offered several recommendations to help affected businesses achieve compliance and play a proactive role resolving supply chain issues (Ruiz-Benitez De Lugo, 2018).

In the United States, Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 22.17 requires all U.S. Government contracts to prohibit contractors, subcontractors, and their employees from engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons, procuring commercial sex, and using forced labor during the performance of the contract. The Department of Homeland Security’s Blue Campaign provides [additional information about the role of FAR and how it relates to human trafficking](#) for those who would like to learn more (Blue Campaign, 2016a).

In 2017, Sutapa Basu and Johnna White of the University of Washington Women’s Center published a very interesting [report](#) that has widespread ramifications about the ways that government and individual corporations can address labor chain issues at the state level (Basu & White, 2017). The report focused on Washington State, but the findings and recommendations almost certainly have national relevance.

The report found that human trafficking had been reported within local supply chains of numerous industries in 18 (46%) of Washington’s 39 counties. Sectors predisposed to human trafficking included construction, manufacturing, agriculture, hospitality, and food. These sectors collectively generate nearly \$100 billion annually for the state’s gross domestic product. The report also found that while many corporations, including Washington-based companies such as Costco and Starbucks, had adopted strong Corporate Social Responsibility policies, labor trafficking was still an ongoing problem in supply chains generally (Basu & White, 2017).

Another troubling finding was that the State did not monitor its own supply chains or require its vendors to use a supply chain free from trafficked labor. Consequently, Washington State and several local governments had contracts with vendors that used ethically questionable supply chains. The Women’s Center recommended that the state pass legislation officially adopting an anti-human trafficking public procurement policy. The policy would ideally impose anti-labor trafficking requirements in all state contracts and encourage corporations with a significant presence in Washington State to manage their supply chains in a transparent, diligent manner (Basu & White, 2017).

Relevant laws are weak or nonexistent in many states. It is thus incumbent on individual companies to acknowledge their potential role in facilitating human trafficking and to take steps to

minimize it where possible. Fortunately, many resources are available to help corporate executives implement the necessary policies and procedures. Some resources have widespread applicability, while others target particular industries. A few appear below to help those interested get started.

- [Becoming a Slavery-Free Business](#)

“There’s slavery in every shopping mall in America. From cocoa, coffee, and clothing, to cars, computers, and cell phones, many products sold in the U.S. are tainted by slavery. Sometimes it’s sweatshop slavery where goods are manufactured. Other times, it’s brutal child slavery at plantations and mines where commodities and raw materials come from.” This 8-minute video will help businesses learn how to keep slavery-tainted materials out of their product supply chains” (Free The Slaves, 2012a).

- [Assent](#)

“Assent [provides] cloud-based SaaS used to identify and assess third-party risks, educate stakeholders on regulatory and data program requirements, and increase transparency between businesses” (Dodge, 2018). Assent also sponsors ‘Supply Chain Insight,’ a recurring two-day conference for supply chain and compliance professionals worldwide (Dodge, 2021).

Those in the apparel industry may want to download a free e-book titled [Combating Human Trafficking & Slavery in Apparel Supply Chains](#) from the Assent website. Assent describes the book as “your best resource for understanding how these illegal activities occur within some of the world’s top brand supply chains. In this eBook, you will find information on human trafficking and slavery within the apparel industry, what it looks like and how to mitigate the risk of exposure to these activities within your supply chain” (Assent, 2017b).

- [KnowTheChain](#)

“KnowTheChain benchmarks aim to help companies protect the wellbeing of workers by incentivizing companies and identifying gaps in each sector evaluated. The benchmark’s seven themes capture the key areas where companies need to take action to eradicate forced labor from their supply chains: Commitment, traceability, and risk assessment; purchasing practices; recruitment; worker voice; monitoring; and remedy. Our benchmark reports show how hundreds of companies have performed over time” (KnowTheChain, n.d).

- [Responsible Sourcing Tool](#)

The State Department’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons developed the Responsible Sourcing Tool in cooperation with Verité, Made in a Free World, and the Aspen Institute. “The Tool is for companies, federal contractors, federal procurement and contracting professionals, advocates, investors, consumers, and others to rid supply chains of human trafficking. Sample Code of Conduct Provisions for Food and Beverage Supply Chains identifies basic performance expectations for suppliers and contractors. Other tools include Evaluating the Anti-Trafficking Requirements of Voluntary Sustainability Systems, the Food and Beverage Sector Compliance Plan Template, and Monitoring the Performance of Labor

Recruiters in the Food and Beverage Supply Chain" (Responsible Sourcing Tool, n.d.-b).

- [To The Market](#)  
“To The Market uses technology to help retailers and brands provide transparency in the supply chain to source and manufacture socially and environmentally responsible products at competitive pricing, lower minimums, and faster turnaround times. We are on a mission to change the way retail manufacturing is done to create a better outcome for people, the planet, and ultimately, better business. Our vetted network of more than 200 syndicated suppliers in over 20 countries is ready to spring into action. We’ll help match you with the ethical manufacturer that best fits your needs. Get your products where they need to go without hang-ups or confusion. We’ll handle your shipping logistics and guide you through the process each step of the way” (To The Market, n.d.).
- [Open Apparel Registry \(OAR\)](#)  
The Open Apparel Registry “is an open-source database with a free online map that helps promote transparency in fashion supply chains by mapping garment facilities of major brands across the world. The OAR will hopefully help provide easily accessible information for the industry and hold those still utilizing unethical and environmentally damaging suppliers to account” (Open Apparel Registry, n.d.).
- [Make Fashion Traffik Free Protocol](#)  
Corporations that sign the Protocol make a three to five-year commitment to “trace and make public the supplies in [their] chain of supply in all stages of the production of the garments” (SA Justice 2018). They also agree to “require suppliers to introduce contracts, signed by themselves and each employee,” that ensure minimum standards like the “freedom of movement of workers...[and] payment of a living wage” (SA Justice, 2018). Those who sign also agree to “allow unannounced auditing and offsite worker interviews by credible and independent auditors” (SA Justice, 2018).

### **Principles, Standards, and Resources**

The report that Basu and White prepared about labor chain issues in Washington State described a series of meetings in which the participants reached a clear but unfortunate consensus: Businesses are central to the prevention and reporting of human trafficking but are almost entirely absent in the development and execution of related protocols and initiatives at both state and national levels (Basu & White, 2017). Focus groups in other states would probably reach a similar conclusion.

Many resources are available to assist concerned businesses. A good place to start might be to watch some of the webinars on the Freedom Collaborative website. One of many worth seeing is titled [“Engaging the Private Sector for Combatting Trafficking in Persons \(Lessons Learned, Considerations and Partnerships\).”](#) The webinar draws from experiences the Collaborative gained while brokering more than 300 partnerships with the private sector. “The panel discusses the many nuances of the process of building private sector partnerships that can help make progress. The panel also highlights the need for understanding the partners’ perspective, trust, flexibility, and problem-solving” (Freedom Collaborative, 2019a).

Business executives should also become familiar with the work that several influential groups have done to promote ethical business practices. Under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for example, the Women's International Peace Movement convened a meeting of representatives from non-governmental organizations and the private sector in 2006 to develop ways of helping companies fight human trafficking. Attendees adopted what became known as the “Athens Ethical Principles” and launched the “End Human Trafficking Now” campaign to encourage businesses to adopt them. The principles contain seven central values:

- Demonstrate the position of zero tolerance towards trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, for sexual exploitation (*Policy Setting*);
- Contribute to the prevention of trafficking in human beings, including awareness-raising campaigns and education (*Public Awareness-Raising*);
- Develop a corporate strategy for an anti-trafficking policy that will permeate all our activities (*Strategic Planning*);
- Ensure that our personnel fully comply with our anti-trafficking policy (*Personnel Policy Enforcement*);
- Encourage business partners, including suppliers, to apply ethical principles against human trafficking (*Supply Chain Tracing*);
- In an effort to increase enforcement, it is necessary to call on governments to initiate a process of revising laws and regulations that are directly or indirectly related to enhancing anti-trafficking policies (*Government Advocacy*); and
- Report and share information on best practices (*Transparency*). (End Human Trafficking Now, 2006).

Hundreds of companies have agreed to abide by these principles. The [Luxor Implementation Guidelines to the Athens Ethical Principles](#) are available to help companies move beyond aspirational statements and draft standard operating procedures that make the principles a way of doing business.

Another notable group making a difference is the [Global Business Coalition Against Human Trafficking](#). The Coalition is a collaborative initiative of Business for Social Responsibility (BSR). BSR “is a global nonprofit business network and consultancy dedicated to sustainability. It aims to harness the power of business across sectors to prevent and reduce the incidence of modern slavery and to support survivors in their reintegration into the workforce. Together with our company members – Amazon, Carlson, Google, Kering, Microsoft, and The Coca-Cola Company – we are advancing progress on combating modern slavery in three ways:

*1. Enhancing the capabilities of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to prevent and address modern slavery in their operations and participate in responsible global supply chains.*

The greatest risk of modern slavery lies deep in a company’s supply chain, mainly concentrated within the operations of SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises). After consulting with SME business providers, we realized that while SMEs are on the frontlines of this global fight, they often lack the knowledge and/or capabilities to manage the risk of modern slavery effectively. GBCAT is developing a toolkit tailored to SMEs on managing modern slavery risks to address this gap. The toolkit will explain the relevance of modern slavery to the SME community using real-world examples and focus on key risks associated with modern slavery, such as working hours, use of migrant labor, and retention of identity documents.



2. *Enabling businesses to support modern slavery survivors through employment opportunities and access to job skills training.*

Limited economic opportunity is one of the root causes of modern slavery. By providing good jobs to ready and interested survivors of modern slavery, we aim to break the cycle of exploitation and prevent any re-exploitation of individuals. GBCAT is developing a survivor employment guide that explains why companies should hire modern slavery survivors and what companies can do to create a trauma-informed workplace that supports survivors and helps them thrive.

3. *Providing resources and guidance to businesses to navigate the landscape of anti-slavery organizations, training, and tools.*

While there are a plethora of organizations collaborating with business to address modern slavery risks, many companies are not yet aware of the presence of these organizations. GBCAT developed the [Interactive Map for Business of Anti-Human Trafficking Organizations](#) to help companies identify the organizations that partner with the private sector to address modern slavery challenges and how they are working with business (e.g., running modern slavery trainings for companies) Our interactive database currently reflects 90 different organizations around the world that business can look to when determining partnership opportunities. We will continue adding new organizations to the Map as they emerge so we can make the Map a more robust public resource” (Chandra, 2019).

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is also engaged and sponsors a [Task Force to Eradicate Human Trafficking](#). The Task Force's efforts are notable partly because of their initiatives to support trafficking survivors (U.S. Chamber of Commerce, n.d.). In 2021, the Chamber convened the [Business Solutions: Empowering Human Trafficking Survivors Forum](#). Advocates and representatives of survivor-led organizations attending the forum “highlighted the business community’s partnership with civil society to facilitate recovery, return, and reintegration to those who have been harmed” (U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 2021). The Chamber subsequently published [Business solutions for empowering human trafficking survivors](#) in January 2022. The report built on the ideas discussed at the forum and describes how businesses “are taking the initiative to uplift individuals who have been marginalized. The publication includes a toolkit that focuses on the business community’s role in health care, job training and employment, and daily living. For each need, businesses can provide meaningful solutions” (U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 2022).

Supporting survivors is a core objective of companies that proudly call themselves “freedom businesses.” [Freedom Businesses](#) employ men and women who are at risk of being trafficked or who have been rescued from trafficking and exploitation. In so doing, the companies explicitly set out to teach survivors a skill or trade they can use to earn a living wage (Engage Together, n.d.-b). Together, they have formed the [Freedom Business Alliance](#), an NGO with more than 100 businesses in 28 countries that strives to end human trafficking by addressing its economic roots (Freedom Alliance, n.d.-c). As noted on the organization’s [Facebook](#) page, “Freedom businesses exist to fight trafficking. The Freedom Business Alliance exists to help them succeed” (Freedom Alliance, n.d.-b).

Some challenges associated with human trafficking are unique to each type of business. The underlying dynamics tend to overlap, however, and businesses from multiple sectors can often use common strategies to address them. [Tech Against Trafficking](#) (TAT) is a coalition of companies that are collaborating with global experts to help eradicate human trafficking using technology. “Our goal

is to work with civil society, law enforcement, academia, technologists, and survivors to advance and scale the use of technology to prevent, disrupt, and reduce human trafficking and increase and expand survivors' access to resources." More specifically, TAT encourages companies to:

- “Go beyond compliance with legislation to champion the use of your technology products, services, assets, and people to fight human trafficking;
- Enhance your corporate reputation, build brand equity, and reduce risk with investors, customers, and key stakeholders;
- Collaborate in a safe space with industry peers and anti-slavery experts to share insights, research, and best practices;
- Build capacity within your organization and within key stakeholder groups such as civil society and law enforcement;
- Innovate and inform how you design and develop technology solutions that respect human rights; and
- Drive progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 8.7 by taking immediate and effective measures to eradicate human trafficking (Tech Against Trafficking, n.d.l.).”

Executives of larger corporations may find it helpful to consult [Modern Slavery Governance: Basics for Boards](#). Basics for Boards is a practical guide that uses the lessons of regulatory compliance to illustrate how global businesses can manage human rights risks effectively, with a particular focus on modern slavery. The Guide seeks “to provide a quick reference for corporate directors and officers to implement modern slavery policies and procedures that meet stakeholder expectations while navigating emerging legal risk practically and efficiently” (Enodo rights & Liberty Global, Liberty Asia, 2018).

Another helpful resource is the [Business and Investor Toolkit](#). The toolkit “helps businesses and investors take action to improve human rights standards in their supply chains and combat forced labor, human trafficking and other forms of modern slavery” (Walk Free, n.d.-a). It contains links to case studies, research, legal frameworks, and tools that Walk Free developed in cooperation with other civil society organizations worldwide (Walk Free, n.d.-a).

Executives looking for company-specific guidance can take advantage of services that nonprofits such as Verité and Assent Compliance offer. [Verité](#) has “partnered with hundreds of corporations, governments, and NGOs to illuminate labor rights violations in supply chains and remedy them to benefit workers and companies alike” (Verité, n.d.).

Verité offers the following services:

- *“We illuminate problems:* From benchmarking policy to evaluating sourcing to field-based interviews, Verité develops a portrait of your supply chain that identifies risk and labor rights abuses.
- *We analyze and report:* Verité gathers and interprets information, so it has context and meaning that sharpens focus and defines direction.
- *We identify solutions:* Verité provides actionable recommendations, helping companies address strategic and tactical social responsibility gaps within existing business systems and imperatives.
- *We collaborate and educate:* Verité customizes capacity-building programs to enhance the skills of managers, workers, auditors, and social responsibility decision-makers.

Verité has a history of work in over 70 countries, with a global network of experts in Africa, Asia, Europe, South America, North America, and Australia” (Verité, n.d.).

The [Responsible and Ethical Private Sector Coalition against Trafficking \(RESPECT\)](#) is yet another important source of information. The Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, Babson College’s Initiative on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, and the International Organization for Migration formed the Coalition in 2018. “The RESPECT initiative provides industry-specific resources for the private sector through a cutting-edge online portal on the RESPECT website. Through the website’s Resource Centre section, business leaders and the public will be able to search through user-friendly tools to find reports, research, and public policy tools” (RESPECT International, n.d.-b).

Finally, it is worth noting that corporations can also support the anti-trafficking movement in ways that do not involve supply chains or training survivors. An example would be when [Max Factor Arabia and other leading beauty brands severed ties in 2018 with the popular Kuwaiti blogger Sondos Alqattan](#). Ms. Alqattan, who has more than two million Instagram users following her make-up tutorials, criticized an agreement that Kuwait and the Philippines had reached allowing domestic workers in Kuwait to retain their passports. The agreement protected 260,000 Filipino citizens from the exploitation that can result when employers exercise complete control over their staff’s ability to leave. Ms. Alqattan posted an outraged note on her blog asking, “How can you have a servant at home who keeps their passport with them? What’s worse is they have one day off every week. The passport of any ex-pat employee should be in the possession of the employer to protect the employer’s interest” (Kanso, 2018). [Alqattan vowed that she would ask her followers to boycott the brands that severed relations with her](#) (“Racist Kuwaiti Blogger Has Accused Her Critics of Attacking Islam, Hijab and Kuwait”, 2018).

Bales and Soodalter described another type of opportunity for corporate leadership in their book, [The Slave Next Door](#). The Florida Council of Catholic Women has asked the makers of Tampax and other feminine products to put an antitrafficking message in different languages on their packaging. The message would include a 24-hour telephone number that customers can call if they are forced to work against their will. The Council chose feminine products because women of all backgrounds purchase them and because women use these items in private, away from the eyes of potential captors. Unfortunately, most leading brands have chosen not to implement this cost-free idea (Bales & Soodalter, 2010).

Companies that decide to take an active role in the fight against human trafficking will need to ensure that their employees understand the underlying issues and the policies the company has adopted to address them. A simple memo or policy directive may suffice in some instances. Other circumstances may require formal training specific to the industry and the employee's role. Mall security personnel, for example, should know how to recognize sexual predators looking for girls to exploit as well as the signs that certain juveniles hanging around the food court might be vulnerable. Beauticians, by contrast, need instruction on how to recognize and respond to situations in which it appears that a pimp has brought a woman under his control to the salon.

Three of the many sources for corporate training include:

- [Businesses Ending Slavery and Trafficking \(BEST\)](#).  
BEST provides awareness, consultation, and training to employers in several sectors, including hospitality, information technology, oil and gas, and tourism (Businesses Ending Slavery and Trafficking, n.d.).

- [The Guardian Group](#)  
“We provide sector-specific training. Equip your staff to spot sex trafficking while managing your business’s liability” (Guardian Group, n.d.-a). The Group offers training for the hospitality industry, healthcare personnel, law enforcement, and the community as a whole (Guardian Group, n.d.-a).
- [Stop the Traffik](#)  
“Human trafficking and modern slavery pose a huge risk for businesses and financial institutions. We support businesses in mitigating this risk in numerous ways, including bespoke awareness courses, supply chain risk mapping, and developing resources” (Stop The Traffik- n.d.-d).

### **Convenience stores**

Convenience stores are small retail businesses that stock a wide range of everyday items. The items include snacks, soft drinks, groceries, tobacco products, over-the-counter drugs, toiletries, lottery tickets, and newspapers. Many also sell gas and a small selection of ready-to-eat foods such as sandwiches. Some stay open 24/7.

[There are more than 150,000 convenience stores just in the United States. The largest chain, 7-Eleven, operates about 9,300 of them](#) (Kress, 2019). A typical convenience store selling fuel has about 1,100 customers daily or more than 400,000 each year. Altogether, [the U.S. convenience store industry serves nearly 165 million people every day for an annual total of 58 billion customers](#) (NACS, n.d.). The sector is thus exceptionally well-positioned to publicize both the indicators of human trafficking and the ways to report it safely. Customers almost certainly include individuals who are being trafficked, moreover, so trained clerks should be able to help free at least some of them.

[In Our Backyard](#) is a national nonprofit that fights human trafficking through awareness, action, education, legislative advising, and advocacy for survivors (In Our backyard, n.d.-c). Its initiatives include [Convenience Stores Against Trafficking](#) (CSAT), a project that links convenience store retailers, petroleum marketers, state associations, and industry suppliers in 19,000 locations across 47 states (In Our Backyard, n.d.-a).

Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline **888-3737-888**

**CONVENIENCE STORES  
AGAINST  
TRAFFICKING**

 HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
IN OUR BACKYARD  
www.InOurBackyard.org

**Human Trafficking Indicators**

- Victim may appear fearful or anxious.
- Victim may avoid eye contact or social interaction.
- Victim may appear malnourished or show signs of physical abuse.
- Multiple female victims may be together and may have similar tattoos.
- Victim may be controlled by traffickers and not be able to speak for themselves or make purchases without the traffickers consent.
- Victims of human trafficking can be of any race, ethnicity, gender, age or socioeconomic status.
- A large number of sex trafficking victims are domestic born and a large number of labor trafficking victims are foreign born.
- Traffickers use force, fraud or coercion to profit off some type of labor or paid sex act.

**What To Do If You Suspect  
Human Trafficking**

- Write down a *physical description* (age, race, height, tattoos, scars, identifying characteristics).
- Write down a *description of vehicles* involved (color, make, model, license plate and state).
- Note *time of day* to help authorities search video to identify the traffickers and victims.
- *Do not confront* a suspected trafficker directly or alert a victim to any suspicions. It is up to law enforcement to investigate suspected cases of human trafficking.
- Immediately after traffickers and victims have left, *call the National Human Trafficking Hotline* at 888-3737-888 and report what you observed. Make a call in a private area sooner if possible.
- Don't worry about being wrong - *report anything that may be human trafficking*. The trained advocates at the hotline are available 24/7 to receive your calls.

(In Our Backyard, n.d.-b)

A [2016 study](#) by Northeastern University found that posting the National Human Trafficking Hotline number in public places is one of the most effective ways to increase human trafficking arrests. Activists should thus encourage their favorite convenience store to join CSAT if it does not already belong. Alternatively, the stores could at least give each employee a copy of the six-page [Human Trafficking Awareness Guide for Convenience Retail Employees](#) that the DHS Blue Campaign released in 2020. The Guide is informative and easy to read. “The purpose is to inform front line convenience retail employees about human trafficking and the indicators that may help them recognize a potential victim while on the job” (Blue Campaign, 2020).

### **Lodging**

Travelers often stay at hotels, motels, and rooms they find through Airbnb. Any trafficking that occurs at these sites violates the human rights of the victims and potentially endangers the safety of staff and other guests.



[Three types of human trafficking are problematic at hotels and motels:](#) Sexual exploitation, forced labor at the hotel, and the use of forced labor to produce goods that employees purchased through unethical supply chains.

- *Sexual exploitation:* Hotels and motels are often used as locations for commercial sex. They are especially attractive to escort services that advertise online. Traffickers also use hotels to move victims throughout the country and as places where they can secure victims on an as-needed basis.

Traffickers use commercial accommodations as a base for sexual exploitation for several reasons. Incentives include a large number of establishments, convenient locations, easy access, the ability to rent rooms online or with cash, and high levels of privacy. Traffickers also like hotels because they can move victims without notice. Traffickers believe they can act almost anonymously while exploiting victims anywhere from budget properties to luxury resorts.

- *Forced labor:* Forced labor at hotels can occur due to direct hiring by unscrupulous managers. It can also result from outsourcing the hiring function to agencies that use debt bondage or other unethical practices to recruit people for lower-skilled positions such as housekeeping. Authorities estimate that in Europe alone, about 4,500 victims of forced labor are exploited in hotels each year.
- *The use of forced labor to produce goods purchased through unethical supply chains:* Hotels use a wide variety of products that pass through a complex network of producers, distributors, and vendors before arriving on site. Unless a hotel exclusively uses Fair Trade products which tend to be moderately expensive, there is a risk that exploited labor produced or processed sugar, coffee, and many other items that consumers use daily (Anthony, 2018).

#### Legal issues: Why commercial hosts need to care

[Several hotel chains have gone on record denouncing human trafficking.](#) A spokesperson for Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc., for example, insists that Hilton “condemns all forms of human trafficking, including sexual exploitation. We are fully committed, in each and every one of our markets, to protect individuals from all forms of abuse and exploitation” (Mallene, 2019). InterContinental Hotels & Resorts also condemns human trafficking “in all forms” and has promised to work with hotel owners to fight human trafficking across the industry. Both chains are nevertheless among many that trafficked survivors have sued for ignoring signs of exploitation and profiting from sex trafficking on their property (Mallene, 2019).



“In the summer of 2011, Lisa Ricchio received a call from a man she knew. He said he was in Massachusetts, in pain from a recent surgery, and needed help. ‘I was held against my will for several days, and during that, he sexually assaulted me nonstop. He had burned me on my privates,’ Ricchio says. ‘He had cut me; he didn't allow me to eat or drink. It was truly a nightmare. Along with him telling me that I was going to be a prostitute to make him income.’ Ricchio ultimately escaped, and her abuser was arrested and sentenced to prison.”

“Then, Ricchio did something novel. Under a federal law called the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, or TVPA, she sued the motel, alleging that the owners financially benefited from the crime. Legal experts and anti-trafficking groups say her 2015 case was the first filed against a hotel or motel for its role in a trafficking crime. ‘It is not that any hotel is liable just because trafficking occurred on their premises,’ explains Cindy Vreeland, a partner at the firm WilmerHale, which handled Ricchio's case pro bono. ‘The question is whether the company that's been sued knew or should have known about the trafficking.’

“After a number of appeals and delays, the case finally settled in December 2019 with Ricchio receiving an undisclosed monetary award. ‘I never thought it would be, like, an eight-year process,’ Ricchio says. ‘Anything in the court system seems to take forever.’ That slow process isn't deterring other survivors of trafficking from bringing their own suits. According to the Human Trafficking Institute, there were at least 25 new cases filed nationwide against hotels and motels last year under the TVPA. Some of the named defendants include major chains such as Hilton, Marriott and Red Roof Inn. ‘You can't just let anything happen on your property, turn a blind eye and say, 'Too bad, so sad, I didn't do it, so I'm not responsible,' says Paul Pennock with the firm Weitz & Luxenberg. Pennock has filed an estimated two dozen cases against hotels on behalf of victims in an effort to stop what he considers an epidemic of forced prostitution” (Bookman, 2020).

Other lawsuits alleging that hotels have been complicit in facilitating human trafficking include the following:

- In 2019, [“three national hotel chains were accused of being complicit in sex trafficking at hotels across the country including various ones in North Texas](#), according to a federal lawsuit filed in Dallas this week. The case was filed on behalf of a woman identified as F.M., who says she was sexually exploited at North Texas hotels beginning when she was four years old. The woman is now in her 20s and lives in Tarrant County. The lawsuit includes Best Western, Hyatt, and Red Lion hotels. It asserts that the companies ignored criminal activity occurring on their property and failed to protect victims of sex trafficking from exploitation.”
- In 2020, a woman claiming she was [a victim of sex trafficking sued six major hotel chains](#) “alleging they turned a blind eye to her plight in order to ‘continue earning a profit.’ According to the lawsuit filed Monday in the US District Court in Portland, the woman claims she was trafficked for commercial sex at multiple hotels in Oregon and Washington State in 2012 and 2013. Staff are alleged to have ‘ignored obvious signs of human trafficking such as her lack of eye contact and bottles of lubricants, boxes of condoms, used condoms in the trash, excessive requests for towels and linens, room rentals by her pimp, and the fact the police arrested her on

hotel property.’ The suit continues: ‘The foot traffic to the rooms was constant and voluminous. When the hotel doors were locked, A.B. would walk out of her room in a tank top and ‘booty shorts’ to open the front lobby door for unregistered men late at night.’ It is not the first lawsuit to be brought against hotel chains for allegedly turning a blind eye to trafficked guests. Just last week, a Washington state woman filed a lawsuit against hotel chains Motel 6, Wyndham, and Howard Johnson, also claiming staff turned ignored obvious signs she was a sex trafficking victim” (Court, 2019).

- In 2020, [a lawsuit was filed against 22 Naples, Florida-area hotels and motels](#) in an effort to hold hotels accountable for ignoring sex trafficking activities in 2015 and early 2016. The lawsuit alleges that the hotels and motels did nothing to stop blatant sex trafficking activity in 2015 and early 2016. “The telltale signs of the activity were women wandering the hotel hallways strung out on heroin while wearing provocative clothing, and men cycling in out of the women’s rooms that had ‘do not disturb’ signs hung on the door for days” (Allen, 2020).

Altogether, [“about 1,500 victims of human trafficking have retained lawyers in the various lawsuits, and as many as 7,000 are expected to do so over time,](#) according to an attorney of a firm leading the efforts to consolidate the lawsuits. Lawyers representing human trafficking victims wanted a single federal judge to oversee multiple lawsuits alleging that major hotel chains have ignored human trafficking taking place on their premises. Attorneys asked a federal panel to consolidate at least 21 such lawsuits pending in 11 states into a single case in federal court in Columbus, Ohio, arguing that the lawsuits contain the same basic allegations. Companies named in the lawsuits, including Choice Hotels International, Inc., Inter-Continental Hotels Corps., and Wyndham Hotels & Resorts” (Hodal, 2019).

Hotel managers generally insist they are doing what they can to stop trafficking on their premises. The depth and range of their efforts vary, however, partly because state laws outlining the required steps are inconsistent. Some facilities are not required to do anything.

Franchising agreements can further complicate corporate efforts to be proactive. The franchisor does not, for example, usually have the right to ensure that the franchisee’s operations comply with ethical practices regarding labor and the supply of goods and services. Liberty Shared has prepared a helpful document to help corporations address these issues: [Modern slavery and the hotel industry: Best practice guidance for franchising](#). This 2019 guide “provides franchisors with an overview of the risks associated with modern slavery in relation to hotel franchise agreements and sets out practical solutions aimed at increasing the prospect that a franchisee’s operations are free from these risks” (Kotecha & Hargrove, 2019).

Elected officials from several jurisdictions have taken steps to address the problem of trafficking at lodging facilities. The [Houston City Council, for example, approved an ordinance in 2018 that directed all 524 Houston hotels and motels to train their employees how to spot human trafficking](#) and contact law enforcement when appropriate. The regulation also mandated that businesses keep records of the training and post signs listing common indicators of trafficking along with the phone numbers of local and national law enforcement (McGuinness, 2020).

Efforts at the state level include a law that California passed in 2018 to [ensure that all hotel and motel employers provide workers with human trafficking awareness training](#). California’s initiative is significant because the state had the highest number of reported trafficking cases in the

country during the last six years. (Texas and Florida were ranked #2 and #3 on the list.) The downside is that California only requires 20 minutes of instruction, an amount that many experts believe is insufficient (Hadlet, 2019). The 2019 report [Unpacking Human Trafficking: A Survey of State laws targeting human trafficking in the hospitality industry](#) has detailed information about relevant laws in each state (Weiss, 2019).

### Resources

[People who use hotels for sex trafficking often show signs of their intentions from check-in to check-out.](#) Consequently, front desk agents, housekeepers, and security staff should all be able to recognize and respond appropriately to situations where something does not appear to be right. “If a guest pays in cash or requests a room with access to an exit, that’s a red flag,” according to Ritz-Carlton trainer Wendy Hunter. “Does a guest speak for another person in their party? Or seems too protective of them? Maybe he lingers outside their room for long periods of time? That’s the time to speak up” (Hadley, 2019). The poster on the following page from [Shared Hope International](#) lists some additional warning signs that an individual is being trafficked in a hospitality setting (Peck, n.d.).

Training and other materials that hotel staff can use to fight trafficking are available from many sources. The American Hotel and Lodging Association (AHLA) is a very good one because it represents every segment of the hotel industry. Members include major chains, independent hotels, management companies, real estate investment trusts, bed and breakfasts, and industry partners.

In 2019, the AHLA launched a national campaign to unite the industry around a single, comprehensive approach to fighting human trafficking. [The Association’s “No Room for Trafficking” campaign](#) has an action plan with five major components:

- “1. Training staff what to look for and how to respond;
2. Displaying human trafficking indicator signage;  
(In addition to the indicators, appropriate signage includes messages such as “Human trafficking NOT tolerated here. \$500 reward for any information that results in the conviction of a human trafficker. If you think you may be a victim of human trafficking, call the national hotline at (888) 373-7888 or text 233733.”)
3. Establishing a companywide policy;
4. Ongoing coordination with law enforcement; and
5. Sharing success stories and best practices” (AHLA Foundation, 2019).

As part of this initiative, the Association released a toolkit that describes several ways its members can “take action and join us in raising awareness about human trafficking prevention. In addition, the AHLA is encouraging membership to engage in a Day of Action with your employees to highlight the ongoing efforts of the industry to combat human trafficking and share those stories with AHLA as we showcase the unified efforts of the industry nationally” (American Hotel & Lodging Association, 2019).

Airbnb, meanwhile, works closely with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. It also joined forces with several large hotel chains to establish the World Travel & Tourism Council’s global task force to prevent and combat human trafficking. [Airbnb’s 2020 anti-trafficking plan](#) included offering live and virtual training to help its hosts identify triggers in the nature and style of the reservation and the steps they should take to report potential trafficking. The

training is not required, but Airbnb is developing incentives to encourage hosts to participate worldwide.

Other resources pertaining to *sex trafficking* in the hospitality industry include the following:

- The [DHS Blue Campaign has prepared a free Hospitality Toolkit](#) to educate hospitality employees about human trafficking. The kit includes posters of warning signs to assist hotel and motel staff; housekeeping, maintenance, and room service staff; concierge, bellman, front desk, security, and valet staff; and food and beverage staff (Blue Campaign, 2016b).
- [ECPAT-USA offers a free online 30-minute human trafficking training program](#) that it developed in collaboration with the American Hotel and Lodging Association and Marriott International. The training is available in 17 languages to ensure that global hospitality organizations can take advantage of the instruction as widely as possible (ECPAT-USA, n.d.-n). [ECPAT has trained more than 500,000 hotel associates through this program since it launched in early 2020](#) (American Hotel & Lodging Association, 2021). ECPAT-USA also provides free tools that lodging establishments can use in conjunction with the training to combat trafficking more effectively (American Hotel & Lodging Association, 2021).

In a separate but related development, ECPAT-USA started a new campaign called #20BY20 to train 20,000 business events (BE) professionals by the end of 2020. In 25 minutes, ECPAT-USA's online course, [Preventing & Responding To Human Trafficking And The Commercial Sexual Exploitation Of Children](#), “teaches Business Events *Leaders* how to become Business Events *Protectors*. The course addresses the issue of human trafficking as well as the intersections between human trafficking and the events/travel industry. This course provides continuing education credit for the Certified Meeting Professional credential. The module is available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French” (ECPAT-USA, n.d.-b).

- Shared Hope has developed an attractive one-page handout that summarizes the warning signs of human trafficking in the hospitality industry and provides information about how to report a tip (Shared Hope International, 2015).
- Other organizations that provide in-person training, online training, and/or train-the-trainer instruction on human trafficking for hotels and motels include [The Guardian Group](#), the [I-5 Freedom Network](#), and [STOP THE TRAFFIK](#).

Resources that can help officials fight *labor trafficking* in the hospitality industry include the two that are listed below:

- The [Sustainable Hospitality Alliance](#) “brings together engaged hospitality companies and uses the collective power of the industry to deliver impact locally and on a global scale. Its members make up 25% of the global hotel industry by rooms and include 14 world-leading hotel companies with a combined reach of over 30,000 properties and 4.5 million rooms. Supported by our members, we are working to unite the hotel industry in a shared commitment to uphold our [Principles on Forced Labour](#) to advance responsible recruitment practices across the hospitality industry. We have developed free [resources](#) for the industry, including training on the risks of modern slavery in labor sourcing, [guidelines for checking](#)

recruitment agencies, and know-how guides to human trafficking and the hotel industry” (Sustainable Hospitality Alliance, n.d.-c).

- The International Organization for Migration and the Sustainable Hospitality Alliance have jointly developed detailed recommendations for [Establishing Ethical Recruitment Practices in the Hospitality Industry](#). The report “provides practical guidance for the hospitality industry on recruiting international migrant workers ethically within business enterprise operations and supply chains” (Sustainable Hospitality Alliance & International Organization for Migration, 2022).

Finally, hotels and motels should consider adopting an idea that trafficked survivor Theresa Flores has suggested. “On her worst night, after being auctioned off to nearly two dozen men in a dirty, inner-city Detroit motel, Theresa recalled the only item that would have reached out to her was a bar of soap. With that in mind, she created [S.O.A.P. — Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution](#) to help reach other victims. The soap wrapper has information about the National Human Trafficking Hotline and is intended for placement in hotel bathrooms where victims often have their only chance at privacy” (The SOAP Project, n.d.-a).



(The SOAP Project, 2012)

## **Tourism**

Most people go on tours to see famous landmarks, national parks, and historical ruins. Others go on specialized tours to buy sex or abuse children.

The sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism encompasses a broad spectrum of prostitution and pornography-related activities. Businesses that do not want to facilitate or support these practices can adopt [The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism](#). “The Code is a multi-stakeholder initiative with the mission to provide awareness, tools, and support to the tourism industry to prevent the sexual exploitation of children. After the first World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in 1996, ECPAT (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking)-Sweden developed The Code in partnership with the United Nations World Tourism Organization and several Swedish tour operators. The Code then spread worldwide through partnerships with the ECPAT network, the World Tourist Association, and UNICEF” (ECPAT-USA, n.d.-p).



[The Code has operated as an independent nonprofit organization since 2004](#). More than 40 U.S. companies have since joined The Code, including some of the world’s most notable airlines, hotels, and travel management companies. Companies that endorse The Code agree to:

- Establish a policy and procedures against the sexual exploitation of children;
- Train employees in children’s rights, the prevention of sexual exploitation, and how to report suspected cases;
- Include a clause in contracts throughout the value chain stating a common repudiation and zero-tolerance policy of sexual exploitation of children;
- Provide information to travelers on children’s rights, the prevention of sexual exploitation of children, and how to report suspected cases;
- Support, collaborate, and engage stakeholders in the prevention of sexual exploitation of children; and
- Report annually on their implementation of Code-related activities (ECPAT-USA, n.d.-m).

Code administrators have published a list of [participating members](#) (ECPAT-USA, n.d.-j). If your preferred hotel has not signed The Code, you can modify a [sample letter](#) asking them to do so (ECPAT-USA, n.d.-g).

[Caesars Entertainment](#) deserves a special shoutout for its efforts. Caesars is the most diversified and geographically diverse casino-entertainment company in the world, with 47 casinos in 13 U.S. states and five countries. In addition to being the first global gaming-entertainment company to sign The Code, Caesars is a member of the International Tourism Partnership. The Partnership is “a unique industry coalition that convenes leading hotel brands that recognize the need for collective and collaborative action to achieve the group’s set of ‘Sustainable Development Goals,’ including those related to human rights” (ECPAT-USA, 2019c).

## **Airlines**

The [U.S. State Department](#) estimates that traffickers take between 600,000 to 800,000 men, women, and children across international borders annually. Many non-governmental organizations believe the numbers are much higher (U.S. Department of Justice Office of Victims and Crime, 2005).

Airlines are, by far, the most common means of international travel. It is thus likely that traffickers and their victims are among those who use this method of transportation to reach their destinations. Whether the flight is international or domestic, however, trafficked individuals tend to disappear soon after arriving. They then become even more difficult to trace and rescue.

The [International Air Transport Association](#) is the airline industry’s global trade association and lobbying group. The Association’s 280 airline members from 120 nations have unanimously approved a resolution denouncing human trafficking. Members have also committed themselves to implementing anti-trafficking training programs and instituting operational procedures to detect and stop the crime (International Air Transport Association, n.d.).

[Delta Air Lines](#) CEO Ed Bastian is one of many airline executives who has stressed his company’s commitment to “combating human trafficking, including training our employees and giving them the resources needed to identify and report all potential cases of human trafficking. Our responsibilities extend beyond running a safe operation” (Simmons, 2015). “Most recently, Delta



worked with Polaris to develop anti-trafficking training specifically for airline employees. The [training equips Delta’s 80,000 employees to identify signs of potential trafficking](#) cases through data-based examples of trafficking in transportation scenarios” (Delta Airlines, 2018). The instruction is required for the airline’s flight attendants and pilots, and more than 61,000 Delta employees have taken it thus far.

More generally, most U.S. carriers have added or are in the process of [adding human trafficking detection and reporting procedures to their initial and refresher training programs](#). Airport gate and ticket agents often receive this instruction along with flight attendants and other carrier personnel (Reed, 2018). Several major airlines have also signed the ECPAT-USA Child-Protection Code of Conduct. American Airlines has worked with ECPAT directly to draft corporate policies, train its 120,000 employees, and provide information to travelers about human trafficking. [ECPAT-USA has summarized many of the most common indicators on small, easy-to-carry cards](#), such as the one below.

## ECPAT-USA CHILD TRAFFICKING TRAVEL INDICATORS

*Countless children are identified as victims of trafficking at hotels or on airlines across the globe. As a responsible traveler, you can help stop child trafficking in its tracks.*

### Here’s what to look out for:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Minimal luggage/clothing</li> <li>2. Lack of access to travel documents and money</li> <li>3. Victim seems disoriented and lost</li> <li>4. Victim lacks physical and verbal autonomy</li> <li>5. Lack of adequate language skills for foreign victims</li> <li>6. Trafficker is seen with many young children</li> <li>7. Trafficker insists on paying solely in cash</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Victim and trafficker have minimal interaction and eye contact with others, especially with staff</li> <li>9. No evidence of return ticket; may have tickets to multiple destinations</li> <li>10. Victim has indications of physical and emotional abuse</li> <li>11. Trafficker/victim seem anxious to arrive at destination</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

### Here’s what to do:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BE ALERT during large gatherings such as conventions or sporting games</li> <li>• DO NOT confront the child or adult</li> <li>• ALERT management, flight attendant, or airport security</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note: room/seat number, names, and description of individuals</li> <li>• In case of an emergency, dial 911</li> <li>• In a non-immediate situation call 1-888-373-7888</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

*ECPAT-USA is a non-profit organization that exists to create a world where no child is bought, sold, or used for sex. To learn more visit [www.ecpatusa.org](http://www.ecpatusa.org) or find us on social media.*



(ECPAT-USA, n.d.-d)

Many other resources are also available for airlines that wish to take advantage of them. The DHS Customs and Border Protection, for example, sponsors a [“Blue Lightning Initiative”](#) (BLI) in collaboration with the Department of Transportation to assist front-line workers. The initiative includes a voluntary training program that began in 2012 and was designed specifically for flight attendants who do U.S.-bound international flying (Association of Flight Attendants, n.d.). In 2020, the [Hawaii Department of Transportation](#) became the first State Department of Transportation to become a formal BLI partner. “Through this partnership, the Blue Lightning Initiative will add Hawaii’s five major airports to a growing community of more than 47 partners working in tandem to

recognize and report human trafficking across our nation’s transportation system” (State of Hawaii Department of Transportation, 2020).

Additional material is available on the [International Air Transport Association](#) website. The resources include a free online tutorial for airline staff, a video and infographic about the industry-wide #eyesopen campaign, and information about human trafficking 2-day classroom training (International Air Transportation Association, n.d.).

Finally, we should all acknowledge that airline passengers often see and hear things that escape the notice of busy flight attendants. Everyone should be vigilant when they travel, and it makes sense to carry a reminder card like the one shown on the previous page.

## **Transportation**

Traffickers use all types of ground transportation to move and exploit their victims. The Polaris Project has published an insightful overview of this strategy and several helpful recommendations in a report called [On-Ramps, Intersections, and Exit Routes: A Roadmap for Systems and Industries to Prevent and Disrupt Human Trafficking](#) (Anthony, 2018). This section will discuss some of the strategies and resources experts have developed specifically to assist personnel working with buses, taxis, trucks, and trains.

### Buses

Human traffickers use bus terminals to look for vulnerable people they can exploit. They also use buses to transport victims across town and to various locations throughout the country. Some minors under a trafficker’s control even ride school buses on a daily basis before finally disappearing. Traffickers like buses because they are inexpensive to use and because customers can purchase tickets with considerable anonymity. Paradoxically, bus stations are also a place where victims may be able to get assistance.

The traffickers’ success depends partly on the inability of bus employees to recognize common indicators or ask the questions necessary to identify victims in transit. Commercial bus drivers, bus terminal employees, port authority officers, and school bus drivers should all receive the training necessary to disrupt the traffickers’ use of public transportation.

Industry-specific training resources are available from the [American Bus Association](#) and through the “[Busing on the Lookout](#)” initiative (Truckers Against Trafficking, 2021). Authorities have developed different resources for pupil transportation, transit & motorcoach, and casinos & buses.

### Ride-hailing and delivery services

Taxis serve all of the nation’s transportation hubs. These hubs include airports, bus and train stations, and coastal ports. Many people also depend on taxis to take them to and from work, parties where they have been drinking and don’t want to drive home, and for various routine activities such as shopping and doctor’s appointments.

Traffickers use Uber and other ridesharing companies to get victims to and from paying clients. The rides are inexpensive and allow pimps to stay hidden while still being able to track the

victim's movements via cellphone. The potential for car services to facilitate human trafficking is especially high during the days surrounding special events such as the Super Bowl. New York City even has a law specifically targeting the drivers of "[brothels on wheels](#)" who recruit customers and force their victims to provide sexual services. The drivers take half the proceeds and give the balance to the woman's trafficker or pimp (Chen, 2012).

Several companies are working with cities throughout the country to minimize the use of ridesharing services for prostitution and human trafficking. The Houston Area Council on Human Trafficking, for example, has developed a distinctive [Taxi Industry Initiative Toolkit](#) to help drivers address this issue. The toolkit includes stickers and templates featuring the warning signs of human trafficking and a telephone number that drivers can call when they notice suspicious activity. The materials are available in English and Spanish (City of Houston Mayor's Office of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence, n.d.-c). A sample sign is on the following page.

The Greater Houston Transportation Company, the parent company of Yellow Cab and Taxi Fiesta, notifies drivers by e-mail and text about human trafficking indicators. The initiative is significant because the company responds to two million calls for service annually. All 1,500 taxi drivers receive targeted messages five days before each of Houston's major events. Other parts of the initiative include training drivers about human trafficking and featuring ads from the "[Watch for Traffick](#)" media campaign in company vehicles. The Company pays for printing and waives the usual sign space rental costs (City of Houston Mayor's Office of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence, n.d.-d).

[Uber](#) is also working to raise awareness. "Our commitment to combating human trafficking led us in 2016 to sign ECPAT's The Code, an industry-driven set of guidelines focused on helping travel and tourism companies prevent sexual exploitation and trafficking of children. With the guidance of ECPAT-USA, Uber users worldwide have been learning how to spot the signs of human trafficking and what to do when they suspect someone is in a potentially dangerous situation" (Uber, n.d). The Uber website includes practical tips and a 19-minute video that Polaris created to help drivers, delivery people, and their customers understand the nature of human trafficking (Uber, n.d.).

Companies in other countries are taking similar steps. [Grab](#), for example, is a Singapore-based technology company that offers ride-hailing transportation, food delivery, and payment services (Grab Singapore, n.d). Grab developed a training initiative in partnership with Liberty Shared, a nonprofit that fights human trafficking through legal advocacy and technological interventions. [All Grab driver-partners and customer representatives receive instruction on detecting and reporting suspected instances of trafficking](#) (Tan, 2019).

## Yellow Cab Drivers: Help Us Stop Human Trafficking!

**Human Trafficking is the use of force, fraud or coercion to induce someone into performing a sex or labor act.**

Individuals are trafficked **every day**, though human trafficking can increase around special events. Traffickers are known to use taxis to transport victims, and taxi drivers are often the **first person** traffickers and victims meet at bus terminals and airports. If you recognize **any of the following indicators**, please **report the suspicious activity** to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center **1-888-373-7888**. You can report a confidential tip **24/7** (200 languages available).

Victim Indicators	Trafficker Indicators
Avoids eye contact	Controls victim movement and conversation
Wearing clothing that is inappropriate for climate or age	Asks driver to wait outside the hotel, apartment or business
Fearful, timid, submissive, anxious, depressed, tense or nervous, exhibits flat affect	Offers a generous tip for cooperation
Under 18 and may be performing commercial sex acts	Dropping off several men, women or children in one or different locations
Appears malnourished, has signs of physical or sexual abuse	Dropping off same person at different locations day or night (hotels, motels, cantinas, spas, massage parlors, apartment complexes, 59 and Bissonet, 59 and Hillcroft, Cross Timbers and Airline Road, Telephone Road, Jensen Road)
Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp/manager, victims are forced to turn money over to pimp or manager	Asks to be dropped off in the back or separate propped open entrance
Living or working in a location with excessive security measures	At drop off, transfers people into the possession of another person to escort them inside the establishment



(City of Houston Area Council on Human Trafficking, n.d)

Stop the Traffik, a British coalition formed in 2006 to end human trafficking worldwide, sponsors a very successful [taxi program that more than 20 towns and cities have implemented across the UK](#). The program enables taxi drivers to identify and report signs of human trafficking via a confidential hotline (UKC Against Human Trafficking, 2012). [The campaign also includes efforts to persuade communities to place program materials in the welcome pack of every new taxi driver and in each cab their council's license](#). Older cabs get the resources when they renew their annual license (UKC Against Human Trafficking, 2013).

### Trucks

Victims of sex trafficking are often forced to sell themselves at rest areas and truck stops where the remote locations and male-dominated customer base make them prime spots for prostitution. Several states require applicants for a commercial driver's license to complete some form of trafficking awareness training. Instructors typically discourage drivers from intervening when they are offered sex or observe suspicious behavior. The preferred response is to contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline. The hotline numbers are publicized in industry publications, at truck stops, and on decals placed on trucks.

[Truckers Against Trafficking](#) (TAT), a nonprofit organization founded in 2011, offers a course for truck drivers and a different course for those who drive buses. Those who wish to become a certified TAT-Trained driver complete a registration form, watch a video, and take a short quiz at no cost. The TAT website reports that it has trained more than 933,000 drivers, resulting in the rescue of 1,278 victims. TAT received the Suzanne McDaniel Memorial Award for Public Awareness in 2015 as part of the annual Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus Awards in Washington, D.C (Truckers Against Trafficking, 2021).

### Trains

Traffickers also use trains to transport their victims. This mode of transportation is especially common in India, where half a million people pass through the railway station in Old Delhi alone every day. The passengers include children whom traffickers send throughout the country to be sold for forced labor or sexual exploitation.

A team from the Childline India Foundation and Indian Railways has posted 200,000 posters on trains and platforms asking the public to report suspected cases of trafficking to the Childline Helpline. The railways have also added the Helpline number to labels placed on water bottles and disposable teacups. The following excerpt from an article in the U.S. edition of [The Guardian](#) provides an overview of Childline's efforts.

“We began training the entire railway system – the porters (who board the train as it arrives), ticket collectors, catering staff, platform staff, platform vendors, sweepers. All of them are taught to look out for children who appear distressed or confused, dressed more shabbily than the adults accompanying them, and those who speak a different dialect. Employees also learn to watch for children who give limited, repetitive, or evasive answers about where they are going and any mismatch between the children and the adults with them”

According to Neeraj Kapoor, who runs a kiosk selling books and newspapers on platform one, ‘Once you know the signs, it’s not hard to detect trafficked children. It’s just that we weren’t



paying attention earlier.’ Childline kiosks have been set up in 83 stations and are manned 24/7 because traffickers often use trains at night to avoid detection.

Childline staff say that besides intercepting the adult, who often poses as a child’s ‘uncle,’ much care must be taken when interacting with children who don’t know who they can trust. ‘You have to sift through the lies the children tell. The uncle has told them that he is a good guy helping the child and the parents. Then we appear on the scene as the good guys saying the uncle is a bad guy. That’s very confusing for the child. It takes days for them to trust us enough to open up,’ explained Ajish from Childline.

‘The response has been amazing. We get hundreds of calls a day from passengers suspicious of something,’ according to the regional head of Childline. ‘Often we get calls from disgruntled members of the trafficking gang who weren’t paid their share and are calling to inform on the others.’ Altogether, Childline estimates that it rescues 90-100 children each month” (Dhillon, 2018).

[Rekha Mishra](#), a policewoman with the Railway Protection Force, has rescued more than 950 runaway and trafficked children since 2015. In 2017, she won the highest civilian honor that India grants to women for her outstanding contribution to woman empowerment (Jain, 2021).

### **The takeaway**

The chapter began by reporting that forced labor in the private sector generates more than \$100 billion in profits each year. The sex trafficking that occurs in hotels is an obvious example, but the trafficking can also be hidden deep in a company’s supply chain or in the hiring that unethical job recruiters do.

The good news is that officials in many business sectors are working hard to address the trafficking problem. Additional good news stems from the fact that the chapter provided further evidence of the power that everyone has to make a difference. Flight attendants, truck drivers, hotel clerks, and many others have successfully intervened to stop acts of trafficking and assist survivors.

The bottom line is that corporations and their employees have a critical role to play in the fight against human trafficking. In fact, it is unlikely that the fight can succeed without their active participation. Activists who work at companies that are not doing anything to help should urge their employers to take a stand against this terrible violation of human rights. Many free resources are available to help them do so effectively.



## VI. Community influencers

*“Let it not be said that I was silent when they needed me” (Laemmlen, 2015).*  
William Wilberforce

Everyone is a community influencer to some extent. We influence others through our conversations with friends, the films we recommend, and the interactions we have with co-workers, just as they influence us. That said, some individuals are uniquely positioned to motivate and inspire the entire community. This chapter considers the members of three such groups: public officials, members of the press, and spiritual leaders.

### **Public officials**

The need for significant legal and statutory reform to fight human trafficking more effectively is beyond dispute. Every activist will hopefully support the passage of relevant legislation, but our elected leaders and those they appoint to senior positions are ultimately best able to facilitate the implementation of major systemic change.

Even the most highly motivated public servants do not have the time or resources to address all the issues that warrant their attention. No leader can do everything, but every leader can do something. At a minimum, elected officials can issue special proclamations to heighten awareness of special days pertaining to human trafficking. Chapter VIII lists several of them. Other potential initiatives include requiring law enforcement personnel to receive training in human trafficking, implementing human trafficking education and prevention programs in local schools, and providing additional funds for shelters that serve trafficked survivors and at-risk youths. Several communities have even won recognition as a [Fair Trade Town](#) or a [Slavery-Free City](#). Insisting that publicly-funded institutions use Fair Trade products may not always be feasible because of the need to accept the lowest bid in competitive situations, but officials can at least recommend that agencies use these items whenever possible.

ECPAT-USA has worked with policymakers and government officials for decades to improve the nation's ability to prevent and respond to incidents of child trafficking. As part of this effort, the organization has published a [Sex Trafficking Public Conversations Resource Guide](#) which outlines the steps members of Congress should take when trafficking is reported in their district. The Guide "will help you plan a community meeting with suggestions for whom to invite, an agenda, talking points, a sample press release, and background information about the topic. Doing so can help mobilize entire communities to join the fight to end human trafficking" (ECPAT-USA, 2019a). ECPAT drafted the Guide specifically to assist government officials, but it can also serve as a good resource for activists who want to start conversations with members of civic organizations, churches, and other groups.

Commissioners of state, county, and municipal agencies can help in simple and cost-free ways. One way of helping would be to place relevant posters on agency bulletin boards or other prominent places to educate employees and visitors. The sign would ideally appear by a clear plastic display container holding brochures that people can take home. Agency personnel can download sample posters and flyers from many sources, including the [DHS Blue Campaign](#). The DHS Resource Library includes information sheets, pamphlets, cards, posters, infographics, and toolkits (Blue Campaign, 2022e).



(Blue Campaign, n.d.-e)

Commissioners and Human Resource staff should also consider requiring or at least recommending that employees complete sector-specific instruction about trafficking. Traditional face-to-face training can be expensive and difficult to schedule, but several online resources are both short and free. Visitors to the Blue Campaign website, for example, can watch [five-minute videos on general awareness, labor trafficking, and sex trafficking](#) (Blue Campaign, 2021a).

Commercial e-learning companies such as [Traliant](#) offer more formal online training at a modest cost. Traliant has developed a broad range of instructional resources, including a "25-minute eLearning course that familiarizes employees with the issue of human trafficking – what it is, how to recognize human trafficking situations, and what individuals and organizations can do to help stop this violation of human rights. A video host guides learners through brief episodes that explore this complex issue in clear terms, with real-world examples and viewer emails and tweets that address common questions" (Traliant, n.d.).

Teaching employees how to recognize and report human trafficking is an appropriate task for any public agency, but it directly supports the mission of agencies that work on issues about crime victims, human rights, social services, and criminal justice. Even the most experienced personnel can

benefit from learning more about human trafficking, how to respond effectively when they see something suspicious, and the range of available services to help survivors.

### **The press and public media**

Human trafficking is a topic that most media outlets do not cover adequately despite the news value and emotional impact. Trafficking is all around us, moreover, so motivated reporters will often be able to find a local connection at a nearby farm, ethnic restaurant, or another commercial establishment. Reporters can also link stories about trafficking to current events. Paris Fashion Week, for example, often receives considerable coverage. Journalists can consult sources such as [Fashion Revolution](#) to find story ideas about trafficking in the fashion industry.

Unfortunately, the accounts that appear in the media about human trafficking are not always accurate. Many authoritative sources, including [the U.S. State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons](#), see room for considerable improvement. "How the media reports on human trafficking is just as important as what is being reported. The overall impact of these stories is reflected in the way the public, politicians, law enforcement, and even other media outlets understand the issue. In recent years, a number of reports about human trafficking have included misinformation and outdated statistics, blamed or exploited survivors, and conflated terminology. Instead of shining a brighter light on this problem, such reports add confusion to a crime that is already underreported and often misunderstood by the public. As the issue of human trafficking continues to capture the public consciousness, members of the media have a responsibility to report thoroughly and responsibly, and to protect those who have been exploited" (McIntosh, n.d.).

Aidan White, a journalist and founder of the Ethical Journalism Network, identified some of the challenges associated with accurate reporting in his article, "[Hidden from view: Reporting on human trafficking and modern slavery](#)." According to Mr. White, "the human trafficking story is one of the most challenging, complex and ethically testing assignments for journalists and editors" (White, n.d.).

Mr. White offered "a journalist's eight-point guide for covering human trafficking and modern slavery" in response to these concerns (White, n.d.). The guide urges journalists to give a voice to trafficked survivors and to ask their questions in ways that do not cause further trauma (White, n.d.). Several survivors have raised similar issues. More specifically, they have commented that the images and language the press uses to tell their stories often do not describe them in an accurate or dignified way. Many accounts instead offer sensationalistic reports involving chains and secret rooms where victims are locked up. The stories capture the public's attention but describe a small and unrepresentative dimension of the problem. The accounts can also unintentionally create or reinforce unfavorable stereotypes and prejudices. More typical scenarios involve individuals who cannot leave an oppressive situation because of high debt or a mistaken belief that their pimp is a well-intentioned boyfriend.

The following account from [The Freedom Story](#) illustrates the potential downside of inaccurate media coverage. The Freedom Story had released a documentary about a young at-risk girl who was the organization's first scholarship recipient.

"But a few years later, when our CEO Rachel Goble spoke with her about her story, she told Rachel that she wished she hadn't shared some of her life's most sensitive details so publicly. It wasn't how she wanted to be remembered. Instead, she wanted people to see her for the

poised, elegant, successful woman she had become. This conversation coincided with personal misgivings Rachel had already begun to have about the pity stories that dominate the nonprofit world. It's generally understood—or perhaps assumed—that the "fly-in-the-eye" kind of stories that lean heavily on people's hardships are the kind that drives donor dollars. But Rachel began to question whether it was right to emphasize this angle or whether it was exploitative of people who are already vulnerable. The conversation with our student confirmed the notion that people want to be seen as more than the worst things that have happened to them. From there, the decision was clear: there has to be a better way to tell stories. A way that captures people in a fuller sense of their humanity, treats them with dignity and respect, and invites them to participate fully in how their story is shared. A way that assumes the audience, too, is not only capable of understanding humanity in its messiness but can be inspired by it to join in and participate as well, less as saviors and more as cheerleaders walking alongside every step of the way" (The Freedom Story, 2020).

Journalists who want to learn practical tips for moving from pity to empathy should visit the [Ethical Storytelling](#) website. Ethical Storytelling “is a community of nonprofit practitioners and storytellers learning how to integrate a new standard of storytelling.” The website offers a pledge, resources, and a podcast to help tell stories more ethically. Every student story they share is the culmination of working closely with the student and their mentor to be sure the student is ready to tell their story, they understand what the story will be used for, and that they have the final say on what is included and how. While hardships are a part of their story, the focus is usually on how the student was able to overcome their challenges. (Ethical Storytelling, n.d.)

Another way that the members of the press can operationalize their commitment to best practices is to adopt the "[My Story, My Dignity Pledge](#)" as an individual or in cooperation with their employer. Freedom United, a nonprofit organization that aims to leverage the power of the anti-trafficking movement to create real change, developed the pledge "to ensure that modern slavery and people's experiences of it are represented in a respectful, dignified, accurate, and empowering way" (Freedom United, n.d.-e). Key principles include:

- Choose respectful images that are representative of the issue. Choose stock images carefully.
- Select text that accurately represents the story. Be careful to avoid sensationalist language. (Say survivor rather than victim. Commercially exploited youth rather than child prostitute)
- Respect survivors' right to privacy and dignity.
- Obtain prior consent to using a personal story, be transparent and accurate about the process and how it will be used (Freedom United, n.d.-e).

Members of the general public who support the pledge initiative can [sign a petition calling on the media to embrace these principles](#) (Freedom United 2017).

A commitment to give more attention to human trafficking in a responsible way would increase the public's awareness and could capture the attention of legislators who can introduce legislation to implement much-needed reforms. The [CNN Freedom Project](#) is an outstanding example of what motivated reporters can do. "Since 2011, CNN has been shining a light on modern-day slavery. Traveling the world to unravel the tangle of criminal enterprises trading in human life. Amplifying the voices of survivors. Holding governments and businesses accountable. Slavery is not a thing of the past." Visitors to the Project website will find that they can search it easily to find a variety of relevant, well-written stories.

Many resources are available to help journalists present stories about human trafficking in a responsible manner. They include:

- [The Ethical Journalism Network](#). The Network is committed to best practices in reporting human trafficking and has a guide that includes links to several valuable materials (Ethical Journalism Network, 2017).
- The [Global Investigative Journalism Network](#) is "an international association of journalism organizations that support the training and sharing of information among investigative and data journalists—with special attention to those from repressive regimes and marginalized communities" (Global Investigative Journalism Network, n.d.). The Network's website features links to several valuable tools, including [Media and Trafficking in Human Beings Guidelines](#). Chapters include Understanding the Basics, Newsroom Strategies, Good Practice, and Links and Contacts (McIntosh, n.d.).
- The U.S. State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons issued a set of [Media Best Practices](#) in 2017. The practices are summarized in an easy-to-read one-page pdf (U.S. State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2017).
- The University of North Carolina's School of Media and Journalism sponsors the [Irina Project](#). It monitors media representations of sex trafficking in local, regional, national, and global settings. "We advocate for the responsible and accurate reporting of the issue by bringing together journalists with knowledgeable sources, reliable data, and other useful materials via the web and professional training. Together, we can change the way the world talks about sex trafficking" (The Irina Project, n.d.-a).
- The Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center has published a [Human Trafficking Media Toolkit: Best Practices, Glossary of Terms & Local Experts](#). "As the issue of human trafficking enters the public consciousness, members of the media have a responsibility to report thoroughly and responsibly and to protect those who have already been victimized. Through increased awareness of human trafficking, journalists can affect how people think, feel, and react to this issue and therefore help to bring an end to the victimization of millions of individuals throughout the world" (Niese, 2019).
- The Freedom Collaborative and several partners published a [Guidance Note on the Use of Victim Images](#) in 2016. The Note identifies four fundamental principles and offers specific recommendations that journalists should keep in mind when using this type of image (Freedom Collaborative et al., 2016).
- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has published the [Human Trafficking Toolkit for Journalists](#) to empower the media to tell the story of modern-day slavery. "The toolkit focuses on the Arab region where challenges related to data availability and the complicated nature of migration renders reporting on and analyzing human trafficking issues a particularly difficult task. The toolkit was conceived as an easy-to-use manual to provide journalists with the basic tools to cover human trafficking ethically and comprehensively. The text has seven sections, including an overview of human trafficking in the Middle East and a list of resources for those who want to deepen their understanding of the issues. Each section was designed to



inspire dialogue and reflections, and to be the seed for new knowledge"(United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2017).

- The [Journalism Fund.eu](http://JournalismFund.eu) is a Brussels-based independent non-profit organization "dedicated to advancing independent cross-border investigative journalism across Europe to promote democracy. It serves the public interest, furthers accountability and transparency, and contributes to critical thinking and well-informed debate. It also serves the European community of journalists interested in developing best practices in journalism. Its overall objective is to promote and improve the profession in response to the challenges and opportunities stemming from internationalization, digitalization, and changing revenue models. Resources include a video on "Reporting Human Trafficking Responsibly" (Journalism Fund.eu, n.d.).
- Journalists who prefer to watch educational videos can find a good selection on the Freedom United website. According to [Freedom United](http://FreedomUnited.org), "Too often we speak on behalf of survivors of slavery. In our videos, we've let them do the talking instead. You will see these survivors tell us directly why this issue is important to them and what they want you to do about it" (Freedom United, 2017).

While many resources are thus available online, some reporters may find it helpful to attend live training so they can join the conversation and ask questions. The [Thomson Reuters Foundation](http://ThomsonReutersFoundation.org) offers media training on several topics. The Foundation "is committed to fostering the highest standards of journalism worldwide. We believe accurate, impartial, and independent journalism leads to better-informed societies. It holds power to account, strengthens the rule of law, and contributes to economic and social development. All our programs are led by world-class trainers and experts and combine hands-on experience, ongoing editorial support, story grants, and opportunities for international distribution, including over the Reuters News wire" (Thomas Reuters Foundation, n.d.-b). In the specific context of human trafficking, the Foundation asserts that, "More people are enslaved today than at any other time in history, yet the general public is mostly unaware of the many ramifications of slavery and human trafficking. We help independent journalists to better understand this important issue, ensuring that best practice and know-how are shared and facilitating outstanding reporting and scaling impact" (Thomas Reuters Foundation, n.d.-a).

### **Spiritual leaders**

*"We can reject everything else: religion, ideology, all received wisdom. But we cannot escape the necessity of love and compassion. This, then, is my true religion, my simple faith. In this sense, there is no need for temple or church, for mosque or synagogue, no need for complicated philosophy, doctrine or dogma. Our own heart, our own mind, is the temple. The doctrine is compassion, love for others and respect for their rights and dignity, no matter who or what they are: Ultimately, these are all we need" (Dalai Lama, n.d.).*

Dalai Lama

Many people share varying degrees of faith in a Higher Power. Each religion offers its own interpretation of divine will, but shared values such as love, compassion for others, and mutual respect have had strong theological support across time and space. Some religions accepted slavery in the past, but none of the major traditions now endorse the evil that motivates and sustains human



trafficking. Anglican Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu reflected the current consensus when he stated, "[If there is one abuse that offends our conscience in every way, it is the enslavement of a human being. No child should be born without hope; no person should live without freedom](#)" (Free The Slaves, n.d.-c).

Other spiritual leaders agree. In 2014, world faith leaders including Argentine Rabbi Dr. Abraham Skorka, Pope Francis, Archbishop Welby, Iraqi Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Taqi al-Modarresi, and Zen Master Bhikkhuni Thich Nu Chan Khong signed the [Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders Against Modern Slavery](#). The Declaration affirmed that everyone is born with dignity and freedom. It also noted that anything which undermined that core principle was an "abhorrent crime against humanity" (End Slavery, n.d.).

People of faith had an important role in building the moral consensus that motivated governments to outlaw slavery worldwide. We must now build on that consensus and work to eradicate all forms of slavery and human trafficking once and for all. It is in this context that the [International Justice Mission](#) and other nonprofit organizations promote "Freedom Days" in which many faith communities take action on or near July 30, the United Nations World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. A variety of sermons, prayers, and other resources are available on the [Faith to Freedom](#) website.

Members of the clergy should also consider observing other special days that various organizations have designated to raise awareness of modern slavery. The "Increase Awareness" section of Chapter VIII identifies many of these days, and subsequent sections of this chapter provide links to many helpful resources. The author would just note that while trafficked survivors appreciate prayers, they are likely to be even more grateful if the services include a collection to help them build a new life.

The Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign and its Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives offer additional tools for the faith community. The [Faith-Based and Community Toolkit](#), for example, "offers public awareness messaging and resources to engage your religious community on human trafficking. It also includes content that can be displayed in houses of worship, during community events, and in public places" (Blue Campaign, n.d.-b). The Toolkit is available in English and Spanish (Blue Campaign, n.d.-b).

[Walk Free](#) is an international human rights organization that sponsors the Global Freedom Network. The Network is "committed to eradicating modern slavery through engagement with faith leaders around the world and working with them to take spiritual and practical actions to eradicate modern slavery. We empower them to mobilize their efforts and collaborate with the private and public sectors to fight modern slavery." Major goals at the time this book was being written are listed below. (The website may now feature an updated list.)

- Plan for and undertake declaration signings around the world;
- Establish a faith network in Africa, including workshops dedicated to faith leaders in Ghana and other West African nations;
- Engage with youth and teachers by creating specific free resources aimed at incentivizing younger people to take action in their daily lives; and
- Embed curricula within confessional schools, universities, and other educational institutions" (Walk Free, n.d.-b).

At a minimum, spiritual leaders should consider using Fair Trade products at their receptions and special events. This simple act will demonstrate a commitment to paying fair wages to those who grew the coffee beans, tea leaves, and sugar. The products should be clearly labeled as Fair Trade, and relevant handouts should be available nearby so that worshippers can learn about Fair Trade products and where to purchase them. Event organizers can find appropriate pamphlets and brochures in several places, including [FairTradeCampaigns.org](http://FairTradeCampaigns.org) (Fair Trade Campaigns, 2018a). Other handouts could promote websites where worshippers can buy gifts and other items trafficked survivors have made. The "Reduce demand (Shop wisely)" section in Chapter VIII identifies many sites that warrant consideration.

Faith-based activities can also include leaving brochures about human trafficking by the entrance to the place of worship. Doing so implicitly conveys the leaders' concern about this topic while simultaneously enabling members to learn more about it. The brochures can be non-denominational or linked to a specific spiritual tradition.

Faith communities that wish to make a broader contribution to the fight against human trafficking can organize a nondenominational panel discussion that is open to the public. The announcement for one such event that occurred in 2019 appears below. A local television news anchor chaired a panel that featured a trafficked survivor and several local service providers. The author of this Guide attended and thought it was phenomenal. The panelists inspired several meaningful conversations that continued during the break, and the availability of several handouts by the entrance added further value to the event.

The Ladies Philoptochos Societies of the Capital Region & Schenectady County Safe Harbour Anti-trafficking Program Present:

**"TRAPPED"** in our own backyard

**A SYMPOSIUM ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING & STORY OF SURVIVAL**

Join us Saturday September 21, 2019 9am-12pm  
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For information call 518-489-4442, x0 or visit [safeincofschenectady.org/safeharbour](http://safeincofschenectady.org/safeharbour)  
Free & open to the public

(Ladies Philoptochos Societies of the Capital Region & Schenectady County Safe Harbour Anti-Trafficking Program, 2019).

Each religion brings its own rationale and related dogma to the conversation about human trafficking. The following pages provide a brief overview of the positions that several major religions have taken and describe how they have incorporated the topic within their services. *Much of the information was taken verbatim from [Free the Slaves](#).* Additional resources for each tradition are available on its website.

### Judaism

"Judaism is deeply connected to the themes of slavery and freedom. The Torah instructs in Deuteronomy 24:18: 'Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and that the Lord your God redeemed you from there. Therefore, I command you to do [justice]!' The enslavement of Jews during biblical times—and their subsequent exodus—are a central narrative not only for Jewish people but for others who have found hope in the biblical story.

Free the Slaves has collaborated with educators from the different Jewish movements to develop a [Next Year, Free! A Modern Slavery Curriculum](#). The curriculum includes teaching materials on modern slavery from a Jewish perspective and has information for every age from kindergarten through adulthood. A [webinar](#) is available to help anyone interested use the *Next Year, Free!* materials.

The resources include [Passover Prep](#) and Passover [Coupons](#) for distribution at your Seder to inspire conversation and *tzedakah* (charity) during—and beyond—the holiday. At some homes this Passover, when asked why this night is different than others, family members will reply: 'We claim the heritage of the exodus, and we commit to help liberate those who are now in slavery.'

As Passover begins, Jews around the world will sit down to [Seders](#). On that same night, tens of millions of slaves will be toiling around the globe. Why is this night *not* different from all other nights? Because there are still slaves. What can you do? Here are just a few of the suggestions provided in *Seder Starters*: add a padlock to the Seder plate, share the testimony of a freed slave, ask a fifth question (about slaves), or 'give an *afikoman* gift that matters.'

Download our [Free Your Hanukkah](#) handout for suggestions on what you can do in 10 seconds to 10 hours to help create awareness and end modern slavery.

[Free Your Shabbat!](#) is both a flyer and a mission. One page outlines the problem of modern slavery and strategic solutions Free the Slaves is implementing. The second page provides ideas for what you can do to enhance Shabbat and simultaneously help end slavery.

For those considering a more substantial, lasting commitment, Free the Slaves has a 'Passover Project.' Passover is a Festival of Freedom, and the Project is a five-year campaign to enlist Jewish schools, congregations, and communities into a network mobilized against human trafficking. The goal is to inspire Jews to join the battle against modern slavery throughout the year. The Passover Project has four key objectives:

- Making education about modern slavery a part of congregational life;
- Mobilizing Jewish communities to take strong advocacy stands against modern slavery;
- Inspiring synagogues, Jewish schools, and other Jewish institutions to be careful consumers and investors to be sure the products they buy or the companies in which they invest aren't tainted by slavery; and

- Making support for Free the Slaves a part of school tzedakah projects and an option for B'nai mitzvah projects" (Free The Slaves, n.d.-c).

### Christianity

"Religion had been used in the past to justify slavery. Christians today regard it as immoral and unjust. Christian abolitionism took root during the 17th century. In England, prominent Anglicans joined forces with Quakers, Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists, Congregationalists, and other faith groups to form the world's first anti-slavery movement. Together they built a moral consensus to ban the trans-Atlantic slave trade and then outlaw slavery itself throughout the British Empire" (Free The Slaves, n.d.-c).

Christian-based anti-trafficking organizations are fighting human trafficking in many ways. Some are highly specialized. Others have a broad mission and cite trafficking as one of several issues they address. The Roman Catholic teaching order [the Sisters of the Holy Names](#), for example, has made trafficking one of its primary social justice issues (Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, 2018). Other Christian groups that target human trafficking include the following:

- [COATNET](#) is a “global network of Christian organizations working to combat human trafficking and assist survivors of modern slavery. The network links over 45 Christian organizations fighting human trafficking. Coordinated by Caritas Internationalis, we have Christian (Catholic, Anglican, and Orthodox) members from 39 countries and co-operate with other faith and civil society organizations worldwide” (Christian Organizations Against Trafficking Network., n.d.).
- The [International Justice Mission](#) (IJM) combats sex trafficking, child sexual assault, cybersex trafficking, and forced labor. It also addresses property grabbing, police abuse of power, and the citizenship rights of minorities. The bulk of IJM's work focuses on sex trafficking (International Justice Mission, n.d.-d).
- The [U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking](#) is trying to end human trafficking in the United States “through prevention, combating demand, rescuing victims, influencing government policy, and providing safe refuge for the restoration of survivors. We are a nonprofit, faith-based organization anointed by God to fight against human trafficking in America with truth and integrity, showing the love of Jesus Christ to all involved. With offices in Tampa, Washington DC, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Austin, we are addressing the national problem and doing so with on-the-ground services” (U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking, n.d.-a).
- [Catholic Relief Services' University Engagement](#) includes human trafficking as part of a broader mandate. It invites Catholic colleges and universities, as well as Catholic organizations on other campuses “to join them in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable populations through education, prayer, giving, and action.” Their “I am the Cause. I am the Solution” campaign addresses the issues of human trafficking, climate change, migration, and global hunger (Catholic Relief Services, n.d.).
- [Shared Hope International](#) strives to “prevent the conditions that foster sex trafficking, restore victims of sex slavery, and bring justice to vulnerable women and children. As Christian abolitionists, we believe trafficking survivors deserve the opportunity to be restored to dignity and purpose, regardless of their faith or system of belief. As Christian

stewards, we prayerfully seek to use wisdom and Biblical guidance for every dollar we spend. As Christian leaders, we seek to inspire change by informing and empowering activists, providing strategic guidance to local shelter and service partners, and influencing policymakers and first responders. Our vision is to coordinate a national U.S. network of protection to improve the response to victims of trafficking.’ Shared Hope's projects include The Protected Innocence Challenge, which grades each state on the strength of its laws addressing child sex trafficking” (Shared Hope International, n.d.-h).

- [Agape International Missions](#) (AIM) is a “Christ-led, non-denominational, not-for-profit organization that exists to glorify God through our dedicated efforts to love, protect, and care for survivors of trafficking as well as other vulnerable and exploited individuals in Cambodia. It works holistically to end trafficking by protecting girls, rescuing the exploited, and empowering survivors” (Agape International Missions, n.d.-b).
- [Route One Ministry](#) "The mission of Route One is to partner with Jesus as we enter strip clubs. We strive to serve women sexually exploited and trafficked by the commercial sex industry. We strive to listen first and assist second. We hope to be a connection to the resources women need to leave the sex industry. We do not judge. We do not assume anything but our own poverty and need for help. Together we believe we will learn from YOU; the dancer, the exploited, the survivor, the mom, the advocate as we continue to build bridges of HOPE- together! Isaiah 53:6 "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the sins of us all" (Loved By Route One, n.d.).
- [Men and the Sex Trade](#) "[seeks] to mentor men into a pursuit of sexual purity and greater wholeness. We are committed to engaging in ministry to men who visit red-light districts in Thailand and in pursuing follow-up meetings with them when possible. We are committed to seeing men walk in freedom and victory by studying our [A Pathway to Purity](#) book and 1-on-1 mentoring. We are also committed to partnering with the local church in running Real Men Pursuing Purity events and weekly mentorship groups. We do not seek to force "religion" down someone's throat, but we do desire to share the hope, fulfillment, transforming power and healing that can be found in the love of God and from knowing Christ in a close and personal way."

Priests and ministers who wish to give modern slavery greater visibility can include special prayers or adapt their services on one of the specially designated days described in Chapter VIII. Those who prefer not to modify standard worship rituals can schedule a weekday event featuring an anti-trafficking film with a religious orientation. One such film is [Nefarious: Merchant of Souls](#), a 2011 documentary about sexual slavery. "Presented from a Christian worldview, Nefarious covers human trafficking in the United States, Western and Eastern Europe, and Southeast Asia, alternating interviews with re-enactments. Victims of trafficking talk about having been the objects of physical abuse and attempted murder. Several former prostitutes talk about their conversion to Christianity, escape from sexual oppression, and subsequent education or marriage. The film ends with the assertion that only Jesus can completely heal people from the horrors of sexual slavery" (*Nefarious: Merchant of Souls*, 2022). Those interested can rent Nefarious for \$3.99 or purchase it for about \$13.00 on Vimeo, YouTube, or the Nefarious website. Proceeds from fees paid on the [film website](#) are donated to [Exodus Cry](#), an organization committed to abolishing sex slavery through prevention, intervention, and holistic restoration of trafficking victims (Exodus Cry, 2011).



Nefarious lasts 1 hour and 45 minutes. Powerful but much shorter videos featuring survivors who attribute their triumph to Jesus are available on the Internet. One of many such examples is "[Human Trafficking Survivor Story: Dellena, California](#)" (casjustice, 2012).

Another strategy would be to make human trafficking the topic of a [focused bible study](#). Alternatively, congregations with book clubs can select a book such as [Exposing the darkness: From a small town where people don't talk or tell](#) by Malynda Osantowski-Hughes. "Malynda's first memory in life was of being abused. This was a constant in her life through her whole childhood and young adulthood as she was constantly raped and sold to others for their sexual needs. She had nobody ... until God made Himself known to her. Read the amazing story of a woman's climb through the pain and suffering of her life to a place where she is a shining light for the Lord. The healing Malynda has experienced has allowed her to minister to others in similar situations and speak to audiences of all kinds, including universities, trainings, and more. Hope in dark situations is found throughout her story. God's Hand was on her all the time, and He showed her how much He loves her in taking her through healing ... memory by memory. Sex trafficking does not happen only in big cities. It is an evil that lurks throughout this country and around the world. It's time to expose the darkness" (Osantowski-Hughes & Bruins, 015).

People of all faiths can include human trafficking in their daily devotions. Christians may want to use [72 Daily Prayer Points](#) that A Heart for Justice developed for this purpose. The Points are a daily guide "to help you know how, who, and what to pray for as you join the 72 Days for Freedom, asking Jesus to break the chains of slavery and bring rescue, healing, and change" (268 Generation). The 72 Days for Freedom was part of the Passion Freedom Campaign which is now over, but the public can still download the prayer guide and use it as desired.

Christians can also take advantage of the [Injustice Advent Calendar](#). The calendar identifies 24 simple ways to make the world a better place. "It is not a typical Advent calendar. There is no physical rectangular card with windows, no pictures, and no chocolate. Instead, starting on December 1st, you receive a daily email with an opportunity to stand up for social justice. The calendar is free, and each activity takes less than 5 minutes to complete. The calendar is a variation of a traditional Christian practice, but the human trafficking adaptation is nondenominational" (Tradecraft Exchange, 2021).

Finally, three experienced activists collaborated to write the 2022 publication [Ending Human Trafficking: A Handbook of Strategies for the Church Today](#). According to the publishers, "Human trafficking is one of the most pressing social justice issues of our time, and in recent years there has been renewed interest among Christians, as many have been stirred up to take their part in the ongoing battle. This is a wonderful thing—and yet misinformed and misguided efforts can do more harm than good. [Ending Human Trafficking](#) is a handbook designed to educate churches and parachurch organizations for truly effective work. In collaboration with The Global Center for Women and Justice at Vanguard University, [Ending Human Trafficking](#) is an accessible and compelling resource for Christian leaders, written by seasoned leaders in the struggle against modern slavery. Grounded in a theological response to the issue and filled with stories, up-to-date data, and practical tools and tips, it promises to be an invaluable resource for years to come" (Moore, Morgan, & Yim, 2022).



## Islam

“Muslim voices have called for the abolition of slavery since ancient times. The Prophet Muhammad declared: ‘There are three categories of people against whom I shall myself be a plaintiff on the Day of Judgment. Of these three, one is he who enslaves a free man, then sells him and eats this money.’

The Quran teaches that all people are equal, like the teeth in a comb. Sura 90 in the Quran states that the righteous path involves ‘the freeing of slaves.’ In the 1800s, Muslim jurists in India concluded it was improper to kidnap Africans and transport them to other countries as slaves.

Fifty-four countries adopted the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam during the 1980s. The Declaration states that ‘human beings are born free, and no one has the right to enslave, humiliate, oppress or exploit them. There can be no subjugation but to God the Most High.’ Those wishing to learn more can download the [Muslims Against Slavery Toolkit](#) (Free The Slaves, n.d.-c).

## Hinduism

“Most Hindus live in India, where slavery has been historically intertwined with the caste system. Varna religious tradition dictates that the dirtiest and most difficult work in Hindu society is relegated to ‘untouchables’—making many Indians even today vulnerable to slavery. During the struggle to liberate India from British colonialism in the 1900s, Mahatma Gandhi said: ‘The moment the slave resolves that he will no longer be a slave, his fetters fail. He frees himself and shows the way to others.’

Early reformers drew on an understanding of Hinduism that saw the caste system as a means of control that elites used to dominate and exploit others rather than as an integral component of the Hindu faith. In the 1980s, laws in southern Indian states ended *devadasi*, a traditional practice where lower-caste girls were forced into sex slavery in Hindu temples. In 1976, Hindu activists helped convince the Indian government to ban bonded labor slavery. India’s current constitution outlaws caste-based discrimination” (Free The Slaves, n.d.-c). Additional information can be found in [Resources for Hindus](#).

## Buddhism

“The Buddhist belief in karma and reincarnation has been used to justify slavery on the grounds that a person’s enslavement must be a result of punishable actions in a previous life. The eight-fold path of Buddhist beliefs nevertheless teaches explicitly against the trade in living beings. In fact, the Buddhist Chinese Emperor Wang Mang may have been history’s first powerful abolitionist when he outlawed the slave trade in 9 A.D.

Buddha’s ‘Discourse to Sigala’ in the Sigalovada Sutta states that an employer should care for workers by paying just wages, providing health care, and granting leave time. More generally, the holistic tradition of mindfulness encourages the Buddhist faithful to ask if they benefit from slavery and slave-tainted products, even if they aren’t personally involved in trafficking and slavery. In addition, Buddhist temples have often served as safe-havens for escaped slaves” (Free The Slaves, n.d.-c). Buddhist activists can read [Resources for Buddhists](#) to learn more.

## **Baha'i Faith**

“The Baha'i sacred writings explicitly prohibit slavery, stating: ‘It is forbidden you to trade in slaves, be they men or women. It is not for him who is himself a servant to buy another of God’s servants, and this hath been prohibited in His Holy Tablet.’

Baha'u'llah, the prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith, lived in nineteenth-century Persia and was born into a family that held slaves. In 1839, at age 22, he inherited his father's slaves and freed them. Years later, after founding the Baha'i Faith, he wrote a tablet (formal letter) to Queen Victoria of Britain in which, among other things, he praised her abolition of slavery: ‘We have been informed that thou hast forbidden the trading in slaves, both men and women. This, verily, is what God hath enjoined in this wondrous Revelation. God hath, truly, destined a reward for thee because of this.’

Every Baha'i is called upon to be ‘an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression,’ and the teachings of the Baha'i Faith strongly emphasize promoting equality, justice, and unity. One passage from the Baha'i writings states: ‘O Children of Men! Know ye not why We created you all from the same dust? That no one should exalt himself over the other’” (Free The Slaves, n.d.-c).

Additional information can be found in [Baha'i Resources on Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery](#).

### **The takeaway**

Public officials, members of the press, and spiritual leaders are among the community influencers who are in an excellent position to inspire others to join the fight against human trafficking. This chapter provided many suggestions and resources to assist those wishing to do so. It is nevertheless worth reiterating that we can *all* be powerful influencers within our social circles. Everyone is on the same team as we work toward a common goal.

## VII. College Instructors

Teachers in primary and secondary schools can enhance the scope of their students' education by offering age-appropriate information about slavery and human trafficking. Perhaps the most significant contribution teachers at these levels can make, however, is to alert students to the danger of trafficking generally, the tactics that traffickers use to entrap young victims, and where students can find help if they feel threatened. Chapter VIII's Prevention section identifies several resources teachers can use to meet those objectives. This chapter will focus on college, where instructors have more options and can take the discussion to a higher level.

The author of this Guide first agreed to offer a course on human trafficking for the UAlbany College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity (CEHC) in the fall of 2016. I was concerned that the course would not attract a sufficient number of students in part because the topic seemed to be an odd match for the overall mission of the College. I also worried that the disturbing nature of the content would not appeal to many students regardless of their major. Consequently, I asked the Acting Dean for permission to offer the course at least twice. A single delivery did not seem to justify the amount of time needed to develop it.

There was no need to worry. The first course sold out quickly and attracted students from 11 majors. I have offered the course every semester since then, often teaching multiple classes for both the CEHC and the university's Honors College. I candidly tell students who ask about the course that it may be the most depressing one that the university offers. I also acknowledge that there will be frequent trigger warnings because of the violent sexual content. Students sign up anyway. There is always a waiting list, and the initial cohort of students formed a campus organization to fight human trafficking and assist survivors.

It may also be worth mentioning that the University subsequently decided to award "General Education" credits to students who complete the course. "The [General Education Program](#) ensures that all undergraduate students acquire knowledge and gain competencies in a wide variety of disciplinary areas that SUNY and the University at Albany faculty have deemed critical to success in advanced coursework and in success beyond graduation" (University at Albany, n.d.). Students who take Gen Ed courses "enhance their knowledge and skills while discovering new areas of inquiry and new possibilities. In students' major curricula, they build on these experiences and develop advanced competencies in four critical areas: Advanced Writing, Oral Discourse, Information Literacy, and Critical Thinking. The learning objectives for these advanced competencies—part of the General Education Program even as they are embedded in disciplinary majors—constitute UAlbany's institutional learning outcomes: competencies all UAlbany graduates possess by virtue of having completed the General Education Program, major, minor, and elective degree requirements" (University at Albany, n.d.).

The author encourages all colleges that do not offer a course on human trafficking to consider doing so. They may be pleasantly surprised by the level of student interest. School officials will also be able to take pride in the contribution they are making to raise awareness about a serious human rights crisis, perhaps even motivating some students to help end it.

### **Human trafficking's place in a college curriculum**

Instructors structure their classes in different ways and for various reasons. The size of the class alone is a major variable. Classes that fill a large lecture center require an approach that will not

offer students the same experience they would enjoy in a small seminar. Some instructors rely heavily on lectures and PowerPoint slides, while others like to keep their remarks brief to encourage discussions and debates. Some courses are writing-intensive, while others are not.

The list of structural and delivery options goes on and on. With regard to the subject matter, however, one thing is clear: Human trafficking is a topic that instructors can use to meet their objectives in almost any course regardless of class size, discipline, or preferred teaching methodology.

Psychology, social welfare, and criminal justice are just a few of the departments that could appropriately sponsor an entire course on this topic. Each discipline would provide a valuable perspective of the problem.

Potential courses could offer a broad interdisciplinary overview of modern slavery. Alternatively, they could focus on a particular aspect such as sex trafficking or the ways that traffickers exploit children. Instructors can also build the topic into courses they currently teach. A business course, for example, could assess the merits of Fair Trade or study the complexity of trying to regulate supply chains that use exploited labor. Relevant issues include labor practices, business ethics, sustainable development, and strategies for planned change. Those who want to consider teaching a module on Fair Trade can find a wealth of instructional materials at [Fair Trade.org](http://FairTrade.org). The website has resources for all age groups, and materials prepared for secondary schools may be appropriate at the collegiate level as well. Visitors can filter their search by type of resource (lesson plan, films, etc.) and student age (Fairtrade Schools, n.d.).

Another approach that may appeal to some instructors would be to discuss human trafficking in a way that allows them to achieve specific learning objectives within a broader module. Examples include teaching students how to critique international agreements such as the Palermo Protocol, assess the extent to which trafficking supports the global economy, and recognize the ways that culture influences and sometimes even promotes criminal practices in different parts of the world. Courses in public policy could use trafficking to demonstrate how politics and business interests influence the strategies countries adopt concerning trafficking domestically and internationally. Reading assignments for an eastern European history course could include an article explaining how the collapse of the Soviet Union facilitated an explosion of human trafficking that sent many women to brothels in western Europe. Collecting valid data about any aspect of trafficking is problematic at best, moreover, so the issue would be an excellent topic for a unit in a research methods course about the difficulty and importance of evaluating published research.

Educators can find helpful information about human trafficking in many contexts at [Responsible Sourcing Tool](http://ResponsibleSourcingTool.org). Four institutions collaborated to develop the Tool: The State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Verité, Made in a Free World, and the Aspen Institute. "All data and analysis on this website are meant to introduce users to the issues and risks associated with human trafficking and encourage users to explore the issues in more depth" (Responsible Sourcing Tool, n.d.-c).

The links to the studies cited below come directly from the Tool's website and are just a sample of what the site offers. The list is reproduced here to illustrate the wide range of relevant subject areas beyond the obvious topics of sex trafficking and the impact that trafficking has on survivors. Interested faculty members should visit the website periodically to check for updates.

### *Agriculture*

- Catholic Relief Services.  
Exploring Isolated Cases of Modern Slavery: Farmworker Protections and Labor Conditions in Brazil's Coffee Sector. 2016. (Reporter Brasil & Catholic Relief Services, 2016).
- Humanity United.  
Free and Fair Labor in Palm Oil Production: Principles and Implementation Guidance. 2015. (Humanity United, 2015)  
  
Labor Rights Risks in the Guatemalan Sugar Sector. 2017. (Verité, 2017).

### *Construction*

- International Trade Union Confederation.  
Hidden Faces of the Gulf Miracle. 2011. (International Trade Union Confederation, 2011).
- Human Rights Watch.  
Guidelines for a Better Construction Industry in the GCC: Code of Conduct for Construction Companies. 2015. (Human Rights Watch, 2015).
- International Labour Organization.  
Brick by Brick: Unveiling the full picture of South Asia's brick kiln industry and building the blocks for change. 2017. (International Labour Organization et l., 2017).
- International Labour Organization.  
Guidance Tool for Construction Companies in the Middle East. 2019 (International Labour Organization et al., 2019).

### *Manufacturing, Electronics, and Electrical*

- Verité.  
Forced Labor in the Production of Electronics Goods in Malaysia. 2014. (Verité, 2014).

### *Manufacturing, Textile, and Apparel*

- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).  
Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct: Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector. 2017 (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2017).
- Asia Foundation.  
Forced Labor and Child Trafficking in India's Garment Sector. 2017. (Sekhon, 2017).
- Human Rights Watch.  
"Paying for a Bus Ticket and Expecting to Fly: How Apparel Brand Purchasing Practices Drive Labor Abuses." 2019. (Kashyap, 2019).

### *Extractives, Mining, and Metal*

- Verité.  
The Nexus of Illegal Gold Mining and Human Trafficking in Global Supply Chains. 2016. (Verité, 2016).

### *Fishing and Aquaculture*

- Environmental Justice Foundation.  
Sold to the Sea: Human Trafficking in Thailand's Fishing Industry. 2013. (Environmental Justice Foundation & Humanity United, 2013).
- Fishwise.  
Social Responsibility in the Global Seafood Industry. 2018. (Fishwise, 2018).
- International Labor Rights Forum.  
Taking Stock: Labor Exploitation, Illegal Fishing and Brand Responsibility in The Seafood Industry. 2018. (Shen & McGill, 2018).
- International Labour Organization.  
Fishers First: Good Practices to End Labour Exploitation at Sea. 2016. (International Labor Organization, 2016).
- Business and Human Rights Resource Centre.  
Out of Sight: Modern Slavery in Pacific Supply Chains of Canned Tuna. A Survey & Analysis of Company Action. June 2019. (Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, 2019).

### *Forestry*

- International Labour Organization.  
International Year of Forests 2011: What about the labour aspects of forestry? 2011. (International Labour Organization, 2011).
- Oxfam.  
Pathways to Deforestation-Free Food: Developing supply chains free of deforestation and exploitation in the food and beverage sector. 2017. (Sen, 2017).

### *Healthcare*

- Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation.  
Do No Harm? Procurement of Medical Goods by Australian Companies and Government: Exploitation in Medical Goods Supply Chains. 2017. (Boersma, 2017).
- International Labour Organization.  
Improving employment and working conditions in health services. 2017. (International Labour Organization, 2017).



### *Hospitality*

- International Labour Organization.  
Migrant workers in the international hotel industry. 2012. (Baum, 2012).

### *Housekeeping/Facilities*

- Human Rights Watch.  
Abuse of Tanzanian Domestic Workers in Oman and United Arab Emirates. 2017. (Human Rights Watch, 2017).

### *Transportation and Warehousing*

- International Labor Rights Forum.  
Modern-Day Servitude in U.S. Port Trucking: A Call to Retail Brands. 2018. (Rosazza, 2018).

### *Global Supply Chains, Recruitment, Trafficking*

- Amnesty Nepal.  
The Debt Trap: How business and government undermine Nepali migrants' efforts to escape poverty. 2017. (Amnesty Nepal, 2017).
- Christina Stringer.  
Worker Exploitation in New Zealand: A Troubling Landscape. The Human Trafficking Research Coalition. 2016. (Stringer, 2016).
- Institute for Human Rights and Business.  
Corporate Liability for Forced Labour and Human Trafficking. October 2016. (Institute for Human Rights and Business, 2016).
- International Labour Organization.  
Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage. 2017. (International Labour Organization, Walk Free Foundation, & International Organization for Migration, 2017).
- Lisa Rende Taylor and Elena Shih.  
Worker feedback technologies and combatting modern slavery in global supply chains: examining the effectiveness of remediation-oriented and due-diligence-oriented technologies in identifying and addressing forced labour and human trafficking. *Journal of the British Academy.* 2019. (Rende & Shih, 2019).
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Ezeilo, Joy Ngozi. Human Trafficking & Global Supply Chains: A Background Paper Prepared for the expert meeting convened by the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons. 2012. (Ezeilo, 2012).
- The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime.  
Connecting human trafficking and conflict. 2017. (Kosanovich, 2017),

- Verité.  
[Corruption & Labor Trafficking in Global Supply Chains](#). 2013. (Verité, 2013).
- Yale Law School International Human Rights Clinic, ACLU.  
[Victims of Complacency: The Ongoing Trafficking and Abuse of Third Country Nationals by U.S. Government Contractors](#). 2012. (American Civil Liberties Union & Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic, 2012).

Another valuable source worth checking is Walk Free. Walk Free claims to have “the world’s most comprehensive data set on modern slavery, encompassing multiple reports, policy documents, and submissions. Explore all [Walk Free’s resources](#) produced since 2011” (Walk Free, n.d.-d).

### **Planning Shortcuts**

Many instructors may feel that they lack the expertise necessary to develop a strong lesson plan that incorporates human trafficking. Others will be understandably concerned about the amount of time they would need to develop a new course or module about anything. Fortunately, the prep time for all types of courses can be reduced by taking advantage of material that has been posted online.

Available resources include lesson plans, case studies, films, and more. The Council on Foreign Relations, for example, has published a variety of [relevant discussion questions, essay questions, and projects](#) (Goswami, 2018). Instructors can even download fully footnoted lesson plans from the Internet. By way of illustration, [Sage Publishing](#) has posted a 40-page lesson plan titled [A Primer to Human Trafficking: Understanding Scope and Dimensions](#). Those interested can view the Primer online, but it cannot be reproduced or distributed without permission (Sage Publications, 2018).

Using published case studies will also make it easier to prepare. Case studies are tools that instructors in many disciplines find particularly valuable. Students also tend to like them because they present the complexity of public policy in ways that are easier to understand than the abstract principles that lectures sometimes emphasize.

Several organizations have collected or developed case studies related to human trafficking. One of the best is [The Case Centre](#), a not-for-profit organization founded in 1973 as a collaborative initiative of 22 higher educational institutions that wanted a platform to share case materials among management educators (The Case Centre, n.d.-a). A search for “human trafficking” on the Centre’s website in March 2022 yielded “7,645 products that meet your criteria.” Visitors can refine the search by using filters such as topic, industry, publication year, length (pages/minutes), and whether the case study is a prize winner.

An example of an award-winning study that the Centre offers, and which students may find especially interesting, concerns chocolate. “Without action on sustainability, the supply of cocoa beans - and hence chocolate - cannot be maintained. Barry Callebaut (BC), the world’s largest business-to-business cocoa and chocolate company, has gone from taking little interest in ‘sustainable cocoa production’ to embracing it fully. In 2016, it set four ambitious targets to achieve by 2025: to

eradicate child labor from its supply chain, to lift more than half a million cocoa farmers out of poverty, to become carbon-and-forest-positive, and ensure 100% sustainable ingredients in all products. Recognizing that it could not bring about change in isolation, BC started a movement, 'Forever Chocolate,' involving multiple stakeholders. Demonstrating that sustainability must be an integral part of doing business, the case describes its progress over the first two years and illustrates the difficulties encountered. It challenges students to consider whether BC's approach constitutes 'radical corporate sustainability' and what more could be done" (Smith & Duke, 2020). The study is 28 pages long.

Unlike most of the resources available elsewhere, studies from The Case Centre must be purchased. Pricing varies depending upon the organization that prepared them, the materials being ordered, and the format selected. Instructors can buy each study individually, but universities can purchase a license that allows all their educators, Ph.D. students with teaching responsibilities, and program administrators to access the cases. The annual fee is based on the school's income and ranges from \$2,700 - \$10,800 (The Case Centre, n.d.-b).

### **Assignments and extra credit**

Some instructors base their course grades exclusively on mid-term and final exams. Others require students to prepare a research paper. Both approaches have merit, but those who teach human trafficking may wish to consider other options as well.

One possibility that the author utilizes gives students the choice of writing a traditional research paper or doing an applied learning project that raises public awareness of trafficking or assists trafficked survivors. One student who chose the latter option wrote and filmed a one-minute public service announcement about coerced labor in the garment industry. He went on to make films professionally for Love 146, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending child trafficking and exploitation. Another student used a poem she wrote about trafficked survivors as the basis for a [poignant five-minute video](#) (McCarty, 2019).

I typically give students who want to do a project the option of doing it independently or in cooperation with other class members, a fraternity, sorority, place of worship, campus organization, or a local nonprofit serving trafficked and at-risk youth. In each instance, students earn credit based on what they learn rather than the service itself. One student was the President of the UAlbany Taekwondo Club when he took my course. He convinced his club and three other campus organizations to sponsor four events on campus during Human Trafficking Awareness Month. One of the events featured a panel that included an FBI Special Agent, a probation officer, and the Safe Harbor Case Manager of a nonprofit agency that serves vulnerable children and their families. In addition to raising awareness, the events accepted contributions for Eyes Wide Open, a local charity whose mission is "to provide restorative care and a sanctuary of healing and hope for women survivors of sex trafficking."

Students of all majors can use this type of open-ended assignment as an opportunity to explore personal interests while simultaneously making a difference in the war against trafficking. By way of illustration, one of my past students was a biology major who researched the illegal trafficking of human organs. For her project, the student first developed and disseminated a brochure to promote legal organ donations. She then organized an event to educate attendees about the use of trafficked organs and the importance of organ donations generally.

Another student, Gabriella Bartley, was so troubled by the use of slave labor to grow cocoa that she decided to write her [senior Honors thesis](#) about it and subsequently received special recognition from the university for the quality of her work (Bartley, 2020). [A student at Rutgers' University co-authored a paper with her instructor about this problem as well](#). The paper included a personal action plan in which the student reported that she intended to contact several chocolate manufacturers and do community outreach in the Ivory Coast (Lee & Fagan, 2015).

Business and political science majors might be interested in developing a plan that seeks to influence corporations or elected officials. Students choosing this option could launch a social media campaign to highlight a clothing label's use of exploited labor in its supply chain, draft letters to local newspapers, and circulate petitions. Students are only limited by their imagination.

Finally, instructors of courses with a human trafficking component can further engage students by offering extra credit to those who watch a documentary from an approved list of films related to the course objectives. Students who choose to do so could then submit a two-page "reaction paper" that discusses the key ideas and what they thought of the film overall. Instructors may want to encourage students to think about the documentary from the perspective of their chosen discipline. A psychology major, for example, might react to certain themes in ways that a history or criminal justice major might not. Many relevant documentaries can be watched online at no cost.

## **Activities**

All instructors who teach a course with a human trafficking component may want to consider showing short videos to supplement the lectures and class discussions. The Internet has an almost endless supply of films that show trafficking in stark and unimaginable ways that a PowerPoint slide cannot capture. Films can be especially compelling when they include survivors who tell their own stories. The films can have a lasting impact on those who see them, and students may continue discussing key scenes among themselves even after the class is adjourned. Instructors should just remember to share trigger warnings when introducing films that are especially troubling. They should also allow students to excuse themselves if they are particularly sensitive or have experienced some kind of sexual attack.

Instructors will find it easy to engage their students in spirited discussions and debates on many topics that fall within the realm of human trafficking. Everyone opposes trafficking in the abstract, but reasonable people can disagree about the best ways to address it. One such issue concerns prostitution. Many sex workers do it willingly, albeit reluctantly, because they have no other way to support their families. What the government should do about it is unclear.

Officials in some jurisdictions believe that commercial sex acts are inherently immoral and have passed laws allowing the police to arrest both the prostitutes and their clients. Other observers insist that the government has no business interfering with actions that involve consenting adults. Laws in places where this view prevails typically legalize prostitution with no restrictions or regulations. A third approach is to legalize the practice but regulate it in ways intended to protect the health and safety of all concerned. The Nordic or Swedish model, meanwhile, does not penalize the sex workers, but it does arrest the clients who create the demand and sustain this undesirable type of work.

Human traffickers will exploit vulnerable women regardless of local laws and operate anywhere there is a demand for sex. The nature of local statutes will, however, impact the way that traffickers operate. Students are usually just as divided as policymakers about what represents the best course of action, and instructors who ask for recommendations should have no problem launching a vigorous debate. Having everyone in the class vote on the strategy they like most is a good way of involving even the shyest students who do not usually participate.

Another issue likely to provoke an interesting discussion concerns the forced marriage of young girls. Arranging marriage for girls as young as eight or nine is a common practice in many parts of the world. Instructors can expect students to express their outrage that these girls do not get to pick their life partner. In addition, the girls usually have to marry a much older stranger, drop out of school, and move away from home and the people they love. The practice is incompatible with everything the United States stands for and almost certainly qualifies as a form of human trafficking even though the Palermo Protocol does not explicitly label it as such. The question that the class then must address is whether or not the United States has the right to impose its values on foreign cultures that see the issue differently and have long-standing religious and cultural traditions that embrace arranged marriages. How receptive would the students be if a conservative Muslim cleric from Afghanistan came to the United States to argue that girls should stop attending school at a young age, that they should dress in a way that only exposes their eyes, and that they should not drink or be allowed to leave the house without a male escort? On what basis can we assert that we have the right to impose our will on rural villagers in Africa while ignoring the equally sincere and passionate views of the cleric who wants to redefine the way that Americans live? Students will have a lot to talk about.

Instructors can shape conversations in other ways as well. Those wishing to incorporate a Christian perspective into the conversation, for example, can explore the CRS (Catholic Relief Services) University website. The [CRS Faculty Learning Commons](#) provides several online course materials for college and university classes. A [2017 newsletter](#) provided the following description: “Developed by a team of CRS experts and faculty advisors, the CRS topics draw on CRS’ overseas development work in almost 100 countries worldwide. Grounded in Catholic Social Teaching, Catholic Relief Services works to strengthen the capacity of local partners to better serve poor and vulnerable people through programs that respond to emergencies, strengthen the well-being of families and communities, and nurture peaceful and just societies.” (Plump et al., 2017).

### **Other ways for faculty to be part of the solution**

Concerned faculty members who do not discuss human trafficking in some manner can help the cause in other ways. One option would be to serve as the advisor for a group that students organize to assist survivors. Another would be to organize a panel discussion about trafficking to raise awareness on campus and facilitate an interdisciplinary dialogue about the best ways to combat it.

Faculty members who conduct original research may want to consider doing something involving human trafficking. Those willing to explore this option may find it helpful to watch the webinar [NGOs and Academia in the Fight Against Human Trafficking: Promising Practices and Successes](#). The webinar is one in a series that examines the most promising practices in NGO-academic partnerships and collaborations. “The webinar will answer the following questions: 1 Where and how are these promising practices happening? Are these practices scalable? What impacts within

the anti-trafficking field have been made because of these promising practices?” (Freedom Collaborative, 2018a).

Funding for relevant research is available from many sources. Those who are especially ambitious can apply to the [Trafficking in Persons \(TIP\) Office Program to End Modern Slavery](#). In 2018, for example, the [Program’s Funding Opportunity](#) invited applicants to submit “innovative proposals describing how they will advance transformational programs and projects that seek to achieve a measurable and substantial reduction of the prevalence of modern slavery in targeted populations in priority countries or jurisdictions. Applicants shall develop a clear strategy that leverages funding awarded under this funding opportunity to attract other donor resources to reduce the prevalence of modern slavery— sex trafficking and forced labor of adults and children, men and women, and transgender individuals—in targeted populations. Such a strategy should complement and build upon existing anti-trafficking efforts, develop sustainable local capacity of governments and civil society, and incorporate survivor perspectives. The strategy should include robust monitoring, evaluation, and reporting and demonstrate a plan for contributing data, analysis, lessons learned, and promising practices to global efforts to combat modern slavery” (University of Colorado Boulder, 2018).

### **The takeaway**

Every college can help young adults learn about human trafficking. This chapter offered a brief overview of some strategies that instructors can consider using if they want to do so. The topic is relevant to almost every discipline, and many tools are available to reduce the necessary prep time.

Most instructors will never teach an entire course on human trafficking or conduct original research on the topic. They can nevertheless be the catalyst who inspires students to address this issue following graduation. Chapter IX explores these opportunities in considerable detail.

Instructors seldom hear about the impact they have on their students. They hear even less about their impact on the anti-trafficking movement. The potential is nevertheless real. It will be a shame for students and society as a whole if colleges do not make even a modest effort to contribute to this vital cause.



## **Part 3: What will YOU do?**

The first two parts of the Guide provided information about human trafficking and identified resources that service providers, business partners, community influencers, and college instructors can use to fight it. The third and final part of the Guide focuses on *you*, the reader. It does not matter how old you are, how wealthy you are, or where you are in your life journey. You can make a difference if you want to do so. Part 3 shows you how.

### **VIII. Choose a Strategy**

*“Knowledge is of no value until you put it in practice” (Chekhov, n.d.).*  
Anton Chekov

*“We only have two choices: Do something or do nothing” (EMN, 2020).*  
Tony Kirwin (Founder of [Destiny Rescue](#), an organization dedicated to rescuing children enslaved in the sex trafficking industry)

#### **Everyone can make a difference**

Both men and women can make essential contributions in the fight against human trafficking. The role that men can play, however, deserves special attention. Male attitudes often fuel gender-based discrimination, limit educational opportunities for girls, prevent women from becoming financially independent, and ultimately make them vulnerable to traffickers. These attitudes also engender the exploitation that can result in forced marriages and prostitution. Sex trafficking and prostitution will decrease substantially if enough men do a better job respecting women and controlling their sexual desires.

Men can become part of the solution just by teaching their sons to appreciate women and by incorporating the corresponding values when interacting with others. A recent examination of peer-reviewed research regarding [the roles that men can take to improve gender equality in the workplace](#) made this point in a clear if disheartening way:

“When men speak up about sexism and confront it, they are taken more seriously than women, are less likely to experience social costs (e.g., derogatory remarks), and are more persuasive in convincing others (particularly other men) that sexism exists. Men are taken more seriously because confronting sexism does not seem to benefit them directly. Alternatively, when women confront sexism, they may be seen as acting out of self-interest, or trying to benefit their gender group. Male leaders were also more effective than female leaders in mobilizing male participants, regardless of how the message was framed” (Society of Women Engineers, 2021).

Male activists who embrace this logic can learn more by visiting the [Convergence Resource Center website](#). The Center is a faith-based, non-profit organization that helps women rebuild their lives after trauma, especially formerly incarcerated women and female survivors of human trafficking. Its efforts include sponsoring HEMAD (Human trafficking Educators working with Men and boys to stand Against the Demand). HEMAD is an award-winning campaign explicitly designed

to motivate men to take a public stand against the sex trade and human trafficking (Convergence Resource Center, n.d.-a).

Efforts to promote gender equality are important for many reasons, but gender equality is just one of the issues that society will need to address in order to end human trafficking and help survivors rebuild their lives. The challenge can seem overwhelming at times, and an attempt to support the full range of possible activities is likely to overwhelm even the most passionate advocates.

Activists can undoubtedly support a variety of projects as the need arises. A better overall approach, however, might be to concentrate on the issue or goal that aligns best with the individual's interests and skills. Doing so is likely to make the work more enjoyable while simultaneously reinforcing the person's motivation to continue.

Some people will want to focus on a topic that is especially significant to them. In 2022, for example, Freedom United issued a guide aptly titled [How to Take Action](#). The Guide focused on six specific initiatives: Freeing Uyghurs from forced labor, ending slavery in Libya, stopping orphanage child trafficking, ending child exploitation in cocoa, and stopping the detention of trafficked survivors. For each topic, the Guide offered engaging talking points and the information necessary to amplify the campaign on social media (Freedom United, 2021a).

David Trotter described a broader way to think about possible options in his 2014 book, [Start Something to End Trafficking](#). This section of the Guide will utilize Trotter's paradigm to describe five major types of anti-trafficking activities: increasing awareness, political advocacy, prevention, reducing demand, and facilitating survivor intervention and aftercare (Trotter, 2014a). First, however, it will be helpful to discuss tools activists can use to accomplish all of these goals.

### **Tools for all strategies**

Celia Williamson is a professor of social work at the University of Toledo, where she hosts annual human trafficking conferences and records podcasts for the Emancipation Nation. According to [Dr. Williamson](#), the belief that you need years of experience in the anti-trafficking world and years and degrees of education to be an effective anti-trafficking advocate is a myth. "You don't need that. You need the tools that are most effective" (Celia, 2021).

#### Social media

Social media is an effective mechanism people can use to support almost any cause. According to the Pew Research Center, [62% of U.S. adults get news on social media, and 18% do so often](#) (Gottfried & Shearer, 2016). They frequently share and repost the content on multiple platforms, so this means of communication can be a very effective way to disseminate information.

People use social media in both responsible and irresponsible ways. In the context of modern slavery, traffickers use social media to recruit victims, spread lies online, and expand their operations. Followers of QAnon have likewise spread lies on social media to allege that leading Democrats and liberal celebrities have trafficked children (Roose, 2020).

On a more positive note, [survivors sometimes use social media to request help and build support networks](#) (Polaris, n.d.-d). Another noteworthy example is the [partnership that the International Justice Mission made with the Philippines office of TikTok](#) to create material that enhances community awareness of trafficking and encourages reporting of online sexual exploitation of children. According to the TikTok Head for Public Policy in the Philippines, “online sexual exploitation of children is a serious problem in the country, and the impact on its victims is devastating. This partnership provides an opportunity for TikTok to strengthen our commitment to promote a safer online environment for children and to keep the platform a fun and inspiring place for creating and consuming content for everyone” (International Justice Mission, 2021). Other constructive uses include fundraising, circulating petitions, and sharing links to interesting articles.

Activists can also use social media to promote a variety of national initiatives. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Blue Campaign, for example, regularly produces content that activists can share electronically. Some of the content raises awareness about human trafficking generally, while other resources target specific audiences such as law enforcement and caregivers. DHS encourages the public to join the Tag Blue Campaign on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) using @DHSBlueCampaign.

Twitter is another easy way to publicize messages. Activists can also follow and join Twitter feeds to see what others are posting. Twitter accounts with human trafficking themes include the following:

- [https://twitter.com/polaris\\_project?lang=en](https://twitter.com/polaris_project?lang=en)
- <https://twitter.com/stoptrafficking?lang=en>
- <https://twitter.com/hashtag/stop%20human%20trafficking?lang=en>

[TurnUP](#) is a social media tool advocates may find helpful when organizing events.

“It started...when youth after Parkland showed their power many youths became inspired to act. Some learned about events only by luck, leaving out countless of us who would have attended events if only we had known about them. We were frustrated - There was no simple place to find resources, events, and information because they were posted across hundreds of websites. This made it more difficult to become an activist.

Zev Shapiro...had the idea to create an app to serve as a hub and social network for youth activism – TurnUP. The civic tech landscape showed that there were many useful platforms, but none could solve the entire problem. Activists would have to download too many different apps. Additionally, young people don’t use Facebook – a common organizing tool. We use Snapchat, Instagram, and TikTok, which are not conducive to organizing.

Building off the successes of niche social networks like Strava for cyclists, we are thrilled to be releasing TurnUp, a hub, social network, issue amplifier, and information highway for activism. TurnUp features an activity feed, a map of virtual and in-person events from across the progressive movement, a network of organizations and activists, resources, group messaging, feedback for activists, and voting reminders. TurnUp makes it easy to both increase online activism and turn it into offline activism. TurnUp revolutionizes the way young activists communicate.” (TurnUP, n.d.).

Social media posts tend to capture the most attention when they include a graphic or another type of eye-catching display. Specialized software can design almost anything (posters, invitations,

event announcements, etc.), and many templates make the process quick and easy. One such tool is [Canva](#). Canva can be downloaded for free, while upgrades are available for a monthly fee (Canva, n.d.). [Adobe Illustrator](#) is another powerful tool. Adobe offers several plans and monthly pricing options to address the needs of its customers (Adobe, n.d.).

Photographs can make almost any message especially powerful. One such example from 2019 appears below. The article features an Indian slave begging for help

[An image of the struggle for freedom and the power of sending rescue](#)



(Venkatarangam, 2019)

The man kneeling in a desperate plea for freedom is Kasi. Trapped by violence and manipulated through loans, the 70-year-old had been living in unspeakable cruelty and deprivation for 10 years. His impoverished family, along with 12 others, was forced to hack away at trees, shrubs and thorn bushes so the wood could be sold, and use their bodies when dull tools failed.

When local officials showed up, Kasi knew this was his one shot. As the sun streaked his bare back, he knelt desperately on the dusty ground and pleaded with them for his family's freedom. For relief from the years of a relentless slave owner's control. And his moment of humility catalyzed local officials to rescue him and 41 other people (16 of whom were children) from two wood-cutting units last week.

(J., 2019).

Online petitions

Activists and nonprofit organizations often circulate online petitions to generate support for pending legislation, boycotts, and other types of initiatives. In its November 18, 2020 newsletter, for example, [Freedom United](#) called on the public to help end trafficking into California, the most popular destination for temporary migrant workers in the United States. The organization asked readers to sign and share a petition calling for stronger regulations that would require all foreign labor contractors in the state to be registered.

## Media kits

A media kit is a website page containing information and resources such as photographs and marketing materials about a particular project. Staff design the kits to assist reporters, but they also inform and motivate an organization's followers. The best press kits are concise and make it easy for reporters to learn about issues quickly.

The [Nomi Network's website](#) has a good example. The Network is a nonprofit that “combats human trafficking by creating pathways to safe employment, empowering women and girls to break cycles of slavery in their communities” (Nomi Network, n.d.-c). Resources include a video for Facebook sharing, pictures to post on Instagram and Facebook feeds, post copy with hashtags, and templates for Instagram stories (Nomi Network, n.d.-c).

Those interested in [creating a social media press kit](#) can find instructions on the Internet (Beaney, 2018).

## Postings in public places

A 2016 study from Northeastern University found that one of the most effective ways to increase human trafficking arrests is to post the National Human Trafficking Hotline number in public places. Bulletin boards in supermarkets and stores have high visibility, but research suggests that the safest place for a victim of human trafficking to ask for help is inside a public restroom. In Our Backyard, a national nonprofit organization that fights human trafficking, built on this research and worked with survivors to design “[Freedom Stickers](#)” that concerned citizens can post in their communities. Convenience stores belonging to CSAT have posted 500,000 “Freedom Stickers” such as the ones below and have trained 280,000 staff members how to recognize and report signs of trafficking. “Our vision is a Freedom Sticker in every public restroom stall – will you help?” (In Our Backyard, n.d.-b).



(In Our Backyard, 2017)

## e-mail signatures

Adding a short quotation below an email signature can help inspire, raise awareness, and emphasize commitment. The quotation can also motivate those who receive the email to inquire about the sender's interest in a particular subject. Some people use quotes with a patriotic or religious



theme. Those who want to highlight human trafficking can add a brief thought of their own or repeat a comment that someone else has shared. Examples include:

- “People created slavery, and it’s people who will end it. People like us.” (Free the slaves)
- “Slavery is too high a price to pay for cheap goods.” Stop human trafficking! (Kevin Bales)
- “If we truly want world peace, we have to end human trafficking.” (Jason Mraz)

Changing the quotation periodically will keep the message fresh and timely. Regular correspondents may even look forward to seeing the sender’s latest expression of hope or outrage.

### **Increase awareness**



(A21, 2020)

Society has the knowledge and resources necessary to end human trafficking. What’s missing is the will to do so. A more sustained effort to increase awareness of the horror that this practice represents and the suffering that trafficked people endure will almost certainly increase our collective resolve.

[Research suggests that only 33% of the general public is aware of human trafficking](#) (Logan, Walker, & Hunt, 2009). Even those who claim to be familiar with the problem often have an incomplete or erroneous understanding of what trafficking encompasses.

As previously noted, public perceptions of human trafficking are partly shaped by the sensational way Hollywood films and the general media portray it. [According to Joanna Ewart-James, the Executive Director of Freedom United](#), portrayals of modern slavery featuring chains and ropes are often far from the truth. “That’s a real failure of the anti-slavery movement... The problem thrives, and we don’t recognize it. Modern slavery is forced labor, debt bondage, domestic servitude, and sexual exploitation. Traffickers more typically use coercion and threats and have workers live in rat-infested houses with poor food and little or no pay. Another misperception is the idea that trafficking only occurs in Third World countries while it is actually all around us” (Al Jazeera English, 2019). Chapter VI provides additional information about the way the media portrays human trafficking in the part that discusses the role of the press as a community influencer.

Activists who want to enhance public awareness can focus on a particular dimension (e.g., the sale of human organs), a geographic area such as their community or state, or a particular audience such as parents of teenagers. Each initiative requires a different strategy. Students who want to sensitize their peers, for example, can make a relevant presentation in class. They can also use social media, tabling, and other means likely to resonate with their age group.



Developing an awareness campaign can be relatively straightforward and modest in nature. It can also be creative and time-consuming. Either way, activists who want to work on this type of initiative will find it helpful to watch a [10-minute TEDx talk](#) featuring writer and director Kim Dempster. Ms. Dempster describes the process that she and her personal and corporate allies used in cooperation with the NGO "Freedom For All" to create an awareness initiative called "Stop the Nightmare." The goal was to do something "so provocative and so compelling that people couldn't look away" (TEDx, 2014c). The film includes three public service announcements they developed for the campaign and footage of a live event they staged to launch it (TEDx, 2014c).

### **Framing the issue in a way that gets attention**

Several initiatives such as the [Blue Heart](#) and [Blue Blindfold](#) campaigns have increased public awareness of human trafficking. The problem of insufficient awareness cannot be fixed, however, simply by airing additional public service announcements. Several articles in a recent issue of the [Anti-Trafficking Review](#) collectively demonstrated that [there are significant issues associated with how awareness campaigns are done, whom they should target, and whether they can lead to meaningful anti-trafficking action](#). "A central assumption in the anti-trafficking field is that the general public still lacks sufficient knowledge about human trafficking and that creating more knowledge and awareness will lead to its reduction. However, there neither exists a common understanding of who should know what in order to achieve this goal, nor is there sufficient information available about the awareness of the general public or, especially, the impact of this awareness" (Sharapov, Hoff, & Gerasimov, 2019). Other relevant factors include shifting the paradigm from a heavy focus on prosecution to protecting potential victims and assisting those whom the traffickers victimize (Sharapov, Hoff, & Gerasimov, 2019).

One way to address these issues is to modify how advocates share information. [Action Against Hunger](#), for example, engages those who visit its website by inviting them to take a short multiple-choice quiz with questions such as "Hunger affects \_\_\_% of the world's population" and "Globally, \_\_\_ children are acutely malnourished" (Action Against Hunger, n.d.). For each question answered correctly, \$1 is donated to assist the world's most vulnerable communities (Action Against Hunger, n.d.).

More generally, researchers have worked for decades to study *framing* or the way that information is communicated. A fascinating [study by Robert Norris and Kevin Mullinix](#) about the public's awareness of criminal justice issues concluded that many people already know the basics about mass incarceration in the United States:

- More than two million people are incarcerated nationwide;
- The U.S. holds 5 percent of the world's population but nearly 25 percent of the world's prisoners;
- African Americans make up one-third of the prison population, but 13 percent of the U.S. population.

Too often ignored, however, is the fact that each of those numbers represents more than a data point" (Norris & Mullinix, 2019). Scholars and reformers repeat the statistics regularly, but doing so may not be as effective as sharing the accounts of injustice that lie behind them.

Norris and Mullinix acknowledge that information has the power to change both attitudes and behavior. They found, however, that selecting the best way to present information depends on the goals that a person is trying to achieve. Numbers are adequate if you want people to think broadly

about systems and society. Stories, however, are the better vehicle if the goal is to spark change and encourage people to support policy reform. “Stories are powerful. Narratives help us make sense of the world around us and our place in it. Viewers transport themselves, their families, and friends into the situation, and imagine it in a way that is more visceral, more real, than simply reading numbers” (Norris & Mullinix, 2019).

Stated differently, stories trigger emotions such as sadness, anger, and concern. These feelings, in turn, create a desire for change to prevent future tragedies. Putting the men and women who suffer at the forefront may thus be the most effective way to influence practitioners, policymakers, and the public as a whole. “In research, we often forgo the stories for the statistics. Yet we must keep in mind the former, for they help us see not the masses but the one—and when we see the one, we act” (Norris & Mullinix, 2019). Mother Teresa shared the same thought when she said, “If I look to the masses, I will never act. If I look at the one, I will” (Norris & Mullinix, 2019).

It should thus come as no surprise that films and videos can be powerful tools for change. The 2019 Netflix movie *When They See Us*, for example, is about a 1989 case in which police detectives coerced five minority teenagers into confessing to the rape and attempted murder of a woman in New York City. The youths spent between six and 13 years behind bars following their wrongful convictions (Skoll et al., 2019). The case created a cultural firestorm. [More than 23 million people have seen \*When They See Us\*](#), making it one of the most watched shows in Netflix’s history. It sparked calls for politicians to apologize to the five men and led others involved in the case to resign from their positions (Warner, 2019).

Another example is [Kony 2012](#), a short documentary that made Ugandan militia leader and indicted war criminal Joseph Kony known throughout the world. As of June 7, 2020, the film had more than 102 million views on YouTube and more than 18.6 million on Vimeo (“Kony 2012,” 2022). PBS cited the film’s release as one of the top international events of 2012, and *Time* Magazine called it the most viral video ever. U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham commented, “When you get 100 million Americans looking at something, you will get our attention. This YouTube sensation is going to help the Congress be more aggressive and will do more to lead to his demise than all other action combined” (“Kony 2012,” 2022). The publicity also contributed to the decision of the African Union to send 5,000 troops to join the hunt for Kony (“Kony 2012,” 2022).

Human trafficking activists can try to provoke similar outrage by carefully selecting films for public movie nights. Suggestions for organizing this type of activity appear later in the chapter.

Films are just one of the ways that activists can increase public awareness of human trafficking. Professional baseball player Albert Pujols and his wife Deidre, for example, created [Strike Out Slavery](#) after learning that modern-day slavery is the fastest-growing criminal industry in the world. They held the inaugural event at Angel Stadium in September 2017, where more than 40,000 attendees learned about the issue. “Strike Out Slavery continues to expand as other players take a stand against slavery, enabling the message that ‘enough is enough’ to reach legions of baseball fans across the nation, even the world” (Strike Out Slavery, n.d.-a).

Whatever the context or type of awareness initiative, framing the desired issue correctly includes using appropriate terminology. There are at least three concepts that activists need to address in a deliberate, thoughtful manner when applicable:

- There are no “juvenile prostitutes.” It is illegal everywhere for a girl under a certain age to have sex with anyone (including her boyfriend). A better way of referring to juveniles forced to work in the sex industry puts the spotlight on the exploitation that occurs in these situations. Experts recommend referring to these youths as “commercially sexually exploited minors.”
- There is a difference between “victims” and “survivors.” Trafficked individuals are victims of ruthless criminals, and many do not survive. Those who manage to escape draw on their inner strength and resilience to overcome the many challenges associated with rebuilding their lives. Consequently, activists should refer to these individuals in a more empowering way as “survivors.”
- Many advocates recommend against using terms such as “child pornography” and “kiddie porn” because pornography often features or implies consensual action. A better, more accurate way to characterize pictures using children for pornographic purposes is “child sexual abuse imagery.”

Proper framing and communication strategies are often audience specific. A letter to the editor of a local newspaper, for example, is most likely to be published if there is a clear local connection. An example of insufficient or ineffective framing might be an experience that the author had after opening an account with [Franklin Templeton Investment Funds](#). He was stunned to learn in 2017 that the Board of Trustees had unanimously recommended that investors vote against a shareholder proposal that would prevent holding investments in companies that, in the judgment of the Board, substantially contribute to genocide or crimes against humanity. The Trustees’ statement indignantly stressed that “these Funds have responsibilities to their shareholders” and explicitly rejected the argument that “few people want their savings to be complicit in genocide” (Investors Against Genocide, n.d.). The author subsequently wrote a letter to his local newspaper (the Albany, NY [Times Union](#)) to express his outrage. Reasonable people, he felt, might disagree about the urgency of saving endangered honeybees, but the author believed that the Trustees’ recommendation should offend even the most callous investors. The [Times Union](#) chose not to publish the letter. Perhaps the editor would have published it if the message had been framed as a personal reflection for the weekly religion section, but I will never know. Franklin shareholders subsequently defeated the resolution to prevent funds from being used in ways that contribute to genocide, so the author immediately moved his account to a competing fund.

On a more positive note, the proposal forced Franklin Templeton trustees to go on record about where they stood on this troubling issue. Those with shares in similar funds should inquire if their portfolios include stocks that benefit from slave or exploited labor. If so, they should challenge the fund managers to change the policy and withdraw their money if the managers refuse to do so.

***Talk to your friends (without being a buzzkill!)***

*“You cannot force someone to comprehend a message they are not ready to receive. But we must never underestimate the power of planting a seed” (Bedi, 2020).*

The war against human trafficking will be won one convert at a time. Taking a few minutes to share your concern in person can effectively raise awareness and convince others to join the cause.

Activists can ensure that their messages are accurate and engaging by taking advantage of free tool kits such as the ones the Guide described earlier.

Presentations at church functions and meetings of school clubs can also be effective ways to raise awareness. Those who choose to make a presentation may want to take advantage of a resource developed by [Stop The Traffik](#). The content is “designed to engage, educate and inspire your audience. Quizzes and activities help to keep the audience interactive no matter if they are students, friends, colleagues, or family. It is an ideal introduction into what human trafficking is, its prevalence in the UK, and what to do if you suspect a case of modern slavery” (Stop The Traffik, n.d.-b).

Regardless of the method chosen to raise awareness, how the speaker frames the message can impact how the listeners receive it. Focusing exclusively on stories of slavery and women being raped in brothels, for example, may have limited impact. A better strategy includes sharing uplifting stories of survivor empowerment, new initiatives that inspire and motivate, and specific steps that concerned individuals can take to make a difference. Leah Thomas has offered some excellent [tips about effective communication](#) when discussing sustainability. Her insights apply just as well to human trafficking and are summarized below.

#### *Be an effective advocate*

“I remember when I first started studying Environmental Science, and I couldn’t stop talking about sustainability. I wanted to tell everyone about how the planet was dying and give the side-eye to anyone who didn’t recycle their Starbucks cups properly. It’s okay to be excited about your mission. You should be! However, if you want to encourage your friends and family to start their own journey, there are ways to help inspire them without forcing anything. There’s a fine line between education and proselytizing, and crossing the line can be counterproductive” (Thomas, 2019).

#### *Be compassionate*

“You don’t have to guilt or scare people when you talk to them. It’s far more effective to lead by example and with compassion. Compassion doesn’t mean you have to tone down your beliefs, but it means you can meet people where they’re at without judgment. Starting a conversation by talking down to someone else is a poor strategy for nurturing a relationship” (Thomas, 2022).

#### *Talk about it casually and regularly*

“If you talk about an issue in passing conversations regularly, your friends and family will also take note and know that it matters to you. Once they know it’s one of your passions, they’ll expect conversations about it and are less likely to feel that you’re preaching to them. They may also be more inclined to check it out by themselves” (Thomas, 2022).

#### *Realize the barriers*

The “Reduce Demand/Shop Wisely” section of this chapter discusses the value of purchasing Fair Trade products and items trafficked survivors have made. Similar environmentally friendly options exist in the context of sustainability. “Alternatives are wonderful, but they often come at a higher price-point. We need to be sensitive to this and invite our friends to try little things that don’t necessarily result in a large bill” (Thomas, 2022).

### *Other things to keep in mind*

- Learn the "language" of the people you reach out to in order to craft the message in a way that is likely to resonate with them. Knowing what your friends are most interested in will make it easier to link their concerns (e.g., social justice, gender equality, or fair trade) with some aspect of human trafficking.
- Fighting human trafficking isn't an all-or-nothing game. There are different ways to oppose it, and acknowledging this reality can make the topic feel less intimidating to others. Try to meet people where they are. Encourage them to explore the subject on their own terms.
- Celebrate little victories. A friend may, for example, share an article about the sexual exploitation of children or purchase a shopping bag from an anti-trafficking organization. Compliment the friend and encourage more of the same.
- Don't underestimate the power of small conversations! It can be as simple as saying that you recently read an interesting report about the use of kidnapped boys to grow cocoa or about the exploitive way that the Ferraro Corporation gets the hazelnuts it uses to make Nutella. And remember that brevity is a good thing! Very few people enjoy a speech or long lecture.
- You don't need to be an expert, but you will hopefully be able to answer simple questions. Follow up if a friend asks a question you can't answer (Thomas, 2022).

### **Tees and Totes with a message**

Something as simple as placing a bumper sticker on your car or notebook can help raise awareness. Stickers with various anti-trafficking messages can be ordered from vendors such as [Café Press](#) and [Red Bubble](#).

Another way to increase awareness is to use tees and totes with a message. A recent [letter to the editor](#) of the [New York Times](#) made this point very effectively:

“Nicola Pardy argues that ‘the trend of visibly wearing your womanhood’ with T-shirts, tote bags, and the like ‘has little bearing on the state of feminist politics.’ Findings from social psychology suggest otherwise. More specifically, ‘identity wear’ influences others through the exposure effect, a robust finding that demonstrates we have an undue liking for people and things by virtue of mere exposure, even if we’re not consciously aware of that exposure. Advertisers are well aware of this phenomenon, which is why companies pay to expose us to the same image repeatedly. Recently, while I was wearing a T-shirt that read, ‘In a world where you can be anything, be kind,’ a man in a coffee shop commented, ‘I like your T-shirt - it’s a good reminder.’ I suspect that T-shirts with feminist slogans are a good reminder that there is work to be done to achieve full equality” (The New York Times, 2019).

Amazon, Zazzle, Etsy, and other commercial establishments sell T-shirts and coffee mugs featuring messages such as “got abolitionism?” and “end modern slavery.” A better way to support the anti-trafficking movement would be to purchase merchandise directly from anti-trafficking organizations whenever possible. Many employ trafficked survivors to make the items they offer, and

sales provide much-needed revenue to the organization selling them. One such organization is the Starfish Project. A recent blog entry from Project staff explains the value of supporting survivors in this manner very clearly:

Exploitation is a global issue that affects women, men, and children, and while it varies in form and severity, its effects are nonetheless far-reaching and devastating. Many of the women we work with here in Asia are tricked by acquaintances, friends, and even relatives. Many enter exploitative work and living situations accidentally or through coercion or force. Others feel like they have no choice financially and need the money to provide for their family. Regardless of how each enters, once they are in the dark world of exploitation, the women are trapped much like a bird in a cage. In many cases, the cage is theoretically unlocked and the door is cracked open. Still, the women and girls we meet are not empowered to fly out, unaware that there is another reality aside from the one they are trapped in.

So, what keeps women and girls there? Most of the women we meet have been told their entire lives by everyone around them that they are worthless, ugly, stupid and a drain on their families. Many have been physically and emotionally abused. Most feel they simply have no other option except to use their bodies to provide for themselves and their families. As women have shared, they feel they cannot leave out of fear of their employers, and some are forbidden to leave. While others have debt or other pressures retraining them. Many see themselves as damaged and worthless and resign themselves to the only life they think they can have. All these factors can be just as strong as any lock and key.

The result is, for the women still in exploitation that life is dark, lonely, and dangerous. Because what they do is risky and unstable, the longer they are trapped in exploitation, the more confined their own world becomes. The invisible chains grow stronger until they feel that they have no hope. In this place, the decision to leave the cage and proactively take the steps toward a new life is likely the hardest one they will ever have to make. You partner with our outreach teams to come alongside women in exploitation to ignite hope and counteract the voices of shame they have heard all of their lives. *Your purchases, advocacy, giving, and social media shares catalyze our outreach efforts so that every woman can know her value. Through your purchase, together we restore hope, provide practical help and bring about a new beginning.* (Emphasis added.)

Friend, trust us when we say you are in this fight for freedom! When you shop Starfish Project you are directly fighting against the roots of exploitation. As you wear and gift Starfish Project jewelry you plant and water seeds of hope that help each woman know she is beautiful, capable, valued, and has worth – that is a life transformed.

(Starfish Project, 2022)

Anti-trafficking organizations collectively sell a very wide variety of products. These products include apparel, jewelry, household goods, cosmetics, and more. Several organizations that merit consideration are listed below in alphabetical order.

- [A21](#)
- [Agape International Missions](#)
- [Blackout Trafficking](#)
- [ECPAT-USA](#)
- [End It Movement](#)
- [Free the Slaves](#)



- [National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance](#)
- [Nomi Network](#)
- [Not For Sale](#)  
 “We are very proud of our 100% Promise. Every penny of profit from each purchase of Not For Sale merchandise always goes directly to fight for those who need it most. 100% of the time” (Not For Sale Store, n.d.).
- [Operation Underground Railroad](#)
- [Starfish Project](#)
- [Stop the Traffik](#)
- [Thistle Farms](#)
- [You Can Free Us](#)

Many clubs and social organizations feature their logo or slogan on products such as shirts and coffee mugs. Activists who are in a position to order these types of items should consider ordering them from an organization that employs trafficked survivors. This option is likely to increase the cost and delay delivery because the products will probably be made overseas. On the plus side, the orders will provide much-needed work for survivors with few other employment options.

[Joyya](#) (previously known as [Freeset](#)) can complete this type of request in a socially responsible way. “[Freeset](#) began in Sonagachi, one of Asia’s largest red-light areas with about 10,000 sex workers, many of whom were taken from homes in villages and communities across West Bengal. Through jobs at Freeset making bags and tees, we built new homes and a new community of freedom in Kolkata. In buying Freeset, you’re part of this journey: strengthening homes and communities. We make bags, tees, accessories, and apparel for sale worldwide, and we’re committed to the long haul. T-shirts and bags ordered through Freeset are sewn and screen-printed with care in West Bengal, India. Your order not only provides women with stable, dignified employment, but also access to healthcare, literacy education, and other key social services – transforming lives, families, and communities” (My State Threads, n.d.). Joyya’s website has additional information about the materials, how its products are made, and how to get a quote.

***Help publicize special days that highlight human trafficking***

Countries, trade associations, religions, and many other groups have designated special days to commemorate events and themes that are especially meaningful to them. [Commonwealth Day](#), for example, is typically held on the second Monday in March to celebrate the Commonwealth of Nations. Great Britain established Commonwealth Day as a day of observance for a billion people “to celebrate their common bonds and the contribution of the Commonwealth of Nations to the creation of a harmonious global environment” (“Commonwealth Day,” 2022).

Activists can take advantage of these special days to add their own message to the conversation. [Freedom United, for example, uses Commonwealth Day to call on national leaders to take action against modern slavery and human trafficking](#). An email that Freedom United sent to its members on March 12, 2018 included the following note about their efforts:

“Since launching our campaign in December 2016, we have:

- gathered over 77,000 actions across our Commonwealth campaigns;
- sent 6,325 messages directly to the Commonwealth Secretary-General;
- received a statement against slavery from the current Commonwealth Chair-in-Office, the Prime Minister of Malta;

- brought our petition to the attention of senior officials and parliamentarians across the Commonwealth at a conference in London;
- engaged with the team planning the Commonwealth Summit; and
- called on the Prime Minister of Malaysia to make a statement against modern slavery

Before launching our campaign, the Commonwealth had never publicly stated its position on modern slavery. We have witnessed great progress. Last October, Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth, was reported to support all 53 Commonwealth countries passing legislation to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking.

We will hand in our petition shortly after Commonwealth Day to ensure we get the commitment we need. Can you share our campaign to increase the power of our call? We want the Heads of Government statement to include a commitment to implementing Goal 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, ‘to take immediate and effective measures ‘to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking.’

It is estimated that over half of those living in modern slavery reside in Commonwealth countries. Add your name, and we will ensure our call is heard by taking our petition to the Secretary-General in just a few days” (Freedom United, 2016).

Many governments and organizations have designated days specifically to raise the public’s awareness of human trafficking and/or raise funds for trafficked survivors. Concerned activists can support these efforts by sharing appropriate links on their social media accounts. Other helpful activities include organizing a movie night or special event on those days to provide opportunities for discussion, questions, and answers. Supporters might also wear a specific clothing color or take another type of action that the day’s sponsor suggests.

The White House routinely issues proclamations to honor occasions such as [National Slavery Human Trafficking Prevention Month](#) (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children & Families Office on Trafficking in Persons, 2020b). State and local governments often take similar action. The [Governor of Kansas](#) and [Douglas County, Kansas](#), for example, have recognized Human Trafficking Awareness Month. The county’s proclamation in 2019 “urges the citizens of Douglas County to speak out against sex and labor trafficking and exploitation, to support survivors of these heinous crimes, to encourage community leaders to hold offenders accountable, and to make preventable efforts a priority by hosting events, by creating policies at work, school, and home, and by supporting and participating in programs designed to reduce and eventually eliminate human trafficking as a societal problem” (Douglas County Kansas, 2019). Communities as diverse as [Laredo, Texas](#), and [Johnson County, Tennessee](#), have issued similar proclamations (Ocampo, 2020; Cox, 2019). Activists can request that their city or town issue special statements as well.

Listed below are several special days and months that activists may want to publicize in their communities. Most draw attention to issues that are explicitly linked to human trafficking, but the list includes some seemingly unrelated days that activists sometimes use to promote anti-trafficking messages. The list does *not* include state-specific examples such as California’s Farmer and Farm Worker Month. Thousands of immigrant field workers are exploited there through debt bondage and other unethical practices, but the list would quickly become unmanageable if it incorporated events tied to individual states and other locales. Those interested can use the Internet to identify additional days that officials in their community may have designated for a special purpose.

## January

### *January 11: [National Human Trafficking Awareness Day](#)*

President Barak Obama signed a proclamation in 2011 designating each January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is observed on January 11, the date the proclamation was issued (Proclamation No. 8772, 77 FR 1005, 2012).

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security selected January 11 as [#WearBlueDay](#) to support this initiative. “To raise awareness of human trafficking, we ask people to take photos of themselves, friends, family, and colleagues wearing blue clothing and share them on social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram – along with our #WearBlueDay hashtag. Anyone can participate. All you need is a piece of blue clothing! Follow us on Twitter [@DHSBlueCampaign](#) for more information on #WearBlueDay and National Human Trafficking Awareness Day” (Blue Campaign, 2022c). The [U.S Department of Health & Social Services’ Office of Trafficking in Persons](#) has additional information.



(Blue Campaign, n.d.-d).

(Note: Most people are unlikely to know why someone chooses to wear blue on January 11. It will help to wear an appropriate lapel pin or otherwise indicate why you selected blue clothing on this day.)

## February

### *[Black History Month](#)*

“February is Black History Month in the United States. We can honor this holiday in part by understanding how human trafficking disproportionately affects communities of color, specifically African American girls and women. Anybody can be trafficked, but 40% of missing people, a population that includes many young trafficking victims and survivors, are people of color. In order to effectively combat human trafficking in the United States, we need to learn what makes certain populations more vulnerable to it, as well as how to address these vulnerabilities” (End Slavery Now, n.d.-h).

February 8 [International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Trafficking in Persons](#)

“This day of prayer is celebrated on the feast day of Saint Josephine Bakhita (1869-1947). Saint Bakhita was born in Sudan and was a slave both there and later in Italy, where she eventually joined the Canossian sisters. The Catholic Church declared her to be a saint in 2000. Sister Bakhita has been adopted as the patron saint of Sudan and [human trafficking survivors](#)” (The International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking, n.d.).

February 12 [International Day Against the Use of Child Soldiers \(Red Hand Day\)](#)

“The International Day Against the Use of Child Soldiers has been observed on February 12 each year since 2002. Observers protest the use of children under the age of 18 to fight in military conflicts and seek to support children affected by it” (Red Hand Day, n.d.).

February 13 [Shine a Light on Slavery Day](#)

“Created by the END IT Movement, ‘Shine a Light on Slavery’ Day encourages modern-day abolitionists worldwide to draw a red ‘X’ on their hands and share the symbol virally via social media to represent those still enslaved in the world today. Drawing a RED X on your hand may seem simple at first, but you’ll be amazed at the conversations it prompts with everyone from your boss to your barista, conversations that educate and inspire the people in your circles one by one. After all, action starts with awareness” (Bogan, 2021).



(“END IT Logo,” 2017)

February 20 [World Day of Social Justice](#)

“The UN General Assembly recognizes that social development and social justice are indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security within and among nations and that, in turn, social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security, or in the absence of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

It further recognizes that globalization and interdependence are opening new opportunities through trade, investment, capital flows, and advances in technology for the growth of the world economy and the development and improvement of living standards around the world. At the same time, there remain serious challenges. They include serious financial crises, insecurity, poverty, exclusion and inequality within and among societies, and considerable obstacles to further integration and full participation in the global economy for developing countries, as well as some countries with economies in transition.

On 26 November 2007, the General Assembly declared that starting from the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, 20 February will be celebrated annually as the World Day of Social Justice” (United Nations, 2022).

## **March**

### *Blackout Trafficking*

“Once a year, individuals around the world commit to igniting a broader awareness of human trafficking while raising funds for anti-trafficking organizations. The method is simple--wear your chosen black item of clothing each and every day of March. An average person created this project for ordinary people. It doesn't matter who you are, what you do for a living, or what stage of life you're in. You can make an impact" (Blackout Trafficking, n.d.-a).

### *Women's History Month*

“According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 72% of identified human trafficking victims are women and girls (2018). In honor of Women's History Month, we are encouraged to locate and join an organization specializing in fighting against modern-day slavery for women and girls. These include Rights4Girls, the Polaris Project, the International Justice Mission, and the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women. We are also encouraged to learn about brave women standing up to modern-day enslavement. These women include Celia Williamson, Kim Belew, T. Ortiz Pettigrew, and Barbara Amaya” (End Slavery Now, n.d.-e).

### *March 8*      *International Women's Day*

“International Women's Day is a global event celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. The first IWD gathering occurred in 1911 and was supported by more than a million people in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland. Women are trafficked for both sex and labor throughout the world, so anti-trafficking groups sometimes take advantage of this day to draw special attention to the ways that trafficking impacts women” (International Women's Day, n.d.).

*March 14*     [#MyFreedomDay](#)

“#MyFreedomDay is a student-centered worldwide event CNN sponsors to raise awareness about the global problem of modern slavery. Here are some ideas to consider on this day:

- Collaborate with a survivors’ shelter to host an event to raise awareness
- Invite someone from a shelter to speak at your school
- Take a selfie, a group pic with friends, or your classmates with one of the attached signs
- Create a 30-second video with your class or friends saying what freedom means to you
- Create a GIF on your phone
- Host a Movie night that raises awareness of the issue
- Host a panel discussion
- Post a photo or video on Twitter or Instagram using the hashtag #MyFreedomDay
- Host a Fair Trade fashion show, bake sale, or jewelry sale
- Create a school-wide art installation with messages of freedom (e.g., a freedom wall with sticky note messages).
- At the very least, post what makes you feel free to social media and include #MyFreedomDay @LifeWayNetwork @CNN to your post” (CNN, 2022).

*March 18*     [National Child Exploitation Awareness Day](#)

“The National Working Group (NWG) Exploitation Response Unit is a charitable organization formed as a network of more than 14,500 practitioners who disseminate information to professionals working on the issue of child exploitation and trafficking within the United Kingdom. The NWG first sponsored National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day in 2014. It sees child sexual exploitation through the lens of a broader understanding of child exploitation, encompassing criminal exploitation, trafficking, modern slavery, and other forms of adolescent vulnerability. Children are especially vulnerable to nearly all forms of human trafficking. On March 18, the world is encouraged to come together to fight child exploitation” (McManus, 2019).

**April**

[Sexual Assault Awareness Month](#)

“Sexual Assault Awareness Month is an annual campaign to raise public awareness about sexual assault and educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence. Each year during April, state, territory, tribal and community-based organizations, rape crisis centers, government agencies, businesses, campuses, and individuals plan events and activities to highlight sexual violence as a public health, human rights, and social justice issue and to reinforce the need for prevention efforts” (“Sexual Assault Awareness Month,” 2022). The [National Sexual Assault Resource Center](#) has additional information and resources that activists can use to publicize this month.



## [National Child Abuse Prevention Month](#)

“National Child Abuse Prevention Month recognizes the importance of having families and communities work together to prevent child abuse and neglect and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and their families. The issue is relevant to anti-trafficking organizations because persons under the age of 18 are vulnerable to several types of exploitation and trafficking, especially those who have gone through child welfare systems” (Child Welfare Information Gateway, n.d.-a).

### *April 22 – 28*      [Fashion Revolution Week](#)

“Fashion Revolution Week is our annual campaign bringing together the world’s largest fashion activism movement for seven days of action. Fashion Revolution week happens every year in the week surrounding the 24th of April. This date is the anniversary of the 2013 Rana Plaza collapse. Rana Plaza, a building in Bangladesh, housed a number of garment factories, employing around 5,000 people. The people in this building were manufacturing clothing for many of the biggest global fashion brands. More than 1,100 people – mostly young women – died in the collapse and another 2,500 were injured, making it the fourth largest industrial disaster in history. No one should die for fashion.

This year, from Monday 18th-Sunday 24th April 2022, we will collectively reimagine a just and equitable fashion system for people and the planet. Join us for online and in-person events throughout the week” (Fashion Revolution, n.d.).

## **May**

### *Second Saturday of May*      [World Fair Trade Day](#)

“The World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO) started World Fair Trade Day in 2004. The WFTO is a global association of 324 organizations in more than 70 countries, and Fair Trade Day takes place on the second Saturday of May each year. It is an inclusive worldwide festival of events celebrating Fair Trade as a tangible contribution to the fight against poverty and exploitation, climate change, and the economic crisis that has the greatest impact on the world’s most vulnerable populations” (Days of the Year, n.d.).

### *Second Sunday of May*      *Mother’s Day*

The United States celebrates Mother's Day on the second Sunday in May. In the United States, Mother's Day is one of the biggest days of the year for merchants to sell flowers, greeting cards, and gifts of all sorts. Sadly, many mothers are being trafficked worldwide, so it might be especially meaningful to buy a gift for your mother that a trafficked survivor made. Doing so will honor your mother while simultaneously enabling a survivor to stay employed. The “Reduce Demand (Shop Wisely!)” section of this chapter identifies many organizations and companies that sell these items.

## June

### [National Internet Safety Month](#)

“The connections we make online help create engaged global communities, but the Internet has also opened the door to insidious forms of exploitation. For years, traffickers have been abusing the web, especially social media sites, to connect with youth more easily than ever before. As the COVID-19 outbreak moved learning, work, and after-school activities online, this "new normal" increased the potential risks to kids exponentially” (Scott, 2010).

“Not to be confused with National Cybersecurity Month in October, June has been designated National Internet Safety Month in order to bring greater attention to the need for comprehensive Internet safety education. The nonprofit organization i-SAFE is calling on all Internet users to display a blue wire ribbon at home, at work, and online to raise awareness about Internet dangers. The iconic blue ribbon is the centerpiece of a variety of simple, yet effective ways Americans can get involved this June” (Scott, 2010).

### *June 12*      [World Day Against Child Labor](#)

“Approximately 218 million children throughout the world today work, many full-time. They do not go to school and have little or no time to play. They are denied the chance to be children. More than half of them are exposed to the worst forms of child labor such as work in hazardous environments, slavery, or other forms of forced labour, illicit activities including drug trafficking and prostitution, as well as involvement in armed conflict” (United Nations, n.d.-d).

“The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labor in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. Each year on June 12, the World Day brings together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the world to highlight the plight of child laborers and what can be done to help them” (United Nations, n.d.-d).

### *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of June*      *Father’s Day*

Father's Day honors paternal bonds and the influence of fathers in society. Like Mother’s Day, Father’s Day is a celebration, but we should not forget that fathers are being trafficked and kept from their families throughout the world. Buying a gift that a trafficked survivor made will honor your father in a distinctive way.

### *June 19*      [Juneteenth](#)

“Juneteenth (a combination of “June” and “nineteenth”) is also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, and Liberation Day. It is a holiday that is celebrated annually in several American states. The date commemorates Union army general Gordon Granger announcing federal orders in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, proclaiming

that all slaves in Texas were now free. But did this end slavery, or did slavery just take on a new form? Human trafficking is often referred to as ‘modern-day slavery’ and impacts the Black community in an alarming way. Black men and women account for approximately 40% of all human trafficking victims domestically, and black children accounted for 59% of all prostitution arrests in 2012” (Johnson, 2020).

### [World Refugee Day](#)

“The United Nations estimates that nearly 80 million people around the world had been forced to flee their homes because of war, conflict, and persecution by the end of 2019. Each year on June 20, the United Nations, United Nations Refugee Agency, and countless civic groups around the world host World Refugee Day events to draw the public's attention to these refugees and internally displaced persons worldwide. Many of these refugees are preyed upon by human traffickers who seek to capitalize on their displacement for profit and cause untold suffering in the process” (United Nations, 2021d).

### [National Gardening Week](#)

“The first full week of June is recognized in the United States as National Gardening Week. This could be a good opportunity for gardeners to plant a memorial garden to spark a conversation about modern-day slavery. Add a plaque or garden sign dedicating your garden to those still enslaved in the world today” (End Slavery Now, n.d.-i).

## July

### *July 4*      [Independence Day \(United States\)](#)

The International Justice Mission encourages Americans to ‘Celebrate freedom by giving freedom’ on the day of their nation’s independence. According to Tim Ballard, the founder of Operation Underground Railroad, “It is a time that we reflect on independence and freedom; it is a time that we remember the high price our forefathers paid for our liberty. [The Freedom for All campaign](#) was born to remind us that although we enjoy unparalleled freedom, over two million children in the world are trapped in sexual slavery” (Operation Underground Railroad, 2017).

### *July 17*      [World Day for International Justice](#)

“World Day for International Justice, also referred to as International Justice Day, is celebrated throughout the world as part of an effort to recognize emerging systems of international criminal justice. July 17 was chosen because it is the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute, the treaty that created the International Criminal Court. The day was first celebrated in 2010. Anti-trafficking laws are weak or nonexistent in many countries, so this day provides a valuable opportunity to lobby for needed reforms” (Stewart, 2021).

July 30 [World Day Against Trafficking in Persons](#)

The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a resolution in 2013 to designate July 30 as the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. The resolution declared that the day was necessary to “raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights” (United Nations, 2021c).

## **August**

August 12 [International Youth Day](#)

“Eighteen countries observe international Youth Day to highlight the issues of youth (13 to 15 years old) at local, national, and international levels. This day is celebrated to draw the attention of governments to the issues of youth regarding their studies and job opportunities” (United Nations, 2021a).

“Young men and women are the future of every country. Nevertheless, children are often exploited throughout the world. Freedom United is one of many nonprofit organizations that has used this day to protest the use of children in domestic slavery in Ghana, forced child marriages in Iraq, orphanage trafficking, and the use of children to do several types of forced labor” (United Nations, 2021a).

August 23 [Sankofa Day \(International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition\)](#)

“On the night of August 22 - 23, 1791, African men and women who had been sent to work as slaves in what is now known as Haiti and the Dominican Republic successfully rebelled and won their freedom. Haiti became the first independent sovereign nation-state of Latin America and the Caribbean and is the only nation-state in the world that was established as the result of a successful slave revolt” (Sankofa Day, n.d.).

“The uprising played a crucial role in the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. In 1998, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated August 23 as the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition” (Sankofa Day, n.d.).

“Sankofa is a word from the Ghanaian Twi language and is linked to an African proverb which translates as: ‘It is not wrong to go back for that which you have forgotten.’ Sankofa is depicted by one of two symbols: a bird with its head turned backward taking an egg off its back, or as a stylized heart shape” (Sankofa Day, n.d.).

## **September**

*September 22*      [\*Freedom Sunday\*](#)

Faith groups around the world come together on Freedom Sunday as “a united, hope-filled, justice-driven community seeking to end modern slavery. We start with prayer, lament, learning, dialogue, and worship to inform and catalyze our response to this global tragedy. Freedom Sunday is more than a day. It’s more than a worship service. Freedom Sunday is a movement of hope” (Set Free, n.d.).

*September 29*      [\*International Coffee Day\*](#)

“The use of slaves and forced labor to grow coffee is common worldwide. Consequently, your coffee choices are important. Fair Trade guarantees a minimum price for coffee producers (at least \$1.40 per pound). Consumers are called on to demand better wages for coffee farmers and to call on coffee companies to pay fair prices. (Those who prefer tea can order some Fair Trade tea instead with the comfort of knowing that their purchase also supports farming communities)” (“International Coffee Day”, 2022).

*September 27*      [\*World Tourism Day\*](#)

“The United Nations World Tourism Organization has celebrated World Tourism Day on September 27 since 1980. This day aims to raise awareness about the role of tourism within the international community and demonstrate how it affects social, cultural, political, and economic values worldwide. Anti-trafficking organizations also use this day to call on tour operators to discontinue volunteer tours of [Third World orphanages](#) which sometimes traffick children for the operator’s personal financial benefit and puts children at risk of trafficking” (“World Tourism Day”, 2022).

## **October**

[\*Fair Trade Month\*](#)

“Fair Trade Month raises awareness about the importance of the Fair Trade movement to our global economy and promotes buying from businesses that are committed to fair trade instead of those which may harm the environment, the economy, communities, and disadvantaged individuals. Those who wish to support this day can spread the word about fair trade, purchase from members of the Fair Trade Federation when shopping online, or find and support a Fair Trade Federation store or café in their local community. Retailers are encouraged to find a Fair Trade wholesale supplier” (Fair Trade Federation, 2021b).

*October 11*      [\*International Day of the Girl Child\*](#)

“More than 1.1 billion girls are now under the age of 18. In 2011, the United Nations declared October 11 International Day of the Girl to recognize girls’ rights and the unique challenges that girls face all over the world. Will you help us work toward a

world free from gender-based violence, discrimination, and oppression? A world where no one is for sale” (UNICEF, 2021a).

October 18                    [\*Anti-Slavery Day\*](#)

“Anti-Slavery Day was established in Great Britain for commemoration on October 18. The day provides an opportunity to raise awareness of human trafficking and modern slavery and to encourage governments, local authorities, companies, charities, and individuals to do what they can to address the problem” (Human Trafficking Foundation, 2021).

## **November**

*National Native American Heritage Month*

“Each year, the president proclaims November [National Native American Heritage Month](#). During this month, we are encouraged to celebrate Indigenous peoples in the United States and learn more about the history, culture, and traditions of American Indians and Alaska Natives in our country.

“Blue Campaign has developed awareness and training resources to help these communities combat human trafficking. If you are interested in learning more about human trafficking’s impact on Native communities or want to raise awareness of the issue, please review and share the following resources:

[Poster Series](#) – The Campaign’s human trafficking awareness poster series for Native communities features culturally-relevant images and messages for display in places such as schools, community centers, and offices (U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2022b).

[Facebook Live](#) – Blue Campaign hosted a Facebook Live with representatives from organizations serving Native communities. Panelists discussed the importance of reaching this community with information about human trafficking and what their organizations are doing to combat the crime (U.S. Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign, 2018).

[Webinar](#) – This webinar for law enforcement provides information on recognizing and responding to Native American victims of human trafficking (Blue Campaign, 2022a).

[Scenario Video](#) – “Human trafficking can happen to anyone, and this video shows a potential scenario that could occur in Native communities” (Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, 2016).

November 20                    [\*World Children’s Day\*](#)

“World Children’s Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on 20 November each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare” (United Nations, 2021b). As previously noted, June 12 has been designated World Day Against Child Labor. World’s



Children's Day can be used more generally to highlight other forms of child trafficking, such as the forced marriage of young girls and the kidnapping of children to serve as soldiers. One of many other problems concerns traffickers who trick families into giving up their children and who then place them in fake orphanages to attract donations that only benefit the traffickers (United Nations, 2021b).

*November 25*      [International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#)

“The United Nations General Assembly has designated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The premise of the day is to raise awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to rape, domestic violence, and other forms of violence that are often hidden. Women are especially vulnerable to being trafficked for a variety of historical, cultural and economic reasons” (“International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women”, 2022).

*The Tuesday following the U.S. Thanksgiving*      [Giving Tuesday](#)

“GivingTuesday was created in 2012 to encourage people to do good. It could be as simple as making someone smile, helping a neighbor, or giving some of what we have to those who need our help. Every act of generosity counts, and everyone has something to give. #GivingTuesday is now a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday celebrates the charitable season, when many are focusing on their holiday and end-of-year giving” (Benevity, n.d.).”

*Friday After Thanksgiving*      [Ethical Black Friday](#)

“Black Friday is an informal name for the Friday following Thanksgiving in the United States, which Americans celebrate on the fourth Thursday of November. The day after Thanksgiving has been regarded as the beginning of the United States Christmas shopping season since 1952 and has routinely been the busiest shopping day of the year in the United States since at least 2005” (“Black Friday (shopping)”, 2022).

The Ethical Black Friday ([#takebackblackfriday](#)) campaign is about supporting local and black-owned businesses, purchasing environmentally sustainable and Fair Trade products, and generally ensuring that we make our purchases positively and responsibly (Duffy, 2019).

## **December**

[Dressemer](#)

“Dressemer is a collaborative movement leveraging fashion and creativity to restore dignity to all women. Every year, advocates around the world take on the challenge of

wearing a dress or tie during the 31 days of December. The dress or tie serves as the conversation starter to educate your community about modern slavery.”

“You can use a personalized campaign page “to share your journey with your community and make a tangible impact for our grant partners. We equip you every step of the way with the tools to become an everyday advocate. By participating in Dresember, you directly impact the fight to rescue, protect, and restore the lives of trafficking victims and survivors worldwide. Funds raised through Dresember provide the means to create and build new and innovative programs. Your generosity changes lives” (Dresember, n.d.).

### [Freecember](#)

Activists can schedule fundraisers any time of the year, but “Freecember” (Freedom + December) was initiated as a special month of focused fundraising to assist the anti-trafficking movement. During Freecember, “people take on a challenge, share their journey, invite people to give, and join a rising tide of people working together around the world to stop specific slavery. As a Freedom Raiser, you can take any type of challenge from anywhere to raise any amount for any anti-trafficking organization on any giving platform.” A variety of ideas and planning resources are available on the Freecember website (Freecember, n.d.).

### [Universal Human Rights Month](#)

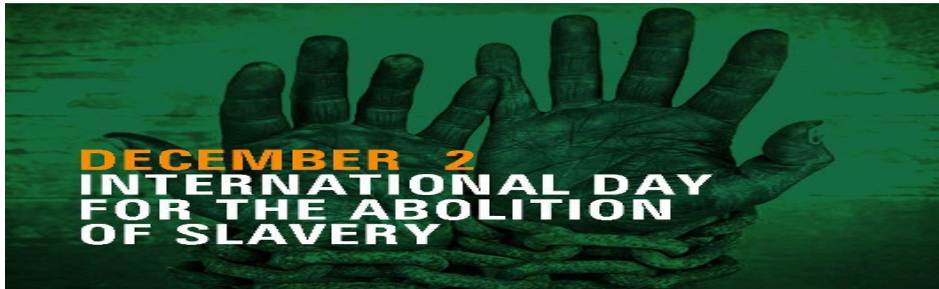
“In 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The very first article states: ‘*All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.*’ The document goes on to define what human rights should be respected and protected universally, as well as emphasizing how important it is to do so.

December is the Universal Month for Human Rights. One of the most important things you can do throughout this month and beyond is to find common ground with the people around you. Human Rights Month acknowledges that people of different cultures and creeds are still people. Take the time to learn about a culture that is different from yours. The [Dignity & Respect Campaign](#) has some wonderful resources on how to go about this.”

By learning about other people and standing up for their rights, you encourage equality, justice, and freedom. These values are antithetical to human and labor trafficking. Those wishing more information about Universal Human Rights Month or the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (including a [kid-friendly version](#) of that document) can click on the link” (End Slavery Now, n.d.-c).

*December 2* [International Day for the Abolition of Slavery](#)

“The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, 2 December, marks the date when the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (resolution 317(IV) of 2 December 1949). The focus of this day is on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict” (United Nations, n.d.-a).



(ECPAT-USA, n.d.-o)

*December 5* [International Volunteer Day](#)

“The UN General Assembly named December 5th International Volunteer Day in 1986. It is a day for ‘volunteers and organizations to celebrate their efforts, share their values, and promote their work among their communities.’ Many anti-trafficking organizations rely on volunteers to perform necessary services. The Anti-Slavery Directory maintained by End Slavery Now provides suggestions for those who are not sure where to start looking” (End Slavery Now, n.d.-l).

*December 10* [International Human Rights Day](#)

“Human Rights Day is celebrated annually around the world on December 10 every year. The date was chosen to honor the United Nations General Assembly's adoption and proclamation, on 10 December 1948, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UHDR), the first global enunciation of human rights and one of the first major achievements of the new United Nations” (“Human Rights Day”, 2022).

“The links between human rights and the fight against trafficking are well established. From its earliest days, human rights law has unequivocally proclaimed the fundamental immorality and unlawfulness of one person appropriating the labour or humanity of another” (United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, 2014). Among other things, human rights law “has decried and outlawed arbitrary detention, forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage, and the sexual exploitation of children and women.” (United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, 2014).

“Different human rights will be relevant at different points in the trafficking cycle. Some will be especially relevant to the causes of trafficking (for example, the right to

an adequate standard of living); others relate to the trafficking process (for example, the right to be free from slavery); and still others to the response to trafficking (e.g., the right of suspects to a fair trial). Some rights apply broadly to each of these aspects” (United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, 2014).

“Many governmental and non-governmental organizations active in the human rights field schedule special events to commemorate the day, as do many civil and social-cause organizations” (“Human Rights Day”, 2022).

December 18      [International Migrants Day](#)

“Each year on December 18, the United Nations uses International Migrants Day to highlight the contributions made and challenges faced by the roughly 272 million migrants, including more than 41 million internally displaced persons. This global event examines a wide range of migration themes to advocate for migration guided by the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits both migrants and society. As part of this commemoration, it is important to recognize the journey of millions who travel away from home to find decent work and raise awareness for those who become trapped in modern slavery and exploitation” (“International Migrants Day”, 2022).

**Organize public displays and events**

Activists who choose to concentrate their efforts on increasing awareness about human trafficking share their concerns with friends whenever the opportunity arises. They may also want to organize a special event or project in cooperation with a college club, nonprofit, or place of worship. This section offers practical advice to help event planners in three broad areas: Identifying the goal, types of events to consider, and planning.

Identifying the Goal

David Trotter is a filmmaker and entrepreneur who has envisioned, planned, and implemented hundreds of events, projects, and campaigns. His publications include [Start Something to End Trafficking: A Practical Guide to Help You Start A Project, Event, Campaign, or Organization](#). Mr. Trotter (p. 55) suggests that event organizers begin by asking themselves four key questions:

- *“What are the desired outcomes?* Knowing specifically what you want to achieve will guide everything you subsequently do in planning. Focus on sex trafficking? Raise money? Protect children from online predators? Be specific.
- *Who should be in the room?* The event may be open to anyone who wants to attend, but there might be specific individuals or types of people you especially want to participate. The police? School teachers? The mayor? The possibilities are very broad.
- *What will motivate them to set aside time from their usual schedule to attend?* A desire to learn more? An opportunity to meet people they’ve wanted to connect with? A fun experience with good refreshments? A straightforward fundraiser that expects attendees to take out their wallets is off-putting to some people. Raising funds might be the main objective, but you will probably have greater attendance if you have live music or another type of attraction.

- *What will this group of people experience together?* “The experience begins the moment they hear about the event and continues until they walk out of the venue at the end of the occasion. In fact, you’ll probably even want to extend their experience through a follow-up contact, informational recap, or online connection” (Trotter, 2014b, p. 55).

Whatever the goal, it is always a good idea to have free handouts available for those who wish to take one. Handouts help attendees remember essential aspects of the event’s message and let them know where to get additional information. Another benefit stems from the fact that attendees may share the handouts with friends. Examples of several free resources can be found throughout the Guide by following the hyperlinks to toolkits, nonprofit organizations, and initiatives such as the [Blue Campaign](#).

Depending upon the type of event, organizers can raise funds by selling baked goods, a T-shirt featuring the logo of an antitrafficking organization, or a Fair trade product such as coffee. If the event concerns sex trafficking, featuring things from businesses that employ trafficked survivors would be especially germane. [Joyya](#) is one of them. Joyya employs survivors of sex trafficking in India and sells a variety of bags, shirts, and scarves that the survivors have made (Joyya, n.d.-c). A domestic example of a nonprofit with a similar mission is [Thistle Farms](#) in Nashville, Tennessee. Thistle Farms also employs trafficked survivors and offers a variety of beauty products, apparel, and other items (Thistle Farms, n.d.-a).

### Types of activities

Once the sponsors have clearly defined their goal, they can select the strategy that best enables them to accomplish it. The possibilities described below are not mutually exclusive.

### *Community Bulletin Boards*

Those wishing to raise awareness about specific programs or issues such as youth Internet safety practices can post notices on community bulletin boards in supermarkets and other public locations. Activists can design the announcement in a way that allows anyone who wants additional information

Safe Inc. of Schenectady and CAPTAIN Community Human Services

**Anti-Trafficking Program**

**Human trafficking can happen anywhere—  
even here.**

**You are not alone.**

Services are available for victims of human trafficking.  
We can help connect you with resources for housing, mental and physical  
health, legal assistance, food security and more.

Reach out to us today:  
518-935-7659  
ATC@safe-NY.org

National Human Trafficking Hotline:  
1-888-373-7888

Call 518-935-7659 or the 24/7  
National Hotline at 1-888-373-7888

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to tear off a strip of paper with the necessary contact information. The author uploaded the example on the previous page from his personal files (Safe Inc, 2022).

### *Film nights*

Another way to stimulate conversation is by sponsoring a thought-provoking movie night at home, a place of worship, on campus, or at another accessible location. One extraordinary film worth considering is [Not My Life](#), a 2011 60-minute documentary about human trafficking and contemporary slavery throughout the world (Worldwide Documentaries, Inc, 2018). The sequel, [Running to Stand Still](#) focuses on the exploitation of migrants and refugees, many of whom are at risk of being trafficked (Worldwide Documentaries, Inc, 2020). Other excellent films include *Very Young Girls*, *When the Moon is Dark*, *Sands of Silence: Waves of Courage*, *The Day My God Died*, *I am Jane Doe*, and *Save My Seoul*. Excellent fictional movies about human trafficking based on actual events include *The Whistleblower* and *Lilya 4-Ever*.

Many films are available online and can be shown at no charge. Others have to be rented or purchased for use at public events. Consequently, organizers must be sure to check potential licensing restrictions before scheduling.

Once a film has been selected, organizers should prepare several thought-provoking questions to ensure that attendees have a meaningful conversation after the showing. Some movies come with a Discussion Guide that is ideal for this purpose.

### *Tabling*

Staffing a table at a church social hour, college campus center, or any public place with a lot of foot traffic can increase awareness about human trafficking generally or a particular aspect such as forced labor. Tabling can also be used to sell Fair Trade products or items that trafficked survivors have made.

The table should have a sizeable eye-catching poster featuring the theme or purpose of the outreach. Prominently displaying a box of free Fair Trade mini-chocolates is likely to generate additional attention.

Effective tabling requires more than just showing up with a banner and a few brochures. Those thinking about organizing a project of this nature should take advantage of resources such as the following:

- [“Tabling for an event”](#) is an article with several practical tips for setting up and interacting with the people who stop by (Citizens’ Climate Higher Education, n.d.).
- A 20-minute instructional video on [“Tabling like a pro”](#) provides helpful advice and a link to the PowerPoint slides that the speakers used during the presentation (Secular Student Alliance, 2012).
- A health care advocacy group in Oregon has prepared [helpful tips and links to checklists that facilitate tabling preparations](#) (Health Care for All Oregon, n.d.). Following these tips will help to ensure that organizers do not overlook any details



## *Displays*

Activists can prepare a variety of displays to show at shopping malls, parks, and other places where crowds routinely gather. An exhibit about Fair Trade and local stores where consumers can purchase ethically sourced products, for example, could feature troubling photographs of exploited laborers to capture attention. Another interesting display could highlight the indicators of human trafficking and a number to call if trafficking is suspected.

The impact of any display will increase if organizers make arrangements to present it at a major community event. The Montana Attorney General's Office, for example, has worked with the Motor Carriers Association to put 200 posters on trucks at the Montana Truck Driving Championship to raise awareness about human trafficking. Organizers of county fairs, concerts, and other events that attract large crowds may be willing to do something similar. The annual motorcycle rally in Sturgis, South Dakota, typically draws more than half a million riders, so the potential for raising awareness there is readily apparent.

## *Informal gatherings*

Activists who want to increase awareness are limited only by their imaginations and the amount of time they want to invest. An event such as a walkathon is relatively complex, but other activities are much easier to organize. A few examples appear below to illustrate the range of possible options.

- Host a coffee hour after a religious service to discuss relevant world events. The explosion of refugees fleeing their homelands to escape persecution and poverty, for example, is an urgent human rights crisis, and traffickers are eager to take advantage of the migrants' desperation.
- Invite friends and fellow parishioners to a relaxed social evening with a brief educational component and time to write letters urging elected officials to act on a particular issue.
- Start a human trafficking book club. Scholars and survivors have written many outstanding books on all aspects of this subject. Part I of the Guide identified several of them. Meeting once every two weeks to discuss a particular chapter can be an interesting and enjoyable social event.
- Host a candlelight vigil at a local park to pray for those impacted by sex trafficking. The service should be publicized well in advance to attract as many people as possible and maximize local press coverage.

## *Special events*

Activists can use fundraisers such as walkathons to raise both awareness and money for the cause they wish to support. Those who would like information about how to organize a fundraiser will find it in the "Survivor intervention and aftercare" section of this chapter.

The Red Sand Project is a more unusual awareness-raising initiative. The Project uses "sidewalk interventions and earthwork installations to create opportunities for people to question, connect and take action against vulnerabilities that can lead to human trafficking and exploitation. Red Sand Project earthworks are large-scale, site-specific outdoor land art installations. Stretching hundreds

of feet long in the shapes of political borders, earthworks raise important questions about migration, freedom of movement, and the ways refugees are susceptible to exploitation. They highlight how borders, drawn arbitrarily through history, divide communities and make individuals more vulnerable to trafficking. The second Red Sand Project earthwork installed by the Seattle-Tacoma Airport is visible from the air by planes taking off and landing at the airport, as well as by trains that pass by. At this site, viewers can walk up to the earthwork and see it in person, walking alongside the 350-foot-long trench.”

In 2017, [Tougaloo College](#) became the first historically black college or university to install a [Red Sand Earthwork on its campus](#) to raise awareness about modern slavery and human trafficking. Officials from the College joined with the Red Sand Project, the local sheriff’s department, and the Co-Director of Tougaloo’s Modern Day Slavery Institute to officially announce the endeavor at a press conference. The news conference was followed by a panel discussion and a symbolic earth ceremony in which participants poured red sand into the earthwork and sidewalks throughout the campus (Clarion Ledger, 2017). The following image was posted on the website of Bennett College (North Carolina), another school that has embraced the Red Sand Project.



(Bennett College, 2018)

The [Project website](#) offers the following advice for those who want to do something similar in their communities:

- “Step 1: *Get people and supplies*  
Red Sand Project is a way for people to come together and connect, raising awareness about human trafficking. You can do a Red Sand Project with a group of friends or family, for a team or organization, as a youth group or community group activity, and even in your classroom. All you need is a group of 15 people or more.
- Step 2: *Order the sand — it’s free!*  
Once you know how many people are in your group and where you’re going to have your event, order your sand from us on this website. We’ll send you red sand and informational materials free of charge. We only ask that you pay for shipping.
- Step 3: *Create your sidewalk installation*  
Find a location to pour the sand, gather any materials you might need (cups, sidewalk chalk, posters, etc.), and then you’re all set to do your Red Sand Project event. As a group, pour the red sand into sidewalk cracks and highlight the ways people are vulnerable to exploitation.

- *Step 4: Share your experience*  
Make sure to take photos and videos of your sidewalk transformation and share them on social media using [#RedSandProject](#). Your event will be connected to the thousands of other Red Sand Project events worldwide” (Red Sand Project, n.d.).

### *Guest speakers*

Guest speakers are often an essential addition to many types of events. Good speakers share valuable insights in an entertaining manner, have the credibility needed to convince skeptical audiences, and attract people who would not otherwise attend. The events need to be planned well in advance, however, in order to advertise them properly and make the necessary logistical arrangements.

Organizers can show appreciation for the speakers they do not pay by giving them a gift certificate or other type of remembrance. State and municipal employees who make public appearances as part of their regular job responsibilities may not feel comfortable accepting any kind of gift. Such offers nevertheless represent a considerate gesture that can help build a good relationship for future collaborations.

Those who want to schedule speakers for their events have several options. State agencies, police departments, and shelters for trafficked survivors are typically willing to provide speakers at no charge. Activists can also find speakers by contacting nonprofit organizations, speaker bureaus, and freelancers.

### Nonprofit organizations

The following is a small but representative sample of nonprofit anti-trafficking organizations that provide speakers for community events:

- [Freedom United](#) (Raleigh, NC)  
“We are the world’s largest community dedicated to ending human trafficking & modern slavery. We mobilize a united community to create power for change by making the public stakeholders in ending modern slavery. We equip millions of supporters with awareness, education & ways to take action that drives real change” (Freedom United, n.d.-a).  
  
“Elevate your event with an inspiring talk from our staff. Our speakers share hard facts, true stories, and audacious hope. We work to inspire the abolitionist in everyone, giving each person a way to get involved in the fight against modern slavery. Simply fill out our inquiry form, and one of our team members will contact you. We will determine the availability of our staff to speak and will work with you to accommodate your event. Please note that we may ask organizers to pay a small fee to cover our costs” (Freedom United, n.d.-b)
- [The Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center](#) (Cincinnati, OH)  
“The Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center works to bring visibility to the issue of human trafficking by educating young people, elected officials, and the general public about the realities and needs of trafficked people to create systemic change. IJPC’s advocacy work against human trafficking focuses on providing a consistent voice and

public presence to push for policies to address the root causes and needs of human trafficking survivors.

IJPC offers presentations on human trafficking, integrating facts, local stories, and ways individuals can take action. The current focus of this work is to move the conversation beyond individual victimization to the systems that continue to allow the exploitation of vulnerable people” (Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center, n.d.).

- [Center for Human Trafficking Awareness](#) (St. Petersburg, FL)  
“Our volunteers are members of the Clearwater/Tampa Bay Task Force on Human Trafficking and the Tampa Bay Community Campaign Against Human Trafficking. They are available for ten-minute to two-hour presentations. You may contact them directly by selecting a name to view their availability and counties they serve” (Center for Human Trafficking Awareness, n.d.).
- [The Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking](#) (Los Angeles, CA)  
“CAST is a Los Angeles–based nonprofit organization that is working to end modern slavery and human trafficking through comprehensive, life-transforming services to survivors and a platform to advocate for groundbreaking policies and legislation. Over the past two decades, CAST has supported thousands of survivors through every phase of their journey to freedom from counseling to legal resources, housing, educational and leadership training, and mentorship. Through these programs, CAST has helped empower survivors to overcome their traumatic pasts and become leading voices in shaping policy and public awareness to ultimately put an end to the fastest-growing criminal enterprise of the 21st century” (Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking, n.d.-a).  
  
“CAST offers a variety of local public speaking engagements, from specialized training on identifying victims of human trafficking to giving speeches or sitting on panels” (Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking, n.d.-b).
- [National Survivor Network](#) (Multiple locations nationwide)  
“The National Survivor Network (NSN) is a values-based, survivor-led professional membership network for survivors of human trafficking who are engaged in or preparing for leadership in the anti-trafficking movement. In February 2011, [CAST](#) launched the NSN to foster connections between survivors of diverse forms of human trafficking and to build a national anti-trafficking movement in which survivors are at the forefront and recognized as leaders” (National Survivor Alliance, n.d.-a).  
  
Many of our members have specialized experience in direct/clinical services, research, training/education, violence prevention, and grassroots community organizing. All our members have valuable lived experience insights that can help make your services, training, curriculum or policy more effective and sustainable. We are ready to share our expertise with your agency, through consultation, training, and speaking.
- [New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking](#) (multiple locations in New Jersey)  
“The New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking was formed in 2011 and is made up of more than 180 diverse groups in the state, including nonprofits, faith-based

organizations, government agencies, academics, law enforcement, and direct service providers. The NJCAHT works to serve as the hub of community efforts statewide to increase coordination and visibility of NJ’s commitment to end human trafficking. The NJCAHT became a nonprofit 501c3 in November 2016 and is a volunteer-run organization” (New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking, n.d.-a).

“The Coalition has a team of volunteer speakers and presenters around the state who donate their time to give awareness talks. The Speakers Bureau team includes professional experts such as educators, law enforcement, and healthcare professionals, along with general experts. Their presentations can range from a slideshow presentation to a group discussion, depending on what you think will work best for your group. You can also request a display of informational material. Our Speakers Bureau team looks forward to booking a speaker for YOUR next community event.” (New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking, n.d.-b).

- [Shared Hope International](#) (Vancouver, WA)  
“Shared Hope International strives to prevent the conditions that foster sex trafficking, restore victims of sex slavery, and bring justice to vulnerable women and children... As Christian abolitionists, we believe trafficking survivors deserve the opportunity to be restored to dignity and purpose, regardless of their faith or system of belief... As Christian leaders, we seek to inspire change by informing and empowering activists, providing strategic guidance to local shelter and service partners, and influencing policymakers and first responders” (Shared Hope International, n.d.-e).

“[Shared Hope International is pleased to offer expert speakers for any venue](#). If you’re interested in coordinating a speaking event, fill out the form below to begin the process. Shared Hope International may require up to 30 days to respond. If your event is within 30 days, please call 360-693-8100” (Shared Hope International, n.d.-g).

#### Speaker bureaus

- [HEAL \(Health, Education, Advocacy, Linkage\) Trafficking](#)  
“HEAL is an integrated network of over 3,500 survivors and multidisciplinary professionals in 35 countries dedicated to ending human trafficking and supporting its survivors from a public health perspective.

The HEAL Speakers’ Bureau connects expert speakers with organizations to train on public health and healthcare responses to trafficking. Our speakers engage audiences at many types of venues in various ways, including keynote speeches, presentations, and panel discussions. HEAL Trafficking presentations are customized to best serve the audience. Presentation topics include:

- “Human Trafficking 101” for public health professionals
- “Human Trafficking 101” for health care professionals
- Human Trafficking Protocol Development
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Using the Public Health Model to Address Human Trafficking
- Unconscious Bias and Human Trafficking
- Meeting Mental Health Needs of Trafficking Survivors



- Human Trafficking and Substance Use
  - Survivor-Informed Human Trafficking Care Delivery
  - Human Trafficking in Indian Country” (HEAL Trafficking: Health, Education, Advocacy, Linkage n.d.-b).
- [Ambassador Speakers](#) (Franklin, TN)
 

“Ambassador Speakers are committed to addressing the most serious human and spiritual issues of our day. We are the leading provider of inspirational Christian speakers. Our company was founded to help clients share their stories, talent, and artistic expression in a way that celebrates life, adds dignity to our humanity, and honors God. For select clients with high media demand, we orchestrate national media interviews. We connect our speakers to engagements with churches, schools, corporate meetings, non-profits, and universities in the United States and around the world. Ambassador Speakers Bureau will connect your group with quality inspirational speakers whose ideas will transform and inspire your audiences” (Ambassador Speakers, n.d.-a).

One of the people whom Ambassador Speakers represents is Cyntoia Brown-Long. “Cyntoia was born to an alcoholic teenage mother who was a victim of sex trafficking...Cyntoia was trafficked during her early teenage years and, at the age of 16, was arrested for killing a man who solicited her for sex. She was tried as an adult and sentenced to life in prison without the chance of parole for 51 years. Her trafficker was never arrested. In prison, Cyntoia’s life took a dramatic turn when the prison’s education principal took her under her wing and introduced her to a spiritual path. Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam eventually commuted her sentence, and she was released on August 7, 2019. Her memoir, Free Cyntoia: My Search for Redemption in the American Prison System, written while in prison, documents her early years and the 15 years she was incarcerated. She is a 2020 Nominee for the NCAAP Literary Image Award and has been featured as a guest columnist for the Washington Post. She and her husband, Jaime, founded the Foundation for Justice, Freedom, and Mercy. In January of 2020, the Vera Justice Institute recognized her as one of the Best of Justice Reform honorees” (Ambassador Speakers, n.d.-b).

- [AAE Speakers](#)

“All American Entertainment (AAE) is a full-service talent booking agency, specifically focused on the needs of event professionals looking to book keynote speakers and corporate entertainment for their events. Our mission is to provide a best-in-class talent booking experience from start to finish. We connect audiences with innovative minds and powerful messages, regardless of the industry. Our team thrives on keeping up with the latest trends and forward thinkers to identify and book the best keynote speakers for every client and every specific event. We love what we do and are passionate about helping our clients create the most successful event time and time again” (All American Entertainment, n.d.-a).

### Freelancers

Freelance speakers give presentations on their own time, usually in exchange for an agreed-upon fee and reimbursement for their expenses. They are often skilled presenters with extraordinary



stories to tell, but hiring them can be expensive. The cost drops dramatically if organizers arrange a virtual presentation rather than a more traditional face-to-face event.

The three speakers listed below are examples of trafficked survivors whom event organizers can contact directly.

- [Jasmine Grace](#) (Boston, MA)

“Jasmine is a speaker, author, founder & Director of Bags of Hope Ministries. As a survivor of sex trafficking and drug addiction, Jasmine is an effective keynote speaker, panel participant, and facilitator for trainings, workshops, and groups. She has spoken on panels at the U.S Commission on Civil Rights in New Hampshire and two side panels for members of the United Nations in New York. In addition, Jasmine consults with healthcare professionals, law enforcement personnel, educators, and nonprofit organizations. She advises on issues such as safe homes, program growth, curriculum development, survivor support, and peer mentorship. She is the author of [The Diary of Jasmine Grace. Trafficked. Recovered. Redeemed](#)” (Jasmine Grace Outreach, n.d.).

- [Tricia Grant](#) (Lewiston, ME)

“Tricia was led into a trap of sex trafficking while predators overheard her biggest fear of losing her son. At 15, these horrible men exploited her worst fear in order to force her to do unspeakable things for a year and a half. She did escape that life, but uncertainty and fear followed, filled with shame, guilt and remorse. Tricia stayed silent for nearly 18 years. After attending a presentation where the speaker spoke about sex trafficking, Tricia realized that it had not been her fault, and the nightmarish memories came flooding back. She sought a new direction of self-discovery, began the healing process, and discovered that her story did matter. Fast forward eight years to today, and Tricia has learned how to thrive, not just merely survive. She is now the Director of the Not Here Justice in Action Network, a grassroots effort by the Foundation of Hope & Grace, and the Program Director for Sophia’s House, a project of the Center for Women’s Wisdom in Lewiston. Having been trafficked in Maine and throughout New England, she has been able to connect deeply with at-risk youth and encourage other victims as they move forward in their own healing process.”

- [Holly Austin Gibbs](#) (California)

“[Holly Austin Gibbs \(formerly Smith\)](#) is a survivor of child sex trafficking and an advocate for survivors of all forms of human trafficking. Holly has appeared on the Dr. Oz show, and her story has been featured on multiple media outlets, including The Brian Lehrer Show, MSNBC, Huffington Post, Al Jazeera, PBS NewsHour, and USA Today. In 2011, Holly submitted joint testimony to Congress with labor trafficking survivor Ima Matul to support the reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Holly also testified before the U.S. Congressional Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations on the connection between sporting events and sex trafficking. In 2015, Holly testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on behalf of two bills: the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act and the Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act.

Holly has a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and formerly worked as a Senior Microscopist for an environmental microbiology laboratory. Holly has worked as a consultant for

numerous organizations, including the Office for Victims of Crime, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, and the AMBER Alert program.

Holly is requested on a regular basis to provide testimony and input to others in the anti-trafficking field. In 2014, Holly published an academic book titled [Walking Prey: How America's Youth are Vulnerable to Sex Slavery](#) and continues to publish articles on her Huffing Post blog. She currently serves as an Advisory Board member of several organizations, including ECPAT-USA, the Human Trafficking Institute, and the McCain Institute. In June 2015, Holly joined Dignity Health, one of the largest healthcare systems in the nation and the largest hospital provider in California. As Director of Dignity Health's Human Trafficking Response Program, Holly oversees efforts to identify and appropriately respond to vulnerable persons and victims of human trafficking in the healthcare setting" (Holly Austin Smith, n.d.-a).

- [Alexandra Stevenson](#) (British Columbia, Canada)  
"Alexandra Stevenson is an international public speaker who uses her lived experience expertise to start conversations, particularly about sex trafficking and prevention. Her voice has developed from all angles: lived experience, years of advocacy work and more than a decade of post-secondary education in Psychology, Criminology, Victimology, and Community and Justice Services.

Alexandra speaks candidly about her life path that includes advocacy work beginning at age 11 and the twists and turns that resulted in her being trafficked at age 20. She is passionate about helping to broaden the understanding of vulnerabilities and the power of prevention, using her own story as a foundation for connection. Alexandra is flipping the script on the trauma that kept her silent for years by starting conversations and empowering community heroes. Her approach of digging into difficult subjects with a liberal sprinkle of humor keeps audiences captivated and inspires action" (Stevenson, n.d.)

### Planning

Nearly everyone has attended an event featuring displays, guest speakers, and refreshments. It looks so simple! Rest assured, however, that an enormous amount of time is required to organize, publicize, and present almost every type of successful event. Failure to do so will lower the turnout, and the lack of planning will be immediately apparent to those who attend.

A great deal of information is available on the Internet to guide and assist event planners. Resources specifically linked to planning human trafficking events include [How To Plan an Event](#) and the [End Trafficking Events Toolkit](#).

The Guide's discussion about organizing public displays and events began by mentioning four questions that David Trotter feels organizers should always ask themselves. Other essential planning advice can be found in what Mr. Trotter describes as "22 critical steps to a successful event." His tips are quoted on the following pages. Some may seem obvious, but each is extremely important and easy to overlook. Mr. Trotter's book contains excellent advice about several other related topics as well. Activists who read the entire book will find that the time was well spent.

1. *“Find the best location.*  
Some people may not be comfortable going to a church or trying to find a particular building on a large university campus. Options include a community center, performing arts venue, a gymnasium, or a private home.
2. *Choose an attractive day and time.*  
Depending upon the nature of the event, most people will need three or four weeks to put something on their calendar. Be sure to check if there are any holidays, competing cultural events, or major sports games on television that may deter people from attending. Does the starting time give people enough margin to get off work, pick up the kids, have dinner, etc.? Make sure the event doesn't end too late.
3. *Provide sufficient parking.*  
Where applicable, the announcement/invitation should tell everyone where to park and if public transportation is available. Is the parking area well-lit and safe? Will volunteers be needed to help people park?
4. *Arrange seating that is both adequate and appropriate for the type of event you are planning.*  
Will a church pew work? Is there room for wheelchairs? Should seats be arranged in a circle?
5. *Design a compelling invitation.*  
It's not enough to list the date, time, and other details. We all get lots of unsolicited hard-copy and electronic mail, so the invitation should be eye-catching and attractive. Depending on the event, it may also be important to note that some content is disturbing and inappropriate for children.
6. *Invite important guests.*  
Every attendee is important, but you will have a more significant impact if you make a special effort to invite key influencers from your community. It would be ideal if one of the event planners knows the individuals in question and can reach out personally to extend the invitation.
7. *Utilize high-quality technology.*  
A good sound system, microphones, and video capability are all essential to getting your message across. Be sure to test everything in advance!
8. *Prepare and post clear signage inside and outside the venue.*  
Interior signage should direct attendees to the meeting room and restrooms.
9. *Recruit and train greeters.*  
You should consider having friendly and sociable greeters to welcome all attendees. Greeters should be told what to say and may want to wear a name tag. There is nothing worse than being an introvert and going to an event where you don't know anyone.

10. *Provide refreshments!*

Presentation matters, so consider fabric tablecloths rather than plastic. Nicely arranged cups, napkins, and plates are important. Will the refreshments be available as soon as guests arrive, or do you prefer to make them available after the presentation so that guests will be more likely to stay and socialize?
11. *Ensure proper event lighting.*

Outside entrance lights might be necessary.
12. *Create an attractive look and feel.*

The most important places are the entrance, the place where refreshments are served, and the area where people will be during the presentation.
13. *Remember the power of music.*

Walk into any retail store, and they are creating an atmosphere by playing some sort of music in the background. What type of vibe do you want to make when people walk in?
14. *Design a compelling handout.*

You want to put something in the hands of everyone who attends. Programs are suitable for identifying speakers, but you need something more substantive about trafficking. Just be sure that it matches the branding of your event. It should be informative but also a call to action. Provide contact information.
15. *Staff an information table.*

It may be helpful to have an information table where people can go before and after the event to ask questions, make donations, and pick up brochures. Make sure the table is staffed by people who will represent your organization in the best way possible.
16. *Recruit and prepare a compelling host.*

They are the ones who hold the event together. They need to be informed, relaxed, and sincere. I saw an event in Albany hosted by a local television anchor, and she was awesome!
17. *Type up the flow of the event.*

Even if you are doing a small event, it helps to type up a flow of the event so you know what will happen from beginning to end. From the music playing as guests enter, you need to stay on schedule. People get restless and have other commitments. Give copies to everyone on your team.
18. *Welcome everyone to the event.*

The host should introduce himself and welcome everyone to the event. State the purpose and tell them what to be thinking about as the event unfolds.
19. *Make smooth transitions.*

There will be transitions from one person to another, to a film, to a discussion, etc. Show you are prepared, whether a mic should be on or off or if the lighting needs to change.

20. *Keep people engaged throughout.*

People will get restless after an hour. Break into discussion groups? Make them comfortable and interacting.

21. *Make a clear call to action.*

Make a compelling ask toward the end. Awareness is great, but we don't want attendees to feel sad and continue business as usual. Don't make attendees feel uncomfortable, but give them something to at least think about.

22. *Follow up to motivate action.*

You might want to have an optional sign-in sheet with a line for an email address for those who want to get on your mailing list. Send a personal email if you have their addresses to thank them for attending and suggest that they contact you if they have questions or suggestions for future events" (Trotter, 2014a, pp. 55-64).

### Assessing an event's success

Organizers should encourage attendees to complete a short evaluation after each event regardless of the goal or how it was structured. The feedback will provide essential insights into what went well and what will have to be improved if you plan similar events in the future.

The evaluation can request comments about such things as the overall value of the event, how it could have been more helpful, and the convenience of the day and time selected. It will also be beneficial to know how attendees heard about the event if it was open to the general public. A simple Internet search for "event evaluation forms" will yield many excellent templates.

Evaluations that are quick and easy to complete have the highest response rates. The form should include an open-ended question that allows attendees to share comments about anything they wish, but respondents should be able to answer most questions by selecting a response from a predetermined range of choices. ("On a scale of 1 [poor] to 5 [excellent], how would you rate...") Evaluations are typically anonymous to heighten the probability of receiving honest feedback. Organizers may nevertheless want to leave space for attendees to share their names and contact information if they wish to be notified about future events or perhaps join the organizing group.

### The big picture

All the activities described above increase awareness, which is an excellent first step. But it's just a first step. As Gail Kligman, Professor of Sociology at the University of California-Los Angeles, notes, "[Increased awareness will not eradicate trafficking](#). It does not combat poverty or limited job opportunities and economic prospects. Nor does it tackle the interests—and profits—that drive trafficking" (Kligman, 2005). The next section of the Guide discusses political advocacy as one of the ways that activists can address these issues.

### **Political advocacy**

A core premise of this Guide is that responsibility for fighting human trafficking is not the exclusive domain of legislators and law enforcement officials. Everyone can do something to help. That said, the ability of our elected representatives to take decisive action is beyond dispute. Each

level of government can make a meaningful difference in accordance with its role, responsibilities, and jurisdiction. Activists who wish to concentrate their efforts on political advocacy can thus make a decisive contribution to the anti-trafficking movement.

Effective advocacy requires time, patience, and skill. Part of the challenge stems from the fact that elected officials need to address a wide variety of issues. Topics such as the economy, the environment, and safety directly impact all their voting constituents and are understandably among the top priorities for most politicians.

There aren't enough hours in the day to work on all of society's problems. Occasional news stories about human trafficking seldom attract the sustained attention needed to persuade politicians that the issue is urgent or especially important. The challenge is further compounded by the fact that the people most affected by trafficking live on the margins of society and lack a strong political voice. Some are illegal immigrants whom officials may even prefer to deport rather than assist. The likelihood that elected officials will act rests mainly on the initiative of local activists who urge their representatives to make trafficking a priority.

Activists will have to exert similar pressure on large corporations if they wish to convince executives that they should eliminate trafficking from their supply chains or otherwise mitigate harmful business practices. This chapter will identify some of the issues worth advocating for and offer some basic tips about how to do so effectively. It will also recommend resources that activists can use to stay informed about breaking developments so they can take appropriate action in a timely manner.

### *Types of initiatives*

#### Better enforcement of existing legislation

Dr. Kevin Bales is a Professor of Contemporary Slavery at the University of Nottingham and co-author of the [Global Slavery Index](#). He is also a co-founder and former president of [Free the Slaves](#) (Bales, 2016). In his book [Ending Slavery](#) (p.27), Dr. Bales maintains that “bringing an end to slavery requires the political will to enforce the law, not campaigns to make new laws” (Bales, 2007, p. 27).

Mary Ellison and Dr. Kathleen Vogel also stress the importance of existing laws more effectively and the need to provide the funds necessary to do so. Ms. Ellison is an attorney and foreign affairs officer with the U.S. State Department's Office to Monitor & Combat Trafficking in Persons. Dr. Vogel has also worked at the State Department and is now an associate professor in the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland at College Park. In 2020, they published a [study about human trafficking trends in the western hemisphere](#). They concluded that while many countries have relevant legislation and action plans, the laws aren't being enforced, and impunity remains widespread. More specifically, their research found:

- “Weak or decreasing efforts to criminally investigate, prosecute, and convict cases of forced labor, including forced criminality;”
- Fewer prosecutions in 2018 (1,252) compared to 2017 (1,571);



- Inconsistent application of screening procedures to vulnerable populations, including Venezuelans and Haitians;
- A lack of integrated, specialized, and comprehensive mid-to-long-term victim assistance for victims, including for child, male, and LGBTI victims;
- Insufficient budgets to implement national action plans; Insufficient funding and participation in anti-trafficking efforts for civil society actors;
- Inadequate interagency coordination efforts;
- Weak efforts to hold allegedly complicit or corrupt officials accountable for trafficking crimes;
- Problems in collecting and sharing data about trafficking cases and victims across relevant government agencies” (Ellison & Vogel, 2020, p. 4).

The [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe](#), a group of 57 nations from Europe, Central Asia, and North America, offers another discouraging insight (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, n.d.). According to the OSCE, just over 11,000 traffickers worldwide were prosecuted in 2019 even though there are 25 million victims of human trafficking. In other words, there is about one prosecution for every 2,154 victims. [“It is a drop in the ocean,” said OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings Valiant Richey.](#) “The current rate of prosecution means most traffickers never spend a day in a courthouse, let alone a prison cell. This needs to change. Countering impunity and establishing a strong rule of law must be a fundamental cornerstone in the fight against trafficking in human beings” (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, 2020a).

All things considered, the evidence suggests that while there is clearly room for improvement, existing laws and action plans provide an adequate foundation to fight human trafficking and assist survivors. The evidence also suggests that those who are in a position to use them don’t always do so very well. Activists who can motivate officials to take full advantage of the laws already in place will earn a well-deserved place among the heroes of the anti-trafficking movement.

### New laws

An enhanced willingness to enforce existing laws would be a step in the right direction. Many authorities nevertheless insist that we need additional legislation to amend, refine, or otherwise strengthen these laws. They also argue that Congress and elected bodies at the state level must pass new legislation to address emerging issues and incorporate the latest research findings.

It may not seem controversial to lobby on behalf of crime victims, but ancillary issues can complicate the passage of almost any bill. The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA) of 2015, for example, became stalled when Senators disagreed about whether the funds that the bill authorized could be used to pay for abortions. The resulting compromise prevented the expansion of the anti-choice Hyde amendment, but it also denied abortion coverage to underage trafficking survivors.

The debate over the JVTA also made it clear that [anti-trafficking activists do not always speak with one voice](#). “After years of advocating that buyers should be held accountable under federal anti-trafficking laws,” said Equality Now, “we were thrilled to see both the Senate and House pass the Justice Victims Trafficking Act.” (Uncle Lewis, 2015). “Others who worked on behalf of sex workers and trafficking survivors were less enthusiastic. This bloc felt that the Act ‘[focused] too much on unproven law enforcement efforts and too little on the needs of survivors or measures that would prevent people from becoming victims of trafficking’ (Uncle Lewis, 2015). Girls Educational and Mentoring Service (GEMS), a prominent anti-trafficking organization in New York City, was particularly outspoken about not supporting the JVTA. “This bill buys into a sensationalized presentation of a complex issue to which the criminal justice system is somehow the solution. It’s not. We need to focus on prevention and vulnerability, increasing and strengthening services for runaway and homeless youth, and significantly reforming our child welfare systems. We need to ensure that young people over 18 have access to affordable housing options, living wage employment and career opportunities, continuing education, affordable childcare, and long-term support for their stability, leadership, and growth” (Uncle Lewis, 2015).

[Another controversy erupted when President Trump signed the FOSTA \(Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act\) / SESTA \(Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act\) bill in 2018](#). Legislators drafted the bill to combat online sex trafficking and clarify a 1996 law that inadvertently prevented trafficked survivors and prosecutors from taking action against websites that advertised sexual services. Opponents complained that the law did not directly address the issues contributing to sex trafficking. They also argued that the law would make it harder to find and prosecute traffickers because the bill would force much of the activity underground. Voluntary sex workers expressed the additional concerns that the legislation equated consensual sex with sex trafficking. According to one spokesperson, voluntary workers advertise their services online, but the ads also serve other purposes. They use the sites “to clarify what they are and are not willing to do, to screen potential clients, to warn other sex workers about bad or dangerous clients, and to otherwise share information that can help keep themselves safe” (Coles, 2018). This directly impacts both their income and “their ability to work safely” (Coles, 2018).

A related but more general controversy concerns widespread disagreement about [the best way to address prostitution](#). Many support the status quo, which criminalizes the practice and calls on law enforcement to arrest both prostitutes and their customers. Others believe that prostitution should be legalized but regulated in ways that protect the sex workers. Possible strategies include requiring regular health checks and having the sexual acts done in a controlled environment where security guards are on hand to deal with unruly customers. Yet another approach known as the Nordic or Swedish model would just arrest the customers. Those who support this strategy assert that prostitutes only do sex work because they have few, if any, marketable skills. Rather than arrest them, a more humane response would be to assist the workers in ways that allow them to leave the sex industry altogether. Authorities agree that traffickers will do their best to find and exploit new victims regardless of the applicable laws, but antitrafficking activists disagree in their recommendations about the best way of proceeding (Mullins, 2020).

So, where do we begin? Some issues are national in scope and are best addressed by Congress. State laws vary widely, so activists who want to have an impact at that level will need to identify and prioritize the problems that need attention where they live. A small sample of topics they can consider addressing appears below.

## *Issues warranting attention*

### Fight trafficking more effectively

- Activists may want to identify and replicate other countries' best practices. [Australia, for example, recently became the first nation to revoke the passports of registered child sex offenders](#). The law prevents this type of offender from leaving the country and effectively prevents them from participating in child sex tourism in Asia (Lagan, 2017).
- A related initiative would be to promote the passage of innovative legislation other states have adopted. One law worth considering is the [Transparency in Supply Chains Act](#), a bill that California enacted in 2012. The Act “declared the intent of the State of California to ensure that large retailers and manufacturers provide consumers with information regarding their efforts to eradicate slavery and human trafficking from their supply chains and educate consumers on how to purchase goods produced by companies that responsibly manage their supply chains. In so doing, they will improve the lives of victims of slavery and human trafficking” (State of California Department of Justice Office of the Attorney General, n.d.). [Some believe that the Act does more harm than good](#), but it may at least serve as a good starting point for states that want to address supply chain issues (Cusumano & Ryerson, 2017).
- The U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network recognizes human trafficking as being inherently linked to the offense of money laundering. Nonprofit organizations are often critical sources of intelligence for law enforcement officials investigating this type of crime because nonprofits are typically the primary points of contact for survivors who report abuse. Unfortunately, the current lack of liability protection makes it risky for nonprofits to share this information because the people they report may sue them for defamation. Missouri Congresswoman Ann Wagner introduced [H.R. 6729](#) to address this issue. The House of Representatives passed the resolution in 2018, but the proposal died in the Senate (Republican Policy Committee, 2018). Renewed lobbying efforts could result in the passage of a proposal that represents a reasonable compromise.
- Farms and factories that use undocumented or exploited laborers are often dangerous and filthy. States that have not addressed this issue adequately need better laws to at least correct the worst abuses.

### Assist survivors

- “It is common for human trafficking victims to acquire a criminal record due to the activities they are forced to engage in while being trafficked. Once these victims become survivors, their criminal record hinders them from wholly reacclimating to society. The current state of human trafficking laws provides little to no relief for human trafficking survivors in regard to alleviating their criminal records. This article explores the current state of human trafficking laws and their enduring effect on survivors. Specifically, [the article examines California’s vacatur law and analyzes its fundamental advantages and disadvantages](#). The article also offers suggestions for overcoming obstacles to expanding the proposed, improved vacatur law. The article ultimately argues that the continued victimization of human trafficking

survivors necessitates the implementation of a uniform, federal derivative of a comprehensive vacatur law” (Devaney, 2021).

- Advocates could lobby to amend federal laws to [make it easier for trafficking survivors to seek compensation](#). According to the attorney for the plaintiffs of *Nestlé USA v. Doe, No. 19-416*, the petitioners were “former child slaves seeking compensation from two U.S. corporations which maintain a system of child slavery and forced labor in their Ivory Coast supply chain as a matter of corporate policy to gain a competitive advantage in the U.S. market.” The Supreme Court had previously ruled that compensation laws do not apply where the conduct in question was almost entirely abroad or where the defendant was a foreign corporation (Liptak, 2020). In June 2021, [the Court again ruled in favor of the corporations](#) and denied relief (*Nestle USA, Inc. v. Doe*, 2021).
- There may be a need to modify police practices in some municipalities. It might be helpful, for example, to ask the mayor or city council to require that officers who make arrests for prostitution make a better effort to identify individuals who were forced to engage in this type of activity.
- New York became the first state to sponsor [Human Trafficking Intervention Courts](#) in 2013. New York established the courts to help people arrested for prostitution leave the sex trade. Judges in these settings typically dismiss the charges, seal the records, and send defendants to counseling. Many individuals who have been through this process have commented that the counseling sessions “amount to little more than unproductive conversations with well-meaning strangers, and they don’t consider all the factors that led you to prostitution in the first place” (Goldbaum, 2020). They believe that the courts would have more success moving people out of prostitution if the programming offered practical skills such as resume writing or cosmetology classes (Goldbaum, 2020). Activists with an interest in the courts or commercial sex work could try to make the process better. They can also encourage states that do not have this type of prosecutorial option to consider making it available.
- In January 2021, New York state legislators introduced a bill to enact the [Sex Trade Survivors Justice and Equality Act](#). If their efforts succeed, New York will become the first state to implement legislation that addresses sexual exploitation based on the Equality Model (Lisa, 2021). [The Equality Model](#) is a “five-pronged legal approach that holistically addresses prostitution. It seeks to (1) decriminalize people in prostitution; (2) provide trauma-informed services to those currently facing prostitution or seeking to exit the sex trade; (3) punish sex buyers to reduce demand; (4) criminalize pimps and any others seeking to profit off of commercial sexual exploitation; and (5) implement community education programs to raise awareness about the harm and trauma that people in prostitution face at the hands of johns” (Equality Model NY, n.d.). As previously noted, proposals seeking to change how states address prostitution are very controversial. New York activists who support this particular strategy should do what they can to promote the adoption of the Act.

#### Gender equality in criminal justice measures that impact trafficking

- Many experts believe that measures designed to prevent human trafficking, stop migrant smuggling, and support the people affected do not adequately incorporate human rights or promote gender equality. Global Action Against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of

Migrants has developed a [Toolkit that guides criminal justice experts on how to adopt a human-rights and gender-equal response to these crimes](#). The Toolkit offers specific legislative recommendations to ensure that applicable laws are consistent with international protocols. The kit also includes tools to mainstream and evaluate human rights and gender equality in programming (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime & Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants, 2021).

### Technology

- [The Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies \(EARN IT\) Act](#) of 2020 would establish a National Commission on Online Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention to develop and integrate a best practice standard for online platforms. According to Lori Cohen, the Executive Director of ECPAT-USA, “‘[Online exploitation of children in the United States is rampant and getting worse...](#)’ The National Clearinghouse for Missing and Exploited Children reported over 45 million child sex abuse material images existed in 2018; without stronger guidelines, this appalling number will only increase... We will continue to do everything we can to support strong legislation so that the Internet is a safe platform for Americans to use without the fear of being sold, exploited, or trafficked” (ECPAT-USA, 2020a).
- In 2021, legislators introduced a bill in California that would give victims, including children and their parents, the ability to file [civil lawsuits for damages against any person or entity who “makes, obtains, reuploads or distributes in any form, including electronic distribution, non-consensual, sexually explicit content”](#) (Bay City News, 2021). The change would be significant because current civil laws create a blanket exception for material that anyone else has already distributed. This exception gives victims few options for getting the content removed. The proposed legislation was the first of its kind in the nation, and supporters hope it will be an effective digital-age tool in the fight against human trafficking (Bay City News, 2021).

### Protect Children

- In 2020, a National Advisory Committee published [Best Practices and Recommendations for States to combat the sex trafficking of children and youth in the United States](#). The report included 127 recommendations that state representatives, Congress, NGOs, and government agencies can adopt to improve anti-trafficking measures (National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States, 2020).
- Shared Hope International is a nonprofit Christian organization based in Washington State that works to prevent sex trafficking and assist survivors. Shared Hope issued a [study in 2020 which assessed the progress that American states have made to fight child sex trafficking](#). Shared Hope “launched the Protected Innocence Challenge—and issued the inaugural State Report Cards—nearly a decade ago. The majority of states initially received an ‘F’ grade, reflecting the reality that many states’ laws failed even to recognize the crime of child sex trafficking. Ten years of grassroots mobilization, advocacy, technical assistance, and consistent collaboration have produced many positive changes. All states now have a child sex trafficking law, and collectively, the country has made exciting progress providing imperative protections and access to specialized services for child survivors” (Shared Hope International, 2020, p. 1).

The downside is that some states still have failing grades, and Shared Hope has developed an [“advanced legislative framework” to guide efforts to strengthen existing laws](#). The framework “[provides] a consistent measure of state progress while simultaneously operating as a dynamic tool to account for ever-evolving practices that inform and shape system responses to child sex trafficking victims. As such, the framework will be able to adapt to incorporate the expanded knowledge that comes from implementation” (Shared Hope International, 2020, p. 3). The framework focuses on six major topics:

- *“Criminal Provisions*. Clear criminal laws, including those that criminalize buyers of sex with children, are needed to ensure all sex trafficking offenders can be held accountable” (Shared Hope International, 2020, p. 9).
  - *“Identification of & Response to Victims*. States' laws must identify all commercially sexually exploited children as victims of trafficking and provide a protective, rather than punitive, response” (Shared Hope International, 2020, p. 26).
  - *“Continuum of Care*. To break the cycle of exploitation, state laws must provide victims access to funded, trauma-informed services” (Shared Hope International, 2020, p. 52).
  - *“Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors*. A range of civil and criminal justice remedies must be available for victims under the law” (Shared Hope International, 2020, p. 67).
  - *“Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response*. Criminal justice procedures for the benefit and protection of victims must be provided under the law” (Shared Hope International, 2020, p. 82).
  - *Prevention and Training*. To help prevent trafficking and promote more just responses to child sex trafficking victims, training for child welfare, juvenile justice, law enforcement, prosecutors, and school personnel as well as prevention education for students, must be required by law” (Shared Hope International, 2020, p. 93).
- Many people believe that child marriage is a practice that only occurs in Third World countries. It also happens in the United States. In Massachusetts alone, more than 1,200 children were married (primarily girls marrying adult men) between 2000 and 2016. [Only four states \(Delaware, New Jersey, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania\) prohibit marriage below 18 with no exceptions](#) (Valencia, 2020). Activists should consider urging other states to adopt similar laws.
  - The judicial system in many states currently penalizes trafficked and exploited minors by convicting them without considering the horrific circumstances they endured. To address this issue in Maryland, the state’s House of Delegates Judiciary Committee has been considering [House Bill 754](#) to reform juvenile sentencing. “There are two core components of HB 754 that will significantly impact outcomes for children in the criminal justice system. First, this bill would require judges to consider adverse childhood experiences, trauma, and other mitigating factors when sentencing youth convicted in adult court. Second, the bill allows judges to send cases involving child sex trafficking victims being tried as adults back to juvenile court. HB 754, and companion SB 769, is at risk of stalling in the Maryland State House. Please help us



protect child trafficking victims by contacting Chairman Clippinger and [Chairman Smith](#) and urging them to prioritize this legislation. Additionally, you can follow our partners at [Human Rights for Kids](#) to learn more about how you can get directly involved” (DeJonghe , 2020a).

- At least a dozen states fail to identify and treat all minors engaged in commercial sex as victims of sex trafficking. Data also suggest that many existing laws may not effectively reduce the number of juveniles arrested for prostitution. [New legislation is needed in many jurisdictions](#) to provide a more empathetic response to youth survivors of sex trafficking (Bendtsen, 2021).

#### More resources

- Activists can urge their state legislature to provide additional resources for organizations that serve trafficked survivors. [CAST \(the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking\)](#), for example, is calling on California to invest more heavily in preventing human trafficking. CAST has made emergency funding for California’s trafficking survivors in the COVID-19 pandemic era a top priority (Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, n.d.-d).
- The [Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking](#) concluded in 2017 that “human trafficking and forced labor criminal cases are often complicated, and lengthy legal proceedings require additional resources for prosecutors as well as for victims. Many of these victims require comprehensive case management provided by victim services organizations to see them through their recovery, help them navigate the legal system, and assist law enforcement. All of these factors are necessary to prosecute criminal enterprises involved in human trafficking” (Alliance To End Slavery & Trafficking, 2017).

#### Fair Trade

Antitrafficking initiatives at the local level include trying to convince municipal officials to seek Fair Trade designation for the city or town. [Fair Trade](#) is a “global movement to improve the lives of farmers and workers in developing countries by ensuring they have access to export markets and are paid a fair price for their products. A subsidiary goal of the movement in developed countries is to increase consumer awareness of unjust and unfair international trade practices” (Bondarenko, 2015).

Fair Trade Campaigns is one of the organizations that officially designates qualified locales as [Fair Trade municipalities](#). Municipalities must meet the following criteria in order to qualify:

- The local council passes a resolution supporting Fair Trade and agrees to serve Fair Trade tea and coffee at its meetings and in its offices;
- At least two Fair Trade products are readily available in the area's shops and local cafes/catering establishments;
- Fair Trade products are used by a number of local workplaces (real estate firms, hairdressers, etc.) and community organizations such as churches and schools;
- The municipality attracts media coverage and popular support for the campaign; and
- A local Fair Trade steering group is convened to ensure continued commitment to its Fair Trade Town status (Fair Trade Campaigns, 2015).

## **Staying informed**

Activists can urge their representatives to introduce new legislation, but they should also stay informed about proposals that others have initiated. Staying informed will enable concerned citizens to better articulate the most pressing arguments in favor of legislation they support and to argue more effectively against legislation they oppose.

Relevant information can be found online and in the free newsletters that many anti-trafficking organizations publish. Activists can also check the track record of their elected representatives to see if they are ignoring trafficking issues or are working to pass laws that could harm survivors. The U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking, a Christian nonprofit organization based in Tampa, Florida, is ready to assist. The Institute has a [Congressional Scorecard](#) that “rates members of the U.S. Congress on their commitment to enacting legislation to hold traffickers and sex buyers accountable, protect vulnerable populations, and meet survivors’ complex needs” (U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking, n.d.-c).

GovTrack.us launched another helpful website in 2004 to make Congress more accessible. The organization claims to be the leading non-governmental source of legislative information and statistics. [Visitors can use the website to identify their representatives and senators and get a legislative profile of each.](#) The website lists each official’s committee memberships. It also includes ratings from several advocacy organizations, bills each individual has sponsored, his/her voting record, and missed votes. Another helpful feature allows website visitors to receive alerts about pending bills on the topics that interest them. GovTrack.us does not currently list human trafficking as a stand-alone category, but relevant information is available in related categories such as crimes against children (GovTrack.us, n.d.).

Many apps are also available to assist citizens who want a voice in the legislative process. [Dressember has published a list of the eight apps it considers to be among the best.](#) “The first three apps were designed to keep you informed about the lawmaking process and read bills that lawmakers are considering. These apps let you know when a bill will be voted on and who represents you in that vote, so you can contact them to let them know how you, as their constituent, want them to vote on this issue. Another app asks, ‘What’s important to you?’ after learning your location and gives you a list of potential actions. When you pick an issue, the next page tells you a little more about the issue you have selected, and your representatives in Congress are at the bottom of the page. The next screen displays the official’s contact information and, most importantly, gives you a script to follow as you call their office” (Rohm, n.d.).

## **Effective advocacy**

[Freedom United](#) claims to be the largest modern anti-slavery community in the world. When the author was drafting this chapter in March 2022, Freedom United was exploring the idea of offering free training sessions that would explore different slavery-related campaign strategies and the best ways of supporting them. The sessions would be tailored to the needs and interests of attendees, so anyone interested was encouraged to let staff know about the specific topics they would like the training to cover. This type of training would be invaluable for those who want to do political advocacy. Those interested should contact Freedom United to see if the training is available.

Whatever an individual chooses to lobby for or against, the chances of success will be greater if he/she doesn't try to do it alone. A better strategy is to recruit allies and work with other activists, nonprofit organizations, and coalitions whenever possible. Representative groups include the [Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation](#), the [Orange County \(California\) Human Trafficking Task Force](#), the [Florida Coalition against Human Trafficking](#), and the [Minnesota Human Trafficking Task Force](#).

Those who decide to advocate for political reforms first need to acquire a solid understanding of the issues that most concern them. Someone who wants to work against the illegal sale of organs, for example, should become familiar with a [toolkit that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on Trafficking in Persons for the Purpose of Organ Removal has prepared](#). The toolkit describes “both the problem and the *modi operandi* of traffickers. It then considers relevant legislative frameworks and offers guidance at an international level. Other components include questionnaire templates that identify survivors and assess existing regulatory systems. Possible loopholes, risks of abuse, and the exploitation of commercial transactions with organs are also addressed” (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2015).

Effective advocacy also requires a working knowledge of public policymaking, legislative processes, and lobbying tactics. Several excellent books are available in this genre. One relatively short book that merits consideration is [Writing Public Policy](#) by Catherine Smith. Dr. Smith is an adjunct professor of public policy at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. “Now in its fifth edition, this concise and practical text explains the standards and functions of communicating in the public sector and presents a general method for planning, producing, assessing, and critically analyzing communications in a variety of real-life public policy contexts and situations” (Smith, 2009).

Talking to friends, posting on social media, and writing to local newspapers can help heighten awareness and generate support. Activists must also share their concerns and recommendations directly with the appropriate policymakers. The tips below will allow them to do so effectively.

### Lobbying in person

Officials elected to federal and state offices often return to their home districts and sponsor open forums that allow them to “listen to the people.” These meetings provide valuable opportunities to advocate for or against a particular issue.

Activists can enhance the likelihood of making a solid impression by requesting a private meeting in cooperation with several like-minded constituents. Taking the time to schedule a personal visit demonstrates a level of commitment that is missing when one sends a brief email or signs a petition. The interaction also creates a more memorable experience that allows the official to see the group's passion firsthand. The dialogue can be especially beneficial when the official is unfamiliar with a particular proposal, disagrees with it, or is unconvinced about its merits.

### Emails and letters

A mayor or other local official is likely to be very responsive to constituent concerns, especially if the community he/she serves is small. The dynamics are more complex in Washington and state capitals where professional lobbyists and major donors get most of the attention.

There are different opinions about the impact that letters from individual constituents are likely to have. Greg Beuke, a former Congressional intern, asserts that many Senate and Congressional offices don't even track how many people write or call about particular issues. He did, however, share several [practical suggestions to help letter-writers maximize the impact](#) that their letters might have (Beuke, 2018).

Others insist that members of Congress do pay attention to constituent mail. At a minimum, they report that staff always tell legislators if the phones are ringing off the hook or mail is flooding in about a particular issue. Some observers additionally argue that a concise, carefully crafted personal letter is one of the most effective ways that Americans have of influencing the lawmakers who represent them. Members of Congress get hundreds of letters every day, however, so a letter has to stand out to get noticed. [“Tips for writing effective letters to Congress”](#) offers several ideas to increase the likelihood that a note will fall into this category (Longley, 2019).

Emails and letters need to be short, clear, and specific. Personal drafted content requires extra effort and demonstrates the writer's passion, but it is often possible to copy and paste text that a trusted organization has recommended online. ECPAT-USA, for example, recently encouraged its supporters to send a note to their Senators to request support for the EARN IT Act. The language that ECPAT suggested provides [a helpful model](#) or point of reference to consider when drafting correspondence for a legislative audience.

“Dear Senator XXXX,

I am writing to urge you to support S. 3398, the EARN IT Act, sponsored by your colleagues Senator Graham and Senator Blumenthal. The explosion of online crimes against the most vulnerable is an epidemic. In 2018, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reported over 45,000,000 images of child sex abuse materials exist. This appalling number will only increase if swift action is not taken. The EARN IT Act mandates a commission to be formed to recommend best practices to decrease the online exploitation of children to the Attorney General. This legislation is bipartisan and is strongly supported by ECPAT-USA, the nation's leader in combating child exploitation and trafficking. As your constituent, I urge you to support this vitally important legislation” (ECPAT-USA, 2020a).

### Phone calls

Organizations of all political stripes recommend that constituents call their legislators. A phone that is constantly ringing is more difficult to ignore than a flooded inbox, and a call from a constituent holds more weight than an email, Facebook post, or tweet. A brief [step-by-step guide for having a productive call](#) provides practical tips to maximize the potential impact (Union of Concerned Scientists, 2008). A New York Times article entitled, [“Here's why you should call, not email, your legislators”](#) provides additional details about the value of calling and what happens when a legislative staff person answers the phone (Victor, 2016).

The conversation should be simple and straightforward. In 2010, for example, New York became the first state to pass a law enabling survivors of sex trafficking to vacate prostitution-related convictions. The law did not, however, encompass other illegal activities such as drug possession and trespassing that traffickers may force their victims to commit. The START Act was subsequently proposed to expand the initial legislation and destigmatize human trafficking survivors. [Sanctuary for](#)

[Families](#) suggested that New Yorkers use the following script when calling their state representatives about this bill:

*“Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am calling to urge you to support the “Survivors of Trafficking Attaining Relief Act” as soon as possible. Human trafficking survivors deserve a fresh start in their lives, free from criminal records that were a result of their exploitation. Will you commit to voting YES on bill S.674?”* (Sanctuary for Families, n.d.).

You should only call the two Senators from your state and the House Representative who represents the district where you live. Members of Congress seldom care what people think in communities they don’t represent because the residents there will be unable to vote for or against them. There is very little to gain by calling officials who do not represent you regardless of how passionate you may be (Indivisible, n.d.).

### Online Petitions

Individual activists and nonprofit organizations often sponsor online petitions to support anti-trafficking initiatives. Popular vehicles for launching petitions include [MoveOn](#) and [Change.org](#). Those who sign petitions on either of these platforms can leave comments explaining their reasons for doing so. According to Move On, “You might think, what will starting a petition do? It almost feels too easy. A few clicks, a little bit of typing, and that’s supposed to make a difference? But I promise you, it *does* make a difference. On May 21, a petition started by a MoveOn member called on Congress to provide essential frontline workers with hazard pay. The petition has—as of this moment—*1,397,913 signatures* and was delivered to the Senate along with a petition for an Essential Workers Bill of Rights, to ensure that workers come first in the next relief package passed by Congress” (MoveOn, n.d.).

The public’s response to the Essential Workers Bill of Rights was impressive. Elected officials understand, however, that signing an online petition requires little effort. They also know that the people who sign them may do so with a limited or flawed understanding of the issue and may soon forget that they even signed them.

While petitions can be effective, they have the greatest impact when initiated and signed by voters who target their own political representatives. A conservative senator from the mid-west is unlikely to care how many liberals from the northeast sign a particular petition.

A [sample petition](#) from Change.org about organ trafficking appears on the next page. It is followed by excerpts from a [petition that Freedom United posted](#) about the trafficking of children in orphanages.

“My name is Soracha McGrath and I am currently a high school senior in Washington D.C. For my senior capstone project, I have decided to start a social media campaign to spread awareness and to educate people about the global issue of forced organ harvesting.

There is a brutal violation of human rights taking place in China. The issue is mainly Falun Gong practitioners and prisoners are being killed for their organs which are then sold and transplanted at an enormous profit. Given the demand for organs and the survival of human life, this issue is increasing. This issue effects thousands of people all over the world.

I have decided to focus on China as there is little media coverage on this human rights issue and it is something that needs to be talked about.

Signing this petition would raise more awareness, educate more people and hopefully get the attention of government officials and human rights organizations so that more regulations and sanctions will be put in place.” (McGrath, 2017).

“Criminals are profiting from the trafficking and abuse of children in orphanages around the world. Traffickers, attracted by the funding orphanages receive from donations and organizations offering ‘voluntourism’ placements, effectively turn children into commodities by ensuring there is a constant supply of children available to attract funding.

Poor families are vulnerable to being duped into giving up their children to orphanages with false promises of better care and an education. Instead, these children are often exploited, abused, malnourished, forced to work and sometimes re-trafficked to other orphanages to repeat the cycle and bring in more funds.

Join us in asking volunteer tour operators to help stop orphanage trafficking by removing the financial incentive and making a strong statement against orphanage trafficking. We are asking them to stop offering orphanage placements to volunteers, publish a statement outlining their commitment to end orphanage child trafficking, and join the worldwide movement to ensure children are raised in safe families empowered to care for their own children with the support of partners experienced in child protection.

With your help, we can get more volunteer tour operators to take a strong stand against orphanage trafficking. Join the call today and help end child trafficking” (Freedom United, 2018a).

Political advocacy in any form can be frustrating because many initiatives fail and because successful campaigns typically require a lot of time. Unlike efforts to increase awareness or prevent human trafficking from occurring, however, those who choose to lobby for change will always know if they are successful. They can celebrate their successes and learn from their mistakes.



The one caveat is that activists who choose to work in this arena must learn how to do it properly if they are going to be effective agents of change. There is a lot to learn, but it's not rocket science. With adequate preparation, perhaps beginning with a project that an established NGO oversees, activists who choose political advocacy as their primary focus can make a huge difference. This difference can have an impact that lasts for years. It's an essential part of the war against trafficking.

*"We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself" (Thompson, 2017).*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*"As essential as rescue and rehabilitation are to those who find themselves caught in this crime, and as essential as it is to prosecute those who commit them, we will never rescue or prosecute our way out of this global evil. The solution is prevention, across and throughout all sectors, building communities resilient to human trafficking."*

Ruth Dearnley  
CEO, Stop the Traffik

### **Prevention**

The absence of law and systemic issues such as poverty, racism, and ethnic/gender discrimination provide the social and economic environment necessary for human trafficking to flourish. A long-term solution will require fundamental structural changes that provide jobs and education for the world's impoverished people. It will also be necessary to transform many deep-rooted cultural beliefs and traditions. Misogynistic music lyrics alone can poison boys' attitudes toward girls and impact girls' behavior in ways that make them vulnerable to sexual pressure and exploitation. Society may never be able to rectify these problems fully, but that does not excuse us from trying. Many little steps can collectively have a significant impact and potentially inspire broader systemic change.

Ending modern slavery is a multi-faceted challenge that encompasses a wide variety of issues that go beyond the scope of this Guide and the ability of the average individual to address. Kevin Bales and others have written entire books outlining strategies that can help achieve this very broad goal. This section offers a more modest contribution by focusing on what parents, teens, teachers, and mentors can do. It also identifies resources that can help prevent online sexual exploitation of our youth.

### **Parents**

There is a common misconception that human trafficking is an issue that does not concern middle and upper-class children who live in good neighborhoods. The truth, however, is that any child is a potential victim, especially if he/she struggles with insecurity and self-doubt. Fortunately, several excellent resources are available to help parents learn about the danger that trafficking represents for their children and the steps they can take to minimize it.

The task of educating children about the risk of exploitation and how to protect themselves should begin at an early age. A21's team in South Africa is currently piloting an innovative project

known as [the Early Childhood Prevention Program](#). The initiative “is a child-centered, activity-based program for children ages 3 to 6, which aims to empower vulnerable children and equip them with safety tools for protection as they navigate potentially dangerous situations in their young lives. In the past few years, we began to see critical gaps in human trafficking prevention, leaving young children at risk. Preschoolers were exposed to abuse, exploitation, and trafficking before they knew what trafficking was. It was clear that prevention education needed to start at a much earlier age to avoid exploitation before it was too late” (A21, n.d.-d).

As part of this effort, program staff have released a storybook that “introduces human trafficking prevention to readers ages 3-6. “[It’s a fun, creative, and age-appropriate resource](#) to communicate complex topics like safe relationships, appropriate touch, and safe and unsafe secrets. Parents and guardians, educators, guidance counselors, and community early childhood education leaders can use this storybook to teach the dangers of tricky people, what to do if kids feel unsafe, and how to ask for help” (A21 Australia, 2022).

The “[Cool Aunt Experience](#)” (Sex trafficking talk with Auntie Rachel) targets teens and at-risk preteens. The Experience includes 12 videos, a 25-question completion quiz, and individualized support. Those interested can purchase the complete package for \$99.99 (The Cool Aunt Series, n.d.).

Dr. Celia Williamson, a professor of social work with more than 25 years of anti-trafficking experience, has produced an excellent [webinar](#) with this audience in mind. According to Dr. Williamson, the best way to help at-risk girls is to get them involved in effective prevention at an early age. Adults must also talk to them in a way that resonates with their age group. At the end of each interview with trafficked girls, Dr. Williamson asks them what message they would like her to share with adults who try to help young people such as themselves. Most of the girls’ comments focus on three themes:

- Tell the adults to keep me busy and positive;
- Tell the adults we want to be loved, so show us love; and
- Tell the adults to help us before we get caught up in it (Williamson, 2020).

The Baylor University School of Education offers other helpful tips in a report on “[How to talk about human trafficking with children and adolescents](#)” (Baylor University, 2019).

Jessica Snyder Sachs and Melissa Bykofsky have written an excellent article that is also worth reviewing: “[How to Protect Your Child From a Predator: Recognizing the Warning signs](#).” They did their analysis in the context of sexual assaults that relatives, neighbors, and teachers commit, but the principles can also be applied to human trafficking. The authors stress that “it’s up to us to spot the warning signs and listen” (Women Empowering Women, 2018). They also urge parents not to investigate suspicions of child abuse on their own because extensive questioning may jeopardize an ensuing investigation. Instead, parents should immediately report their suspicion to the appropriate child protection services agency (Women Empowering Women, 2018).

The [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#) has published links to a variety of relevant national and state resources as well as lists of state contacts that will be of great value to concerned parents (Child Welfare Information Gateway, n.d.). Love 146, an international human rights organization working to end child trafficking and exploitation, has also developed several valuable resources. These resources include a [Guide for Caregivers to Prevent Human Trafficking](#). Anyone interested can download the Guide for free and read it in less than a half-hour. One of the more noteworthy recommendations is that parents know who is in their child's life. “Get to know the coaches, clergy,

teachers, and other adults in your child's world and observe how they interact with her. Show up to practice, involve yourself in activities, and volunteer in the classroom. And if anything feels off, talk to other parents and compare notes. It's also crucial to become acquainted with your children's friends. Pay special attention to friendships involving older kids, which can lead to vulnerable situations. Encourage your children to participate in positive things (youth groups, sports, etc.) In a school setting, always report an uneasy feeling to administrators because they are mandated reporters and are trained to decide whether the situation warrants further attention. You are not liable as long as there is something suspicious that warrants the report” (Love146, 2021a).

Parents should also consider requesting that juveniles receive age-appropriate instruction on human trafficking awareness at summer camps, church functions, and schools. The section written for teachers later in this chapter identifies several excellent options of varying lengths. Teachers rarely have enough time to cover the topics that their state and school district mandate, however, so they may express legitimate concern about proposals to add yet another subject to the curriculum. At a minimum, parents can encourage administrators to post relevant signs around the building or have flyers available in the guidance office. They can also request that a faculty member or guest speaker make an optional presentation after school.

Finally, it is worth noting that Love 146 and the City of Houston have collaborated to purchase Facebook and Instagram ads for youths aged 13-21 and adult caregivers. The initiative involved posting two weekly ads for three months, reaching nearly three million people in the greater Houston area. “You can launch your own anti-luring social media campaign and reach both youth and parents/caregivers with tailored messaging on how to be safe while online by purchasing ads as we did or by using your own accounts and social media networks.” It is also worth noting that a city of Houston website allows visitors to download a [toolkit](#) that “includes 24 ready-to-post images with customized messages for both youth and parents/caregivers on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The Toolkit includes platform-specific messaging information, a campaign information sheet and accompanying calendar, and a blank partner tracker to support marketing efforts and collaborative partnerships. Lastly, a datasheet to capture campaign analytics allows users of the Toolkit to enter and summarize data on impressions, reach, and engagement” (City of Houston Mayor’s Office of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence & Love146, n.d.).

### Teens

Adults should do their best to protect our nation’s youth, but teens and young adults need to take responsibility for their safety as well. Teenagers may be most receptive to messages that come from their peers. A fascinating [podcast that Dr. Celia Williamson hosted](#) “[reveals] the components and secret sauce involved in hosting our annual high school human trafficking and human-rights day. The day is full of workshops and engaging interactions for teens to best understand human trafficking, human rights, rape myths, toxic masculinity, and more. We interview one of our teen poets highlighted at the conference who has found her voice in this movement. We invite you to take the components we share and create a human-rights day of your own in your community” (Williamson, 2020a).

[Holly Austin Smith](#) is a survivor who can relate well to this audience. Holly ran away from home when she was 14 years old with a man she had met at a shopping mall in Ocean County, New Jersey. “[She] was severely depressed...and as the pressures of [her] fourteen-year-old-world boiled to the surface, [she] fled... right into the clutches of a sex trafficking ring. Within hours of running

away with what turned out to be a manipulative and menacing pimp, [she] was coerced into working Pacific Avenue in Atlantic City, NJ until dawn the next day.” (Smith, n.d.).

Holly has published a moving and very informative book about her experience called [Walking Prey: How America’s Youth Are Vulnerable to Sex Slavery](#) (Smith, 2014). Her other publications include a column she wrote for the [Washington Times](#) called “[A message to teens: 10 tips for prevention against traffickers.](#)” The column offers excellent advice and is reprinted with minor editing below.

**WASHINGTON, DC, July 26, 2012** – “This column is for the tweens and teens out there. Parents should show it to them. Print it out, stick it in their schoolbooks, or post it on their mirrors. There are ways to protect yourself, or your child, from becoming a victim of a sex trafficker.

Familiarize yourself with the following ten tips. Share them with friends. Parents, review them with your child and be aware so that if something changes in your teen’s life, you can catch your child before he or she becomes a statistic.

1. Become media literate.

If you don’t know what ‘media literacy’ means, I encourage you to research the topic. It is important that you understand how business enterprises are sending you distorted messages via the media to profit from selling you their products. These messages include: You aren’t pretty unless you buy this, you aren’t cool unless you own this, being pretty or cool is more important than anything else, etc. Traffickers understand what popular culture is telling you; educate yourself in order to be armed against predators. Start with Nicole Clark’s documentary, [Cover Girl Culture](#), or Adriana Barbaro and Jeremy Earp’s documentary, [Consuming Kids: the Commercialism of Childhood](#). For more resources on media literacy, please visit my personal blog.

2. Learn different coping skills.

Life in middle school is tough. I know this because I was there; I struggled with the same issues as most teens today- bullying, teen pregnancy, poor self-image, etc. It doesn’t have to feel so stressful all the time, though. I encourage you to explore ways to cope with stress. Coping strategies can include meditation, prayer, exercise, yoga, martial arts, writing, reading, music, sports, crafting, collecting, etc. Don’t be afraid to try new things, and please ask for help from teachers or family members if you need assistance starting one of these activities. A book that helped me with coping strategies was [The Power of Now](#) by Eckhart Tolle.

3. Stay involved in extracurricular activities.

It is crucial to do well in school and stay involved in extracurricular activities. Try out for different sports, clubs, or programs. I promise that good grades and a busy schedule are the most effective ways to overcome middle school troubles and graduate as quickly and successfully as possible. Trust me on this- I tried running away from middle school. That route was worse than if I had just stuck things out at school.

4. Don’t be afraid to try new things.

If you have an aunt that offers to take you to the ballet, say yes! If an uncle offers to take you to a sports game, take him up on it! Try new things! Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone or away from your friends. I was very afraid to try new things without my friends- the result? When my friends inevitably began to try new things without me, I felt very isolated and alone. This is part of the reason a trafficker was able to lure me away from home.

5. Volunteer.

Volunteering can help you keep things in focus while in middle and high school. There are many different ways to volunteer- from serving food at a soup kitchen to walking dogs at an animal shelter. Check out [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org) or [www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org) to find cool places to volunteer! A healthy perspective on one's own life will prevent attempted distortion by a stranger.

6. Learn to say NO.

Our society is saturated with images of sex, and most images of women in the media are sexualized. This teaches young girls that sex appeal equals value. This turns into a domino effect; over-sexualized girls are magnets for older, opportunistic boys or men who will push to have their expectations met. Despite seeing and hearing about sex on a daily basis, please know that you have the right to say NO to anyone at any time, no matter what. Saying no does not make you less worthy in any way whatsoever. YOU own your body. NOBODY has the right to touch you- no matter what, no matter when, and no matter how far things have gone with a person in the past. And, guys- it's ok to wait to have sex. Despite what you see and hear on a daily basis, it's cooler to wait. Traffickers look for teens who lack assertiveness. Stand up for yourself! Say NO!

7. Ask questions about sex.

Please know that positive sexual health is not accurately portrayed in movies, music lyrics, music videos, or magazines. These are often very harmful and inaccurate depictions of romance and love. Take your time. Rushing to have sex can have disastrous effects.

8. Seek counseling!

It is not normal to feel overly sad, angry, hopeless, or empty. Even though so many movie characters and musicians display this exact personality as cool or normal, it is not ok for you to feel this way. You deserve to feel happy and safe. Please confide in a teacher or family member if you have these feelings. Or call the Boys Town National Hotline, a crisis hotline for boys and girls, at 1-800-448-3000.

9. Understand how child trafficking works.

Traffickers hang out in the same places you do: malls, skating rinks, bus stations, online, etc. Traffickers do not typically look like sketchy characters- they are often young and well-dressed. Traffickers will offer to buy you trendy clothes, shoes, cars, or other expensive items. Traffickers will ask for your phone number; they will ask to see or speak to you alone. Traffickers will tell you how pretty and mature you are, and they may mention knowing celebrities, exotic dancers, models, and porn stars. Traffickers will offer to help you make a lot of money or may offer to help you run away. Know this- NO stranger (man or woman) has good intentions if they offer to

help you run away. NO stranger (man or woman) has anything but personal gain in mind if they offer to help you make money. No matter how cool, how hip, or how fun and friendly they may seem- they mean to harm you. Seek help from a trusted family member or teacher.

10. Raise awareness!

Start a school club to promote awareness of media literacy or human trafficking. You belong to the next generation of advocates who must stand up for your rights and the rights of others. Your voice can make a difference. Believe in yourself and all that you can accomplish!

(Smith, 2012).

Teens forced to travel against their will can use [a technique that girls and women in Europe have been using for several years to send a silent signal to airport security officers](#). Police advise girls in these situations to hide a spoon in their underwear if they suspect they might be abducted but aren't sure if or when it will happen. A spoon was chosen as the signal device because the metal will set off security alarms at airports and because a spoon can be worn all day without discomfort. The spoon will trigger an alarm if the girl walks through an airport security checkpoint. Officials will then move her to a private location for a more thorough search and questioning. Once separated from the person forcing her to travel, the girl can inform security officers of her situation. This technique has been credited with saving several British and European girls from becoming sex slaves or being sold by family members as child brides (Reed, 2018).

Young adults who enjoy reading fiction can gain valuable insights by reading books like [Anybody's Daughter](#) by Pamela Samuels Young. “Based on the real-life horrors faced by thousands of girls, award-winning author Pamela Samuels Young takes readers deep inside the disturbing world of child sex trafficking in a fast-paced thriller that educates as much as it entertains. ‘Thirteen-year-old Brianna Walker is ecstatic. She's about to sneak off to meet her first real boyfriend-a boyfriend she met on Facebook. But Brianna is in for a horrifying surprise because her boyfriend doesn't exist. Instead, Brianna unwittingly becomes the captive of a ring of drug dealers-turned-human traffickers who prey on lonely girls from dysfunctional homes. While Brianna makes a futile effort to thwart her captors, her uncle is getting closer and closer to finding her. As he races against the clock, Dre ultimately comes up with a daring plan, one that puts many lives in danger, including his own. But will he find Brianna before it's too late?’” (Young & Evans, 2013).

Another book in this genre is [Renting Lacy](#) by Linda Smith with Cindy Coloma. The book is set in Las Vegas and is based on real stories and interviews with teen survivors. As [one reviewer](#) noted, “*Renting Lacy* is an open window into the lives of prostituted girls and the terror they face every day. Linda Smith has taken the difficult issue of child sex trafficking and dealt with it in such a way that the reader is drawn into the story and hopefully finishes it with a desire to do something about the tragic injustice of child sex trafficking. *Renting Lacy* is a well-written, eye-opening, and thought-provoking book. I encourage you to get a copy of it and read it. It is uncomfortable to read, I admit, but I hope it will spur you on to join the fight to end child sex trafficking” (Heart for Justice, 2021).

Teenagers who are not interested in reading stories about human trafficking may be tempted to play a game they can download on their phones. [The Lifeboat Project](#) offers one such game. The Lifeboat Project is a nonprofit organization that works to raise awareness of human trafficking and



empower survivors through long-term aftercare, residential programs, and education in central Florida. “In partnership with world-renowned Engineering and Computer Simulations, we have developed a gaming app to educate junior high and high school students on how to protect themselves from human trafficking and exploitation...The app has received prestigious awards in the categories of Education and Gaming. It can be viewed in desktop mode or downloaded on a mobile device. This story-based educational game will make you think twice about things you’ve never even noticed before. Download the free app and dive into the story. Immediately, you will witness your best friend Macy undergo drastic changes. Use your sleuth skills to identify red flags and warning signs of trafficking” (Lifeboat Trafficking, n.d.).

[The Balkans ACT \(Against Crime of Trafficking\) Now" Project](#) has developed a similar game. The European Union funds this project, and users can download the game in English as well as several Balkan languages (Balkans ACT Now Project, n.d.).

### Teachers

Teachers and high school counselors have an especially important role in keeping our children safe because they have more contact with children than any adults other than the child’s parents. Children typically trust their teachers, moreover, and teachers frequently have a lasting impact that extends far beyond the time they spend together in class.

Teachers can do several things to become influential allies in the fight against human trafficking. At a minimum, teachers should develop strong positive relationships with at-risk students. Those who require special attention should be promptly referred for counseling and other services when appropriate.

Teachers also need to learn about trafficking and the threat it represents for children. Chapters II and III of the Guide provide a great deal of information about human trafficking generally. Teachers should also read Holly Austin Smith’s book [Walking Prey](#), a resource that the preceding section for teens mentioned. Holly is a survivor of child sex trafficking. “Although I do share my personal story in *Walking Prey*, this book is much more than a memoir. I discuss predisposing factors, community risk factors, and the mindset of ‘willing victims’” (Smith, n.d.-b). Helpful appendices include "10 tips for elementary school teachers and counselors" and "10 tips for middle school teachers and counselors". The book is available in hard copy and on Kindle. Holly also has several videos on YouTube.

The North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NC CASA) has published A [Human Trafficking Prevention Curriculum Matrix](#). The Coalition designed the Matrix specifically for North Carolina, but it may also interest educators in other states. In 2015, the NC General Legislature mandated the inclusion of sex trafficking prevention education in reproductive health education in schools. The law requires 1) collaboration with prevention experts on the implementation of an “objective and based on [peer-reviewed] research” curriculum in the classroom, and 2) “collaboration with relevant state and local agencies as well as expert consultants on the development of a referral protocol for cases of disclosed or suspected sex trafficking.”

“The purpose of this toolkit, published in 2020, is to assist North Carolina school districts in identifying a human trafficking prevention curriculum that best fits the needs and goals of their local school district. In beginning this project, we reached out to both North Carolina school districts and organizations that have developed a human trafficking prevention

curriculum. Through this two-step process, we were able to understand the need for a comparative toolkit of human trafficking curricula as a critical resource for North Carolina schools.

In this toolkit, you will find a comprehensive matrix of many key factors of human trafficking prevention work. Through comparing factors such as costs, types of training, who delivers the curriculum, and varying content between each curriculum, we hope that you can identify a human trafficking curriculum that serves your needs.

This matrix is not an evaluation of human trafficking curricula, and it is not an endorsement of the curricula that are included. We acknowledge that there are many human trafficking prevention curricula nationally and globally, but we were limited to the knowledge we gathered and the responses that we received. We are excited by the number of prevention curriculum organizations that opted to participate. We are thrilled to provide a matrix of 14 different human trafficking prevention curricula that can be used in North Carolina schools” (North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault, 2020).

Another valuable source of information is [the award-winning human trafficking identification and referral initiative that Prince William County sponsors in northern Virginia](#). Educators designed the program to be a comprehensive way of dealing with the behavioral health needs of at-risk youth who become embroiled in human trafficking. The Prince William County public school system claims to be the first in the nation to have launched such an effort. The program includes a 90-minute class for all ninth-grade students on how traffickers operate, a public service announcement that sponsors show in local movie theaters, and presentations that are made to community groups. The program began in 2012 and had identified 253 students who were “victims of sexual assault, grooming or trafficking” by 2020 (Prince William County Public Schools, 2020).

Communities with the resources, time, and desire to craft their own curriculum can hire specialists to design and deliver a program that meets their needs. One organization capable of doing so is [Runaway Girl](#), a California Social Purpose Corporation that provides employment opportunities and other services for runaway, former runaway, and homeless youth. Runaway Girls “provides training tailored to your organization and community needs. We aim to raise awareness, establish belief, and help to build capacity for effective responses to human trafficking in every community. We know that communities are in different places in terms of awareness, so we want to make sure we are focused on what is most important to you and your team members. Whether you have 1 hour or three days, we will build a training that has a lasting impact and leads to improved responses and action within your organization and community” (Runaway Girl, n.d.-a) (I found this quote here: <https://runawaygirl.com/events-training/> instead of at the runaway girl link).

The nonprofit Aura Freedom may also be able to help. Aurora Freedom has implemented sustainable projects addressing gender-based violence in Canada and South Asia. One of its initiatives, [the Peer Prevention Project](#), has “trained, mentored and coached a team of young women from different marginalized communities to facilitate gender-based violence prevention workshops in schools, shelters, and other youth spaces in Toronto. These youth facilitators come from diverse backgrounds. Some have experienced human trafficking and violence, situations that give them unique insight to address human trafficking in their communities.”

“Programs for youth are much more powerful when delivered by youth themselves. Viewing young people as agents of change can shift the course of an entire nation. By entering youth

spaces and providing education developed ‘for youth by youth,’ Aura Freedom’s youth team creates an environment where students learn from people who look like them. In a word: prevention. The youth team travels with a trained trauma counselor who is there to receive disclosures and provide the appropriate support. In 2019 alone, the Peer Prevention Project operated in over 36 youth spaces across Toronto with 2,000+ participants. From those 36 presentations, 19 survivors of sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and sexual violence came forward and were referred to crucial services” (Aura Freedom, 2021).

While all children can benefit from human trafficking instruction, girls are most at risk and may benefit most from programs that experts have designed just for them. Lessons presented in an all-girl classroom offer the additional benefit of facilitating discussions about issues that students might find embarrassing to raise when boys are present.

The Justice Resource Institute, a survivor-led non-profit organization based in Boston, Massachusetts, developed the “[My Life My Choice](#)” program with these issues in mind. My Life My Choice empowers and educates youth about the commercial sex industry. Mentoring services are available for girls ages 12–18 in eastern Massachusetts as well as boys and transgender youth ages 12–18 in the Boston area (My Life My Choice, n.d.). [The curriculum is reportedly the first comprehensive prevention curriculum in the country](#) (“My Life My Choice”, 2021). The [Justice Resource Institute](#) describes the program this way:

“Survivors of exploitation developed, wrote, and reviewed the curriculum. The curriculum is gender-specific for girls between the ages of 12 and 18. The group is beneficial for all adolescent girls but is especially impactful to girls at disproportionately high risk of being victims of the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Groups may be facilitated in congregate care settings, middle and high schools, juvenile justice facilities, child welfare offices, and community-based programs. An appropriate setting includes a safe, comfortable space and allows for adequate support and follow-up as needed. It is imperative that hosting agencies have a comprehensive CSEC protocol in place to support youth who might disclose this experience appropriately. The curriculum is available to facilitators in English and Spanish.

The curriculum has ten sessions. Each session is written to be 75 minutes long, but modified versions of the curriculum are available for use in shorter-term settings. Each session includes a variety of activities, including icebreakers, discussions, role-plays, hands-on activities, and more introspective opportunities such as journaling. Sessions address issues including myths and facts about commercial sexual exploitation, how to identify a pimp, recruitment tactics, substance abuse, self-esteem, sexual health, healthy relationships, and local and national resources to support youth at risk of exploitation.

My Life My Choice requires that two trained facilitators run groups. It is a best practice that one facilitator is a survivor of commercial sexual exploitation and is comfortable talking about her personal experience. The other facilitator should have advanced clinical training. You must be trained by a Certified My Life My Choice Trainer to receive the curriculum. As part of the training, you will receive a membership to the My Life My Choice Online Community, a web-based platform for providers using the curriculum across the country. Each agency should send two facilitators to the training.

There is an application process and a pre-requisite training (the My Life My Choice Understanding and Responding to Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation or an equivalent training). The two-day training is \$700 per person, with an early registration discount (\$650) for those applying at least one month before the training date. Once trained, facilitators are asked to facilitate at least one group per year and provide compiled group data on a quarterly basis” (Justice Resource Institute, n.d.).

Many schools do not have the resources to hire trainers or send teachers for special certifications. Teachers can still download lesson plans with modules that are grade-specific and structured in ways that match a school’s needs, objectives, and available class time. The resources listed below are suitable for mixed classrooms with male and female students. Instructors who do not have time to present standalone lessons about human trafficking can discuss modern slavery as part of a history or social studies course.

### Grammar school

Those who teach children in grammar school can use materials that the European nonprofit [Invisible Traffick](#) has developed. Resources include age-appropriate books, videos, and worksheets that students can complete in the classroom.

### Middle, junior, and high school

- [Child Trafficking](#) is a resource that UNICEF developed to teach children in grades 6-8. It has three lessons designed to “1. provide students with an understanding of the complexity of human trafficking; 2. help students recognize and analyze how human trafficking affects children in the United States and around the world; and 3. educate students about that actions that UNICEF and other organizations are doing to combat human trafficking and to encourage students to take action, both locally and globally” (UNICEF USA, 2016a).
- Richmond Justice Initiative (RJI) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is “to educate, equip, and mobilize communities to be a force in the global movement to end human trafficking. In order to eradicate human trafficking, we believe we must educate young people about the lures of trafficking and invest in character and leadership development. [The Prevention Project](#)<sup>™</sup> curriculum for middle and high school students exists to not only prevent trafficking from occurring, but also to create and equip student leaders to be a part of the solution, bringing lasting change for our communities and beyond” (Richmond Justice Initiative, n.d.).
- ECPAT-USA has been at the forefront of the fight to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children for 20 years. “We go to the source of the problem by fighting for new and improved laws, encouraging the private sector to do its part, and raising awareness among those who may be in a position to identify a child who is being commercially sexually exploited.” ECPAT-USA offers a [free toolkit with FAQs, statistics, and sample lesson plans and activities for grades 6 – 12](#).(ECPAT-USA, 2014).
- FAIR Girls is a Washington, D.C. nonprofit that provides intervention and holistic care to female survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children. [Tell Your Friends](#) is the organization’s “four-module, multimedia prevention education curriculum

taught in junior high and high school classrooms, after-school programs, youth shelters, and group homes. The curriculum empowers and motivates students with the knowledge, communication skills, and community resources to keep themselves safe from exploitation and trafficking. It also enables them to become peer educators who will tell their friends, families, and communities how to do the same. Using video, drawing, and popular music, the curriculum is interactive and age appropriate. It defines what human trafficking is, identifies risk factors for teen girls and boys, and discusses healthy and unhealthy relationships. It also draws links between intimate partner violence and human trafficking and provides a citywide resource guide to students to help them reach us and our community-based partners across the DMV area. The curriculum is presented in a fun and interactive way that sparks healthy debates and allows vulnerable teens to learn ways to stay safe and how they can get help. After every workshop, we pass out note cards where students can anonymously ask questions for us to answer in the next session” (FAIR Girls, n.d.-b).

- [“Not a #Number”](#) is “an interactive, five-module prevention curriculum designed to teach youth how to protect themselves from human trafficking and exploitation through information, critical thinking, and skill development. It uses a holistic approach focusing on respect, empathy, individual strengths, and the relationship between personal and societal pressures that create or increase vulnerabilities. ‘Not a #Number’ will fit nicely within a health education or life skills program, as well as history lessons that draw connections between historical and modern-day slavery, current events addressing violence, and social movements. It can also be used as part of an after-school or community program or to complement other psychoeducational efforts in existing therapeutic programming or services. The curriculum was developed for youth ages 12-18, including male, female, and youth that identify LGBTQ” (Love146, n.d.-b).
- iEmpathize is a nonprofit that offers [The Empower Youth Program](#). “The Empower Youth Program is a five-module curriculum that can be used by anyone who provides services directly to youth, such as teachers, youth program directors, counselors, mentors, therapists, and more. It has two chief objectives: to equip youth with personal safety strategies and to nurture their empathy for others. By inspiring students to develop empathy for those around them, our curriculum distinguishes itself both as an exploitation prevention tool as well as a character education program with far-reaching transformative potential for your school, classroom, or youth program.” The program is designed for youth aged 12 and up. With empathy as its most fundamental strategy to eradicate exploitation, this resource is in use across the nation, impacting thousands of youths” (Love146, n.d.-b).
- The 3 Strands Global Foundation sponsors [PROTECT](#). “PROTECT provides human trafficking prevention education to students and teachers to prevent the potential exploitation of children. Educators and school personnel are provided with an online training program, as well as 5th, 7th, 9th, and 11th-grade curriculum and vetted resources to use in their classroom. This program teaches students the signs and tactics of traffickers so they can protect themselves and others from victimization. It also trains teachers how to recognize when a child is at risk of being trafficked and how to connect that student to the resources they need. [PROTECT fosters an ongoing conversation and establishes a system of protocols within each county to protect children from exploitation](#)” (Healing Hands, 2019).



- In Our Backyard piloted [Teens Against Trafficking](#), a comprehensive presentation to educate middle and high school students in Oregon during the spring of 2018. “Teens Against Trafficking is centered on giving students the information and tools to identify and define what human trafficking is. Students also learn steps they can take to prevent trafficking from happening to themselves and their peers and what they can do if they identify a trafficker or their victim. The information presented to students falls under the Oregon Health Standards for the Promotion of Sexual Health and the Promotion of Mental, Social, and Emotional Health for 6-12th grade and Title IX. Also, it satisfies Erin’s Law– enacted in Oregon in 2015, requiring the development and adoption of child sexual abuse prevention programs for students in kindergarten through 12th grade in all Oregon public schools” (In Our Backyard, n.d.-d).

### High School

- Free the Slaves is a nonprofit that offers a wide variety of resources for high school students, teachers, and parents. The resources can be downloaded at no charge and include a [Teacher’s Guide](#), a [Student Activities Guide](#), and [Slavery Case Studies for Class Activities](#).
- The A21 Campaign developed [Bodies Are Not Commodities](#) in response to an overwhelming need for education about human trafficking among students. Its goal is to prevent human trafficking, protect students, and offer pathways of engagement to be a part of the solution to end modern-day slavery. “Bodies Are Not Commodities provides five interactive sessions to motivate and engage the adolescent learner with alignment to the Common Core State Standards, integrated cross-curricular relevance within the subjects of history, citizenship and literacy, critical thinking skills, and intersession extension opportunities to further awareness and prevention. It also includes Learning Labs that provide students with an interactive inquiry-based experience that provides the following opportunities: higher-order thinking skills, authentic connectedness, substantive conversation, and social support and depth of knowledge” (A21, n.d.-c).

The A21 Campaign website features several other resources with relevant educational purposes. The resources include but are not limited to Safety Guides, Parent Guides, and a comic book designed for children in at-risk populations.

Ultimately, the best overall school strategy has nurses, coaches, parents, and other vital allies working with the teachers. Those who would like to help launch this type of initiative may want to read a 2017 report on [Schools and Anti-Trafficking Awareness: Education, Training Key Influencers, & Students](#). Ms. Sriyani Tidball from the College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and Dr. Shireen Rajaram from the College of Public Health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center conducted this important exploratory study. They did so to get the input of educators and student influencers in the Lincoln, Nebraska public schools regarding the best way to design, produce, and implement a program to educate students about trafficking in general and the risk of sex trafficking in particular. Research included gathering data on promising regional and national practices for raising awareness among middle and high school influencers. The authors also conducted a needs assessment of sex trafficking awareness among key influencers in the Lincoln public schools. The report offers numerous recommendations for school personnel, students, and parents everywhere (Tidball & Rajaram, 2017).



## Mentors

Most parents do their best to help their children make wise choices. Mentors can be valuable allies in this endeavor.

Merriam Webster defines a mentor as someone who teaches or gives help and advice to a less experienced and often younger person. Volunteering to be a mentor, role model, and supportive friend for at-risk youth is one of the most valuable things prevention-oriented activists can do. Their efforts may be the only thing that keeps vulnerable children away from traffickers and so-called “friends” who could draw them into a criminal lifestyle.

Those who have the time to be mentors can volunteer through programs sponsored by groups such as Big Brother/Big Sister and the YMCA. Activities can be as simple as baking cookies together, doing an arts & crafts project, or enjoying lunch in the park. Big Brothers/Big Sisters also has a [Workplace Mentoring Program](#) that allows students to visit workplaces and learn from one-to-one relationships with successful professionals (youth.gov, n.d.).

Mentors should learn how traffickers operate so they can confidently discuss the issue and accurately answer any questions their assigned youth may have. The Wichita State University Center for Combatting Human Trafficking, in cooperation with the Youth Collaboratory and Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention, has developed a toolkit related to human trafficking with a particular focus on mentorship. [Shining Light on the Commercial Exploitation of Children: A Toolkit to Build Understanding](#) “provides information on a variety of topics related to human trafficking with a specific focus on mentoring for commercial sexual exploitation victims. In one easy-to-access location, you will find information about emerging research and best practices along with implications for practice at the individual, program, and community levels” (Youth Collaboratory, 2018). The 18-module toolkit addresses topics such as the importance of language in anti-trafficking work; survivor-centered and survivor-led practices; understanding human trafficking legislation; boys, girls, LGBT+; and indigenous communities (Youth Collaboratory, 2018).

Knowing the enemy can be very helpful. Books, YouTube videos, and published articles all offer practical tips about how to be an effective pimp, even though pimping is illegal and causes immeasurable pain for the victims. A classic text of this genre is [Pimp: The Story of My Life](#) by Iceberg Slim. “Iceberg Slim's autobiographical novel sent shockwaves throughout the literary world when it was published in 1969. Groundbreaking for its authentic and oft-brutal account of the sex trade, the book offers readers an unforgettable look at the mores of Chicago's street life during the 1940s, 50s, and 60s. In the preface, Slim says it best, ‘In this book, I will take you, the reader, with me into the secret inner world of the pimp’” (Iceberg Slim, 2011). [Pimpology: The 48 Laws of the Game](#) by Pimping Ken and Karen Hunter is one of several more recent books about pimping. “In Pimpology, Ken Ivy pulls a square's coat on the unwritten rules that took him from the ghetto streets to the executive suites. To be the one with the upper hand, you've got to have good game, and good game starts with knowing the rules. If you want the money, power, and respect you dream of, you can't just ‘pimp your ride,’ you need to pimp your whole life” (Pimpin’ Ken & Hunter, 2008).

Working with a mentor can be a life-changing experience for the youths fortunate enough to have one. The relationship can also be a gratifying experience for those who do it.

Leakhena and Vichwath are part of the first cohort of formal mentees from the Nomi Network Fashion Incubator. They were matched with two professional mentors from The Gap, in California. Regular video mentoring sessions have begun and have focused on developing a collection, creating a mood board on Adobe Illustrator, and learning about the production to retail timeline. Early signs point to the incredible value of this international exchange and mentoring.

“[Mentoring with Nomi Network](#) has been such an invaluable experience, and one that has left an indelible impression. Connecting with Leakhena and Vichwath has been a worthwhile joy. There is power in the sharing of ideas and insight with one another. It is a testament that change can start with a conversation—both for the mentee and the mentor.”

John Kelly, The Gap Inc. Sr. Manager, Advanced Concept Design

### **Online safety**

Nearly 90% of American teenagers between 13 and 17 years old have access to a desktop or laptop computer. 95% of teens have access to a smartphone, and 45% of the respondents in one survey reported they were online “almost constantly” even before the COVID-19 outbreak moved so many activities online (Anderson & Jiang, 2018). Other research has found that [more than half of the children in the United States have smartphones by the age of 11 and that 83% of active sex trafficking cases involve online solicitation](#) (Office of the Attorney General Ashley Moody, 2008).

Today’s traffickers use the Internet aggressively to find and groom potential victims. And make no mistake: Traffickers are very good at what they do. Youths playing online games, for example, often see enticing popups. Anyone who clicks on the associated link could easily wind up at a hazardous website where predators are waiting. In addition to employing a variety of traditional strategies involving verbal tricks and manipulation, traffickers can now take advantage of special software such as [FaceApp](#). [The App utilizes “artificial intelligence filters](#), backgrounds, effects, and other tools” to generate highly realistic images of how the user would look if he/she were much younger or had a different gender (Rajput, 202). Other types of software can alter the sound of the user’s voice as well.

Several years ago, the Guide’s author was the Chief of Program Services for the Office of Public Safety at the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services. The unit I supervised offered police officers many types of training, one of which taught them how to conduct undercover stings on the Internet. The course began by having students go to one of several websites that teens and children like to visit. Instructors told the officers to log on but not to initiate any interaction. If someone began a conversation with them, the officers should say that their mother was away, and they decided to skip school. The instructor directed the officers to raise their hands when someone started making inappropriate comments. In a typical class, nearly everyone raised his or her hand within the first five minutes. Those who wish to learn more about the ways traffickers use the Internet can listen to a podcast on [“How Predators and Sex Traffickers Target and Groom Children Online”](#) (Smart Social, 2020).

Parents can begin by selecting the privacy and security settings on their children's devices and by having an age-appropriate conversation about the dangers of the Internet generally. The discussion should include information about viruses and malware as well as safety tips such as not clicking on unfamiliar links or downloading apps from unknown sites. Many authorities recommend that younger children share passwords with their parents so that parents can monitor the places their children visit.

A great deal of information about online safety is available online. Florida's Attorney General's Office, for example, has posted a [2022 Online Safety Toolkit](#) "to empower parents to teach their children about the dangers of human trafficking online and create effective online safety plans for safe Internet use" (Office of the Attorney General Ashley Moody, 2022). The Toolkit is brief, but it is very informative and easy to follow.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children operates the CyberTipline, where the public and electronic service providers submit millions of reports about suspected online and offline child sexual exploitation each year. The Center uses this information in part to develop content for an online safety education program known as NetSmartz. [NetSmartz](#) "provides age-appropriate videos and activities to help teach children to be safer online. The goal is to help children become more aware of potential online risks and empower them to help prevent victimization by making safer choices on- and offline" (NetSmartz, n.d.).

Other helpful resources are available through ECPAT-USA. ECPAT-USA belongs to an international network of organizations that are working together to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children. ECPAT-USA offers several resources, including [free online safety guides for youth, parents, and educators](#) (ECPAT-USA, n.d.-e). A version of the Parent Guide is available in Spanish, and translations of other materials will be available in the future. ECPAT-USA also co-sponsors the delivery of an educational game called [Social Identity Quest](#). "For teens, a seemingly chance encounter online can result in scary consequences in the outside world. Immersed in social media, funny videos, and interactive games, teens define who they are and how they connect through phones and tablets. But their savvy navigation of platforms and connectivity does not guarantee that what they say and share online will always be safe. Focused on these issues, the Social Identity Quest does not judge, lecture, or spoon-feed 'correct' answers to students. Instead, it generates a student-driven conversation about life online, facilitated by educators, to emphasize decision-making" (ECPAT-USA, 2021).

May and Bay is a similar game that helps children and young people across Thailand and Cambodia learn to spot signs of online grooming and recognize the tactics that abusers and traffickers employ. "Designed for children aged eight to 14, the game comprises virtual scenarios that follow the stories of two children as they encounter the insidious world of online grooming. The simulations are interactive and encourage children's critical thinking and autonomous decision-making skills as they progress through the scenes. Currently, May and Bay is available in Thai, Khmer and English. Because of its digital format, the game will allow back-end data on its impact to be collected throughout the game play, by analyzing both children's responses to interactive elements and professional feedback about its effectiveness. This will enable better insight into which features embed learning most effectively, and which elements of the storyline develop skills of critical analysis and thinking. Training for practitioners is currently available in Thai, Khmer or English and provides an overview of the game, demonstrations of how it works and how to run it with children, and guidance on what to do if a child self-identifies any form of abuse" (Freedom Collaborative, 2022).

In summary, experts agree that human trafficking will continue until society makes fundamental structural changes on a global scale. In the meantime, prevention is key. We should all do what we can to help vulnerable populations pursue their dreams without the pain and trauma that trafficking inevitably engenders.

*“Modern slavery is not something that happens ‘over there’ that we don’t have to think about. If we care about the people who make our products, we can make a difference”*  
(Minderoo Foundation, n.d.).

Grace Forrest, Walk Free co-founder of Walk Free

### **Reduce Demand (Shop Wisely!)**

Have you ever gone to a sale at the mall and wondered why so many things are available at such low prices? Even inexpensive clothing requires several raw materials such as cotton, buttons, thread, tags, and zippers. Workers then must assemble each item, wrap or otherwise package it, and ship the final product hundreds or even thousands of miles before arriving at the final destination. Other costs include taxes and overhead expenditures such as maintaining machinery and buying insurance. Department stores that ultimately sell the items to consumers, meanwhile, have to budget for expenses such as rent, employee wages, and utilities.

So how can the factory, the store, and all the middlemen earn a profit when the store only charges \$20 for a shirt and offers a discount to shoppers who have a coupon? In many cases, it’s because slaves and exploited laborers made the shirt that the consumer will happily wear. And that’s not all: Exploited laborers work incredibly long hours, often under hazardous conditions. Some employers additionally force their workers to live in filthy housing that does not meet basic health or safety standards.

[Walk Free](#) estimates that there are 49.6 million people living in situations of modern slavery on any given day, and that forced labour accounts for 27.6 million of them. Annick Febrey, the Director of Government Relations at the Human Trafficking Institute, further estimates that “[more than \\$400 billion worth of goods likely made by forced labor enter the U.S. market each year](#)” (Freedom United, 2018b). Nevertheless, more than half of the G20 countries [have not yet “enacted laws, policies or practices aimed at stopping business and government sourcing goods and services produced by forced labor”](#) (Forrest, 2019).

Part of the problem facing the anti-trafficking movement is that even activists don’t always think about things this way. Most people are more likely to say, “There’s a great sale at the mall today! We should go there and check it out.”

The average consumer’s obsession with low cost can be seen in several contexts. A 2016 survey by the Associated Press asked the following question: “[Would you rather buy a pair of pants made in the USA for \\$85 or pants of comparable quality made overseas for \\$50?](#)” 67% (2/3) said they would prefer the cheaper pair (Boak & Wiseman, 2017). Domestic job creation is very appealing in the abstract, but the more immediate challenge for many people is finding the money they need to pay the rent. Low prices for goods and services allow people to stretch their budgets and maybe even save a little for retirement.

The same dynamic applies to fruits and vegetables. A typical sale might encourage shoppers to buy one box of blueberries so they can get another one for free. The store's promotion might be based on the hope that customers will come for the berries and then buy things that are not on sale. The sale is good business, but someone still has to bend over under a hot sun and pick those tiny berries. That person probably isn't making much if the store can afford to give the berries away.

Some companies have demonstrated a deep commitment to social justice and fair labor practices. [Sodexo](#), for example, is a French food services and facilities management company that is one of the world's largest multinational corporations. It had more than 400,000 employees, a presence in 80 countries, and revenues of €22.0 billion during FY 2020. "[Conducting business with high ethical standards is fundamental to Sodexo](#)" ("Sodexo", 2022). Sodexo uses two certification systems (Fair Trade Certified and Rainforest Alliance Certified) to identify products that are fairly and responsibly traded from tropical regions. It has also formalized a Supplier Code of Conduct to articulate its expectations of the companies with which it does business. Another commendable business practice worth noting is that Sodexo has drafted nine commitments and objectives to guide its operations in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals issued by the United Nations ("Sodexo", 2022).

[Barnes & Noble College Booksellers](#) warrants special praise as well. Barnes & Noble "has been recognized as an industry leader in the effort to eliminate sweatshops used to produce college apparel. We are a member of the Fair Labor Association (FLA), and since 1998, we have required all vendors who supply products to our stores to adopt the FLA's Code of Conduct. The Code requires strict adherence to workers' rights and no child labor. All the brands sold in our bookstores currently meet labor standards set by the Workers' Rights Consortium, an independent labor rights monitoring organization" (Fair Labor Association, n.d.-a).

The difficulty of buying and selling ethically should not be underestimated. It is a complicated goal for even the most committed organizations. [Patagonia](#), for example, sells outdoor clothing and equipment for sports such as surfing and skiing. The retailer is an accredited and founding member of the Fair Labor Association. In addition, Fair Trade USA has certified nearly a third of Patagonia's clothing offerings as having been made in factories that meet rigorous safety standards, provide maternity leave, prohibit child labor, and are environmentally aware. The problem for Patagonia lies in the fact that the company has 175 mills and other facilities throughout the world. Internal audits have found multiple instances of human trafficking, forced labor, and exploitation in its supply chain (White, 2015).

Patagonia is doing what it can to correct these deficiencies. Unfortunately, the executive director of the Workers' Rights Consortium acknowledges that many other brands "produce in a manner that essentially guarantees abusive conditions. All of these suppliers are desperately trying to find ways to cut costs. The only thing they have substantial control over is labor" (White, 2015). Supply chain delays stemming from COVID and the war in Ukraine have increased the cost of many items, moreover, so those problems give companies an even greater incentive to cut labor costs whenever possible.

The enormous challenge of reducing demand for unethically sourced products is perhaps best illustrated by considering the problems associated with the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act. The Act bans imported goods made by forced labor in China's Xinjiang region, where Chinese authorities



have conducted an extensive crackdown on Uyghur Muslims and other ethnic minorities (Ramzy & Buckley, 2020).

The Act went into effect in June 2022 just as the author’s work on the Guide was ending. [The following excerpts from a New York Times article offered a troubling analysis of the Act and the likely ramifications:](#)

The law presumes that all of the goods from the Xinjiang region are made with forced labor and stops them at the U.S. border until importers can produce evidence that their supply chains do not touch on Xinjiang or involve slavery or coercive practices.

According to Kharon, a data and analytics firm, Xinjiang produces more than 40 percent of the world’s polysilicon, a quarter of the world’s tomato paste, and a fifth of global cotton. It’s also responsible for 15 percent of the world’s hops and about a tenth of global walnuts, peppers, and rayon. It has 9 percent of the world’s reserves of beryllium and is home to China’s largest wind turbine manufacturer, which is responsible for 13 percent of global output.

“The public is not prepared for what’s going to happen,” said Alan Bersin, a former commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection who is now the executive chairman at Altana AI. “The impact of this on the global economy, and on the U.S. economy, is measured in the many billions of dollars, not in the millions of dollars.”

At the heart of the problem is the complexity and opacity of the supply chains that run through China, the world’s largest manufacturing hub. Goods often pass through many layers of companies as they make their way from fields, mines, and factories to a warehouse or a store shelf. Any company with a supply chain running through China has to consider the risk that its products could face scrutiny or detentions. “There is almost no company in the United States currently truly prepared for this type of enforcement” (Swanson, 2022).

The full impact of the Act on the global economy remains to be seen. Whatever the outcome, concerned individuals can modify their spending practices in ways that make a difference. The section on “Why we should care – How human trafficking impacts each of us” in Chapter I argued that we contribute to and support the human trafficking business with many of our daily purchases. And like any other business, human trafficking will die if people refuse to buy the goods and services it produces.

### ***So what can I do? Ethical consumerism and feel-good economics***

Proposals to end human trafficking will have limited impact if we just think about the traffickers. The threat of a longer prison term will not stop human trafficking any more than it stopped the illegal drug trade. In both cases, we must attack the demand that makes the businesses so lucrative. In the context of human trafficking, the strategy requires that we spend wisely so that our purchases do not fuel the demand that traffickers are eager to satisfy.

The beauty of spending wisely is that it takes money away from the traffickers while simultaneously promoting economic justice and providing employment for desperately poor people at risk of future trafficking. [Done Good](#), a nonprofit with a mission “to empower people to transform from consumers to changemakers” makes this point very clearly: “Americans give \$475 billion to



charity each year, but we spend \$130 trillion buying everyday items. Redirecting even a small percentage of this spending to brands that are reducing poverty, fighting climate change, and otherwise making the world better would make a huge impact. The dollars we spend can be the world's most powerful force for change" (DoneGood, n.d.-a).

Ethical consumerism, in its broadest sense, "is all about choosing goods that are ethically sourced, ethically made, and ethically distributed. When enough consumers shop in an ethically conscious way, it can cause companies to take notice and address their supply chain practices. These changes can, in turn, help parents around the world earn a living wage and reduce the likelihood that their children end up in dirty, dangerous, and degrading jobs" (World Vision, n.d.)

Experts disagree about the extent to which individual consumer purchases can influence the world in general and corporate policies in particular. Some dismiss these well-intentioned acts as "feel-good economics." Alden Wicker takes the criticism a step further. Wicker is a freelance journalist and sustainable fashion expert who has published several investigative pieces about fashion innovation, materials, and consumer trends. Ms. Wicker insists that,

"Small steps taken by thoughtful consumers—to recycle, to eat locally, to buy a blouse made of organic cotton instead of polyester—will not change the world...According to the lore of conscious consumerism, every purchase you make is a 'moral act'—an opportunity to 'vote with your dollar' for the world you want to see...We are told that if we don't like what a company is doing, we should stop buying their products and force them to change. But sadly, this is not how capitalism is set up to work. Making a series of small, ethical purchasing decisions while ignoring the structural incentives for companies' unsustainable business models won't change the world as quickly as we want. It just makes us feel better about ourselves. The problem is that even though we want to make the right choices, it's often too little, too late." Wicker quotes another critic who adds that "fretting over these small decisions is a gesture. Well-meaning signals that you care about the environment. But the action itself makes no difference" (Wicker, 2017)."

Ms. Wicker's analysis is not universally embraced. One analyst argues that her position is "riddled with falsehoods, contradictions, and naïve arguments. Conscious consumerism is not a lie. Rather, supporting responsible business through our buying habits is one of the most powerful ways we can cultivate a better tomorrow. The premise of Wicker's argument is that making a series of small, ethical purchasing decisions only serves to make us feel good about ourselves. They do not make discernible systemic change in the world. What irks me most about the article is her lack of understanding about farmer incentives. When a natural business decides to source an ingredient grown in a more sustainable way, like a pebble in a pond, it initiates a ripple that reverberates throughout the supply chain" (Blumenfeld, 2017).

Those who wish to learn more about ethical consumerism can read entire books on the subject. One is Everyday Justice: The Global Impact of Our Daily Choices by Julie Clawson. "Where does your chocolate come from? Does it matter if your coffee is fair trade or not? It matters--more than you might think. Julie Clawson takes us on a tour of everyday life and shows how our ordinary lifestyle choices have big implications for justice around the world. She unpacks how we get our food and clothing and shows us the surprising costs of consumer waste. How we live can make a difference not only for our own health but also for the well-being of people across the globe. The more sustainable our lifestyle, the more just our world will be. Everyday justice is one way of loving

God and our neighbors. We can live more ethically through the little and big decisions we make every day. Here's how" (Clawson, Sine, & Sine, 2009).

Jane Mosbacher Morris wrote another interesting book on this subject: [Buy the Change You Want to See: Use Your Purchasing Power to Make the World a Better Place](#). Morris describes the money we routinely spend on food, clothes, gifts, and other items as "an untapped superpower. What would happen if we slowed down to make more thoughtful decisions about what we buy? For 'mom and pop' stores across the country, and artisan and agricultural communities around the world, every purchase matters. Consumers - whether individuals, small businesses, or corporations - are paying more attention than ever to how their goods are made. Retailers - large and small - are responding by investing in ethical and eco-friendly production" (Morris & Paris., 2019). Morris "tells inspiring stories about how victims of human trafficking and natural disasters have been empowered by economic opportunity. She offers practical ideas about how we can support these communities through our purchases. We could do so by buying jewelry made from recycled materials in Haiti or sustainably grown and ethically sourced coffee and chocolate from farmers in some of the world's poorest regions. We can also purchase jeans and shoes made in factories where workers are guaranteed decent working conditions and a fair wage" (Morris & Paris).

Ellie Hughes offers an additional perspective to the discussion about ethical consumerism. Ms. Hughes writes a blog called The Practivist. Hughes defines a Practivist as "a person who practices activism through their daily lifestyle choices, purchasing decisions, and practical actions at home." She offered the following thoughts in her commentary on [The Complex Privilege of Shopping Ethically](#):

There's a quote by Anna Lappé often referenced in conscious consumer circles that says, 'Every time you spend money, you're casting a vote for the kind of world you want.' But I don't think that quote is entirely fair. Being able to "vote with our dollar" is a privilege. Yes, every time we spend our money, we are shaping the future. That doesn't necessarily mean that those who aren't able to shop from ethical brands don't "want" a more just future for others.

Even here in the USA, at the top of the socioeconomic food chain, Americans who live at or under the poverty line have little choice in purchasing clothes made in overseas sweatshops. (Yes, secondhand is an option, but let's be honest, it's not always a viable option for what is needed.)

So, if you're reading this blog and you are considering shopping ethically, please pause and recognize that the fact that you're able to 'change your shopping habits' of your own free will makes you one of the luckiest in the world. Please use that privilege to make a difference, not only on behalf of the garment worker in Bangladesh but also on behalf of the single mom on food stamps in your own city who also wants to see the world become a fair place but doesn't have the power or extra dollars to "cast her vote for the kind of world she wants." I hope we know that shopping ethically doesn't make us the holy ones. It makes us the lucky ones" (Hughes, 2018).

## Boycotts

Boycotts have a long history. Colonists boycotted British tea before the American Revolution, for example, and it is significant to note that women have had leadership roles in organizing boycotts throughout American history.

Julie Roy Jeffrey tells the story of one such woman, Elizabeth Chandler, in [The Great Silent Army of Abolitionism](#) (p. 21). Elizabeth Chandler was an anti-slavery activist in the 1820s and 30s. She “supported the free produce movement, and her letters reveal the way her commitment affected her personal and domestic life. Avoiding slave products could be inconvenient and inefficient, especially on the frontier. She could not always complete her chores promptly. As she explained to her aunt somewhat apologetically, ‘I should have sent thy patchwork by this opportunity but have not yet got it finished, as sewing cotton runs low with us, and I felt unwilling, unless compelled by actual necessity to purchase any of slave manufacture’” (Jeffrey, 2000, p. 21).

Shayne Moore and Kimberly McOwen Yim wrote about another female pioneer, Elizabeth Heyrick, in their 2013 book, [Refuse to do Nothing: Finding Your Power to Abolish Modern-Day Slavery](#) (p. 21). Heyrick was an English schoolteacher who began a sugar boycott in her hometown. “She visited all the grocers, urging them not to stock slave-grown goods. ‘The East Indian planter and the people of this country stand in the same moral relations to each other as the thief and the receiver of stolen goods...Why petition Parliament at all? To do that for us which we can do more speedily and effectually for ourselves?’ Heyrick understood that companies and governments would respond if consumers stopped buying and demanded change. This act of boycotting a product was the first of its kind and is believed to have tipped the scales in the fight to end the African slave trade” (Moore, Tim, & Morgan, 2012, p. 21).

Boycotts can make us feel good, but the issue is more complicated than it first appears. Part of the problem is that the world’s economy is very different from the time when Elizabeth Chandler and Elizabeth Heyrick were active. Large companies now buy supplies from intermediaries and don’t own the farms where agricultural products originate. Extended supply chains also make it more challenging to know whether a shirt or other item is partially the product of slave labor.

Another concern is that a successful boycott will disproportionately hurt Third World farmers who cannot compete with American growers who get billions of dollars in annual subsidies. That includes the farmers who grow their cocoa or cotton without exploited help.

[Fashion Revolution](#) is a not-for-profit global movement that focuses on the need for greater transparency in the fashion supply chain. “We very rarely, if ever, encourage boycotting simply because we don’t see it as the most effective way to achieve systemic change. We have heard first-hand from supply chain workers that boycotting can do them more harm than help. In many countries, the textile and garment industry is one of the few avenues to financial independence for women. They want good jobs and dignity. What they don’t want are poverty-level pay, excessive working hours, and unsafe workplaces. This isn’t to say that boycotting never works; it can be used to great effect under the right circumstances and very strategically. We do not advocate boycotting simply because we don’t see it as an effective way to achieve systemic change” (Fashion Revolution, n.d.-a).

Kevin Bales and R. Soodalter expressed similar reservations in their book [The Slave Next Door. Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today](#) (p. 148). “Given the nature of the global economy, if we don’t want slavery in the things we buy, the best place to stop slavery is not at the cash register but where it happens – on the farm, in the quarry, or in the sweatshop. The \$30 you *don’t* spend boycotting the purchase of a shirt is worth little or nothing in the fight against slavery in most parts of the world. The slaveholder has already made his profit, and if a boycott leads to a collapse in cotton prices, the slaveholder just moves his slave to another job or dumps them, or worse. Meanwhile, the boycott drives the poorest farmers, mill hands, and other people out of work, into destitution and vulnerability, and even into a risk of enslavement. A boycott is a blunt instrument that can sometimes be exactly the right tool but can also run the risk of more suffering than it cures. What seems to be the immediate and obvious answer isn’t always the best one” (Bales & Soodalter, 2010, p. 148).

The complexity of launching a successful boycott can also be illustrated by considering the controversy that occurred in 2020 when Goya Foods CEO Robert Unanue stated that the United States was “blessed” to have a leader like Donald Trump and praised him as “a builder.” Mr. Unanue’s comments drew swift condemnation on social media from people who were upset that a company whose products are popular among Latinos would support a president who had vilified Latin American immigrants. Hashtags such as #BoycottGoya quickly began circulating on Twitter, and some newspapers published a list of alternatives to Goya (Taylor, 2020). In response, conservatives started promoting a counter hashtag, #BuyGoya. One supporter even started a [GoFundMe page to request donations to buy Goya products](#) that he could donate to food pantries. He launched the page hoping to raise \$10,000 but raised more than \$77,000 in the first three days (Fordham, 2020). “Want to know the best way to fight #CancelCulture?,” asked Matt Schlapp, the conservative activist and commentator. “[Support American businesses like @GoyaFoods that the Left demonizes](#)” (Taylor, 2020).

### **Fair Trade and other certifications**

Products marked “Fair Trade” are ethically sourced. “Fair trade certification strives to guarantee not only fair prices but also the principles of ethical purchasing. These principles include adherence to ILO agreements such as those banning child and slave labour, guaranteeing a safe workplace, and adherence to the United Nations charter of human rights. Other requirements include a fair price that covers the cost of production and facilitates social development and the protection and conservation of the environment. The Fair-trade certification system attempts to promote long-term business relationships between buyers and sellers, crop pre-financing, and greater transparency throughout the supply chain and more.”



(Fair Trade Federation, n.d.).

Fair trade traces its roots to 1946 when Edna Ruth Byler started selling hand-crafted goods from Third World artisans in her basement. This modest beginning ultimately grew into Ten Thousand Villages which opened its first store in 1958. “[Ten Thousand Villages](#) is now the largest fair-trade retailer in North America with 70 stores across the U.S. and more than 300 allied specialty shops that carry select Ten Thousand Villages products. The organization is committed to creating opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn income by bringing their products and stories to U.S. markets through long-term, fair-trading relationships” (Ten Thousand Villages, n.d.-a).

[Fair Trade USA](#), a nonprofit organization based in Oakland, CA, sets Fair Trade standards. The organization also certifies and labels products that promote sustainable livelihoods for workers and protect the environment. Fair Trade Campaigns has separate processes in place for towns, universities, schools, and faith-based congregations that wish to earn designation as fair-trade organizations. Additional information about Fair Trade and several [shopping guides that enable consumers to find and purchase Fair Trade products](#) can be found on the official website (Fair Trade USA, n.d.).

Some observers have criticized the Fair Trade concept because only certain types of growers qualify for certification. Other complaints stem from the time-consuming nature of the required record keeping and concerns that administrative costs reduce the amount of money that ultimately reaches the farmers. Items sold with Fair Trade certification also cost more than similar uncertified products. Consequently, even people who support the concept in principle do not always have the means to operationalize their support in a practical way.

Complicating the quest for ethically sourced goods still further is the fact that there are more than 460 certification labels, each of which uses a different set of criteria (Subramanian, 2019). [Rugmark](#), for example, certifies that slave labor did not make a particular carpet (Rugmark India, n.d.). The [Freedom Seal](#) is “awarded to companies that are committed to the eradication of Forced Labor and Modern-Day Slavery, as well as human rights abuses” (The Freedom Seal, n.d.).

Choices in the food category alone can be overwhelming. Whole Foods Market, for example, sells items with a [Whole Trade guarantee](#). “One percent of retail sales will go to the Whole Planet Foundation, whose mission is to create economic partnerships with the poor in those developing world communities that supply our stores with products. The Whole Planet Foundation fights poverty by providing grants for micro-loans for women entrepreneurs” (Whole Foods, 2007). A farm that the [Rainforest Alliance](#) certifies must comply with ten standards that the Sustainable Agriculture Network has promulgated. These standards include ecosystem conservation and wildlife protection as well as fair treatment and good working conditions for workers. Visitors to the Alliance website can search by country of product origin, category (e.g., health & beauty), or by type of product. Friends of the Earth, meanwhile, offers [Bee Bold coffee](#) that is fair-trade, saves bees from toxic pesticides, and is “bird-friendly” as certified by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (Thanksgiving Coffee Company, n.d.). The list goes on and on.

Some of the world’s giant food multinational corporations have also begun establishing in-house certification programs. Sainsbury’s, for example, used to promote itself as the world’s largest retailer of Fair Trade products. The company announced in 2017 that it would stop selling Fair Trade tea and instead promote its own ethical label called “Fairly Traded.” Confectionery giant Mondelez, which owns Cadbury and Toblerone, has started an in-house certification process called “Cocoa Life.” Nestlé has “Cocoa Plan.” Starbucks has “CAFE Practices.” The Swiss cocoa producer Barry



Callebaut has “Cocoa Horizons,” and U.S. giant Cargill has “Cocoa Promise.” McDonald’s, meanwhile, launched its “[McCafé Sustainability Improvement Platform](#)” in 2016 to protect coffee from the adverse effects of climate change (Subramanian, 2019; McDonald’s, 2018).

A similar dynamic exists in the seafood business. [The United States imports much of its fish from Asia, where many experts have documented the use of trafficked labor in the fishing industry](#) (Dow, 2019). The Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking started a [letter campaign to address this issue in 2017. The Coalition asked seafood producers, distributors, and seafood retailers](#) “to make public, through packaged product labeling, their efforts to fight human trafficking in their product supply chains. A label on seafood packaging declaring the chain of production to be ‘slave-free’ would provide consumers the information needed to make moral purchasing decisions” (Slave-free seafood label campaign, 2018). A definitive “slave-free” label for fish products is not yet available. In the meantime, consumers can look for fish products labelled “Responsible Choice”, “Responsibly Sourced Seafood,” and “Farmed Responsibly ASC Certified.”

All these certifications can leave consumers frustrated and confused with what is known as “label fatigue.” “I think companies are hoping that label fatigue is an enduring trend,” said Elizabeth Bennett, a political economist who co-edited the Handbook of Research on Fair Trade. ‘They’re hoping that consumers are tired of learning what 30 different labels in one sector mean and that we’ll all just think, “Any claim of sustainability is an improvement over no claim.”’ is makes it easy for companies to resort to the ruse of “[greenwashing](#)”—pretending to be ethical without really being anything of the sort” (Freedom United, 2019c).

The use of certification processes to enhance our confidence in the wholesome nature of the products we use is thus more complicated than it first appears. Some processes are more rigorous than others, and competing goals may force customers to decide if they would rather purchase an item that was untouched by slaves or made in a way that better helps the rainforest. On a more positive note, certification can at least help consumers avoid buying the most egregious slave-made and environmentally unfriendly items.

### **Shopping wisely: Finding ethically sourced goods and services**

Feel-good economics suggests that certifications and boycotts may not be the panacea that anti-trafficking activists once thought. That position does not diminish the value of purchasing ethically sourced goods. Nor does it lessen the importance of boycotting companies that flagrantly disregard the welfare of the workers they employ. Collectively, we can create a demand for goods produced with slavery-free labor while simultaneously shrinking the market for goods that laborers are forced to make.

So what does it mean to “shop wisely” in the context of fighting human trafficking?

- *We shop wisely when we use our available financial resources to purchase ethically produced products and services.*
- *We shop wisely when we buy products made by trafficked survivors whenever possible to give them income, dignity, and hope.*
- *We shop wisely when we patronize hotels that adopt ECPAT’s Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct described in Chapter V.*



- *We shop wisely when we purchase goods that impoverished people have made, thereby giving them the income they need to resist traffickers who exploit poverty and desperation.*
- *We shop wisely when we book reservations on airlines that have denounced human trafficking and committed themselves to implementing anti-trafficking training programs for their employees.*
- *We shop wisely when we write a company to ask about the source of their goods. Doing so demonstrates heightened consumer awareness of human rights issues while simultaneously putting the company on notice that customers do not want goods produced by slave or exploited labor.*
- *And we shop wisely in the broadest sense when we use our purchases as an opportunity to encourage others to patronize ethical vendors.*

Several excellent, easy-to-use resources are available to help shoppers find companies committed to high ethical standards. Several are listed below. Some emphasize Fair Trade generally, while others focus on a particular business sector such as fashion or food. The next section of the Guide, “Support survivor intervention and aftercare,” identifies vendors which sell products that trafficked survivors have made. Those products also warrant consideration when compassionate consumers make their shopping choices.

#### All-purpose resources

- [The End Slavery Now Slave-Free Buying Guide](#)

The End Slavery Now Slave-Free Buying Guide “introduces consumers to companies, brands, and social enterprises that address slavery, forced labor, and human trafficking in their supply chains. End Slavery Now researched antislavery policies, supply chains, third-party certifications, prevalence studies in specific industries, and companies’ engagement surrounding slavery, forced labor, and human trafficking in order to develop a list of products such as accessories, coffee, bath and body products, clothing, drinks, electronics, active/outdoor, food, home goods, jewelry, and shoes that you can begin purchasing in lieu of other options.

The Guide recommends innovative brands that lead the way when it comes to prioritizing slavery-free goods. It also includes traditional companies that are beginning to produce specific goods or product lines without child labor, forced labor, or other forms of slave labor. Importantly, much of this recent antislavery effort by traditional companies is a direct response to consumer demands for such products” (End Slavery Now, 2016).

- [DoneGood](#)

“DoneGood is a public benefit corporation...[which] means that it is legally chartered to focus on a social mission first and profits second” (DoneGood, n.d.-b).

“B Corps provides high-quality goods and services while meeting and exceeding the highest standards in environmental impact, supply chains, treatment of employees, good for the community, accountability, and transparency” (DoneGood Collaborator, 2021).

DoneGood’s online shopping assistant automatically recommends the best ethical, sustainable products that match your search as you shop on Amazon, Google, or other retail websites. DoneGood earns a commission whenever someone finds an ethical brand that it features and then makes a purchase. The corporation only makes money when it succeeds in helping the businesses it is trying to support.”

It should also be noted that DoneGood offers “[Better Days](#)” as an alternative to Amazon’s “Prime Days” of big deals. Consumers can use Better Days to get discounts up to 70% on brands that pay fair wages and fight climate change with eco-friendly practices. “You know that your purchases are creating Better Days for people and the planet. Plus, with Better Days, you don’t have to buy a membership –these deals are for everybody” (DoneGood, 2019).



(Logo used with permission)

The [International Labor Organization \(ILO\) and UNICEF estimate that the number of children in child labour has risen to 160 million worldwide](#) – an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years – with millions more at risk from the impacts of COVID-19 (UNICEF, 2021b). One way we can all help address this crisis is to buy from companies that can demonstrate their production facilities are free of child labor and are paying fair wages to adults who can then provide for and support their children. All brands on the DoneGood website fall into this category. Some even go above and beyond that by investing profits back into children's education and welfare. Here are a few:

#### [Catrinka](#)

Provides education, life skills training, and mentorship to indigenous Mayan girls in Guatemala (Catrinka, n.d.).

#### [Saalt](#)

Provides girls in the developing world with period products and education to fight period poverty and keep girls in school (Saalt, n.d.).

#### [Gorongosa Coffee](#)

Gives back 100% of profits on "Girls Run the World" Products to girls' education in Mozambique (Gorongosa, n.d.).

#### [Limbo Imports](#)

Pays living wages to artisans in El Salvador to care for their families and allows the flexibility to work from home and care for their children (Limbo Imports, n.d.).

### [Mayamam Weavers](#)

Provides living wages to workers in Guatemala to care for their families and free childcare to artisans (Mayamam Weavers, n.d.).

### [Mpowerd](#)

Gives back solar-powered lights to children in the developing world without reliable electricity. These lights allow children to study and do schoolwork during the evening (Mpowerd, n.d.).

### [Bebemoss](#)

Gives refugee mothers flexibility to work while caring for their children—they have a dedicated child area in their workshop (Bebemoss, n.d.).

### [For Purpose Kids](#)

Each purchase gives back to provide meals and support children's education in the developing world (For Purpose Kids, n.d.).

### [Starfish Project](#)

Provides childcare to workers and empowers survivors of sex trafficking to pursue careers and provide for their families (Starfish Project, n.d.).

### [Hand in Hand](#)

Every purchase provides a bar of soap and clean water to children in Haiti to keep them healthy and able to attend school (Hand in Hand Soap, n.d.).

- [The Good Trade](#)

“The Good Trade was built on the fundamental idea that consumers are capable of driving significant social change through their everyday purchases, consumer preferences, and lifestyle choices. Conscious consumers from around the world can find and support companies that demonstrate social responsibility towards people and the planet – covering conscious fashion, beauty, food, wellness, travel, and lifestyle” (The Good Trade, n.d.-b).

- [GoodWeave](#)

“The GoodWeave label means that no child, forced or bonded labor was used in the making of a certified product and that your purchase supports programs that educate children and ensure decent work for adults... GoodWeave makes regular, unannounced inspections of all production facilities that cover tier-one factories and all outsourced production, including homes, to verify compliance with this Standard.

GoodWeave complies with [ISEAL’s Codes of Good Practice](#), which are seen as a global reference for developing credible standards. “As part of this compliance, GoodWeave is independently assessed by the IOAS against the [ISO 17065 standard](#), which ensures that the organization is free of external pressure, is transparent, has quality control, and producers are treated equally” (GoodWeave, n.d.-b).

- [Global Goods Partners](#)

Global Goods Partners (GGP) is a nonprofit organization “committed to providing sustainable jobs for women—widely proven to be the key to community development and family well-being. In partnership with women-led, community-based organizations, GGP taps into the rich well of skill and artistry that is passed from one generation of women to the next. We invest all proceeds from product sales in developing sustainable market

access as well as providing training and funding to enable our partners to prosper and thrive well into the future.

Since GGP first launched in 2005, we have partnered with over 60 artisan groups in more than 20 countries throughout Asia, Africa, and the Americas, helping to design and bring to market the fair trade, handcrafted products they produce. Each artisan who creates products for GGP earns reliable, fair living wages and gains experience that can add benefit to all aspects of her life" (Global Goods Partners, n.d.-b).

- [Durga Tree International](#)  
“We believe it is the basic human right of every individual to have personal freedom, no matter their socioeconomic status, race, gender, or religion. Our core value is to create sustainable, long-term solutions that will bring an end to modern slavery” (Durga Tree International, n.d-c). Toward that end, Durga Tree has compiled a “Conscious Living Guide” that lists companies and brands that only sell goods that have been ethically sourced and produced (Durga Tree International, n.d-a).
- [Serrv](#)  
“Serrv was established in 1949 to help displaced refugees trade their handicrafts for income after the Second World War. As a founding member of both the World Fair Trade Organization and the Fair Trade Federation, we’ve steadily increased our impact in the fight against global poverty. Today we employ and empower nearly 8,000 artisans and farmers in 24 countries, creating jobs and fighting poverty for artisans, farmers, and their families” (Serrv International, n.d.). Serrv’s website allows consumers to shop by type of item (home, garden, fashion, etc.) or by country if they want to help the artisans who live there.
- [Secor](#)  
“Secor was birthed from a simple question: what would it look like if a for-profit company was completely devoted to making a difference with one issue? After being exposed to the very real truth that slavery still exists today, and even in our own city, we began to talk about what it would look like to use what we have, what we know, to make a difference. So Secor.cc was born. We have ten years of experience providing quality ink and toner products to people all around the nation. We created Secor.cc to sell those cartridges to people with the sole purpose of supporting non-profit organizations fighting human trafficking.” We have a simple motto: “Buy ink. End human trafficking” (Secor.cc, n.d.).
- [The Little Sparrow](#)  
“The Little Sparrow provides fair, ethical, and fun baby products such as blankets, toys, bibs, and accessories. They also provide a sustainable ongoing business relationship and access to a wider market for the skilled artisans of developing countries like Bangladesh.” (Little Sparrow, n.d.-b).

## Fashion

- [Fashion for Freedom](#)  
“Fashion for Freedom stems from the desire to use fashion and design to help survivors of human trafficking reinvent their lives and empower them to create a new future. Through

group classes and personal interactions, Fashion for Freedom hopes to bring a sense of community, agency, and beauty to women who have been told they are worthless.” (Fashion or Freedom, n.d.).

“The concerns for workers’ rights and sustainability are not the only issues of the fashion industry; economic justice and human dignity must be a part of the conversation of fashion about fashion. We believe in a world where everyone has the right to build a better life for themselves, their family, and their community.

Our method is to democratize the market by investing in artisans with equipment, business education, and design, thus providing a dignified choice of entrepreneurship or migration to factory labor. By leading the design front, we ensure a greater chance for the artisans’ success.

- [Ethical Fashion Guide](#)

“The global fashion industry employs 50 million people worldwide. While the industry can be a source of opportunity, indignity, abuse, low wages, and modern slavery are rife for too many. Consumerism, mass production, and the constant demand for more have fueled this injustice while the industry has turned a blind eye to the impact it’s having on the environment and carbon emissions.

But fashion brands have the greatest power to affect change in the global fashion industry. And we, as consumers, can use our influence to affect change in each brand.

Use the Ethical Fashion Guide to search for your favorite fashion brands next time you shop. Find out which companies are doing the most to protect workers and the environment and shop accordingly. While you’re at it, if you think there is a brand that could be doing better, let us know” (Baptist World Aid, n.d.).

- [Eileen Fisher](#)

“Eileen Fisher’s timeless clothing is made from organic and responsible fibers along with certified dyeing to create a sustainable environment. The clothing company also champions for fair-trade and human rights.” (Eileen Fisher, n.d.-b).

- [People Tree](#)

“A pioneer in sustainable Fair Trade fashion, our story started in 1991. Every product is made to the highest ethical and environmental standards from start to finish. Contemporary, versatile designs and playful, exclusive prints inspired by the V&A archives create stylish, innovative, and affordable fashion while respecting people and the planet. We launched our first fashion range to meet the Global Organic Textile Standard certified by the Soil Association and were the first fashion company to be awarded the World Fair Trade Organization product label. These certifications guarantee People Tree’s dedication and compliance to the principles of fair trade, covering fair wages, good working conditions, transparency, environmental best practice, and gender equality” (People Tree, n.d.-a).

- [Prana](#)  
“Prana creates men’s and women’s everyday basics, travel-ready styles and activewear, made sustainably with organic or recycled fibers. Being Fair-Trade Certified, Prana creates a market that works for everyone involved, from farmers and factory workers to factory owners and you” (prAna, n.d.).
- [Purses and Clutch](#)  
“By working directly with artisans in Guatemala, Mexico, and Ethiopia, Purse and Clutch provides thoughtfully designed and ethically made handbags to help end the cycle of poverty in the fashion industry. Every purchase contributes to their mission of supporting long-term employment for men & women in developing countries with limited opportunities” (Purse and Clutch, n.d.- a).

### Food

- [Equal Exchange](#)  
“Truly believing in the fair-trade, this small farmer organization’s products such as coffee, bananas, chocolates, avocados, tea, and fair foods are crafted using only the purest ingredients. This co-op has around 120 worker-owners each with equal stake – and an equal vote in the business.” (Equal Exchange, 2022).
- [Slave Free Chocolate](#)  
Slave Free Chocolate has a directory of 100 companies that sell slave-free chocolate, along with links to each. The website also has information about the chocolate trade generally and makes “Reverse Trick or Treating Cards” that you can print and hand out with your Halloween Candy (Salve Free Chocolate, n.d.).
- [Food Empowerment Project](#)  
The Food Empowerment Project’s Chocolate List includes “a list of companies that sell chocolates that... [do] not involve the exploitation of human (children or adults) or non-human animals (such as cows and goats)” (Food Empowerment Project, 2022).

### Apps

Programmers have designed several apps to help consumers avoid purchasing brands linked to unethical practices. Some critics maintain that while the apps are well-intentioned, their impact thus far has been limited. One critic is [Stephanie Limoncelli](#), an Associate Professor of Sociology at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Dr. Limoncelli asserts that the apps “rest on questionable assumptions about consumption, employ problematic assessment methodologies, and rely on business models that do more to provide opportunities for social entrepreneurs in the burgeoning anti-trafficking field than solutions for labour exploitation in the global economy” (Limoncelli, 2020).

Dr. Limoncelli’s critique is discouraging. The algorithms will hopefully improve in the years ahead. In the meantime, activists can still use one or more of the apps while shopping to make choices with the best available information. Those wishing to do so may want to consider one of the apps listed on the following pages.



- [Ethica](#)  
Ethica has released nine ethical shopping apps and plug-ins with a variety of specialized focuses to assist consumers. “Avoid,” for example, prevents your browser from displaying clothing that minors may have made. The plug-in works at many sites, including Amazon, Target, and Macy’s (Ethica, n.d).
- [Buycott](#)  
End Slavery Now developed the free mobile app Buycott. The app has over a million downloads and is crowdsourced, so it continually updates. Buycott “allows users to scan the barcodes of a wide array of products and provides information on whether brands conflict with user-generated campaigns. The campaigns cover a variety of issues but have included some that specifically target human trafficking (103,615 members); child labor in the cocoa industry (172,292 members); child labor generally (73,648 members); slavery in fishing supply chains (52,128 members); and sweatshop labor (28,611 members). Users can join campaigns and look up or scan particular products. They can also set up a profile and post comments about particular companies, categorize companies to support or avoid, provide links to relevant online information about companies, or use the app to notify companies about the user’s intention to support or boycott them. The app encourages users to connect via Facebook and/or invite people from their contact lists to join and to follow and be followed by other users” (Limoncelli, 2020).
- [Free2Work App](#)  
“When buying a candy bar in the checkout aisle or grabbing a coffee at Starbucks, do you ever stop to wonder, ‘Am I about to consume something produced by slave labor?’ Unless you know the 30,000 people in the global economy working against their will, probably not.  
  
Apps like FreeWork2.0 provide information about products that may carry a lot of secret baggage. Free2Work — founded by anti-slavery non-profit [Not For Sale](#) — is available for iPhone and Android. The app allows you to scan a barcode to analyze a potential purchase or browse brands to better understand their company standards.  
  
There are currently 10,000 products and 400 brands in the Free2Work database. Free2Work 2.0 debuted at last year’s SF AppShow and was named one of the ‘11 Great Apps for 2011.’ The app rates companies and products on a scale from A to F based on a long list of standards established by Not For Sale. The criteria include corporate structure, policies, transparency, child labor response, and much more” (BeDell, 2011).
- [Good On You](#)  
“Good on You...is a free app focused on brands selling clothing, footwear, and accessories. Users can search for products by category or browse brands to find company profiles with links to relevant online information and brand rankings: 1 (we avoid); 2 (not good enough); 3 (it’s a start); 4 (good) and 5 (great). The rating on labor considers child labour, forced labour, freedom of association, and the payment of a living wage. The rating also includes consideration of a brand’s supplier relationship and auditing practices, though specific details about how these factors are evaluated and weighted are lacking. The app, which has 100,000+ downloads, provides links to the company’s website so that users can purchase items directly. It also uses an algorithm to suggest similar brands for

users to consider. It showcases ethical fashion news articles and provides offers from highly rated brands that users can use to obtain a discount should they choose to purchase items from them” (Limoncelli, 2020).

- [The Abolish Foundation](#)

The Abolish Foundation provides “research- and evidence-based methods of raising awareness of various human rights issues associated with modern slavery; promotes responsible, ethical, and compassionate consumerism; and offers direct support to victims of forced labour, labour exploitation, and worker abuse” (Abolish Foundation. n.d.-b).

“With the BuyFair app, you can scan the barcodes of products you wish to purchase to check whether upstream factory or farm workers were exploited or well-treated during the manufacturing process...The app allows users to demand that corporations be transparent about their supply chains. Once corporations disclose manufacturing information, they are graded to assess the risk of their products having been made with forced or bonded labour. These grades, publicly available on the app, allow users to avoid buying products made unethically. Brands with failing grades or those that decline to respond to requests for transparency can be boycotted or pressured to do better.

The BuyFair app encourages ethical shopping. Learn which brands guard against supply chain slavery and which do not. Browse through ratings in apparel, chocolate, and electronics before making a purchase. Join the movement by scanning product barcodes to find out whether companies are transparent and fair, and to help our research by petitioning those that are not” (Abolish Foundation, n.d.-a).

- [Shop Ethical!](#)

“The Ethical Consumer Group is a community-based, not-for-profit organization [established] to help facilitate more sustainable purchasing practices for the everyday consumer” (Shop Ethical, n.d.-a). The Group developed the Shop Ethical! pocket guide and app to “provide information on the environmental and social record of companies behind the brand names of everyday products available in Australia” (Shop Ethical, n.d.-c).

“The guide first seeks to make publicly available information about a company’s track record available in one place. A second function is to assist consumers in applying this information to their everyday purchasing choices” (Shop Ethical!, n.d.-c).

“The record is based on assessments gathered from over 50 key sources, including Greenpeace, Choose Cruelty Free, Free2Work, and Friends of the Earth” (Shop Ethical!, n.d.-b).

“Like Buycott, the app provides a barcode scanner to search for products across a broad range of industries (approximately 67,000 products at the time of this analysis). Rather than relying on user-provided assessments, however, the app provides brand grades from A to F based on staff assessments. Users who purchase the app can browse by product category to find particular companies and view a company profile with ownership and contact information, as well as links to articles and reports detailing positive and negative aspects of the environment, animal welfare, social, and business practices. Various forms of labor exploitation can be cited in their ratings. These forms include the use of

sweatshops, lack of worker rights, low wages, wage theft, practices or conditions involving workplace hazards, and child labor” (Limoncelli, 2020).

### The bottom line

Those who “shop wisely” in an anti-trafficking context make a conscious effort to purchase ethically sourced goods and services whenever possible. It is a good practice to embrace, but this type of shopping is not just an act of charity. All companies must compete with others operating in the same market, so companies featuring ethically sourced products frequently offer sales, special promotions, giveaways, and free shipping. Back-to-school specials, holiday, and warehouse sales are also common. Artisans are usually paid in full before holiday and warehouse sales, moreover, so consumers can save money as they do good. The bottom line is that everyone can help reduce the demand for products made by slave and exploited labor with a minimum investment of time and effort. Shop wisely, support the movement, and enjoy the discounts!

### Survivor Intervention and Aftercare

*“If you cannot feed a hundred people, feed one” (10 Things to Teach Your Child, 2021).  
Mother Theresa*

Those who study human trafficking sometimes get lost in the statistics and lose sight of the unimaginable suffering people experience from this horrific crime. It is also easy to overlook the fact that escape or rescue from a trafficking situation does not ensure a happy ending. In fact, it is difficult to overstate the challenges that survivors face when trying to rebuild their lives. Common needs include the following:

- *Medical care.* Many survivors require urgent treatment for injuries, malnutrition, sexual and reproductive health issues, dental pain, and other problems acquired during long periods of neglect and abuse.
- *Shelter* is essential in part because many survivors cannot return home where relatives may have been complicit in their trafficking.
- *Mental health care.* Family members have been known to sexually abuse young girls before the girls are trafficked. The additional trauma associated with trafficking can continue for years even when survivors receive professional psychological services.
- *Financial assistance* is almost always needed for food and other basic needs.
- *Legal assistance* may be required to address immigration issues or arrests for crimes that traffickers forced the survivors to commit.
- *Education/job training.* Survivors rarely have marketable job skills. They may not even speak the language of the country where the traffickers sent them.

- *Employment.* Trafficked survivors need jobs. Those who cannot find legal work may be drawn back to prostitution or another type of illegal activity just to survive.

As Lois Lee, the founder of the nonprofit Children of the Night, succinctly noted in [The Slave Next Door](#) (p. 101), “This isn’t a thirty-day fix” (Bales & Soodalter, 2010, p. 101).

Building a new life is especially difficult for trafficked females. “Women and girls who escape abuse often return home to the same [desperate circumstances that made them vulnerable in the first place](#), but now bearing additional burdens for coming home penniless. Those who have been forced to work in the sex trade face widespread shame in addition to the fact that they are no longer virgins. That alone will make it difficult to find a husband in many parts of the world, and the trauma can last a lifetime” (Odhiambo & Barr, 2019).

The most effective strategies to help survivors involve a systemic response far beyond what even the most committed activist can do alone. A chapter in Natalya Timoshkina’s 2019 book, [Health and Social Service-Based Human Trafficking Response Models](#), discusses the four main building blocks that comprise a service-based response model: (1) a coordinating body; (2) a set of guiding principles and values; (3) a victim identification procedure; and (4) a referral and assistance protocol for streamlined service delivery. Dr. Timoshkina then highlights the ‘3Cs’ of successful service delivery (collaboration, coordination, and centralization) and the challenges associated with sustaining collaborative programming (Timoshkina, 2018). She offers practical suggestions to guide current and future initiatives throughout the chapter.

Suffice to say that the model which Dr. Timoshkina describes is not widely available. This deficiency is especially true in Third World countries, where resources for everything are minimal. The state of [Karnataka](#) in India deserves a great deal of credit for announcing in 2019 that it would reserve 1% of all seats in government-run colleges for survivors of trafficking, acid attack, and sexual assault (Nagaraj, 2019).

Here in the United States, support for survivor services is limited in part by a belief that most trafficked workers are here illegally and should be deported. Even our vocabulary becomes problematic when we label young people in the sex trade “juvenile prostitutes” rather than “commercially exploited children.” [“Calling their patrons “johns” is also disingenuous because it makes them sound like regular guys when they are really what some people call “paying rapists”](#) (Blac, 2018).

Freeing survivors from their traffickers is not enough. The United States learned this lesson when it emancipated slaves following the civil war without giving them money, skills, education, or other resources to start a new life. Today, more than 150 years later, African Americans are still facing high levels of poverty and familial challenges as a result.

Despite our nation’s wealth, [only 22 states had established special statutory funds by 2018 to provide health care and support services for trafficking survivors and training for the professionals who assist them](#). The nature and scope of these statutes vary widely. Tennessee, for example, dedicated \$550,000 to purchase “comprehensive supportive services for victims of human trafficking recovered in the state. Services include safe housing, medical care, mental health and substance abuse care, transportation, job training, and other needs. Other states such as [Georgia](#) and [Louisiana](#) have funds that apply only to child survivors of sex trafficking. [Arizona](#), [California](#), and [Hawaii](#) are among

the states which specify that their funds are available to child and adult survivors of sex and labor trafficking” (Waugh, 2018).

Fortunately, many outstanding nonprofits have established shelters to assist trafficked survivors. There aren’t nearly enough shelters, and they usually operate on a shoestring budget. Their impact can nevertheless be dramatic. The [Nomi Network](#)’s 2018 annual report provides a typical example:

“Chanry is a remarkable woman whose tragic story is not uncommon. She was 17 years old when she left her rural home to take a job in the capital city of Phnom Penh. Upon her arrival, she was locked in a room and forced to have sex with countless men. After a month of this unthinkable abuse, Chanry managed to escape and flee back to her provincial home. Chanry started to slowly rebuild her life. Eventually, she fell in love, married, and gave birth to her first child. Despite these positive milestones, the circumstances that drove Chanry to leave for work years prior had not changed. Neither Chanry nor her husband had much formal education or skills to provide for their family. They were destitute.

A few years after their son was born, Chanry and her husband agreed to cross the border to work on a vegetable farm in Thailand. It soon became apparent that this was not a job—they had been tricked and were enslaved. The farm owner forced them to work long hours with little food and no pay. Performance-enhancing drugs were put in their water so that they could work longer and faster. Chanry’s husband became addicted to the drugs, while she developed a dangerous case of gangrene in her foot due to the wet conditions of the farm. When Chanry became pregnant again, they knew they had to leave. A small group managed to escape and return to Cambodia.

Upon returning home, Chanry’s husband fell into a deep depression. He began drinking heavily to numb the pain and the trauma they had endured. He could not work, and the family plunged into hopelessness and extreme vulnerability. They had no money and no means of supporting their small family. Chanry, in a state of desperation, thought of selling her five-year-old son for a few hundred U.S. dollars. She was even considering going back to Thailand in another attempt to find work. Chanry was caught in a cycle of poverty that made her and her family continuously susceptible to human trafficking.

At this time, Chanry learned about one of Nomi Network’s partner organizations in Phnom Penh. She and her two young children were welcomed into Extreme Love, a social enterprise that serves survivors of trafficking. Chanry received skills training and was provided a job sewing, with immediate compensation for her work. She has continued to develop both her vocational and life skills through the program and now provides for herself and her children. Chanry has begun her healing process in this secure environment. She is now aware of her own immeasurable value.

Nomi Network Cambodia provides capacity building and advanced training to social enterprises that employ women who have been trafficked or are at risk of being trafficked. Through these partnerships, we create jobs for women like Chanry so that they can earn meaningful income, build resilience, and live in freedom” (Nomi Network, 2018).

Chanry’s story reminds us that survivors are real people whose stories could easily have been our stories under other circumstances. Chanry is now safe, but each of us can help save someone else.

The remaining part of this chapter will identify things we can *all* do to give survivors a second chance at life.

### **Purchase and promote items made by trafficked survivors**

Several organizations employ trafficked survivors who make products that are then sold online and in stores such as Ten Thousand Villages. Other nonprofits sell merchandise to raise the funds they need to operate shelters for survivors or to address issues such as the commercial exploitation of children. Purchases provide much-needed financial support for the fight against human trafficking. They can also give survivors dignified, honest work and hope for the future. The mottos of the organizations that employ survivors often reflect that core dynamic. The Starfish Project, for example, encourages us to “Wear Hope. Give Hope.”, while A21 urges everyone to “Wear Your Impact.” Both mottos offer excellent advice.

Handcrafted items made by trafficked survivors have many uses and make wonderful presents for all occasions. Those who buy these products can take satisfaction in knowing that they are supporting survivors in a meaningful, painless manner. Other ways to help include telling friends where to buy this type of merchandise and encouraging local shop owners to carry it. Business owners can make money while supporting an excellent cause, and placing a note by the display about the source of the items is likely to generate positive customer feedback.

Interested consumers can shop for a wide variety of items from several exceptional organizations. More than two dozen are listed below, some of which had shirts featured in the “Tees and totes with a message” part of the “Increase Awareness” section earlier in this chapter. The sites are presented in alphabetical order.

#### [A21](#)

The A21 Campaign (commonly referred to as "A21") is a global non-profit, non-governmental organization that works to fight human trafficking, including sexual exploitation, forced slave labor, involuntary servitude, and the use of children as soldiers. The A21 Campaign aims to combat slavery around the world through educational awareness and prevention, the protection of victims, the prosecution of traffickers, and various partnerships. “Every purchase made on the A21 website contributes to freedom for another life.”

#### [Agape International Missions](#)

“A.I.M. Apparel exists to rescue and protect women from trafficking. Our products are handcrafted and screen printed by women empowered with a safe and sustainable job. With your purchase, you help protect and sustain the livelihoods of rescued women in Cambodia. 100% of profits fight human trafficking” (AIM Apparel, n.d.-a).

#### [Aruna](#)

“By providing empowerment through employment, the Aruna Project creates lifelong freedom marked by holistic care for victims of human trafficking. Our products are crafted in freedom by skilled Artisans who are finding their voice, experiencing independence and growing with a sisterhood of others who have overcome.” (Aruna Project, n.d.-a).



### [Bezathreads](#)

“The leather goods merchandized by Bezathreads are handcrafted by young women rescued from forced prostitution. Each intricate detail is the product of a freed slave receiving rehabilitation and critical job skill training. The leather collection allows you to continue giving enslaved youth freedom and opportunities for hope and a sustainable future” (Bezathreads, n.d.-b).

### [Bloom Asia](#)

“Bloom Asia is a not-for-profit organization that exists to restore and empower young women who have experienced significant trauma. Women are often the most vulnerable and discriminated against in poverty-stricken communities. Sadly, many are the recipients of extreme experiences of significant trauma. Bloom Asia aims to address this through a program of education, vocational training, mentoring, and employment. Our vocational, education, and training courses teach important new skills that instill a sense of accomplishment and become the means for their future security. Our Hospitality course has set a standard in the cake and sugar artistry that is recognizably world-class and is currently being taught in all our locations alongside literacy classes and computing skills. At Bloom Asia, young women are restored and equipped with the skills they need to create a better future for themselves and their families” (Bloom Asia, n.d.-b).

### [Elegantees](#)

“Our aim is to fight human trafficking in Nepal through employment opportunities. All our products are made ethically by those who have overcome. We dream of expanding from one sewing center to several to provide more jobs. The waiting list is between 300 and 500 women who desire to work for Elegantees. Each purchase gets us closer to that! Designs are ethically made by women (and some men, too) who are paid fair wages. Fabric is sustainable, using organic cotton in new fabrics we dye. We also source from dead stock fabric for non-organic blends” (Our Daughters International n.d.).

### [End it Movement](#)

“All our adult shirts and beanies are produced in partnership with [Known Supply](#) in India and Peru. [Your purchase helps fund our continuing efforts to SHINE A LIGHT ON SLAVERY and empowers the communities where our products are made](#) through a sustainable cycle of employment. The person who sewed your garment signed it! You can visit [makers.knownsupply.com](#) to learn more and thank them yourself!” (Passion City Church, 2020).

### [Freedom Business Alliance](#)

“The Freedom Business Alliance...launched in 2016 as a result of a 2-year B.A.M. (Business as Mission) Working Group of 30 participants from 9 countries with varying experiences, strategies, skills, and backgrounds.” (Freedom Business Alliance n.d.-a).

“To fight modern slavery and exploitation, we need a strategy that includes more than rescue. [We need a strategy that addresses the economic roots of the problem. Freedom Business is that strategy.](#)”

Employing survivors of human trafficking and those at risk is a pioneering endeavor fraught with challenges that must be overcome. As an industry facilitator for 100+ Freedom

Businesses worldwide, F.B.A. removes the many barriers to growth and scale that no single business can address on its own. We envision a job for every person trapped in modern slavery and exploitation. We've collected products from our member businesses around the world. From hand-crafted goods to coffee shops to technology and everything in between, these businesses are united by the shared vision of preserving freedom for the most vulnerable" (Freedom Business Alliance, n.d.-b).

### Joyya

"Joyya manufactures high-quality bags and apparel for all your promotional, packaging, and decorator needs. We were founded through the merger of three companies [Freeset, Liminal Apparel, and Common Goods] that knew they would be better together. The initiative started in 2001 in Kolkata, India, with one ambitious goal: to spark opportunity where little is found until we see an end to the horrors of extreme poverty and human trafficking. This is the beginning of our new journey together" (Joyya, n.d.-a).

### Goodweave

"Goodweave works to end child labor in global supply chains, from the producer's hands to the consumers. GoodWeave envisions a day when no child has to work instead of going to school and when freedom, access to education, and the right to childhood are guaranteed. Today, what began as a grassroots effort in India is a global organization with locally-led and registered affiliates in South Asia, North America, and Europe, all operating under the GoodWeave International umbrella. In addition to our Washington DC headquarters, which oversees licensing and global marketing efforts, we have offices in the weaving communities of India, Nepal, and Afghanistan, and the consumer countries of Germany and the U.K. Our website allows visitors to find GoodWeave certified rugs by brand, store/showroom locations, and online vendors" (GoodWeave, n.d.-a).

### Her Future Coalition

Her Future Coalition combats trafficking and gender violence and allows shoppers to obtain high-quality, artisan-handcrafted jewelry. The Coalition offers shelter, education, and employment programs to survivors of gender violence and girls at the highest risk. Items for sale on the website are handcrafted by survivors and vulnerable women in Her Future's vocational programs in India and Nepal. (Her Future Coalition, n.d.).

### International Sanctuaries

"Our trauma-informed program provides employment for girls and women as they learn and grow in a healthy environment. Survivors of human trafficking get jobs through our social enterprise, PURPOSE jewelry. Working within the social enterprise, workers create beautiful, hand-crafted jewelry and support the design, manufacturing, supply chain, and distribution efforts. However, economic empowerment is only the beginning. In our trauma-informed workplace communities, survivors form trusting long-term relationships. In our Sanctuaries, girls and women can grow in confidence and independence, achieving the international Sanctuary's model of becoming stronger, wiser women" (International Sanctuary, n.d.).

### Nomi Network

"Nomi Network is in business to create economic opportunities for survivors and women at risk of human trafficking. Every product you buy provides jobs for survivors and women at risk and helps end modern-day slavery" (Nomi Network, n.d.-b).

### [Nightlight Design Jewelry](#)

“Nightlight International was founded in 2005 with a singular vision: to provide dignified jobs and a supportive community to women exiting exploitation. Our products connect the compassionate and generous heart of our customer with the joy of a woman on the other side of the world who celebrates freedom as she creates products of beauty and value” (Nightlight International, n.d.-c).

### [Operation Underground Railroad \(O.U.R.\)](#)

The Underground Railroad was a network of secret routes and safe houses established in the United States during the early to mid-19th century. African American slaves used them to escape into free states and Canada with the aid of abolitionists and allies who were sympathetic to their cause.

Operation Underground Railroad currently supports operation and aftercare efforts in 30 countries and 50 U.S. States. The O.U.R. Ops Team primarily consists of highly experienced and extensively trained current and former law enforcement personnel. Other members have a background in either the military or in intelligence work. Our goal is to develop long-term relationships with foreign governments and their law enforcement agencies responsible for combatting human trafficking and child sexual exploitation. O.U.R. does not conduct or participate in investigations, operations, or enforcement action in the United States. Domestically, O.U.R. develops relationships with law enforcement agencies and offers resources to assist them in their local efforts against human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

The O.U.R. shop includes special survivor-made merchandise. “Each item in this collection was made by women protected from human trafficking. Your purchase directly impacts them and supports O.U.R.’s mission.”

### [Refuge for Women](#)

“Refuge for Women is a non-profit, faith-based organization providing specialized long-term care for women who have escaped human trafficking or sexual exploitation. As the social enterprise formed by Refuge for Women, Survivor Made creates jobs, builds confidence, and deepens community engagement for women who may have barriers to employment. Our artisan, hand-crafted products are stylish, high-quality, and change lives one sale at a time. Each Survivor Made product is handcrafted by a survivor of human trafficking and sexual exploitation while a resident at Refuge for Women. Buy beautiful products and give the gift of hope” (Survivor Made, n.d.).

### [Sak Saum](#)

“Located in the Saang District of Cambodia, Sak Saum is a ministry dedicated to preventing, rescuing, restoring, transforming, and rehabilitating vulnerable and exploited women, men, and children. From the beginning, our goal has been to create a nurturing, empowering, restorative program that facilitates community development and vocational training in sewing excellent products. This is how we will win the battle against human trafficking: One person, one family, one community at a time.” (Sak Saum, n.d.-b).”

Sak Saum is not ultimately about a bag, wallet, or scarf. Sak Saum is about a changed life with one mission: seeing people set free and empowered for their future. We believe no matter someone's history, change is possible. Our products are so much more than a fashion statement. Every item you buy from Sak Saum is a tangible piece of someone's restoration and tells the deeper story of their freedom" (Sak Saum, n.d.-a).

### [Sewing New Futures](#)

"Sewing New Futures is a 501c (3) nonprofit that sells handcrafted goods made by women and girls who have survived or evaded sex trafficking in northern India" (Sewing New Futures, n.d.).

### [Starfish Project](#)

"Starfish Project restores hope to exploited women in Asia. We provide life-changing opportunities through our Holistic Care Programs and our social enterprise where women create beautiful jewelry and become managers, accountants, graphic designers, and photographers. We provide vocational training, healthcare, shelter, counseling, and education grants for our women and their children through our Holistic Care Programs. Starfish Project has employed more than 180 women and has served thousands through our Community Outreach Services." (Starfish Project, n.d.).

### [Sudara](#)

"Sudara is working to change the state of millions of women and children who are trafficked into sexual exploitation in India. The organization provides hope and opportunity through living-wage jobs, skills training, and education. Every purchase made at Punjammies invests in job creation and skills training for women in India who are working to remain free from sex slavery" (Sudara, n.d.).'

### [SutiSana](#)

"SutiSana was founded in 2010 to fight human trafficking and commercial exploitation and to provide dignified employment and a new life for women attempting to leave prostitution in Bolivia. Most SutiSana artisans speak both Spanish and the indigenous language of Aymara. In Aymara, 'Suti' means name. In Spanish, 'Sana' means healed. As a woman leaves prostitution, she often adopts a new name as part of her healed identity" (quote is slightly different) (SutiSana, n.d.-b).

### [Thistle Farms](#)

Thistle Farms is a nonprofit social enterprise in Nashville, Tennessee dedicated to helping women survivors recover and heal from prostitution, trafficking, and addiction. We do this by providing a safe place to live, a meaningful job, and a lifelong sisterhood of support. Our products are naturally handcrafted by women survivors from our program. With each purchase, you support our mission, and help her live a life she never thought possible. (Thistle Farms, n.d.).

### [3 Strands Global Foundation](#)

"For years, survivors have told us that the most important thing we can do is help them get a job. Employment allows them to transition to self-sufficiency and establishes a sense of self-worth. To survivors, a job is the first step in pursuing a future of their choosing, empowering them to create new lives free from exploitation. 3 Strands Global protects survivors and the

most vulnerable in the Sacramento Region (transitional aged-foster youth and homeless youth) from exploitation by placing them in sustainable, trauma-informed jobs with employers who understand their unique needs. We also refer them to the behavioral health services and other resources they need to succeed.” (3Strands Global, n.d.-c).

### [The Shop for Freedom](#)

“The Shop for Freedom sells handcrafted bags, satchels, scarves, ties, tee, and jewelry handcrafted by women once held captive in the sex trade. All proceeds directly support efforts to prevent and fight human trafficking through our partner organization, Justice Ventures International. Each sale directly supports the women who make these products and helps fund J.V.I.’s legal anti-trafficking initiatives in India, Nepal, and China. Let’s fight slavery together- one purchase at a time” (The Shop For Freedom, n.d.).

### [The Tote Project](#)

“[The Tote Project sells fair trade, organic cotton pouches and tote bags handmade by survivors of human trafficking.](#) Not only does The Tote Project employ survivors, but the business additionally generates revenue for the nonprofit organization Two Wings – which provides educational, mentoring, and life coaching services to at-risk youth and survivors of sex trafficking. The organization also integrates awareness-raising by including human trafficking educational cards with each of its totes and disseminating information about trafficking on its website” (ArtWorks for Freedom).

### [War Chest Boutique](#)

“Our mission is two-fold. First, we seek to market and sell handcrafted items made by at-risk and rescued men and women from around the world, supporting culturally sensitive, value-added intervention projects. Second, we want to educate our shoppers about the risks the vulnerable face in our world.

When you buy a product from the W.A.R. Chest Boutique, you are truly a fellow soldier fighting to set women and children free from exploitation and slavery. The W.A.R. Chest Boutique is the retail arm of the non-profit organization Women At Risk, International (W.A.R., Int’l), which includes our online boutique, retail stores, and product parties held in homes, businesses, and churches throughout the United States. We are a treasure chest, if you will, of unique gifts hand-crafted by or sold in support of at-risk women (and even men) in our partnering programs in over 40 countries. Every product you find on our site and in our stores comes with a story card allowing you to read personal stories of men, women, and children who have passed through our programs” (War Chest Boutique, n.d.-a).

### [Yellow Leaf Hammocks](#)

“There are still more than a billion people worldwide living in extreme poverty on less than \$1.25 a day. In Thailand alone, more than a million members of hill tribes exist on the margins of society - denied citizenship, shut out of the formal job market, and vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking”

[Yellow Leaf Hammocks sell 100% handwoven hammocks with a positive impact.](#) Across three weaving communities, we are working to create jobs for mothers and build a foundation for positive community transformation. Through flexible, safe ‘prosperity wage’ weaving

work, our artisans can lift their families from poverty and debt slavery to the middle class” (Yellow Leaf Hammocks, n.d.-b).

### **Make/collect items for shelters**

Shelters that assist trafficked survivors need grants and cash donations to operate. Most also welcome personal hygiene items and gifts they can give their clients. Activists who wish to assist in this manner may be able to locate a nearby shelter through a simple Internet search. Alternatively, they could mail the items to a more distant shelter. Either way, it is good to first inquire about relevant policies and the types of things the shelter most wants. Some shelters have “wish lists” on Amazon to facilitate these donations. Donors can then work alone or with their church, school, or other groups to gather the desired items.

Typical requests are listed below. Even items such as snacks and nail polish that are “nice to have” rather than “must-have” can lift the spirits of residents who are depressed and frustrated by their inability to purchase anything at all. Every item should be new and unused.

- Women’s socks
- Tampons/Pads
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- 12-ounce bottles of shampoo and conditioner
- Small bags of Trail Mix
- Chapstick
- Nail Polish
- Baby wipes
- Hairbrushes and scrunchies
- Bars of soap
- \$5 Dunkin Donuts gift cards
- Notes of encouragement

Donors should consider providing more substantive gifts such as gloves or scarves as special holidays approach. These holidays include Christmas for Christians, Hanukah for Jews, and Eid al Fitr for Muslims. Survivors often have to face the world alone, so the generosity of a concerned stranger can be very meaningful.

Those who like arts and crafts may enjoy making the things they donate. Students belonging to SSTOP, the UAlbany antitrafficking club, periodically make blankets for a shelter in New York City. Working as a group enables participants to complete the project quickly while providing an enjoyable social experience. Ashley Davidson, a past club president who has managed this type of project, shares the following advice:

“SSTOP went to Joann Fabric to get the material for the blankets. The kits are called No Sew Throw Kits and contain two pre-cut-to-size pieces of fleece fabric (one for the front of the blanket, the other for the back). Each kit made one blanket. The wrapping of the kits also includes instructions for making the blankets. I highly recommend buying the kits because they make the process so much easier than buying and cutting the fabric yourself. It is also a lot cheaper to buy the kits.



The kits come in two sizes: 72" or 48". We went with the bigger size because the fabric kits are typically on sale for about half off. There are a lot of kits with different patterns, designs, and themes. We also received a discount for our entire purchase from one of the clerks who helped us.

The bigger blanket has a list price of \$34.99 but is often on sale for \$17.49. The smaller one costs \$24.99 with a sale price of \$12.49. We bought 11 blankets. Our goal was to make 10, but we bought an extra in case we made some mistakes while making them.

We also bought four fabric scissors, which can be pricey. However, we found when making the blankets that fabric scissors are a lot easier to use than regular scissors for cutting through fleece. Those who used fabric scissors could work a lot faster and more efficiently. The fabric scissors cost somewhere around \$12-17. They may have been cheaper elsewhere, but we were already there, and as I mentioned, one of the staff members gave us a discount for our entire purchase.

I would also like to add that we used markers and rulers in addition to the kits and scissors. The rulers were to measure out the corners and the fringe, while the markers enabled us to show where to cut. The exact sizing and measurements will depend on the size blanket you are making. There are instructions in each kit that tell you exactly how to make the blankets.

We had about 15 people and did three blankets at a time. We were in a small classroom and set up the desks in a way that would make three tables. It took us 2 hours total, or about 11 minutes per blanket. It may have taken less time if everyone had fabric scissors or if we had a bigger room and a flatter surface to work on (the desks were at different heights). When I saw that a group was about to finish making a blanket, I unwrapped the next kit and had it ready so the group could quickly move on to the next one."

A student in one of the author's trafficking classes, Yu (Amber) Zhuang, used arts and crafts to assist survivors in another way. Amber prepared 20 handcrafted gift boxes to give survivors of sex trafficking for Christmas. Each box contained a bookmark with a special quotation she selected to encourage the recipient. The package also included a handmade bracelet. Amber made the bracelets with different weaving methods, each of which had its own meaning, such as happiness, luck, or health. "I enjoyed the process of making these handicrafts. It contains my best wishes to them, and I hope they can move on." Ms. Zhuang took the photographs featured on the next page.



### **Volunteer locally or remotely**

*“To make a difference in someone’s life, you don’t have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful or perfect. You just have to care” (Coggle, n.d.).*

Mandy Hale, blogger turned New York Times best-selling author

Some activists derive the greatest satisfaction from assisting survivors directly. They can do so in person or remotely, depending upon the proximity of the organization and the person’s skills and interests.

Chapter IX's section on college internships and community service identifies a tiny but representative sample of the many antitrafficking organizations that welcome volunteers in different parts of the country. There may be more opportunities than you realize in or near your community!

Volunteers with technical skills can make an especially valued contribution. [Children of the Night in Van Nuys, CA](#), for example, reports that it has rescued more than 10,000 American children from sex trafficking/prostitution. It is “always in need of dentists, therapists, lawyers, tutors, and many more professionals to help our children and young people nationwide.” (Children of the Night, n.d.-c). Volunteer opportunities for others include “tutoring, cooking, general office work, and helping residents find housing or employment. Volunteers can also provide transportation to appointments with medical, immigration, and other officials. The ability to speak a resident’s language is very meaningful to residents who struggle to communicate and who welcome an opportunity to chat with someone having a similar cultural heritage” (Children of the Night, n.d.-c).

Restrictions related to the recent COVID outbreak have limited the range of available opportunities in many settings. These limitations will hopefully fade as the nation continues to adjust.

Potential volunteers should be aware that shelter officials often do a background check on all applicants to ensure the safety of their clients. The process takes time. This delay may be problematic for students who want to earn credit for an internship or have to do a certain amount of community service by the end of a semester.

Another way to volunteer is to join a group of people who have gotten together to support a particular shelter. Examples include the GEMS Young Professionals Board and the Restore N.Y.C. Young Supporters Network. Each is described below.

- “The [GEMS Young Professionals Board](#) is a group of socially conscious and motivated young professionals who are committed to GEMS’ mission of ending the commercial sexual exploitation and domestic sex trafficking of girls and young women. The Board consists of 12-15 members at any given time. The Board hosts awareness and fundraising events throughout the year to bring together socially conscious young professionals to support GEMS and its mission” (Girls Education and Mentoring Services, n.d.-e). Board members receive special training and opportunities to engage with staff and clients in ways other volunteers do not.
- “The [Restore N.Y.C. Young Supporters Network](#) is a community of social justice-minded young New Yorkers who are passionate about supporting Restore N.Y.C.’s efforts to end sex trafficking in N.Y.C” (Restore NYC, n.d.-a). Restore N.Y.C. “is the only nonprofit organization in New York City that focuses solely on foreign-national survivors of sex trafficking. We deliver care that is critical to the restoration of survivors with a holistic, trauma-informed, and culturally-sensitive approach” (Restore NYC, n.d.-a).

Individuals living in communities where there are no shelters nearby may want to consider working at an agency that assists refugees. Refugees are almost always poor, have limited knowledge of English, and have few job skills. Consequently, they constitute the type of vulnerable population that traffickers like to exploit with fake offers of jobs and other misleading promises. Agencies that serve refugees are almost always looking for volunteers to teach English and do other types of tutoring.

Another option would be to mentor at-risk youth through organizations such as the [YMCA](#) and [Big Brothers Big Sisters of America](#). Juveniles who participate often come from broken families, are not doing well in school, and may be spending much of their time with friends who are a terrible influence. A caring adult role model can provide the path many juveniles need to build a promising future. It is important to note, however, that volunteers will need to make a reasonably long-term commitment to win the child’s trust and make an impact.

It is also possible to support an anti-trafficking organization’s mission by working remotely. A shelter may, for example, need assistance on projects involving research or web design. Those with a particular skill can contact an organization that interests them to offer their services. By way of illustration, the [Hope Risen Foundation](#) has been one of the key players in establishing wider understanding and systems to address human trafficking in South Africa. The Foundation is currently looking for volunteers to assist with Writing and Research (articles/blogging/social media calendars), Graphic Design, Photography/Film, Event Planning, Fundraising, Presenting/Hosting workshops, and Outreach.

### **Volunteer abroad**

“Volunesia”

*“When you forget you're volunteering to help change lives because it's changing yours” (Word Nerd, 2019).*

Those with the time, money, and desire to go abroad can fight human trafficking internationally. The opportunity to learn about a foreign culture while simultaneously working for such a worthy cause will almost certainly broaden a person's understanding of the complex nature of poverty and exploitation. The service can have a particularly significant impact if the trip is well-thought-out and matches a volunteer's skill set.

Several outstanding antitrafficking organizations accept volunteers for overseas service. They include [Chab Dai](#), [Bloom Asia](#), [Agape International Missions](#), and the [Urban Light Foundation](#). Restrictions associated with the COVID epidemic have impacted service opportunities throughout the world, however, so it will be necessary to check with each organization of interest about its current policies.

Prospective travelers can contact a nonprofit directly to inquire about possible options. They can also consult organizations such as the ones listed below to identify possible destinations:

- [Love Volunteers](#)  
“Love Volunteers provides fun, rewarding, safe, and affordable volunteering opportunities in needy communities around the world” (Love Volunteers, n.d.).
- [Go Overseas](#)  
“Go Overseas is your guide to 14,000+ programs that will change how you see the world. Study, volunteer, intern, gap year, or teach abroad. Read 10,000+ community reviews to help you choose your next adventure” (GoOverseas, n.d.).
- [Plan My Gap Year](#)  
“Plan My Gap Year is an award-winning volunteer travel organization offering life-changing experiences across 15 countries in Africa, Asia & South America. PMGY provides a safe, structured social platform with volunteer travel opportunities from 1-40 weeks. With over ten years of experience and expertise, PMGY is widely regarded as the global leader in affordable and trustworthy international volunteering experiences” (Plan My Gap Year, n.d.).

“Voluntourism” is a bit different. Voluntourism is the act of doing volunteer work as needed in the community where one is vacationing. On the positive side, the experience can be transformative, and posting about the trip on social media can bring additional attention to the problem of trafficking. Other constructive aspects include the fact that volunteers stimulate the economy when they purchase goods, go on tours, and eat at local restaurants.

On the downside, volunteer vacations usually only last a few weeks, so the value of the service will likely have limited value. The impact will be further limited if the volunteers do not receive adequate supervision from someone who speaks their language fluently. Yet another concern is that [organizations may use their limited resources](#) to ensure that the volunteers have adequate food and accommodations. “While volunteers may consider themselves a helpful source of manpower doing good work, they are actually just another mouth to feed” (Dubay, 2021). The volunteers may even put cooks and other local laborers out of work while they are there if they do tasks that paid staff usually handle.

Those thinking about volunteering overseas should understand that the price of plane tickets and other expenses associated with food and accommodations may be the equivalent of what a full-time nonprofit employee earns annually in several Third World countries. When seen in this light, prospective travelers who lack critical skillsets might be able to make the greatest contribution by staying home and donating the cost of the trip to the organization they want to support (Dubay, 2021).

There are also [“grave issues”](#) with the way that some companies manage volunteer programs. “If you’re not crosschecking the projects you’re sending volunteers to, the programs could damage the community or abuse the kids” (Palmer, 2019). It may not even be clear if the host agency uses the money that the volunteer invests to participate in the way that he/she thinks. At a minimum, University of Washington international law expert Melanie O’Brien urges potential volunteers to verify that the organization they want to help is not acting unethically or mistreating staff (Palmer, 2019).

Finally, trips to support [foreign orphanages](#) are especially discouraged. As noted in the “Informational tours” section of Chapter III, the desire to help orphans is commendable, but there is reason to believe that at least some of these trips support dishonest administrators linked to child trafficking. Some estimates suggest that as many as 80% of the approximately 8,000,000 children living in orphanages worldwide may have been trafficked to support voluntourism. Many of them may not even be orphans. Authorities in several fields have begun urging volunteer placement agencies to stop sending volunteers to orphanages altogether (Budd, 2019). Intrepid Travel, for example, has gone on record stating that it “does not offer or support voluntourism, or orphanage tourism for that matter. [Children are not tourist attractions and should not be treated as such](#)” (Freedom United, 2019b).

### **Help fund needed services**

*“Giving is not just about making a donation. It’s about making a difference” (St. Luke Foundation For Haiti, 2021).*

Kathy Calvin President (former Chief Executive Officer of the United Nations Foundation)

Nonprofits that assist survivors are always looking for additional funding. No one has the resources necessary to support every deserving charity, so donors must be very selective when deciding where to send their contributions and how they want the recipient to use the money. This section of the Guide will help activists make those choices in a manner that best matches their goals and priorities. It also identifies more than a dozen strategies (many of them painless) that anyone can use to provide financial support in ways that are different from sending cash contributions. However we do it, our support can help nonprofits [“reach more lives with the message of human trafficking, identify and assist more victims trapped in slavery and seek justice against their captors, and restore survivors in our care to a life of freedom and independence.”](#)

### **Selecting organizations to support**

Regardless of how much or how frequently a person can contribute, potential donors must first select the organization(s) they wish to support. [The Global Modern Slavery Directory](#) is an excellent resource for those who want to explore various options. The Directory is “an interactive, publicly searchable map and database of organizations and agencies across the globe that address the

issue of modern slavery and human trafficking. The Directory lists more than 2,700 organizations in 199 countries. It features organizations that address all types of human trafficking. Organizations include direct service providers as well as groups that carry out awareness, advocacy and prevention efforts, or organizations that may assist victims of trafficking while addressing related issues, such as labor exploitation, child protection, or domestic violence” (Global Modern Slavery Directory, n.d).

End Slavery Now has compiled a similar resource. [The Antislavery Directory](#) describes each organization's type of work, and filters allow users to sort organizations by country, state, city, and zip code (End Slavery Now, n.d.-b).

[The Interactive Map for Business of Anti-Trafficking Organizations](#) is also worth consulting. The Map includes information on “organizations that work with the business sector to combat modern slavery. It is a resource for companies to navigate emerging partners, to improve coordination on the eradication of human trafficking, and a baseline from which existing and newly formed initiatives move forward in the fight against human trafficking” (United Nations Global Compact, 2018). Users can search for organizations by type, issue, geography, and industry.

It is always a good idea to look beyond a charity’s carefully crafted mission statement. Potential donors should also investigate the nonprofit’s track record to ensure that officials spend the money responsibly and that the donations have the intended impact. The organizations described below make the research easy to do.

- “Founded in 2001, [Charity Navigator](#) has become the nation's largest and most-utilized evaluator of charities. In our quest to help donors, professional analysts have examined tens of thousands of non-profit financial documents. We've used this knowledge to develop an unbiased, objective, numbers-based rating system to assess over 9,000 of America's best-known and some lesser-known but worthy charities. Our ratings show givers how efficiently we believe a charity will use its support today, how well it has sustained its programs and services over time, and its level of commitment to good governance, best practices, and openness with information. We provide these ratings so that charitable givers/ social investors can make intelligent giving decisions and so that the nonprofit sector can improve its performance” (Charity Navigator, n.d.-a).
- [Charity Watch](#) was “founded 25 years ago as the American Institute of Philanthropy and is America's most independent, assertive charity watchdog. CharityWatch does not merely repeat what a charity reports using simplistic or automated formulas. We dive deep to let you know how efficiently a charity will use your donation to fund the programs you want to support. CharityWatch exposes nonprofit abuses and advocates for your interests as a donor” (Charity Watch, n.d.).
- [GuideStar](#) claims to be “the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations. We envision a nonprofit sector strong enough to tackle the great challenges of our time. GuideStar’s Nonprofit Profiles provide you with the information you need to make smart decisions, build connections, and learn from each other to achieve your missions” (GuideStar, n.d.-a).

Each evaluating body provides detailed information about the charities listed on its website. Each one also assigns an overall rating to help users make meaningful comparisons. *It is important to*



*note that many excellent nonprofits are not rated because their gross revenues fall below a particular threshold.* The available ratings should nevertheless help to narrow the list of organizations that donors are thinking about supporting.

Donors should be able to place several suitable organizations on their semi-final list after consulting the evaluations. The next task is to select one or two organizations to support from the array of reputable nonprofits with proven track records. The following discussion suggests eight reference points to help donors determine the one(s) they like best. Each category includes a small but representative sample of the many organizations that fit within it.

### *A broad mission*

Several anti-trafficking organizations have a broad mission that can help accomplish multiple goals that are important to contributors.

- [The Freedom Fund](#) is “a philanthropy focused on strategic planning and financing and has supported almost 100 partners around the world doing grassroots work to fight modern slavery. Its mission is to identify and invest in the best efforts that allow local entities to thrive. This is because the best efforts are often made by those who know the local culture the best. Further, academic research, capital funding, NGOs, nonprofit efforts, and media awareness all have to come together to work collectively and educate the public. Partnering with visionary investors, governments, anti-slavery organizations, and those at risk of exploitation, we tackle the systems that allow slavery to persist and thrive. Working together, we protect vulnerable populations, liberate and reintegrate those enslaved and prosecute those responsible” (Freedom Fund, n.d.).
- The [United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking](#) “was established by the U.N. General Assembly in 2010 within the U.N. Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. The Fund aligns with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the U.N. Convention against Transnational Organized Crime as the first global international legal framework to protect and assist victims of trafficking with respect for their human rights. Administered by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Trust Fund's mandate is to provide humanitarian, legal, and financial aid to victims of trafficking in persons through established channels of assistance, including governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations” (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, n.d.-a).
- The [National Survivor Network](#) was launched in 2011 “to foster connections between survivors of diverse forms of human trafficking and build a national anti-trafficking movement in which survivors are at the forefront and recognized as leaders. Members of the NSN include survivors with various backgrounds and origins spanning 24 countries and 40 states. By connecting survivors across the country, the NSN helps survivors realize and develop their own leadership and fosters collaboration with others who value their insight and expertise in the field” (National Survivor Network. n.d.-a).
- The [National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance](#) “is a network of service providers committed to enhancing services and increasing access to care for survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation....At present there are no standard, widely accepted best practices that all programs can use to inform the care they provide. Until now, there was no accrediting body

for long-term shelter care for survivors of human trafficking, and there is a present gap in accountability and goal setting for agencies within this field. As the response to human trafficking in America continues to increase, the need for service providers to collaborate and stay connected is more important than ever. NTSA strives to address this need in three strategic ways:

- Our Referral System connects survivors across the nation with the right residential program for them both efficiently and with dignity.
- Our Knowledge Center equips residential programs with the training & resources to learn and grow in a collaborative community.
- Our Accreditation provides accountability to ensure that survivors receive quality care from healthy, trauma-informed organizations.

Through collaboration, we can ensure every survivor can access quality, trauma-informed care" (National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance, n.d.-a).

### *The type of trafficking*

Some activists are most interested in a particular type of human trafficking. Organizations that concentrate their efforts in this manner include the ones described below.

- [Love146](#) is “an international human rights organization working to end child trafficking and exploitation through survivor care and prevention education... Love146 is helping grow the movement to end child trafficking while providing effective, thoughtful solutions” (VolunteerMatch, n.d.-a).
- [Urban Light](#) is “dedicated to empowering, restoring and providing emergency services and support to boys in Chiang Mai, Thailand who are victims of trafficking exploitation. In just the past five years, Urban Light has provided services to over 3,000 boys, over 10,000 hot meals, and over 15,000 hours of services. Urban Light is here to educate, advocate and bring attention to the dark realities these young men face” (Urban Light, n.d.-a). Urban Light is one of the only organizations that specifically focuses on helping boys.

### *A country of special interest*

Many people have a special interest in or connection to a particular country. If so, they may prefer to support activities there.

- [Restavek Freedom](#) was founded in 2007. It has more than 30 employees in two central locations in Haiti and a small support staff in the U.S. in Cincinnati, Ohio. “Restavek is a form of modern-day child slavery that persists in Haiti, affecting one in every 15 children. Typically born into poor rural families, restavek children are often given to relatives or strangers. In their new homes, they become domestic slaves, performing menial tasks for no pay... The work is exhausting and demeaning. The worst moments, however, are the constant reminders that they do not belong, no one wants them, and that they’re objects to be used and discarded. They are work mules good only for their ability to make others’ lives easier” (Restavek Freedom, 2021).
- [Village Focus International](#) fights trafficking in Laos, “the only landlocked country in Southeast Asia, with just under seven million people. Laos remains one of the poorest

countries in Asia and is included in the U.N.'s list of the 47 least developed countries in the world" (Village Focus International, n.d.).

- [Blue Dragon](#) "helps kids in crisis throughout Vietnam. We work with street kids, runaway children, victims of human trafficking, children with disabilities, young rural-urban migrants, kids affected by drugs and HIV/AIDS, homeless families, child prisoners, and the rural poor. We are there for every child who needs us to see them through a crisis, and we work with them until they no longer need our assistance... Our services are holistic, including rescue and crisis care for young people in immediate danger; shelter; legal advocacy; and long-term support to return to school and training. While taking care of each child's immediate needs, we invest in community development and long-term change on a systemic scale. Everything we learn from our individual cases feeds into our work on law reform, policy development, and training programs" (Blue Dragon Children's Foundation, 2017).

### *Religious affiliation*

Some donors like to support nonprofits with a particular religious affiliation. These organizations typically have ties to a specific theological tradition but serve people of all faiths.

- [Agape International Missions](#) (A.I.M.) is a "Christ-led, non-denominational, not-for-profit organization that exists to glorify God through our dedicated efforts to love, protect, and care for survivors of trafficking and other vulnerable exploited individuals. Through a holistic approach rescuing, restoring, and reintegrating survivors of trafficking and preventing sexual slavery, A.I.M. seeks to meet survivors' spiritual, emotional, social, educational, and physical needs. Our intention is that they come to know their worth and value in Christ, develop a dependence on Him, and develop skills for a sustainable life" (Agape International Missions, n.d.-a).
- [Shared Hope International](#) was established "to provide hope to the women Washington State Congresswoman Linda Smith found enslaved in the brothels of Mumbai in 1998. Our early efforts targeted the international sex trafficking industry. Today, we lead prevention strategies, restoration programs, and justice initiatives to combat trafficking in the U.S. and abroad. As Christian abolitionists, we believe trafficking survivors deserve the opportunity to be restored to dignity and purpose, regardless of their faith or system of belief. As Christian stewards, we prayerfully seek to use wisdom and Biblical guidance for every dollar we spend. As Christian leaders, we seek to inspire change by informing and empowering activists, providing strategic guidance to local shelter and service partners, and influencing policymakers and first responders" (Shared Hope International, n.d.-e).
- [Jewish Community Against Sex Trafficking Chicago](#) "works to eradicate sex trafficking in the Chicagoland area through public awareness, community engagement, and advocacy at local, state, and national levels. Inspired by Jewish values, we partner with interfaith and human rights groups, non-profit organizations, government officials, and law enforcement agencies" (National Council of Jewish Women Chicago North Shore, n.d.).

### *A link to your community*

Local agencies that fight trafficking or assist survivors often have a special appeal. The need for local services is widespread because traffickers operate throughout the country in both urban and

rural locations. By way of illustration, the first nonprofit described below is in western South Dakota, a place many readers probably think should be immune from this type of crime. The second nonprofit is an example of an agency with a statewide base that serves Georgia.

- [Freedom's Journey](#) “is a nonprofit ministry in Western South Dakota committed to helping survivors of all forms of human trafficking navigate the journey from slavery to freedom through relationship and collaboration, and to combat human trafficking through education, awareness, and legislation” (Freedom's Journey, n.d.-a). Services include Case Management, Connections with Appropriate Law Enforcement, Advocacy, Mentoring, Relocation Expenses, Safe Transport, Lodging and Meals Associated with Relocation, Referrals to Safe Shelter, Personal Items, Facilitating Healthcare Needs, Assisting with Recovery or Replacement of Identification Documents, Legal Assistance, Assistance with Legal Expenses, Accompaniment at Court, Facilitating Job Skills/Employment, and Other Services or Resources as Needed (Freedom's Journey, n.d.-b).
- [Georgia Cares](#) is Georgia's single, statewide coordinating agency connecting services and treatment care for child victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking. This nonprofit “serves any youth at risk of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. Georgia Cares does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, age, height, weight, or physical or mental ability. Specifically, we work with youth who are female, male and transgender youth, youth up to the age of 18, and youth who reside in Georgia” (Georgia Cares, n.d.-b).

Several nonprofits typically assist survivors and at-risk youth in major metropolitan areas. The list below highlights some of the organizations that serve New York City.

- [Lifeway Network](#). “We've offered short-term emergency stays to trafficked survivors since 2009 and have been operating long-term transitional safe houses since 2012, granting harbor to over 100 women from 34 countries thus far. These houses provide far more than simply shelter. They're homes where survivors live in community and are given the resources they need to rebuild their lives – from the help of social workers to mental health counseling to legal support to connections with educational and job training opportunities. After they leave the safe house, they can transition into an independent living arrangement within the community” (LifeWay Network. n.d.).
- [Restore N.Y.C.](#) “Since 2009, we have pioneered innovative housing and economic-empowerment solutions that give survivors access to a safe home and a safe job—the things that our data tell us make freedom real. We do not turn anyone away, and our response time for crisis is within 24 hours. The staffing-agency cooperative we help operate is worker-owned and provides survivors with options, unlike traditional cooperatives that focus on one industry” (Restore NYC, n.d.-d).
- [Girls Educational & Mentoring Services \(GEMS\)](#). “For the past 20 years, Girls Educational & Mentoring Services has served as the nation's leading organization for empowering commercially sexually exploited and domestically trafficked girls and young women. Through cultural change, advocacy, training, and survivor leadership, GEMS is committed to shifting public perception and policy. GEMS has served thousands of young women and girls aged 12–24. GEMS' unique Victim, Survivor, Leader™ program model is the gold standard for

organizations serving trafficking victims and survivors across the country” (Girls Educational & Mentoring Services, n.d.-d).

- [Covenant House](#). “Because so many young victims are homeless before being trafficked, they often have no place to go after escaping the bonds of this modern form of slavery. Covenant House remains a refuge for these children and youth – offering a complete approach that includes direct care, advocacy, and research, to ensure we can best serve young trafficking survivors” (Covenant House, n.d.-a).

### *The type of service provided*

Donors sometimes like to support a particular type of project or service. A quick Internet search will identify several organizations that embrace this approach in addition to those mentioned below.

- The [Polaris Project](#) has a broad mission that includes operating the National Human Trafficking Hotline. The Hotline “connects victims and survivors of sex and labor trafficking with services and supports to get help and stay safe. The Trafficking Hotline also receives tips about potential sex and labor trafficking situations and facilitates reporting that information to the appropriate authorities in certain cases. The toll-free phone and SMS text lines and live online chat function are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Help is available in English or Spanish and more than 200 additional languages through an on-call interpreter. Since its founding in 2007, the hotline has received more than 10,000 calls from victims and survivors and many more from people who reported suspected instances of trafficking” (National Human Trafficking Hotline, n.d.-a).
- [Survivor Ventures](#). “We believe economic empowerment is the key to releasing survivors from ‘the life.’ We hypothesize that a trauma-informed approach to gainful employment may be the most critical service required to reduce recidivism rates, particularly for a population who only know ‘work’ as a painful and traumatic experience...Survivors want to work. They want to provide for their children.” (Survivor Ventures, n.d-a).

“Lacking any form of criminal relief legislation, however, Virginia-based trafficking victims have a heightened vulnerability to re-victimization, as many cannot attain gainful employment due to their past criminal convictions. With the Survivors to Entrepreneurs (S2E) program, we're aiming to change that. Fast Facts about the S2E program:

- Creates unique, small business (startup/mom and pops) partnerships which in turn create new, trauma-informed job opportunities for survivors;
- Subsidized wages ensure immediate income for survivors;
- Small businesses grow in revenue;
- Survivors grow professionally;
- Wraparound services are provided using an intensive community treatment model;
- On-site job coaching;
- Entrepreneurial mentorship;
- Specialized skills training; and
- Incorporation and incubation of survivor-owned businesses.

We envision a community of survivor-owned businesses and trauma-informed business owners” (Survivor Ventures, n.d.-b).

- [The Trade Foundation](#) “exists to fight global sexual slavery and exploitation by teaching women how to cut & style hair. This training establishes micro-economies, which allow women to leave behind lives of prostitution, abuse, and extreme poverty. The social and economic impact is absolutely life changing as they develop a new set of skills and the sense of dignity and self-respect that comes with them. In addition to hair & make-up instruction, we train our students how to run a small business and add value to their surrounding communities. We want our students to have a presence in their community that they can use to make ripple effects, inspiring new generations of empowered women who demand education and respect. We want long-lasting results. We want big change.”

The Trade Foundation established a full-service hair salon & beauty school in Siem Reap, Cambodia, in 2014. “We will be providing our students with cosmetology training and paid apprenticeships during their education. Our salon/training center is located right in the heart of Siem Reap and caters to tourists, ex-pats, and locals alike” (The Trade Foundation. n.d.). ”

- [Survivor’s Ink](#). “Survivor's Ink exists to raise awareness and empower human trafficking victims by breaking the psychological chains of enslavement by beautifying, removing, or covering their physical scars, markings, and brandings that are constant reminders of a violent past. Founded by trafficking survivor and formally branded woman, Jennifer Kempton, Survivor's Ink offers full scholarships to survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation to have their branding tattoo's covered or removed” (Survivor’s Ink, n.d.). ”
- [Soul Survivor Ink](#) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit “focused on helping survivors of human trafficking and gang affiliations heal from the pain of their past through ‘branding’ tattoo lightening and removal. We ensure the survivors get the best treatment possible through our extensive network of certified and trained affiliate artists. We ensure the safety and privacy of the procedures so that the survivor won’t have to endure additional traumas. Ultimately, the goal of Soul Survivor Ink is to eliminate all unsightly and traumatic ‘branding’ tattoos providing hope for an emotional, spiritual, and physical release from the survivors’ painful past” (Soul Survivor Ink, n.d.). ”
- [Operation Underground Railroad](#). “Since being founded in 2013, we've gathered the world's experts in extraction operations and anti-child trafficking efforts to bring an end to child slavery. O.U.R.'s Ops Team consists of former C.I.A., past and current law enforcement, and highly skilled operatives that lead coordinated identification and extraction efforts. These operations are always in conjunction with law enforcement throughout the world. Once victims are rescued, a comprehensive process involving justice for the perpetrators and recovery and rehabilitation for the survivors begins” (Operation Underground Railroad, n.d.-a).  
 ([Raid and rescue operations that nonprofit organizations conduct are controversial](#) (Sachs, 2020). One engaging [webinar](#) discusses “if, and under what circumstances, NGOs should conduct these operations as well as practices, standards, and principles such organizations should hold themselves to” (Freedom Collaborative, 2017b). A companion [Code of Conduct](#) was developed to supplement this webinar as “an attempt to set minimum standards for investigative NGOs operating in Southeast Asia. It seeks to set and uphold professional standards protecting the victims of trafficking, NGO personnel, the integrity



of the criminal justice process, and the reputation of all parties in the sector” (Freedom Collaborative, 2017a).

### *What your donation will buy*

Some people find it most satisfying to donate when they can select how the recipient organization will use their donation. Contributing in this fashion lets them know exactly what their contribution will accomplish.

- [Her Future Coalition](#). The Coalition offers programs in India, Nepal, and Thailand. “Our mission is to help survivors of slavery and other forms of gender violence with shelter, education, and employment programs that enable them to remain free forever. We aim to offer high-quality, long-term, and individualized services, rather than a quick fix, one-size-fits-all solution. (GuideStar, n.d.-b).
  - “\$25 will provide a month of education.
  - \$50 will provide computer or English workshops.
  - \$100 will provide trauma-sensitive mental health workshops.
  - \$2,000 will construct a dorm room
  
- [A21](#) “[partners] with authorities to secure the freedom of victims and the conviction of human traffickers through programs like hotlines, child advocacy centers, identification trainings, and legal support” (A21, n.d.-k). Its [Freedom Catalog](#) includes the following services that contributors can sponsor:
  - “\$25: Survivors often need clothing, toiletries, and other necessities. Your gift can provide care packages of essential items directly into the hands of survivors in need.
  - \$30: You can provide comic books that illustrate the warning signs of human trafficking so that children and their parents can avoid trafficking situations.
  - \$40: Provide translation services for 24/7 human trafficking hotlines so A21 staff can immediately respond to crisis calls across 200 languages.
  - \$150: Trauma counseling is crucial in helping survivors recover from their trafficking experience and take significant steps toward healing, freedom, and restoration” (A21, n.d.- f).
  
- [Restore N.Y.C.](#) “is a nonprofit organization making freedom real for survivors of trafficking in the United States.” Possible gifts are listed below.
  - \$50: 1 night of freedom for a survivor of trafficking in our Safe home.
  - \$100: 1 month of transportation for a trafficking survivor to and from our office.
  - \$500: Sponsor 10 trafficking survivors through English as a Second Language classes.
  - \$1,000: 1 month's rent and utilities for a survivor living in Restore's Safe home” (Restore NYC, n.d.-e).
  
- [International Justice Mission](#). “International Justice Mission is a global organization that protects people in poverty from violence. We partner with local authorities in 29 program offices in 17 countries to combat slavery, violence against women and children, and police abuse of power” (International Justice Mission, n.d.-a). I.J.M. has a gift catalog that allows potential donors to search eight different causes that they can support. Examples of how donations can be used include:
  - \$9: one blanket for a survivor.
  - \$30: fight child cybersex trafficking.

- \$75: tools for alternate employment.
  - \$130: build a thatched home for a survivor.
  - \$6,580: The Transformation Package. Provide everything needed to free families from a slave facility and help them begin their new life in freedom. This package includes one slavery rescue operation and Freedom Training to equip this family for the future.” (International Justice Mission, n.d.-h)
- [My Sisters' Place](#) is in White Plains, New York. It “strives to end domestic violence and human trafficking through comprehensive services, advocacy, and community education” (My Sisters’ Place, n.d.). The shelter’s 2020 Christmas requests included winter coats, items posted on an Amazon wish list, and supplies for its art therapy program. “Creative expression can foster healing and mental well-being. Creating or viewing others' art is used to help people explore emotions, develop self-awareness, cope with stress, boost self-esteem, and work on social skills” (JF&CS Atlanta, 2022).

*Sponsor an individual survivor*

Another meaningful way to donate involves sponsoring a particular individual who has been trafficked or is at risk of being trafficked. We can’t save everyone, but knowing that we have saved one person can be very rewarding.

- [The Nomi Network](#) “invites you to partner with our trainees as they gain skills and become financially independent through our economic empowerment program. You will directly fund an individual woman in our program, providing critical support to overcome gender inequality and poverty and enabling her to reach her full potential. Give a woman who is a survivor or at risk of human trafficking the resources, support, and skills she needs to transform her life—and the lives of her family. By donating \$50 a month, you will provide 24 months of skills training and job placement for one of our women. She will gain self-confidence and receive the tools she needs to secure her first job, along with literacy, production, and financial skills. When you sponsor her, you are helping her secure her freedom.

As a sponsor, you will receive:

- Special quarterly updates with impact stories from the communities we serve;
- End-of-year gift;
- Invitation to an exclusive event with Nomi Network staff sharing stories and program updates;
- Birthday discount on NOMI products; and
- Being part of a community of freedom advocates who believe we can end human trafficking in our lifetime

*“I don’t see myself as a survivor. I’m a hope dealer.”*  
 Leah Albright-Byrd, a national antitrafficking leader informed by her experience  
 of being trafficked on the Internet and the streets as a teenager.  
*“Still I Rise”* documentary

## Traditional contributions

### *Cash*

Most people donate on an irregular basis by mailing a check or charging a credit card online. They often find it especially meaningful to contribute on specific dates in memory of a deceased relative or on a day that is personally significant for another reason.

Contributions of all sizes are always appreciated. The money we might otherwise spend to purchase a box of cookies may not seem like much, but it could buy much-needed food or school supplies for struggling survivors. Donors can also raise funds by donating the money they make selling unwanted possessions at a garage sale or on [eBay](#).

Donating the cost of a daily cup of coffee for one month could result in a gift of \$50 or more. Donors can still buy the coffee, but they may enjoy it more knowing that a matching sum will be assisting survivors. Alternatively, activists may want to consider downloading [Instead](#), an app they can use to substitute everyday purchases with donations to the nonprofit of their choice. “The next time you reach for your pocketbook to buy anything from a latte to a lipstick... don't. Instead, take a moment to consider whether a charity could put those dollars to better use. If you feel the inclination, donate the funds to them right through your phone” (Ang, 2014).

Nonprofit administrators especially appreciate contributions that donors schedule on an ongoing basis because it enables them to develop annual plans and formulate budgets with greater confidence. Scheduled donations are automatically charged to a credit card, and donors receive an e-receipt for their records along with a brief thank you from the organization they select. As little as \$10/month (about 30 cents a day) is unlikely to impact the lifestyle of many people, but it gives the chosen organization \$120 for every 12 months pledged. That may be just what a survivor in the Third World needs to enroll in a sewing class or learn another valuable skill. Donors can discontinue the pledge at any time.

Some organizations offer special benefits to those who donate regularly. Individuals who commit to being a member of Restore NYC's [Freedom Collective](#), for example, receive “exclusive event offerings, customized communications, and community.” At one time, those who donated more than \$100/month also got a “buy one, get one” free offer for Restore's annual Freedom Gala. Other benefits have included guaranteed entry to the New York City marathon, a pre-marathon pasta dinner, a sign-making party, and a team shirt.

Anti-trafficking organizations sometimes make arrangements with a generous sponsor willing to match all donations during a specified period up to a certain amount. This type of opportunity may involve as much as a five-time match. Those who prefer to contribute during one of these windows should register to receive emails from the organizations that interest them. Donors can then learn about the timing of these special fundraisers while staying informed about other things the organizations are doing.

### *In-kind gifts*

In-kind gifts are a type of charitable giving in which the donor provides goods and services instead of money. Examples include food, clothing, office equipment, and building materials.

Performing services such as painting and doing minor repair work also falls within this category but may not be tax-deductible.

Shelters use donated furniture and household items to provide better accommodations and help clients furnish apartments. Many shelters are particularly grateful for vehicles because staff often need to bring survivors to court and other appointments. Alternatively, the shelter can sell the car to help offset operational expenses.

Several organizations post a [Custom Gift List](#) on Amazon.com for donors who want to buy a specific item for the agency or one of its clients. Typical lists include disinfecting wipes, a portable air conditioner, and toys the residents' children want for Christmas (Amazon, 2022). Amazon ships the items directly to the organization to make the transaction easy for those who purchase them.

### *Planned giving*

Gifts made to an annual fund drive come from the donor's discretionary income. The donor may budget for the gift, but it is not planned. A planned or legacy gift, by contrast, is a major gift that the donor makes during his/her lifetime or after death as part of the individual's overall financial/estate planning.

A donor who wishes to use this option to fight human trafficking can include the chosen organization in his/her will or living trust. The donor can also designate the organization as a full or partial beneficiary of a life insurance policy. A third option is to donate stocks and securities that have appreciated in value. This type of gift allows donors to receive significant tax benefits by saving on capital gains while simultaneously enabling a worthy nonprofit to provide better services.

### *Online auctions*

One way to help the antitrafficking movement while simultaneously satisfying a personal need or desire is to buy something at a sponsored auction. [Restore N.Y.C.](#) is one of many anti-trafficking groups that organizes online auctions featuring things such as vacation getaways, premium concert seats, and fine dining experiences. Each item has been donated, so all proceeds help offset operating costs (Restore NYC, 2019).

Auctions can be an excellent place for bargain hunters because winning bids are often less than the stated value of the items put up for sale. That said, bidding more than necessary is a commendable way of supporting the nonprofit in question.

### *Special events and other fundraisers*

Nonprofits of all types organize special events such as cocktail hours and annual award dinners to raise money. Tickets are often relatively expensive, but those who attend can socialize, meet the staff, and have an enjoyable time while supporting the host organization.

Activists who organize their own fundraisers are among the most highly valued volunteers. The main goal of any such venture is to raise money, but fundraisers can also increase the public's awareness of whatever issue the planners are trying to address. It is thus essential that the campaign use appropriate messaging to inform and motivate potential contributors as part of the overall effort.

Volunteers are limited only by their imagination when selecting the type of fundraiser they want to arrange. A small sample of possible projects includes the following:

- Start and publicize a [GoFundMe](#) page. Two students in one of the author’s human trafficking classes used this simple strategy to raise more than \$1,400 for a local shelter in 2020.
- Bakes sales are among the easiest fundraisers to organize. They can be held on any day at a wide variety of places, including schools, places of worship, and local sporting events. Bake sales can also help to raise awareness of human trafficking and the extraordinary level of pain that it causes.



(Love146, 2014)

- [Schedule an event featuring live music and/or songs specifically written to fight slavery](#) (Paul, 2014).
- “[Ping Pong-A-Thon](#) is a fundraising and advocacy movement that combats human trafficking and the exploitation of young people in Southeast Asia through a series of table tennis events held every year. Schools, universities, churches, workplaces, sporting clubs, and pubs across Australia and the U.S.A. host table tennis events between 3 and 24 hours in length. Participants sign up to play at their venue of choice and invite family/friends to sponsor their efforts. The raised funds support the work of several organizations combating the slavery of some of the most vulnerable young people in our world” (Ping-Pong-A-Thon, 2022).
- Some activists might enjoy selling products that trafficked survivors have made. They can do so at a house party or pop-up event such as a farmer’s market. Those interested can request jewelry or other items from an appropriate nonprofit and then sell the items on consignment.

Participating organizations may also provide suggestions for showcasing the collection in a no-pressure, relaxed environment.

- Concerned citizens can also organize a walkathon or similar event involving cycling or swimming.
  - The [Aruna Project](#) “Creates lifelong freedom through employment marked by holistic care to sexually enslaved women” and sponsors an annual race to help raise funds (Aruna Project, n.d.-a). “Due to COVID-19, we are unable to host our 2020 Aruna Run Series live. But you can still fundraise, #RUNforherfreedom, by participating in our Virtual 5K Run/Walk. Every virtual run participant will be mailed a 2020 Aruna athletic drawstring backpack and their choice of an Aruna Run Reshma headband or sweat towel. All items are hand-made by Aruna artisans who were freed and employed in our Freedom Business, thanks to funds raised in previous Aruna Runs. Download our Aruna race bib and run for Shehnaz's freedom anytime and anywhere! Then submit your results and download an official finisher certificate” (Aruna Project, 2020).
  - The [A21 Campaign](#) (commonly referred to as "A21"). A21 is a global non-profit, non-governmental organization aiming to "abolish slavery everywhere, forever" (A21, n.d.-h) [Walk For Freedom](#) is A21’s “global awareness event, rallying tens of thousands of people, taking millions of steps, in hundreds of cities all over the world. We walk to disrupt the existence of slavery, shaking its very foundation with each step. It’s an outward expression of A21’s inward desire to see slavery abolished everywhere - in our cities, in our communities, and in our world. One step at a time and one dollar at a time, we walk to see a world without slavery. For the last seven years, tens of thousands of passionate abolitionists have shown up across hundreds of cities around the world. Together we have reached over 200 million people through social media. Each step mattered. Every person made a difference” (A21, 2022). Anyone interested in becoming a local host can contact A21 to get additional information and guidance about how to do so (A21, 2022).

### Painless ways of giving

#### *CauseCart*

The motto at [CauseCart](#) is “fundraising is free” (ethica, n.d.). With this browser add-on, a percentage of every purchase a consumer makes at participating e-tailers automatically goes to the designated charity. Merchants make donations, so the customer has no additional expense (ethica, n.d.).

Amazon used to sponsor a similar initiative known as AmazonSmile. Amazon donated more than \$377 million to charitable organizations through this program since its launch in 2013 (Amazon, n.d.-a), but the company decided to discontinue it in February 2023.

#### *Rewards from credit cards*

Many credit card companies offer cash rewards each time a customer uses their card. These promotions are good marketing tools, but consumers don’t always keep track of the points they earn



or depend on the rewards to pay monthly bills. Sending the rewards to the charity of their choice is a relatively painless way for activists to fight human trafficking.

### *Rewards for using the Internet*

“[Microsoft Rewards](#) is a free program that rewards you for doing the stuff you already do every day. Earn points when you search on Bing.com and buy things from the Microsoft Store online and in Windows 10... We make it simple to track progress toward anything you’ve got your eye on, including gift cards, sweepstakes, and donations to charity” (Microsoft, n.d.-b). “To earn points by searching with Bing on your mobile device, set Bing as your default search engine, use the Bing app, or use the Microsoft Launcher for Android app. Or earn even more points with the Microsoft Edge app... Microsoft Rewards points don’t have any cash value. It usually takes about 5,000 points to redeem something worth \$5. Your Bing searches will earn Rewards points and will automatically be donated directly to your cause” (Microsoft, n.d.-b).

### *Travel and hotel rewards*

Frequent travelers often enroll in programs that allow them to earn points each time they fly on a particular airline or stay at a certain hotel. They can then use the points to receive discounts on future trips. Those participating in these programs may want to consider donating the rewards to an anti-trafficking organization instead.

Members of the Delta SkyMiles program can donate their miles to Polaris through the [SkyWish](#) program. Donated miles go directly to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Staff use the points to purchase flights for survivors who need to escape their trafficking situation, reunite with loved ones, or testify in court against their trafficker (Delta Airlines, n.d.).

Those who register for [Marriott Bonvoy](#) or [Wyndham Rewards](#) can also donate points to Polaris. Points donated through Wyndham Rewards go to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, where they are used to book rooms for trafficking survivors who need emergency shelter (Polaris, 2014).

### *Pledge your birthday*

Sometimes we want something special for our birthday. Other years, we don’t need or desire anything. Those who don’t express a preference will likely receive presents that include shirts they don’t like, books they won’t read, and other well-intentioned items that the recipient just doesn’t want.

Activists looking for a better way to celebrate their birthdays can request that family and friends send the money they had planned to spend on a gift to a particular nonprofit. Those who choose to do so can publicize their wish through word of mouth and social media. They can also register to pledge their birthday to an organization such as Polaris. [Polaris](#) will “send you an email as your birthday nears with instructions on creating a peer-to-peer fundraising campaign using Facebook, Instagram, or our tools. Once your campaign is set up, you can share it through social media, email, and text. Every dollar you raise will support important programs like the National Human Trafficking Hotline” (Polaris, n.d.-e).

### *Loose change*

Another painless way to support antitrafficking efforts is to use a round-up change app. If a purchase costs \$12.87, for example, the app will cause the credit card to charge \$13.00. The extra 13 cents will go to the organization of the user's choice. The donations will add up over time and are tax-deductible.

- [Goodworld](#) offers one such app. “Goodworld users donate an average of \$20 per month in spare change. As few as 100 spare change donors can thus raise about \$25,000 a year for an organization they collectively select. Donors can limit their monthly contributions, and Goodworld sends email alerts to help contributors keep track of their donations” (Goodworld, n.d.).
- [The RoundUp App](#) works the same way. “You can get RoundUp for any device, at home or on the go. Select the nonprofit that you want your change to be donated to. If the nonprofit you are looking for is not listed, you can send your recommendation to the RoundUp staff via a button on their website. You then securely link your bank account, debit, and/or credit cards through the app. This allows the app to donate the change from your transactions. RoundUp App will tally the total change of your transactions at the end of the month and send a deposit directly to the selected nonprofit. Getting started only takes a minute, and you can cap the amount of money you'll donate in a given month” (RoundUp, n.d.).

### *Gift cards*

Many of us are often unsure what to buy friends and relatives for special occasions. The safest option in these situations may be to let the recipient make the selection. Most supermarkets sell gift cards affiliated with financial service companies such as Visa and American Express, stores, and restaurants. Activists may want to consider buying a card or gift certificate from an organization that sells ethically sourced products instead. The recipient can order a gift that he/she wants while simultaneously helping the organization filling the order.

[DoneGood](#) is one such company. DoneGood “scours the planet to find the brands that make the world better. Companies that create unique, high-quality products made in a way that's good for people and the planet. To us, ‘good for people’ means empowering workers, paying fair wages free of trafficking or child labor, and unsafe working conditions. ‘Good for the planet’ means using eco-friendly production processes, using non-toxic, organic, and/or recycled or upcycled materials, and taking other significant steps to keep our land, air, and water clean” (DoneGood, n.d.-a). DoneGood sells a wide variety of items, including clothing, home goods, food and drinks, self-care products, accessories, toys, and games.

### *Electronic greeting and holiday cards*

Sending paper greeting cards to commemorate special occasions is a long-standing American tradition. Recipients typically appreciate the thought but throw the cards away soon after getting them. A better way to express good wishes while simultaneously protecting the environment and fighting human trafficking is to send an e-card instead.

Several organizations offer this service. After selecting the card you want on their website, you enter your name, the recipient's email address, your email address, a message, and the delivery

date. You then specify the amount of a donation you wish to make. The gift does not have to be significant and may just represent what you would have spent on a paper card and the postage to mail it. The organization will take it from there.

- [Antislavery International](#) is one source of e-cards (Anti-Slavery International, n.d.-b). “Working together, just as the first abolitionists did, we have built an anti-slavery movement in collaboration with service providers, law enforcement agencies, NGOs, trade unions, lawyers, businesses, and government authorities. And, of course, you – our supporters. This allows us to support tens of thousands of adults and children affected by slavery every year to gain and keep their freedom. It also allows us to campaign to change the social, economic, legal, and political systems that trap them. We adapt our response to the local context in all countries we work in. In [Niger](#), it’s building schools and projects for communities that escaped their traditional masters. In [Mauritania](#), it’s providing education and microloans to women rebuilding their lives in freedom. In [Senegal](#), it’s working with whole communities to protect children from local schools from being forced to beg.” (Anti-Slavery International, n.d.-g).
- [Love146](#) is an international human rights organization working to end child trafficking and exploitation. It offers more than a dozen e-cards for several types of events (Love146, n.d.-d). Examples of the cards are shown below:



(Love146, n.d.-d)

### *Employer Match and Work Donation Programs*

Some companies have matching gift programs that double or triple their employees' charitable contributions. Those who work in the private sector should take advantage of this opportunity wherever it is an option.

State and federal agencies do not offer this type of incentive. However, they frequently allow employees to make donations through payroll deductions that can be modified or revoked at any time. The [Combined Federal Campaign](#) is the federal government's annual workplace giving program. During the September-December enrollment period, federal employees receive a pledge card or web

address where those interested can select the charity they want to support. The process is simple and only needs to be done once a year (Combined Federal Campaign, n.d.).

Many states have similar programs. New York, for example, has the [State Employee Federated Appeal \(SEFA\)](#) (New York State Employees Federated Appeal, n.d.). Antitrafficking organizations currently participating in SEFA include [Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, Inc.](#) Interested nonprofits of all types are welcome to apply (New York State Employees Federated Appeal, n.d.).

Payroll deductions are a relatively painless way of giving because participants never see or expect the money they donate. Even a modest bi-weekly contribution can bring much-needed income to a deserving nonprofit.

### Organizing a fundraiser

Fundraising events can be reasonably simple, but they can also be as complex as a marathon requiring city permits and police assistance to control traffic. Either way, fundraisers often require far more time and problem-solving than initially anticipated. Key steps for planning fundraisers include the steps outlined on the following pages.

1. Select a project you want to support. Do you want to raise funds for the National Human Trafficking Hotline? Help survivors of sex trafficking start a new life? Assist trafficked children? The list of worthwhile projects stretches across the entire spectrum of antitrafficking endeavors.
2. Select the type of fundraiser you want to sponsor (walkathon, bake sale, etc.).
3. Select and inform the recipient organization. Experienced personnel are often eager to offer valuable suggestions and resources to make the project easier to complete. As the [A21](#) website succinctly notes, “We’re in this together” (A21, n.d.-g).
4. Set up your fundraising page with photos, your story, and a bit about why you chose to organize the project. Many websites will do the hard parts for you – all you have to do is register and promote your cause. Possible websites include [Go Fund Me](#), [Facebook](#), [Classy](#), [Tiltify](#), and [Just Giving](#).

Most giving is 80% emotional and 20% rational. Consequently, the best way to capture someone’s emotions is to tell a story that personifies the issue as much as possible. Jimmy Kimmel, for example, did not just cite statistics when he spoke about the national health insurance debate on his television program in 2020. He also shared a picture of his infant son, who had been born with a heart defect (Gambino, 2017). In so doing, Kimmel reshaped the debate in a memorable and moving manner by talking about how the proposed health insurance changes would affect children like his. Television ads seeking donations for the Society for the Prevention to Cruelty to Animals almost always feature disturbing images of animal abuse for the same reason.

It will also help to operationalize the goal in a way that people can relate to. (“Together, we can feed ten survivors of sex trafficking for two weeks if we raise \$1,000.”)

5. Get the Word Out! Publicity efforts should include sharing information about the fundraiser friends, co-workers, and members of any athletic or social organizations to which you belong. Where applicable, you may also want to insert a brief announcement about the event in your religion's weekly newsletter.
6. Tell donors how you did and submit donations quickly at the end of the campaign. Colleges frequently require student groups that sponsor fund drives to collect and process all funds in accordance with detailed school regulations.

Free the Slaves has developed a very informative [Information Kit](#) to help those who raise funds on their behalf (Free the Slaves, 2017). They have also posted a detailed [Fundraiser Guide](#) that anyone can use (Free the Slaves, 2015c). Another good fundraising guide is available on the [Blackout Trafficking](#) website (Blackout Trafficking, 2020).

#### Ways that businesses can assist

Private businesses that want to support the fight against human trafficking can do so in many ways. Strategies include giving a nonprofit organization a set monthly donation, a percentage of sales on a one-time or ongoing basis, and matching employee contributions. Businesses can also invite customers to round up each sale to the nearest dollar and then donate the accumulated amount. The author received the note below from a former student who took the initiative to propose this kind of project.

Hello Professor McCarty,

My name is Adriana Celaya and I was part of the human trafficking club this last semester. I enjoyed the initiative and the progress the club has made for a great cause.

I am currently working at a small chain health store called Sunflower. Every month, they choose a charity or foundation that customers can support by rounding up their total to the next dollar or preferred amount. Depending upon the charity or cause, with the small chain stores combined, we can usually gather anywhere between \$750-\$1,400 in donations by the end of the month.

I am bringing this to your attention because I'm interested in your helping me choose an organization that could benefit human trafficking survivors. I hope you can help as I am very interested in helping this cause.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Best,  
Adriana

Some companies may be able to help on a much bigger scale. Businesses that want to help [A21](#), for example, are invited to sponsor New Freedom Centers, Prevention & Awareness trainings or other initiatives by donating at least \$10,000. "Contact us and let us know you're interested in a

project sponsorship. Together, we will find a project you and your team are passionate about” (I don’t have a perfect match for this, but I cited the link to the page specifically for businesses for now) (A21, n.d.-c)

### *Legal assistance*

Chapter IV's section on “Public defenders and legal advocates” described the crucial contributions that lawyers can make to the antitrafficking movement generally. The need for legal assistance is nevertheless worth mentioning again in the context of survivor intervention and aftercare. Survivors need all kinds of help, but lawyers who are willing to volunteer their services are in a particularly good position to give survivors a second chance at life.

### The takeaway

*“Justice is in the hands of the ordinary.” Every individual has a role to play in bringing freedom” (Kunstle, 2020).*

The Exodus Road

Chapter VIII began by describing several tools that activists of all types can use to wage their personal fight against human trafficking. The chapter then described five different initiatives that activists might want to consider focusing on: Increasing awareness, political advocacy, prevention, reducing demand (shopping wisely), and supporting survivor intervention and aftercare.

Concentrating on one area does not prevent anyone from supporting other types of initiatives as time and resources permit. Someone who chooses to focus on increasing awareness, for example, can also “shop wisely” by using AmazonSmile, buying Fair Trade products, and patronizing companies that sell items made by trafficked survivors.

The main takeaway is that we can all be a source of change and opportunity. Each of us could have been born into a life of slavery and would have wanted someone to help if slavery or forced prostitution had been our fate. In the words of Debra Ferrell, a woman who did 53 acts of kindness for her 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday, [“Be love. Do stuff”](#) (Hena, 2020).



## IX. Activism, Research, and Career Opportunities for High School and College Students

*And they went off to change the world...*



Photo by RODNAE Productions. Used with permission.  
(RODNAE Productions, 2021).

*“I tell my students, when you get these jobs you’ve been so brilliantly trained for, just remember that your real job is that if you are free, you need to free somebody else. If you have some power, your job is to empower somebody else” (Houston, 2003).*

Toni Morrison

College students have conclusively demonstrated during the last 50 years that they can be powerful agents of change. Their opposition to the Vietnam war, their support for civil rights and the rights of women and gays, their activism on behalf of the environment, and their role in Black Lives Matter demonstrations are just a few of the many causes they have influenced. Students can apply the same energy and enthusiasm to the fight against human trafficking. This chapter mostly describes potential strategies in the context of college and university settings, but many are also suitable for high schools.

Human trafficking might initially seem to be of primary interest to criminal justice majors. The topic is certainly relevant to aspiring police officers and prosecutors, but the study of human trafficking is unquestionably interdisciplinary in nature. Whatever your major, there is a seat at the table for you.

Scholars in international affairs, history, ethnic studies, and gender studies are researching how history and culture shape trafficking practices on each continent. Psychologists are trying to learn more about how trafficking impacts survivors and how we can better assist them. Trafficked survivors trying to reclaim their lives typically need help from mental health professionals, social workers, and public health practitioners. Nonprofit organizations that assist survivors or lobby for change need people with backgrounds in human resources, accounting, public administration, and social media. Computer experts facilitate the investigation of crimes that traffickers commit online, while journalists help raise public awareness. Human trafficking is about as multi-disciplinary as a subject can get.

Many students have already shown extraordinary leadership in their efforts to fight trafficking. Indian American Sakshi Satpathy is one of them. The Girl Scouts of the USA named Sakshi one of its National Gold Award winners in 2018 for her efforts to counter human trafficking and child marriage. Sakshi was a high school senior in California when she founded [Project GREET](#) (Girl Rights: Engage, Empower, Train). [She also designed, created, and distributed documentary films, a training curriculum, and a YouTube playlist to educate the public about human trafficking](#) (Indian Eagle, n.d.).

Making documentary films is just one tool that students are using to raise awareness. TED and TEDx talks are another. TED is a nonprofit organization that spreads important ideas through short presentations lasting 20 minutes or less. Presenters have included Stephen Hawking, Jane Goodall, Bono, Pope Francis, Elon Musk, presidents, and several Nobel Prize winners. The list also includes high school and college students who spoke about human trafficking. A few examples appear below.

- [Human Trafficking in America](#) (2018)  
“Ella Cobbs is a Junior at Mountain Brook High School. Like many 17-year-old students, Ella is getting ready for college. She’s worried about what classes she’ll take, who her friends will be, and where she’ll live, but all those worries felt so insignificant when she heard about Alice, a 17-year-old victim of human trafficking. Ella’s talk exposes the dark truth about human trafficking in America, and by spreading awareness of this crisis, she hopes the Alices of the world will one day get a chance to live a normal life” (TEDx, 2018c).
- [Human Trafficking: The Underlying Issue of a Sporting Experience](#) (2018)  
“Samantha Cook is a 5th-year undergrad at Western Washington University. She is a member of the International Justice Mission at WWU and has been advocating for awareness of sex and human trafficking since she first heard of it seven years before her talk. In her talk, Samantha presents a brief overview of human trafficking generally and its connection to major sporting events” (TEDx, 2018a).
- [Popping Your Child Trafficking Bubbles](#) (2017)  
“Faye Simanjuntak is an active teenager who loves reading, traveling, binge-watching, and singing Batakese folk songs. She co-founded Rumah Faye in 2013, an organization fighting human trafficking, especially among children. The fact that she’s a teenager does not stop her from putting more thought and heart into that social issue in Indonesia. She is actively promoting and campaigning Rumah Faye’s program to stop child trafficking alongside other NGOs” (TEDx, 2017b).
- [Human trafficking—Stop the silence](#) (2015)  
“Catalleya Storm is a junior at Wright State University studying political science and business management. A human-trafficking survivor, Catalleya focuses her passion on abolishing human trafficking in her lifetime. Catalleya is the founder and president of the student organization Generation Freedom Makers to raise awareness among Ohio's universities. Catalleya, through her own story, demystifies the silent trade of young people in our own backyard and challenges society to find a way to respond to the problem” (TEDx, 2015a).

- [Human Trafficking: Discovering the Value of a Human Life](#) (2016)  
Amanda Howa was a senior at Westminster College when she gave her TED talk. “Amanda is both a researcher and an advocate for sex trafficking awareness in the United States, with a specific focus on Utah. Amanda has shared her research on online sex trafficking at several conferences, has been a part of panel discussions, and has been featured on the local news. In the near future, her research will be considered for publication” (TEDx, 2016b).
- [Why are our youth being sex trafficked in the first place?](#) (2016)  
“Katie Kellett is the co-founder of Students Against Trafficking and Slavery at Texas Woman’s University. Under her leadership, this organization has partnered with local nonprofits to bring awareness to human trafficking in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Katie’s talk focuses on the root of youth sex trafficking in the U.S. All too often, our youth grow up in poverty without the love and support of their families and communities. Traffickers prey on our most vulnerable youth, offering food, shelter, and seemingly the love and support they are missing. Prevention begins with community” (TEDx, 2016c).

### **Learning about human trafficking**

Most students do not have the confidence, knowledge, or experience needed to present an innovative TED or TEDx talk. There are, however, many other things that the average student *can* do to make a difference.

A person’s quest to help fight human trafficking starts with learning as much as possible about the crime’s complex dynamics. Chapters II and III identify a wide variety of resources that can help. The resources include links to relevant courses that students can take for free online. Students can take some of the more demanding courses for credit, but it is not necessary to be enrolled in college or have a strong academic background to benefit. A genuine interest and a commitment to complete all the lessons will suffice.

Those who want a more challenging academic experience should consider taking a traditional college course where they can interact with their instructor and classmates. Unmatriculated students may even be able to audit the course for free.

Colleges that offer human trafficking courses do so in several academic disciplines, so students may have to look outside their major to find one. Departments that might sponsor a relevant course include social welfare, psychology, sociology, and criminal justice. The University at Albany has offered human trafficking courses under the auspices of both the Honors College and the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity.

Another way to learn about trafficking is to research some aspect of it for a term paper, an independent study, or an honors thesis. Students can write about trafficking in just about any context. [Thomas Clarkson](#), an abolitionist who helped end the British slave trade, was motivated to embrace the cause by an assignment he did for a Latin class! In 1785, Clarkson entered a Latin essay competition at Cambridge. The assigned topic of the essay was *Anne liceat invitos in servitutem dare?* (“Is it lawful to enslave the unconsenting?”). The project led Clarkson to read everything he could on the subject. He also interviewed people who had personal experience with slavery and the

slave trade generally. Clarkson's research for the competition set him on a path that guided him for the rest of his life (“Thomas Clarkson”, 2022).

Writing a paper about human trafficking may not change a student’s life as it did for Thomas Clarkson. But it might. At a minimum, a report on trafficking practices or the people affected by it should provide fascinating insights into a serious global problem that few people understand.

Readers can find ideas for research papers throughout the Guide. Additional examples are provided here to illustrate how students can address the topic in almost any discipline.

- Business
  - The challenges associated with ethical sourcing and monitoring employer practices in complex supply chains
  - The use of slaves and exploited labor to produce products such as clothing and cell phones. How can businesses compete in those sectors if they pay workers a fair wage?
  - What is the best way to convince companies to stop using exploited labor? Are online petitions effective? Would a boycott be likely to work? Is the more active promotion of Fair Trade products a viable alternative given the fact that these items cost more? What can activists learn from comparable campaigns, such as those that try to persuade companies to adopt practices that do not harm the environment?
  - Public relations strategies that chocolate manufacturers use to address criticism about the use of slave labor on cocoa farms
  - The origins and effectiveness of Fair Trade
- Computer science
  - Sex trafficking on the dark web
  - The use of digital technologies to combat human trafficking
- Criminal justice
  - Different models for regulating or decriminalizing prostitution and the ways that each approach might impact human trafficking
  - Ways that legislators can amend state or federal laws to better fight human trafficking
  - The value and limitations of Human Trafficking Intervention Courts
- Economics
  - The use and impact of slave labor in the world economy
- Gender studies
  - The feminization of poverty and cultural practices that make women especially vulnerable to human trafficking

- Child brides and the impact of cultural traditions that force girls to get married at a young age
- The types and extent of sex tourism
- Does legalized sex work empower women in a way that gives them more control over their bodies, or is sex work inherently demeaning to all women?
- International Affairs
  - Forced labor in the Middle East, India, or another part of the world
  - The connection between migration and modern slavery
- Journalism
  - The way the media usually portrays human trafficking and whether these depictions are typically accurate
- Marketing
  - The most effective ways to raise public awareness of human trafficking. (Students could identify several anti-trafficking organizations and evaluate the strategies they use to reach their target audience. The paper could then suggest more effective and less expensive approaches to disseminate the information in ways that resonate with women, millennials, retired people, etc.)
- Research methods
  - Data on all types of human trafficking are very poor. What are the most common weaknesses, and how can these issues be addressed?
- Political science
  - The Trafficking in Persons Report that the U.S. State Department issues annually grades the efforts of each country to comply with the minimum standards of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000. To what extent do political considerations impact the ratings the U.S. gives and other countries? How would the United States like it if France or Russia graded American efforts to address global warming?
  - How important is it for U.S. foreign policy to address concerns about exploited labor in China? What are the political risks of doing so?
- Pre-law
  - The purpose and impact of Safe Harbor laws
  - Best practices for state human trafficking laws
  - Students could do a case study of how their state's criminal justice system is responding to human trafficking. Relevant issues include the strength of applicable laws, the most common types of trafficking, the number of arrests and convictions,

and the presence or absence of resources such as Safe Harbor laws and Human Trafficking Intervention Courts.

- Psychology
  - The types and impact of trauma that trafficked children often experience
  - How pimps recruit and control their victims
  - Treatment strategies for helping victims of sexual trafficking
  - Psychological issues associated with long-term debt bondage
- Public administration
  - The best way to spend ten million dollars in the fight against human trafficking
  - Leadership in the anti-trafficking movement. Who are the most influential leaders? Why?
- Biology and Public Health
  - Selling human organs is one of the four major types of human trafficking recognized by international law. What would be the most effective strategies to increase the number of legitimate organ donations or reduce this type of exploitation in the Third World?
  - How the Coronavirus has affected the poor and facilitated a surge in human trafficking
- Sociology/Ethics
  - Many countries assert the legitimacy of child marriage and child labor for a variety of cultural and economic reasons. People elsewhere believe that these practices violate human rights. Is it fair to impose Western norms and values on other countries? (Most Americans would not be receptive to criticism from conservative Islamic clerics who question our policies about gender equality, the use of alcohol, and the clothing that women wear.)
- World history
  - The historical roots of slavery and how past practices have shaped the nature of contemporary human trafficking
  - How the collapse of the Soviet Union facilitated the growth of human trafficking in Eastern Europe

The range of potential research topics is enormous. With the instructor's permission, students can be very creative. By illustration, a previous student who took the author's course on trafficking wrote, produced, and filmed a brief public service announcement about coerced labor in the garment industry. Another student wrote a poem about the impact of sex trafficking on a young girl and used it as the basis for a five-minute [video](#) (McCarty, 2019).



Aspiring artists and poets can participate in the annual [High School Poetry Slam and Art Competition](#).

“Are you a high school student who loves to create art or write poetry/spoken word? Are you a high school teacher who wants to encourage your students’ creativity? Do you like to use your creative voice to make a difference and bring awareness to important issues? If so, please consider submitting a piece of art or poetry/spoken word for our competition!

The art or poetry/spoken word must answer one of the competition’s specified questions related to labor or sex trafficking. Winning finalists in each category are showcased at the Annual High School Human Trafficking & Social Justice Workshop, hosted virtually. The Grand Prize winner in each category of poetry and art receives \$300” (International Human Trafficking & Social Justice Conference, n.d.-a).

Another option might be to do research for an instructor who is writing a book or article about human trafficking. Professors from many disciplines have published on this subject. Students should check with representatives from several departments to see if anyone working on a relevant project needs assistance.

Students who want to immerse themselves in the study of human trafficking while simultaneously enjoying an extraordinary cultural experience may want to consider spending a semester or junior year abroad at the University of Hull in northern England. The university hosts the [Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation](#). “The Institute is a leading center specializing in researching the history of slavery, while also serving as a research hub concerning contemporary slavery and human rights abuses in the present age. It aims to foster links with other universities worldwide, including prestigious American institutions such as Yale, Harvard, and Stanford” (University of Hull, n.d.). Students can apply to Hull even if their school has no formal exchange agreement with the university. Those interested should speak with an official of the study abroad program at their school. They can also contact the University at Hull by writing [studyabroad@hull.ac.uk](mailto:studyabroad@hull.ac.uk) or by calling +44(0) 1482-466686 (University of Hull, n.d.).

Professional conferences are yet another interesting way to learn about human trafficking. Many are offered annually, providing extraordinary opportunities to learn directly from the experts. Readers are encouraged to get on the mailing lists of several anti-trafficking organizations to learn about upcoming conferences and other related events.

Watching conference presentations remotely will eliminate travel and lodging costs. Attending in person is preferable when possible, however, because of the social and professional connections people can make there. Students often qualify for lower registration rates, and some colleges may be willing to help offset conference expenses.

Chapter IV identified several conferences that are of particular interest to social workers. Four conferences with a broader target audience are described below.

- The University of Toledo (Ohio) sponsors the annual [International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Conference](#). Since 2004, the conference “has been bringing together researchers, practitioners, and individuals with lived experience to lay the groundwork for future collaborative research, advocacy, and program development. To date, the trafficking conference has welcomed thousands of attendees from 50 states and 40 countries to learn from researchers, survivors, and social service, health care, and criminal justice professionals

about human trafficking and social justice topics” (International Human Trafficking & Social Justice Conference, n.d.-c). The conference offers up to 12 continuing education credits for social work, counseling, marriage & family therapy, chemical dependency, nursing, health education, public health, occupational therapy, developmental disabilities, and law (International Human Trafficking & Social Justice Conference, n.d.-c).

- [Anti-Slavery International](#) is a nonprofit organization registered in England and Wales. “Founded in 1839, we are the oldest international human rights organization in the world. Today, we draw on our experience to work to eliminate all forms of slavery and slavery-like practices throughout the world. We are not interested in easy solutions. Instead, we deal with the root causes of slavery and its consequences to achieve sustainable change” (Anti-Slavery International, n.d.-a) Interested readers can see a summary and [video highlights](#) of Anti-Slavery’s 2019 conference in London online (Anti-Slavery International, 2019).
- Shared Hope is a Christian nonprofit organization that sponsors what it describes as “[the nation’s leading conference on juvenile sex trafficking](#)” (Shared Hope International, 2021a). According to Shared Hope, “This unforgettable and inspiring conference features today’s most pressing issues in the anti-trafficking field. Presentations and workshops focus on skill-building, survivor experiences, cross-discipline collaboration, task force development, case studies, and lessons learned. Whether you are just getting started or have been working on the issue for years, we have something for everyone. Our training conference strives to provide intermediate or advanced presentations including core subjects as well as hot topics, criminal trends, and material rarely seen at other events” (Shared Hope International, 2021a).

Shared Hope also sponsors an annual [JuST Faith Summit](#). The JuST Conference series “sheds light on juvenile sex trafficking. With speakers, thought leaders, and individuals passionate about activism, JuST events provide practical knowledge and actionable responses to raise awareness and ultimately end trafficking in local communities. Now in its tenth year (2023), this unforgettable and inspiring conference features today’s most pressing issues in the anti-trafficking field. Presentations and workshops focus on skill-building, survivor experiences, cross-discipline collaboration, task force development, case studies, and lessons learned. The JuST Conference continues to stand by the motto that each person has a role to play in preventing and ending commercial sexual exploitation and that a collaborative community response is critical. Whether you are just getting started or have been working on the issue for years, we have something for everyone.”

- The [Fair Trade Federation Conference and Expo](#) “provides a unique platform to highlight the work of our members, verified fair trade enterprises. It is also an important opportunity to come together as a community, share our joys and challenges, reinvigorate ourselves, and be uniquely inspired, which is more important than ever. The 2021 Fair Trade Federation Conference and Expo was attended by around 600 buyers, employees, owners, and advocates from ethical, conventional, and fair-trade wholesalers, retailers, and organizations from the US, Canada, Europe, and more.” Students can “learn from movement leaders and industry experts driving social innovation and sustainability. Connect with campus and community organizers and explore opportunities to convert your passion into community-wide action” (Fair Trade Federation, 2021a).

## **Internships and community service**

The previous section focused on opportunities that enable students to study human trafficking in academic settings. The next step is getting an internship with an organization dedicated to fighting trafficking.

### ***The value of experiential learning***

Internships are an especially powerful way for students to advance their careers. Consequently, students should seek meaningful internships, volunteer opportunities, and summer employment regardless of their major. Many colleges award three or more academic credits to participating students depending upon the amount of time the internship requires.

Students who complete an internship can make a valuable contribution to the mission of the organization where they are working. Internships also enable students to:

- Gain insights into the way that their chosen field operates;
- Apply skills that they have previously acquired;
- Develop new skills in a professional environment;
- Gain a better understanding of the types of skills that are most valued and which they should try to acquire or improve while still in school;
- Obtain experience that strengthens resumes, helps them get into graduate school, or find full-time employment;
- Find a mentor who can answer questions and provide professional guidance;
- Determine whether a particular type of career is likely to be as enjoyable as they had anticipated; and
- Make connections with professionals who may be willing to provide references or otherwise help in the future.

Some internships allow students to travel or attend training with full-time employees. A successful internship could even result in a job offer.

Internships in the human trafficking field encompass a wide variety of projects. Kendra Niese, for example, was a graduate student from Indiana University who had an internship in 2019 with the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center. With help and guidance from the End Slavery Cincinnati Coalition, Kendra developed a very informative 25-page toolkit that the Guide cited earlier: [HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Understanding the Who, What, Where, Why, When, & How to Act](#) (Niese, K. & End Slavery Cincinnati Coalition, 2019). Other interns have worked on projects that include but are not limited to prevention outreach, administration, research, and survivor aftercare.

Students should think carefully about what they hope to do or learn from an internship. They should also think about the type of setting where they most want to work. Some students are people-oriented, while others prefer more solitary administrative or planning tasks. Routine office support may seem boring, but it is essential to every organization's operation.

Students who succeed in obtaining an internship should take it seriously and work just as hard as they would for a regular job. They also need to understand that their supervisor will be using valuable time to train them and may come to depend on them to complete assigned tasks on time. It is thus essential that interns report to work promptly on the agreed-upon days and that they continue working until the scheduled end of their service.

Most internships are unpaid. Students should not interpret the lack of a salary as indicating that the work is unimportant or not appreciated. On the contrary, organizations fighting human trafficking typically have very limited funding. They often depend heavily on interns and volunteers to help them achieve critical elements of their strategic plan.

Some students may not be able to apply for an unpaid internship because they need a job to offset the cost of attending college. Those who need the extra income can address their financial issues while still gaining relevant experience by working part-time in a related service sector such as domestic violence. Domestic violence shelters often hire part-time personnel because low wages result in high turnover and because they require staff on duty at all times. Working nights and weekends will not appeal to everyone, but the positions are paid, critical to the shelter's mission, and can be just as interesting as an internship.

If a student enjoys the internship, there is additional satisfaction from knowing that he/she has made a good career choice. An internship that a student does not enjoy can also be a valuable learning experience if it inspires the student to explore other professional options.

### **Finding an internship**

Finding a good internship is often challenging under the best of circumstances. COVID has made the search even more difficult because it has forced many organizations, especially those that provide direct client care, to suspend or significantly limit in-person volunteer and internship opportunities. The hunt today will probably require more effort than it did in the past, but the potential reward will be well worth the effort.

Students should speak with their advisor to learn about eligibility requirements, the availability of credit, and other rules pertaining to service-learning options in their major. Some schools have a staff member specifically assigned to help students find internships. These individuals are a particularly valuable resource because they are familiar with local organizations that offer internships as well as the minimum qualifications that each has established.

Organizations that accept interns may only want students with specific skills. Others require a minimum number of hours per week or may only accept applications from graduate students. Applicants may also need to complete a background check after successfully completing the initial interview process. Background checks take time, so students should take that into consideration if their school expects them to start by a particular date.

The most exciting internships typically attract numerous applicants. The selection process can be very competitive, so students should apply for multiple positions. Students with special skills should also share the information with the Human Resources Office of organizations that interest them. NGOs might welcome an offer to strengthen their website or improve their social media outreach even if they hadn't been thinking about getting an intern to help. Organizations that do not need an intern might be able to recommend agencies with similar missions that might.

Internship opportunities pertaining to human trafficking are sometimes available on campus. In 2019, for example, the [UNC-Charlotte Criminology Department hired interns to support a project researching human trafficking in the Dominican Republic](#). "The government of the Dominican Republic has committed substantial resources to combating human trafficking through their country.

This includes the Attorney General’s Human Trafficking Unit, which is being supported by the Anti-Trafficking Bureau and the Ursus Institute. To better equip these agencies to understand the trafficking situation moving forward, this project will analyze publicly available and open-source criminal records related to human trafficking in the Dominican Republic from 2018 and prior. Students will learn procedures for handling large databases and data querying. These skills will be taught in a variety of platforms, including SQL, R, Python, and Tableau” (UNC Charlotte Criminal Justice and Criminology., n.d.). UNC-Charlotte also awards \$8,000 [civic engagement grants](#) to help qualified students implement projects of their own design in partnership with local nonprofits. Previously funded initiatives included “Not In My City – human trafficking prevention awareness and fundraising” (UNC Charlotte Levine Scholars Program, n.d.).

Several universities host human trafficking institutes that may welcome interns. These universities include the seven described in alphabetical order below.

- [Arizona State University: The McCain Institute for International Leadership](#)  
“At the McCain Institute for International Leadership at Arizona State University, we aren’t a think tank—we’re an action tank. Inspired by Senator John McCain’s legacy, our work is anchored by three core beliefs: securing democracy and alliances, promoting human rights and protecting the vulnerable, and advancing character-driven leadership in our own communities and around the world. Through programs that address security, economic opportunity, freedom, and human dignity, we convene thought leaders to discuss solutions, build capacity among local leaders and create advocacy to propel our values forward” (McCain Institute, 2022.).  
  
“Through innovative programs, collaborative partnerships, and policy advocacy, the Institute’s Combatting Human Trafficking program drives systemic change and implements comprehensive, action-based solutions to prevent and end all forms of modern slavery...We develop and deploy strategic initiatives to secure justice for victims, build the capacity of trafficking response networks, and facilitate leadership from trafficking survivors. We also leverage investigative journalism and data analytics to inform trafficking interventions and cultivate emerging best practices in the field through learning convenings” (McCain Institute, 2021).
- [George Mason University \(Virginia\): The Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center](#)  
TraCCC is “a research center within the Schar School of Policy and Government. TraCCC was the first center in the United States devoted to understanding the links among terrorism, transnational crime and corruption, and to teach, research, train and help formulate policy on these critical issues” (char School TraCCC, n.d.).
- [Loyola University in New Orleans: Modern Slavery Research Project](#)  
“The Modern Slavery Research Project at Loyola University New Orleans is committed to developing data-based research and training that better serves victims and supports the advocates who make escape possible for those held captive in modern-day slavery. The Project is comprised of a team of researchers and scholars committed to stopping human trafficking in all its forms” (Loyola University New Orleans, n.d.).

- [Tougaloo College \(Mississippi\): Modern Slavery Institute](#)  
 “The institute, the only one of its kind at a historically black college or university, will amass an alliance — one between academicians, students, policymakers, law enforcement officials, international social activists, think tanks, scholars and grassroots community and global outreach groups, both large and small - to study issues such as human trafficking and forced labor in a global context. The institute’s ultimate goal is to develop solutions to combat and eradicate the scourge of subjugation” (Clay, 2016).
- [University of Louisville: Human Trafficking Research Initiative](#)  
 “The Human Trafficking Research Initiative (HTRI) is an interdisciplinary, community-engaged research center at the Kent School of Social Work. The Human Trafficking Research Initiative is staffed by UofL academics and researchers, as well as community research partners, including law enforcement and victim service providers.  
  
 The goal of the HTRI is to be a central source of research on human trafficking to inform the decisions made by those who contact victims, survivors, and perpetrators of human trafficking, including law enforcement, prosecutors, educators, medical services, and social services. Research disseminated from the HTRI will significantly contribute to our knowledge base regarding human trafficking by introducing innovative research methodologies and unique partnerships in the development of new knowledge” (Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work and Family Science, n.d.).
- [University of Nebraska-Lincoln: Forsythe Family Program on Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs](#)  
 “We foster students' curiosity about human rights and their passion for justice by offering challenging courses with inspiring professors, by encouraging our students to engage in hands-on human rights work, and by engaging in cutting-edge, interdisciplinary human rights research. Our faculty and students hail from a range of disciplines, from journalism to economics, political science to public health, bringing with them the diverse perspectives and collaborative spirit needed to tackle the world's most pressing problems. Through our undergraduate minor and graduate specialization, students will be challenged to understand the roots of today's most difficult human rights issues. They will be given the critical thinking skills and inspiration to go out and solve them” (University of Nebraska-Lincoln, n.d.).  
  
 The Program’s initiatives have included presenting the Human Trafficking and Migration Initiative's 2021 [Virtual Summit](#). Guests and speakers included activists, academics, documentarians, and policymakers from around the globe who shared their experience combating labor trafficking in all its forms (University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2021).
- [Wichita State University \(Kansas\): Institute for Transformative Emancipation - The Center for Combating Human Trafficking](#)  
 The Center describes itself as “a team of survivor-leaders and long-term multidisciplinary professionals who represent more than ten decades of combined personal, direct practice, advocacy, and research expertise in the Runaway and



Homeless Youth and Anti-Trafficking Movements. Together, we are committed to empowering the nation’s capacity to provide effective prevention, assessment, identification, intervention, restoration, and aftercare/prosperity, promoting responses to young people who are survivors of the streets. CCHT is unique in that we don’t just believe in ‘rescuing’ victims but rather, respecting, empowering, and promoting prosperity among survivors. Towards this endeavor, we are proud to have a variety of partnerships, disciplines, and areas of expertise represented on our team. From across our own WSU campus to our local, regional, national, and international community partners, we rely on a variety of survivor-leaders, faith-leaders, staff, and faculty” (Institute for Transformative Emancipation, n.d.-a).

On-campus placements are undoubtedly convenient, but most internships are in the community. Some states have designated portals where students can learn about all of the internships that are available at state agencies during both the summer and academic year. [New York](#) is one of them. New York’s Student Intern Program “welcomes applications from students attending undergraduate and graduate programs at colleges and universities throughout New York State, as well as New York State residents studying elsewhere. Interested students use the portal to view job descriptions, review and identify preferred internships, submit applications, and upload resumes. Users can filter their searches by degree concentration, occupational interest, location, and state agency. Students can also search by semester and apply for multiple opportunities with one application using the portal. Each host office or agency then reviews applications to identify select candidates” (New York State Department of Civil Service, n.d.-a). Each posting also tells readers if the position is paid or unpaid, the number of hours expected each week, and other relevant information so potential applicants can make an informed decision (New York State Department of Civil Service, n.d.-a).

Students can also search other types of websites to identify relevant opportunities. Resources include the following:

- [WayUp](#)

“WayUp is a U.S.-based job site and mobile app for college students and recent graduates. Job candidates using the service complete an online profile that matches them with employers based on the candidate's interests, experience, and skill” (“WayUp”, 2021).

In 2017, WayUp named the last Thursday in July National Intern Day. “Many of the organizations listed on our website are either offering paid internships or hiring! Filter by zip code, within 50 miles (U.S.A. only), country/state/city, organization name, forms of slavery, and other variables” (End Slavery Now, n.d.-f).

- [InternJobs.com](#)

“InternJobs.com is a global database of internships and entry-level positions for students, recent graduates, and career changers. Search our job database by keyword or by location” (AboutJobs.com, n.d.).

- [InternshipPrograms.com](#)

Students can search for internships by job title, keywords, company, city, state, or zip code. The website also has helpful tips on topics such as “how to identify a shady

internship, how to become a super intern, and five sure-fire ways to blow your internship” (Internship Programs, n.d.).

- [InternWeb.com](http://InternWeb.com)  
“Looking for a Summer Internship, a Paid Internship, or an Entry Level Job? Internweb is here to connect you with an employer and the internship of your dreams. To search our database of thousands of internships and enable hundreds of employers to find you, please join Internweb today (it's free). Also check out our Top 5 Strategies for Landing Your Dream Internship” (Internweb.com, n.d).
- [Moneygeek](http://Moneygeek)  
“We all know the old conundrum: you can't get a job without experience, and you can't get experience without a job. Internships solve this problem by offering real-world professional experience to college students and recent grads. Not sure where to begin? This guide gives you advice on how to land an internship that will jump-start your career” (DeMerrit, 2021).
- [CollegeGrad.com](http://CollegeGrad.com)  
“Users can search for both internships and entry-level positions. They can also get expert advice on all stages of the Job Search process:  
Careers - research professional careers to find the one that is right for you  
Resumes - how to develop the best entry-level resume and cover letter  
Interviewing - learn how to make the very best impression to get hired  
Salaries - find out how much you are worth, entry-level and experienced” (CollegeGrad.com, n.d).
- [Chegg](http://Chegg)  
Users can search for positions by keyword, city, and/or state. The site also offers practical advice on “Completing the First Week at Your Internship, Seven things I Wish I Knew Before I Started My Internship, The 5 Questions You Need to Ask During Your Internship Interview, 5 Things To Do At The End Of Your Internship, Internship Etiquette 101, and How to Own Your Internship Program” (Chegg, n.d.).
- [Indeed](http://Indeed)  
“Indeed is a job search engine that aggregates job listings from thousands of websites, including job boards, staffing firms, associations, and company career pages.” Indeed also has information about internships. (Indeed, n.d.).

The websites cited above include information about available internships in Washington, DC. This feature is significant because many colleges sponsor “Semester in Washington” programs that enable students of any major to take advantage of governmental and nongovernmental internships in or near the nation’s capital. The internships typically last an entire semester and offer 15 credits. These programs provide a memorable experience that can be both an academic capstone and a launching pad for a meaningful career. Colleges that offer these programs often provide assistance finding housing, but students are responsible for housing, transportation, and food costs in addition to their tuition.

## **Organizations that offer anti-trafficking internships**

Many organizations offer internships directly or indirectly related to human trafficking. The first four that appear below are examples of nonprofits that provide different types of direct assistance to survivors and at-risk youth. They are followed by more than a dozen organizations that serve the cause in other ways.

The Guide would have to be many times longer than it is to give a well-deserved shout-out to all the outstanding organizations that work in this genre and which often look for interns. The list is only meant to illustrate the variety of options that exist throughout the country. Similar opportunities may be available in or near the communities where students live.

- [Amirah](#)

Woburn, Massachusetts (about nine miles north of Boston)

Amirah has residential and outreach programs that serve more than 250 survivors of sex trafficking annually. Past internships have involved direct care, program development, and communications. “At Amirah, we strive to provide students and post-grads with internship opportunities that are mutually beneficial - giving more people a chance to work in aftercare for survivors of sex trafficking. We offer summer internships as well as internships throughout the school year” (Amirah Inc., n.d.-a). Additional information can be found on [Amirah’s website](#).

- [Thistle Farms](#)

Nashville, TN

“Thistle Farms is a nonprofit social enterprise dedicated to helping women survivors recover and heal from trafficking, prostitution, and addiction. We provide a safe place to live, a meaningful job, and a lifelong sisterhood of support because we believe love is the most potent force in the world.

We offer interns availability in our Residential Program for students in social work, nursing, or other clinical-based programs. Additionally, we invite students to intern with our Enterprises and work alongside our marketing, sales, events, customer service, and merchandise teams!

What We’re Looking For: You’re committed to working at least 20 hours a week, preferably full workdays (i.e., M-W-F) during the fall, spring, or summer. You have a strong work ethic and the ability to work independently and in groups. You have a laptop computer and access to transportation to get to and from our Nashville, TN headquarters. Most importantly, you’re passionate about the mission of Thistle Farms and committed to working in a community of advocates, survivors, and customers that believe Love Heals.” (Thistle Farms, n.d.-a).

- [Fair Girls](#)

Washington, D.C.

FAIR Girls “provides intervention and holistic care to female survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children. Through prevention education and policy advocacy, FAIR Girls also works to eradicate human trafficking and reduce systematic barriers to survivors’ healing and empowerment. Since our

founding in 2003, FAIR Girls has served well over 1,200 girls and young women, providing safe housing, client-centered, trauma-informed direct services, and the life skills they need to transition from victim to survivor. FAIR Girls' mission is deeply rooted in reducing the barriers faced by young women and girls being trafficked and assisting them, not only in safely liberating themselves but also in having the skills, resources, and support they need to remain free" (FAIR Girls, n.d.- a)

Volunteer positions working directly with FAIR Girls' clients as a mentor or someone who does overnight stays require a six-month commitment. FAIR Girls also needs volunteers who may be able to contribute on a shorter or project-specific basis. Needed services include graphic design, video production, and legal assistance. Volunteers who do not have specialized skills could help do special event planning or general office help. We keep a lean staff in order to most efficiently use funds to support our programs, so we need volunteers with a variety of skills, interests, and abilities."

Volunteer Prevention Advocates "are responsible for facilitating Human Trafficking/CSEC 101 trainings and providing support during Tell Your Friends. Tell Your Friends training can be triggering to some students, so advocates will serve as support for staff conducting trainings." Volunteer Outreach Advocates "accompany local law enforcement on ride-alongs to provide support and referrals to potential survivors. Advocates will hand out materials to potential survivors and provide crisis support for individuals seeking services." Both types of advocates must complete a 15-hour training conducted by FAIR Girls staff. Prevention Advocates commit to 1 - 3 shifts per month, either during the weekend (Saturday & Sunday) or throughout the week (Monday-Friday) at various times, depending on need."

Virtual volunteers are also welcome. "Virtual volunteers will be asked to help with a variety of tasks. From writing blogs to participating in webinars and creating social media content– virtual volunteers will have the opportunity to contribute to a variety of projects based on their personal interests. Virtual volunteers can contribute a few hours a day, a few hours a week, or a few hours a month. They may work at a time that best suits their schedule."

- [Covenant House](#)

New York, NY and 21 other cities in the United States, Central America, and Canada [Wikipedia](#) describes Covenant House as "the largest privately-funded agency in the Americas providing shelter, food, immediate crisis care, and an array of other services to homeless and runaway youth, many of whom are at risk of being trafficked" ("Covenant House", 2022). Covenant House offers both internship and volunteer opportunities.

["Interns have the opportunity to volunteer at the Covenant House shelter in New York City or Newark, New Jersey.](#) Covenant House invites the best and the brightest to come, not merely to observe but to join us as active and trusted members of our team in the battle against youth homelessness. Designed for high-achieving juniors, seniors, and graduate students, Covenant House International's Summer Internship Program offers accepted applicants the opportunity to experience first-hand the workings of the

largest privately funded agency serving youth facing homelessness in the Americas. Summer interns participate in a 10-12-week immersion working with project teams and strategic initiatives central to the organization's success. We provide interns with as much educational and experiential value as we can in exchange for their hard work and dedication to their summer projects. Interns gain great experience not just in general non-profit management but in research, business writing, project management, finance, human resources, development/ fundraising, marketing, issues of youth homelessness, advocacy, and the use of technology in carrying out a non-profit organization's mission" (Covenant House, n.d.-b).

"Each year, over 800 volunteers donate thousands of hours of service to Covenant House New York. Volunteer opportunities include:

- Workforce Development  
Our two-week job readiness class teaches basic skills to prepare our young people for the world of work. Volunteers join us to conduct mock interviews and participate in a career panel with the students using questions we provide or other questions that come to mind. It is an excellent opportunity to interact with our students while getting to know them and assisting them with fundamental career-building skills.
- Life Skills Workshops  
Bring your skills to our youth with a workshop designed to teach any variety of life skills. You can create and pitch your own ideas for a workshop in your area of expertise.
- Clothing Room Assistant  
Help our clothing room look its best! Clothing room assistants organize and sort items based on styles and colors. This position is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 to 5:50 p.m.
- Personal Shopper/ Stylist  
Do you like fashion and creating stylish, coordinated outfits? Consider becoming a personal shopper on weekdays at CHNY for our youth" (Covenant House, n.d.-c).

Covenant House also has a volunteer "Faith Community." Members of the community participate in a one-year residential program and serve homeless youths full-time. (The author lived in the community one summer while in graduate school several years ago. It was by far the most rewarding and fascinating summer work he ever did!)

Those who want to learn more about any volunteer opportunities can email [chnyvolunteer@covenanthouse.org](mailto:chnyvolunteer@covenanthouse.org).

- [U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security Blue Campaign](#)  
Washington, DC

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security "offers a variety of prestigious scholarships, fellowships, internships and training opportunities to expose talented students to the broad national security mission" (U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2022d). Interested students can seek opportunities working on the Blue Campaign, "a national public awareness campaign, designed to educate the public, law enforcement and other industry partners to recognize the indicators of human

trafficking, and how to appropriately respond to possible cases” (Blue Campaign, n.d.-a).

- [U.S. State Department](#)

Washington, DC

The State Department’s many responsibilities include preparing the annual Trafficking in Persons Report. The report is issued by the [Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons](#). “Countries in this report are given detailed narratives which provide an overview of that country’s current anti-trafficking laws, law enforcement efforts, human trafficking prevention methods, victim protection procedures, current tier ranking, and recommendations going forward” (Vanderzielfultz, 2020). The State Department offers internships both in the District of Columbia and abroad (U.S. Department of State, n.d.-e).

- [Polaris Project](#)

Washington, D.C.

“For more than a decade, Polaris has assisted thousands of victims and survivors through the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline, helped ensure countless traffickers were held accountable, and built the largest known U.S. data set on actual trafficking experiences. With the guidance of survivors, we use that data to improve the way trafficking is identified, how victims and survivors are assisted, and how communities, businesses, and governments can prevent human trafficking by transforming the underlying inequities and oppressions that make it possible” (Polaris, n.d.-a).

The Polaris website does not address the issue of internships, but students who have time to support its mission might want to contact Polaris anyway to discuss possible projects. They should also know that Polaris frequently offers full and part-time paid positions as Anti-Trafficking Hotline Advocates. Advocates are “primarily responsible for responding to all signals (call, text, chat, online tips, and email) on the National Hotline and conducting case follow-up. This primary task occupies 75-100% of the Anti-Trafficking Hotline Advocate’s workday” (Polaris, 2018).

- [Free the Slaves](#)

Washington, DC

“Free the Slaves was founded in 2000 and is considered a leader and pioneer in the modern abolitionist movement. We’ve developed a global blueprint for change to inform governments, international institutions, faith communities, businesses, and the public what they can do. We’re now implementing our community-based strategy in strategically selected countries, demonstrating that our model works and that it is both scalable and replicable. Our groundbreaking research and rigorous evaluation inform our policy advocacy to strengthen anti-slavery laws and rid slavery from manufacturing supply chains and business practices.

Free the Slaves was not seeking internship applications as of January 2023, but the nonprofit previously sponsored an internship program in its Washington, D.C. office to develop and train future leaders of the anti-slavery movement. The internships provided direct exposure to the workings of an international human rights



organization, close supervision by FTF staff, interaction with other U.S. and international organizations, and opportunities to attend lectures, trainings, and special events relating to federal and international anti-slavery advocacy. Interested students may want to learn more about the organization's [previous internships](#) and then contact staff to see if or when similar opportunities will be offered in the future (Free The Slaves n.d.).

- [End Slavery Now](#)

Cincinnati, Ohio

“End Slavery Now believes we all have a role in ending slavery... End Slavery Now partners with antislavery organizations in the United States and across the globe to identify answers to the question, ‘What can I do?’... Our goal at End Slavery Now is for the public to learn about the issue, connect with organizations, and take action to end slavery. Through this, we are building a community of activists that can come alongside lawyers, law enforcement, and service providers to address the victims and consequences of slavery and truly end the practice” (End Slavery Now, n.d.-a).

“End Slavery Now offers unpaid 40 hours/week summer internships in Cincinnati, Ohio. Activities include general program support, article editing, human rights research, digital marketing, event coordination, and administrative duties (even something as simple as answering phones is a big help and can be very interesting)” (End Slavery Now, n.d.-m).

- [ECPAT-USA](#)

Brooklyn, NY

“ECPAT-USA is the leading anti-trafficking policy organization in the United States whose mission is to ensure no child is bought, sold, or used for sex. The organization belongs to an international network of organizations in more than 100 countries, all working to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children.” (ECPAT-USA, n.d.-c).

ECPAT-USA offers different types of internships. One that it sponsored in the past was for a [Development Intern](#). This intern reported to the Director of Development and assisted ECPAT-USA staff “in all aspects of donor communications, donor and corporate research, database management, special events, marketing, communications, and other projects as needed.” ECPAT-USA has also sought a Youth and Education Development Intern to “work with our Youth Outreach Manager to support ECPAT-USA’s efforts in developing and engaging the school community in anti-trafficking education and prevention efforts. Most efforts will focus on making additions to our youth toolkit for middle and high schools, creating relationships between ECPAT-USA and key stakeholders in the Education sector, and developing projects for our Youth Against Child Trafficking (Y-ACT) program” (ECPAT-USA, 2020b).

[ECPAT International’s Internship Program](#) “gives recent graduates and young professionals the opportunity to learn about ECPAT International and to learn about and acquire practical training in the fields of child rights advocacy, research, and child protection programming, specifically in the area of child sexual exploitation. Opportunities are mostly in the professional field of international human rights law but

may also occur in the areas of communications, fundraising, and general program support.

During the internship, participants have an opportunity to work with professional experts in the ECPAT Secretariat and, depending on the specific assignment, with ECPAT network members, partner organizations, and external child rights experts. The internship program aims at a learning-in-action or an experiential learning approach which means that the orientation and learning of each intern will take place largely through direct involvement in the work agendas and activities of the ECPAT Secretariat. Interns at ECPAT International make an important contribution to the work of the Secretariat in ending the sexual exploitation of children. The support and commitment of ECPAT's interns have a direct and valuable impact on the range and breadth of work the Secretariat takes on" (ECPAT International, n.d.-a).

- [Fair Trade Campaigns](#)

Nationwide

“Fair Trade Campaigns is a powerful grassroots movement mobilizing thousands of conscious consumers and Fair Trade advocates on campuses and communities across the USA. We are part of a global effort to normalize Fair Trade as an institutional practice and consumer preference across 30 countries and six continents. Fair Trade Campaigns recognizes towns, colleges, universities, schools, and congregations in the US for embedding Fair Trade practices and principles into policy, as well as the social and intellectual foundations of their communities. We provide tools, resources, and support events to launch and grow local Fair Trade Campaigns in your town, university, school, or congregation” (Fair Trade Campaigns, n.d.-a)

Fair Trade Campaigns hires fellows throughout the country to support their work advocating for Fair Trade in communities and on college campuses. [Fellowships at the time the book was being written](#) ran from March 2022 through May 2023 (Lemmon, 2021).

- [International Justice Mission](#)

Washington, D.C.

International Justice Mission is an international, non-governmental organization focused on human rights, law, and law enforcement. IJM has 17 field offices in Africa, Latin America, South Asia, and Southeast Asia and five partner offices in North America, Europe, and Australia. The bulk of IJM's work focuses on sex trafficking. All IJM employees are required to be practicing Christians (International Justice Mission, n.d.-a).

[IJM offers semester-based \(2-3 months\) internships in its Washington, DC office](#) for college juniors and beyond during the spring, summer, and fall. IJM also offers summer legal internships for law students (International Justice Mission, n.d.-c).

- [Shared Hope International](#)

Arlington, VA

“Internships at Shared Hope International’s Institute for Justice and Advocacy in downtown Washington, D.C. allow undergraduate students the opportunity to be immersed in a nonprofit environment. There are three internship tracks available at the Institute: Policy, Communications, and Events Management. Interns will primarily work with their specific program leads to assist with a variety of projects. Along with project tasks, interns attend professional development workshops that include resume building, cover letters, and personal growth. The projects provided by the staff allow for each intern to build a solid portfolio from their experience with development and management in a small NGO (non-government organization). If capacity allows, interns may also attend local awareness events, press conferences, and tours within the community of DC.”

- [iEmpathize](#)

Los Angeles, Orlando, Denver, Worldwide

“To empathize is to understand and actively respond to the suffering of others. Empathy inspires movements that shift cultural perspectives and lead toward the end of child exploitation...Preventing child exploitation in its many forms, including human trafficking, is our top priority. By addressing the fundamental elements that lead to exploitation, we can prevent it” (iEmpathize, n.d.-c).

Past internship opportunities have included a Legislative Research Project. The project aims “to gather information that will help iEmpathize with strategies related to distribution efforts for The Empower Youth Program, our exploitation prevention program for youth. This project provides the opportunity for an intern to gain experience in the non-profit sector, in the education arena, and in the political sphere. Build your resume with meaningful work that will prove your ability to build a report of analysis with a national perspective while also making an impact for youth” (iEmpathize, 2019).

- [Restavek Foundation](#)

Cincinnati, OH

The mission of the Restavek Foundation is “to end child slavery in Haiti in our lifetimes. Every action we take — whether it be caring for restavek children, conversing with families about the harsh realities of the practice, or spurring community leaders to effect permanent change — is done with this goal in mind” (Restavek Freedom, 2021b).

Those wishing to apply for an internship can download an Intern Application Form from the website. The completed application, a cover letter, and resume should then be emailed with the position title in the email's subject (Restavek Freedom, n.d.-b).

- [End Slavery Tennessee](#)

Nashville, TN

“End Slavery Tennessee provides specialized case management and comprehensive aftercare for human trafficking survivors and tactically addresses the problem through advocacy, prevention, and training of front-line professionals” (End Slavery Tennessee, n.d.-b).

“End Slavery Tennessee is pleased to offer internships for students interested in fulfilling their required field coursework and who want to develop a deeper understanding of our organization and its role in the fight against human trafficking. We have internship opportunities for students interested in furthering their pursuits in social work, psychology, non-profit management, events and fundraising, community outreach, social media, and more” (End Slavery Tennessee, n.d.-a).

### **International internships and junior year abroad**

International internships are available for students who are a bit more adventurous. As previously noted, the pandemic has impacted the availability of internships everywhere, so students considering this type of experience should check directly with the organizations that interest them.

End Slavery Now publishes a global [Antislavery Directory](#) listing “organizations where you can get involved in the fight against modern-day slavery and human trafficking” (End Slavery Now, n.d.-b). The website features six columns at the top of each page: Organization name, Forms of slavery that the organization fights, Country where the organization is based, State/province/countries where the organization is active, and Volunteer opportunities (End Slavery Now, n.d.-b). Visitors can thus tell which organizations welcome volunteers immediately without searching all the websites. Clicking on the organization's name brings the user directly to the organization’s website, where additional information can be found. (The Directory includes many organizations based in the United States, so students looking for domestic opportunities should also find this resource very helpful.) Five representative organizations are described below.

- The [Urban Light Foundation](#) is based in Thailand and is one of the only organizations working to help male survivors of sex trafficking. “Most people in Thailand and around the world don't want to acknowledge the existence of male sex trafficking and exploitation – but Urban Light is here to educate, advocate and bring attention to the dark realities these young men face” (Urban Light, n.d.-b). Urban Light accepts volunteers who can commit to at least six months of service (Urban Light, n.d.-c).
- [Chab Dai](#) (“joining hands” in Khmer) offers a similar experience. Chab Dai was founded in Cambodia but also has offices in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Chab Dai “is a coalition of diverse stakeholders committed to working together to abolish all forms of sexual abuse, human trafficking, and exploitation. Chab Dai aims to end trafficking and sexual exploitation through coalition building, community prevention, advocacy, and research” (“Chab Dai”, 2023).

“They say it takes a village, and in this case, it takes a diverse village of skill sets to effectively combat human trafficking and exploitation! Volunteering at Chab Dai will allow you to use your skills and talents to empower others from your own home or while living overseas in Southeast Asia” (Chab Dai, n.d.-a).

- [Agape International Missions](#) serves girls who have been trafficked for sex in Cambodia. Those wishing to volunteer there pay AIM \$200 a week in addition to their travel and lodging expenses. The fee covers administrative overhead, lunch, and a T-shirt that volunteers wear so that members of the community can identify them as one of the “good guys” (Agape International Missions, n.d.-c).

- [Bloom Asia](#) is a not-for-profit organization in Cambodia that assists and empowers young women in Cambodia who have been exploited. Women are often the most vulnerable and discriminated against in poverty-stricken communities, and many are sadly the recipients of extreme experiences of significant trauma. Bloom Asia aims to address this through education, vocational training, mentoring, and employment. (Bloom Asia, n.d.-b). Bloom Asia offers 12-month internships and volunteering opportunities that often center on communications and English/literacy teaching (Bloom Asia, n.d.-a).
- [Nightlight](#) is an international NGO with offices in Bangkok and Missouri. Nightlight staff are “compelled by love to reach out to rescue and restore all those who are negatively impacted by sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation” (Nightlight International, n.d.- a). “Those who wish to volunteer in Bangkok spend at least one year serving there with our team. Volunteers are responsible for providing their own support” (Nightlight International, n.d.-b). When this Guide was being written, the Bangkok chapter was seeking volunteers to work as coffee shop/male outreach staff, in product development, and in marketing and communications.

Many colleges offer scholarships to support international travel, so students should check with their institution’s Education Abroad office to see if they are eligible. The University at Albany, for example, sponsors an “Initiatives for Women” program that provides financial assistance to help female students, faculty, and staff advance their educational and professional goals.

Students can also seek funding from community service organizations. [Zonta International](#) is one possibility. Zonta is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. Zonta International “strives to promote and protect the human rights of all women and girls and reduce the incidence of violence against them” (Zonta USA, n.d.). Its initiatives include committing \$1,000,000 to UN Women to create sustainable foundations for addressing the nexus between human trafficking and the foreign labor migration of women and girls in Nepal. Zonta also grants \$5,000 awards to assist young female leaders (Zonta International, n.d.-c). Female students can contact a local chapter to see if it is willing to support a relevant internship or service-learning experience.

### **Community Service**

Some students will not be able to find a suitable organization that offers internships near their college. Others may not qualify or be unable to adjust their schedule in a way that allows them to take advantage of available opportunities. Still others may not get accepted for the position they most wanted. Students who fall into one of these categories should consider similar options that support the antitrafficking cause while simultaneously offering many of the same benefits that come from completing an internship.

Perhaps the most basic type of service is to do a project that satisfies a class assignment. By way of example, two of the author’s former students met with the staff of a local shelter for trafficked and at-risk youth, took a tour of the facility, and spoke with administrators to learn about their work. The students had hoped to volunteer there, but the COVID outbreak forced them to cancel the plan. The students were nevertheless motivated to start a GoFundMe campaign for the shelter and posted about it on several social media platforms. They ultimately raised more than \$1,100 that staff used to buy much-needed toiletries, clothes, and school supplies.

Students may also be able to design a personalized “service learning” program that grants academic credit. “Service-learning is a process by which students learn by doing and experience personal development through organized volunteer activities. When actively participating in projects driven by local community priorities, students apply their skills and knowledge in real-life situations while gaining valuable hands-on work experience” (University at Albany, n.d.-a). The [University at Albany](#) is one of many colleges that offers a service-learning program.

Another possibility might be to register for an “[Alternative Break](#)” such as the one that the University at Miami sponsors. According to UM officials, thousands of students have spent their Fall and Spring breaks learning about a community other than their own since the program began more than 19 years ago. “Each and every year, our students come back from these trips more energized about advocacy and with a deeper understanding of the systemic issues behind their trip's focus. That said, the UM Alternative Break experience is an extremely personal one. One student may be moved so strongly by a trip to La Plazita Institute in Albuquerque, for example, that the student decides to change his/her major; other students may find a greater impact in the close friendships they made along the way. No matter what, the experience deeply affects our students in unique, sometimes unpredictable ways” (University of Miami Alternative Breaks, n.d.-b). It is unlikely that many colleges offer alternative breaks on the theme of human trafficking, but students may be able to design a similar experience by negotiating with staff at a shelter that serves trafficked survivors. Working at a shelter during spring break would help the residents, strengthen the individual’s resume, and be far more memorable than playing video games at home.

A fourth alternative is to volunteer for a few hours each week. Many students need paying positions to offset their educational expenses, but financial help might be available for those who volunteer full-time at a nonprofit during the summer. The University at Albany, for example, has a [Community Service Fellows Program](#) that awards \$5,000 scholarships to a small number of eligible students (University at Albany, n.d.-b).

There are often many types of relevant volunteer opportunities. By way of illustration, several anti-trafficking organizations welcome volunteers in or near Albany, NY, a city with about 95,000 residents. One is [Safe Inc.](#) of Schenectady. Safe, Inc. has two programs of particular interest: Project Safe and Safe House. [Project Safe](#) “provides comprehensive services on an outpatient basis to female and male individuals between 12 and 35 years old who have engaged in sex trafficking, survival sex, or are at risk of sexual exploitation. Through intensive direct services (including counseling, life skills training, and securing housing) and referrals to other community service providers, Project Safe seeks to address each client’s needs. [Safe House](#) is a temporary co-ed emergency youth shelter for homeless, runaway, and ‘throwaway’ youth ages 16-20. The shelter has 12 beds and can also accommodate a young child of a resident. The shelter provides for the immediate physical needs (shelter, food, and clothing) of its residents. Staff also provide counseling and referrals to address the causes of each youth’s homelessness and to obtain appropriate permanent housing. We need people with all kinds of talents to assist our youth. You could become a Board Member, a tutor, a mentor, a leader with youth” (Safe Inc. of Schenectady, n.d.-b).

The [St. Anne Institute](#) also does important work in Albany. Its services include a Street Outreach Program that “helps youth out of homelessness and into a safe shelter. SOP staff identifies youth, and their work is to build trusting relationships. The program’s primary goal is to provide street-based services to runaway, homeless, and street youth under the age of 21 and who have been



subjected to, or are at risk of being subjected to, sexual abuse, prostitution, sexual exploitation, and severe forms of trafficking; and to build relationships between street outreach workers and runaway, homeless, and street youth to move youth into stable housing and prepare them for independence” (St. Anne Institute, n.d.-b).

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet provide a third example. The Sisters “are a member of the [Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking](#), an umbrella organization with more than 30 international Catholic agencies dedicated to ending human trafficking. The main purposes of the Coalition are to “formulate plans for combating trafficking and serving its victims, promote development of services for trafficking victims and approaches to survivor empowerment, dialogue with government officials and others engaged in public policies affecting this issue, and devise strategies for public education, awareness-raising and grass roots action (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, n.d). The Coalition has a chapter in Latham, seven miles north of Albany.

Students who are unaware of any nearby anti-trafficking organizations might get some helpful suggestions by searching websites that seek to match potential volunteers of all types with appropriate service providers. Some websites, such as those sponsored by the [United Way](#) and [Volunteer Match](#) have national databases. Other resources focus on local opportunities. ICT SOS, for example, is based in Wichita, Kansas. [ICT SOS](#) “acts as a liaison between local professional organizations that work with at-risk and trafficked individuals and the Wichita volunteers who seek to assist them. By connecting local agencies with volunteers and resources, ICT SOS helps facilitate their missions of fighting sex trafficking” (ICT SOS, n.d.-a). ICS SOS also has a High School & College Advisory Board to provide “a leadership opportunity within their organization and the community for high school and college students to become more actively involved preventing and fighting human trafficking... These students work together to create awareness opportunities and events within their schools and the community to support the work of our direct service partners. Through their involvement with the Advisory Board, students will be exposed to and learn from professionals working in anti-trafficking efforts at many levels, including local, state, and federal” (ICT SOS, 2022).

Some programs are only operational in certain states but can serve as models that activists can implement elsewhere. A noteworthy example is [Teens Against Trafficking](#). Each *Teens Against Human Trafficking* team works with a school staff member (teacher, advisor, etc.) to determine the best approach to raise awareness in their school and community. The students take on leadership roles and implement educational programs while continuing to expand their knowledge of labor trafficking and sex trafficking. Teens Against Trafficking anticipates that youth aged 12-18 who complete the curriculum will not be trafficked for sex or labor in their lifetime. This expectation is based on the following outcomes: (1) Increased understanding among youth, teachers, parents and service providers of human trafficking indicators and tactics used by traffickers; (2) Increase in healthy boundaries in relationships; (3) reduction of risky and/or predatory behavior both in person and online, and (4) an increased willingness to seek help for themselves or their peers.

Volunteering remotely is yet another possibility. Students at several schools, including the University of Pennsylvania, Boston University, and McGill University in Montreal, have established Hack 4Impact chapters that enable students to contribute remotely to organizations anywhere in the world while simultaneously applying and refining their professional skills. [Hack4Impact](#) believes in using tech for good. Staff connect student software developers with nonprofits and other socially

responsible businesses to develop powerful new tools for social change, further their mission, and better engage their clients. Each chapter chooses three to five projects per semester to work on with nonprofits. Students work in small groups led by a project manager and technical lead to develop the application, taking into account the clients' requirements and suggestions" (Hack4Impact UIUC, n.d.-a). Past projects have included helping to give sexual assault survivors more control over the reporting process and helping to make a nonprofit's Excel tool clearer and more intuitive for fellow and partnership managers (Hack4Impact UIUC, n.d.).

Finally, many cities and towns have nonprofit organizations that do not work directly on human trafficking issues but make relevant contributions nonetheless. Big Brother/Big Sister programs and basketball leagues that the YMCA sponsors, for example, rely on volunteers to help keep at-risk youth off the streets and away from potential predators. [Ten Thousand Villages](#), a nonprofit retail chain with 100 stores in the United States and Canada, also welcomes volunteers. Ten Thousand Villages sells Fair Trade products and items made by Third World artisans, some of whom are trafficked survivors (Ten Thousand Villages, n.d.-a).

### **Campus Organizations**

Most schools do not have clubs that focus exclusively on human trafficking, and there will not always be the level of interest necessary to start one. Students in this situation can still make a meaningful difference. One option would be to highlight the problem of slave and exploited labor in presentations they make in class. They could also write an article for the school newspaper about the merits of buying Fair Trade products and other ethically sourced items. Those wishing to do a bit more could ask local shop owners to carry products from companies such as [Freeset](#) and [Thistle Farms](#). A fourth option would be to join a religious or service-oriented club and then suggest that the group adopt human trafficking as one of its projects.

A more formal alternative to participating in an antitrafficking club would be to cooperate directly with an organization unrelated to the college. [Durga Tree International](#) (DTI), for example, is a small nonprofit in New Jersey with a mission "to create sustainable, long-term solutions that will bring an end to modern slavery" (Durga Tree International, n.d.-c). Durga Tree invites volunteers to serve as Youth & Campus Ambassadors. The Ambassadors are "comprised of high school and college students who work closely with the staff and volunteers to raise awareness and funds. Through Durga Tree International's Youth & Campus Ambassador Program, you will research and identify where and how slavery is happening, the relationship we have to the problem, and what can be done to help our team imagine creative solutions that will move the needle towards justice & the full eradication of modern slavery. Their efforts in empowering their peers to become conscious consumers introduce the issue of human trafficking to new and diverse student groups and strengthen DTI's profile on campuses nationwide. Ambassadors are considered local experts, the "face" of DTI on their school campus, and represent DTI through a multitude of outreach forms, advancing the common good of the organization" (Durga Tree International, n.d.-b)

While there are thus many ways that students can contribute on their own, joining a campus organization is often more enjoyable. The combined efforts of several people will also accomplish more than whatever an individual can do alone.

### *Starting a club*

Students at schools that do not have a club dedicated to fighting human trafficking might want to consider starting one. Free the Slaves, a nonprofit organization that works “to transform the political, economic, cultural, and social circumstances that make slavery possible” has developed helpful [guides to assist students who want to form clubs in both high schools and colleges](#) (Free The Slaves, n.d.-f; Free the Slaves, n.d.-h).

Ali Hansen, a double major in criminal justice and emergency preparedness, homeland security, and cybersecurity, took the lead role in starting Students Stopping Trafficking of People (SSTOP) at the University at Albany in 2016 and served as President for two years before graduating. Ali subsequently won a university award for Excellence in Student Leadership and was selected as the Student Organization President of the Year to recognize her achievement. The most important part of her legacy is the club's ongoing work to heighten awareness and raise funds for survivors. It is nevertheless reassuring to know that student leaders can get some much-deserved recognition for their efforts.



## STUDENTS STOPPING TRAFFICKING OF PEOPLE

(UAlbany Students Stopping Trafficking of People, n.d.).

Starting a new club is usually very time-consuming, especially during the initial months when just one person and a few friends are doing all the work. Those willing to accept this challenge should first review the rules and processes that their school has established for a club to get recognized and become eligible for funding. There are likely to be several forms that organizers must submit in order to get started and additional documents that the club president will have to file annually. Other initial tasks include writing a clear mission statement, finding a faculty adviser, writing a constitution, and electing officers. Many schools require club members with major roles such as the treasurer to complete a brief course each year to learn about the policies and procedures associated with their position. Founding members can gain valuable insight by talking with officers from established clubs at the beginning of the planning process.

Developing a budget also takes time, and a university official typically must approve the proposed financial plan before the club can access the funds. Even then, the school may only release the money after the Treasurer submits receipts for spending that club members did upfront and out of pocket. The reimbursement process may be very slow, so club officers should plan accordingly. Other common administrative tasks include establishing a presence on social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. Possible uses of social media involve reposting announcements from anti-trafficking organizations about upcoming webinars, sharing information about the human trafficking awareness days described in Chapter VIII, and promoting links to interesting articles about trafficking.

Recruiting members is likely to be an ongoing undertaking because several students who join are likely to quit or be relatively inactive. Recruitment strategies include participating in tabling events that many schools schedule at the beginning of each semester. A club representative should also request permission to speak for a few minutes at the beginning of classes where students might be especially interested in trafficking.

Once the club is established, it is often beneficial to develop good working relationships with other clubs that have similar activist missions. Doing so can heighten awareness of the trafficking problem, increase attendance at co-sponsored activities, and attract new members. Other clubs can also help plan and pay for major events. In 2020, for example, UAlbany Students Stopping Trafficking wanted to schedule an online presentation by Cyntoia Brown, a young woman who was trafficked as a juvenile and subsequently spent 15 years in prison for killing one of her abusers before finally being pardoned. Raising the funds needed to pay Cyntoia's fee required contributions from SSTOP, the Student Association, the UAlbany chapter of the National Congress of Black Women, the Epsilon Delta Psi Pre-Professional Fraternity, the Pride Alliance, and Cornerstone Ministries. The joint sponsorship also boosted attendance—more than 200 students registered to hear Cyntoia speak.

Club officials may find it advantageous to join the [Enlighten Network](#) to exchange ideas with members of similar student groups. The Network is a student-led coalition that students at Ohio State University founded in 2018 to advocate for solutions to end human trafficking in all its forms. First, we will build community capacity by creating a coalition of anti-trafficking student organizations at various universities. Second, Enlighten Network educates and raises awareness about human trafficking to empower students to combat trafficking in their future careers. We will connect students with professionals in the anti-trafficking field, including lawyers, health care providers, and nonprofit professionals. Enlighten Network will produce and disseminate educational resources, including career guidebooks and informational materials about human trafficking. Third, we aim to empower students in the fight against human trafficking. Specifically, we encourage students to develop innovative long-term solutions to trafficking in all of its forms”

The Network has not posted on Facebook since 2020 and may not be as active as it once was. The underlying goal of facilitating conversations among college antitrafficking groups from around the nation nevertheless has great merit. The author sincerely hopes that the Network will meet or exceed the founders' expectations.

### **Possible Affiliations**

Some clubs may want to consider affiliating with a national organization in order to get additional guidance and access to specialized materials. Four options are described below. Each organization offers resources that can help college anti-trafficking clubs regardless of whether they choose to affiliate.

- [Free the Slaves](#)  
Free the Slaves is an international non-governmental organization and lobby group established to campaign against the modern practice of slavery around the world. “Activating your campus in the battle to beat slavery and trafficking is one of the most important contributions you can make to the global anti-slavery movement. Do your part. Every action counts. Build awareness at your school during and after class.” Free the Slaves has active or previously active chapters at more than 50 colleges and high schools

throughout the country. Free the Slaves offers a wide variety of resources for students and teachers at both levels (Free the Slaves, n.d.-c; Free the Slaves-students against slavery, n.d.).

- [The United Nations Children's Fund \(UNICEF\)](#)

UNICEF is a United Nations agency responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide. “Based in U.N. headquarters in New York City, it is [among the most widespread and recognizable social welfare organizations in the world](#), with a presence in 192 countries and territories” (“UNICEF”, 2022).

UNICEF offers resources to assist high school and college clubs that want to focus on the issue of trafficked children. Its resources include a [Starter Guide: Everything You Need to Know to Start a UNICEF Club at Your School](#) (UNICEF USA, n.d.-a).

- [International Justice Mission](#)

The International Justice Mission is a global Christian organization that “partners with local authorities in 21 program offices in 13 countries to combat slavery, violence against women and children, and police abuse of power against people who are poor” (International Justice Mission, n.d.-a)

“Thousands of college students are stepping up to the plate right now to help end slavery around the world. You also have a role to play in this fight—take the next step in your journey of seeking justice by joining one of the following initiatives:

- Host a Screening of the I AM BRAVE Documentary. Gather your friends and family to watch a powerful documentary on modern-day slavery and help fund rescue together.
- Join the Freedom Fast. Mobilize your community to go a day without food for a future without slavery. Choose 24 hours to go without food, pray for the end of slavery, and give toward rescue.
- Learn about God's Heart for Justice. Study the book of James and discover how walking with Jesus beckons us to seek justice for oppressed people.”

IJM offers a free monthly newsletter to help students stay updated about the ways they can help end slavery on their campus, hear rescue updates from the field, and pray for the work of justice" (International Justice Mission, n.d.-e).

- [Catholic Relief Services](#)

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. “Founded in 1943 by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, [the agency assists 130 million people in more than 110 countries and territories](#) in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe” (“Catholic Relief Services”, 2022).

[Catholic Relief Services' University Engagement](#) “invites Catholic colleges and universities, as well as Catholic organizations on other campuses, to join them in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable populations through education, prayer, giving, and action” (Catholic Relief Services, 2015a).



CRS sponsors a [Student Ambassadors program](#) with more than 100 campus partners. Ambassadors organize advocacy opportunities, educational events, and fundraising campaigns for international emergencies. CRS and has prepared a [video](#) explaining how college and university students can become CRS student ambassadors (Catholic Relief Services, 2015b).

The CRS website offers a [variety of resources](#), including how to recruit members, plan events, host informational sessions, and host effective meetings. CRS also holds regional trainings each year and national summits every other year to bring campus leaders together. “This program provides opportunities for students to apply what they learn in the classroom through action and advocacy that makes a difference in our world. There is no training cost or fee, but participants arrange their own transportation. Meals occurring during the training timeframe will be provided. Support with overnight lodging is available in some cases. Most trainings will be hosted on a local university campus on a Saturday or Sunday. If your campus has never had CRS Student Ambassadors, this is a perfect opportunity to learn more. CRS recommends that 3-5 students and a staff person attend to get the ball rolling.” (CRS, n.d.).

### Activities

The members of campus organizations that fight human trafficking are limited only by their imaginations when selecting and prioritizing the semester’s activities. A few suggestions appear below to help start the conversation. Chapter VIII has additional ideas that might be worth considering. Whatever the members decide, it will probably be best to do a few projects very well rather than several poorly executed ones. Poorly planned initiatives are less successful and can reflect badly on the club.

#### Increase awareness

Students can raise awareness of human trafficking in many ways. Initiatives are likely to have a particularly strong impact if organizers present the issue in ways that students can relate to rather than as a terrible practice that predominantly affects poor people in the Third World. A better way of raising the issue of trafficking in a campus setting would be to note that the crime can occur in ethnic restaurants, nail salons, and other commercial establishments that students patronize locally and at home. Students should also understand that exploited laborers probably made many of the products they routinely purchase. Trafficking represents a severe violation of human rights that should trouble everyone, but students might be more motivated to act if they realize that they, too, could be part of the problem. Make the issue relevant!

Tabling in the Campus Center is a simple way to raise awareness. Chapter VIII's “Organize public displays and events” section offers several suggestions to facilitate successful tabling. As previously noted, activists can download several types of free handouts about human trafficking and the ways to recognize and report it from several websites. Other handouts could focus on ethical shopping practices. The Reduce Demand (Shop Wisely!) part of Chapter VIII cites organizations such as [The Good Trade](#) and [Durga Tree International](#) that have compiled lists of companies and brands that only offer ethically sourced products. Of particular note are companies such as [Freeset](#), the [Nomi Network](#), [Thistle Farms](#), and the [Starfish Project](#), which sell items that survivors of sex trafficking have made. A related activity could promote brands we should avoid whenever possible because the manufacturers rely heavily on slave or exploited labor.



Students may be able to convince their Student Association, Faculty Senate, or their college as a whole to promote awareness by issuing proclamations that support special days that various groups have designated to highlight human trafficking. In 2021, for example, [Mercy College of Health Sciences became the first college in Iowa's history to issue a proclamation for Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month](#) (Mercy College of Health Sciences, 2021). Sample proclamations and resolutions that Presidents, city councils, and other organizations have adopted can be found on the Internet by searching for “proclamations against human trafficking.”

The University at Albany used an innovative way to raise awareness about sexual violence during Sexual Assault Awareness Month in 2017 when the Title IX Coordinator invited students to attach post-it notes with appropriate messages on a wall by a large Lecture Center. Students studying art or public media may want to seek permission to organize a similar display about human trafficking.

Another way to increase awareness would be to sponsor a free movie night. Many outstanding documentaries and fictional movies based on actual events have been made about human trafficking. The Guide has mentioned several of them. Films that the public can download at no charge from the Internet include *The Whistleblower*, *Lilya 4-Ever*, *The Day My God Died*, *I am Jane Doe*, and *Very Young Girls*. Films that interested viewers must rent or purchase include *When the Moon is Dark*, *Sands of Silence: Waves of Courage*, and *Not My Life*. (Clubs can avoid this cost if members persuade the college library to buy the rights.) After the showing, students should lead a brief discussion about the film to highlight the most important lessons. Free handouts should be available, and organizers may wish to place a tip jar by the exit where attendees can leave a voluntary donation to help an appropriate nonprofit.

Events featuring guest speakers can have a particularly strong impact because attendees hear directly from subject matter experts and can raise any questions they may have. Such events require a substantial amount of time to plan, organize, and advertise properly. Speakers likely to attract a large audience include trafficked survivors, professionals who work full-time to assist them, and FBI agents with relevant experience. Local authorities are often willing to speak for free, but others charge substantial fees and may want compensation to cover travel costs and other related expenses. The “Organize public displays and events” part of Chapter VIII’s “Increased Awareness” section identifies several appropriate speaker bureaus.

Descriptions of three very different kinds of anti-trafficking events that students have organized appear below.

- In 2018, graduate students at UC San Diego’s School for Global Policy and Strategy hosted the [second annual Intercollegiate Convention Against Modern Slavery](#) at their school. “The work of Halabi, along with fellow students Alisar El-Rayess, Ambar Valles, Elizabeth Linn, and Brenna McKee – all of whom are working towards their master’s in international affairs – caught the attention of CNN. The network profiled the students for an upcoming story that will air on March 11. The story will also be posted on CNN’s [Freedom Project blog](#) in anticipation of the network’s #MyFreedomDay campaign on March 14. Students across the globe are encouraged to speak out against human trafficking on this day using the hashtag [#MyFreedomDay](#) and hold events dedicated to addressing this pressing issue” (Clark, 2018).

- [The New York State Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking’s Annual Report for 2020](#) included the following account about one of its projects: “The Task Force sponsored a panel discussion at the State University of New York at Albany, where advocates discussed the nature of human trafficking and its nuances as part of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month in January 2020. Facilitated by the student group, UAlbany Students Stopping Trafficking of People, the discussion brought together members of the community to take a closer look at trafficking in the eight-county Capital Region. The panel discussed how areas like this can be readily exploited by traffickers, due to its characteristics and proximity to a major urban center like New York City. The panel also discussed how the approximately 100 victims confirmed in the Capital Region since 2007 are likely underrepresented since many trafficking cases go unreported. The panel discussed how traffickers can recognize vulnerability and effectively use coercion to identify individuals they can exploit and then compel into service. ‘Victims end up in a trafficking situation, and they don’t even know how they got there,’ explained Sarah McGaughnea, a program director at Unity House of Troy, Inc., a service provider under contract with OTDA, who spoke on the panel. ‘This can happen to anybody’” (New York State Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking, 2022). Photographs of the event appear below.



- In 2022, UAlbany Students Stopping Trafficking of People invited a victim specialist who works for the FBI to talk about her work at an event that attracted a large audience on campus. The FBI’s local office subsequently posted a very kind note about the club on its website.

### Fundraising / Assist Survivors

Nonprofits fight human trafficking throughout the world in many ways. Some focus on research and policy issues, while others provide direct services to survivors. What they all have in common is the fact that they are on a constant hunt for funds to continue or expand their work.

This Guide mentions more than a hundred anti-trafficking nonprofits, and a simple Internet search will identify many more. Tips for choosing one that club members are likely to embrace most enthusiastically can be found in the “Selecting organizations to support” part of Chapter VIII.

Clubs can sponsor a bake sale, raffle, auction, or another type of fundraiser(s) to help the organization they like most. They can also help publicize the fundraisers that the nonprofit sponsors. The International Justice Mission, for example, recently sponsored a “Race to Rescue” event in which

participants agreed to walk or run a distance of their choice and to seek sponsors willing to contribute a certain amount of money for each mile. Readers can learn about additional fundraising strategies in Chapter VIII's "Support Survivor Intervention and Aftercare" section.

Colleges typically have strict policies and procedures regarding fundraising, how club members handle cash, and methods for forwarding the funds to the intended recipient. The process may seem cumbersome or overly bureaucratic at times, but club members must understand and follow all applicable rules.

Organizations that serve survivors always appreciate cash donations. Many shelters also gratefully accept toiletries, clothing, and other items. These items can be collected and brought directly to the shelter or purchased on Amazon through wish lists such as the one that [Girls Education and Mentoring Services](#) (GEMS) established to help the survivors it serves in New York City (Girls Educational & Mentoring Services, n.d.-a). Additional information about non-cash contributions can be found in the "Make/collect items for shelters" section of Chapter VIII.

### Fair Trade

Clubs with the time and determination to make a lasting difference can try to convince their school to seek designation as a Fair Trade institution to reduce the use of products made by slaves and exploited labor. Requirements include having the school pass a resolution supporting Fair Trade, agreeing to sponsor Fair Trade education and events, and making Fair Trade products such as coffee and sugar available on campus. [Sixty-eight colleges](#) throughout the country had earned this designation by March 2021 (University at Albany, 2021).

[Fair Trade Campaigns](#) has many relevant [resources](#) on its website to assist interested colleges and assign a staff member to help each applicant (Fair Trade Campaigns, n.d.-b). Overworked staff at some institutions may be supportive conceptually but reluctant to take on additional responsibilities even for a cause as worthy as Fair Trade. Clubs that want to launch this type of initiative should make it clear upfront they will do as much as possible to help during both the planning and implementation process.

The most ambitious campus-based Fair Trade project to date is almost certainly the one at Saint Joseph's University in Pennsylvania, where students started a coffee company called SJ Brew in 2021. An article that appeared in a [school publication](#) provided the information on the next page. The article was edited and slightly modified for length.

"Claire Fitzgerald, the student CEO and member of the Fair Trade Club at St. Joe's, went on a study tour to Costa Rica, where she had the opportunity to speak with coffee farmers and fair-trade producers. 'It's different being able to see the process in person. I'm really interested in sustainability and labor rights. Fair trade has such a perfect intersection of these two things.'

SJ Brew's coffee is fair trade and organic. It is produced by Café Femenino, a program that provides direct compensation to female farmers as well as the opportunity and resources for them to enact positive change in their communities.

As Student CEO, Fitzgerald leads the general club meetings and serves as the point of contact for different University department heads and events. She also helped with copywriting, packaging, and developing a website that will eventually allow for online orders.

Other students helped design flyers and posters promoting the SJ Brew program. Some got internships to get credit for their work. One intern noted, ‘I work 10 hours a week with this internship. I’m going to be writing a 10-page research paper pertaining to either ethical consumption, sustainability, or environmental issues.’

Another student with an internship is a business intelligence and finance major who focuses on the business end of operations. ‘I’m just taking a lot of what I’ve learned in my finance and general business courses to help out wherever I can. Initially, people were just throwing out what competitor’s prices were,’ he says, explaining how they decided to price their product. ‘We needed to consider all our expenses and wholesale prices, like what packaging and distribution costs would look like. We needed to come up with our own price point, which was a cool experience.’ He also provides different marketing and business strategies, such as figuring out the logistics of a potential partnership with a coffee subscription service run by a St. Joe’s alumnus. ‘It’s a really unique opportunity to blend what I’ve learned in my course sequence in the business school with my passion for things like social justice and sustainability initiatives.’ Proceeds from the SJ Brew coffee sales will fund study abroad scholarships for students wanting to travel to Central America” (O’Boyle, 2021).

### Lobby for change

Substantial long-term change in the way that states and the federal government address human trafficking will require both new and amended legislation. Legislators need to address the importation of goods made by exploited labor, policies that impact trafficked survivors, and countless other issues. These changes may ultimately require the election of public officials who agree to give human trafficking a higher priority.

Efforts to generate this kind of change may be of particular interest to students studying government or political science. Working on these projects might even provide substantive insights and experiences that ultimately shape the students’ careers.

One easy form of political activism consists of starting petitions to support selected legislative initiatives. Petitions can also pressure companies and countries to change certain labor practices.

Clubs can use their social media accounts to promote their own petitions and to provide links to petitions that others have started. By way of illustration, the antitrafficking club at UAlbany launched a petition in 2017 to raise the minimum marriage age in New York. They supplemented the petition drive by writing letters and doing personal lobbying at the State Legislature. Their efforts may have been one of the factors that motivated legislators to pass the desired legislation the following year.

Clubs interested in circulating petitions should create an account at places such as [change.org](https://www.change.org), a site where “people everywhere are starting campaigns, mobilizing supporters, and working with decision-makers to drive solutions” (Change.org, n.d.-a). Other ideas and strategies related to planned change can be found in Chapter VIII’s “Political advocacy” section.

## **Careers fighting human trafficking or assisting survivors**

Thousands of organizations fight human trafficking and/or assist trafficked survivors worldwide. They collectively offer jobs and meaningful career paths for people with many types of backgrounds. Personnel needs include counselors, social workers, and tutors. IT specialists are essential for maintaining and securing computer systems. Organizations also require people with skills in human resources, grant writing, fundraising, finance, program development, community outreach, and social media. Multilingual applicants have an especially good chance of getting hired at shelters that serve trafficked survivors. Shelters require staff coverage on a 24/7 basis, moreover, so many full and part-time jobs are available for individuals willing to work nights and weekends.

Those just getting started may want to consider applying for a fellowship with [Not For Sale](#), a nonprofit based in Half Moon Bay, CA.

“Not For Sale’s Fellowship Program recruits and prepares dedicated individuals to become leaders in the modern-day abolitionist movement. Fellows work alongside National Staff, contributing to numerous projects and gaining dynamic hands-on leadership experience.

It is a six-month intense training program designed to enhance one’s professional experience working in the abolitionist movement in a grassroots campaign. This is an unpaid fellowship, and fellows are responsible for their own transportation. It is nevertheless an exceptional opportunity to gain experience at an international non-profit with the ambitious mission to end slavery in our lifetime while pursuing a vocation as an abolitionist. Fellows raise support for their living expenses by reaching out to their families and friends. [Fellows must be at least 21 years old, have a BA or 3 Years work experience, and have background knowledge in modern-day slavery](#)” (Not For Sale, n.d.-c).

[End Slavery Now](#) provides a valuable resource for job hunters with varying levels of experience. “End Slavery Now believes we all have a role in ending slavery. From volunteer opportunities to resource sharing to curating all the different opportunities to take action, our tools are designed to assist you when you ask: What can I do? End Slavery Now partners with antislavery organizations in the United States and across the globe to identify answers to that question” (End Slavery Now, n.d.-a). End Slavery Now’s website includes a list of available [volunteer and paid positions in both non-profit and for-profit organizations fighting human trafficking](#) (End Slavery Now, n.d.-b).

### **Nongovernmental Organizations**

Most nongovernmental organizations fighting human trafficking operate on a nonprofit basis. Consequently, salaries and benefits are often relatively modest. The resulting turnover provides many opportunities for job seekers, but personal financial needs may eventually force some staff members to look for better-paying positions even if they enjoy what they are doing.

Most organizations that fight human trafficking are nonsectarian, and even those with a religious connection typically serve people of all faiths. Shared Hope International, for example, is guided by a [Statement of Faith](#) which asserts, “We believe that people of all faiths and no faith are precious to God, and we are called to serve them without discrimination” (Shared Hope International, n.d.-I). Other parts of the statement reflect a very conservative and fundamentalist understanding of scripture, however, and employment may be restricted to those who embrace it.



Six NGOs are described below to illustrate the diverse range of potential employment opportunities that exist throughout the country.

- [Refuge for Women](#)  
is “a non-profit, faith-based organization providing specialized long-term housing and emergency housing for women who have escaped human trafficking or sexual exploitation. With multiple locations across the U.S., Refuge for Women offers up to twelve months of safe housing, at no charge to the resident, with around-the-clock care as clients progress through evidence-based, trauma-informed programming. We strive to help each woman complete the program with a vision for her future, equipped to succeed and sustain a life marked with dignity and hope” (Refuge for Women, n.d.). Refuge for Women serves survivors in Chicago, Kentucky, Las Vegas, North Texas, Pittsburgh, Southern California, and the Texas Gulf Coast (Refuge for Women, n.d.).
  
- [Worker Justice Center of New York](#).  
“The Worker Justice Center of New York's mission is to pursue justice for those denied human rights with a focus on agricultural and other low-wage workers through legal representation, community empowerment, and advocacy for institutional change. Originally founded in 1981, WJCNY is now widely recognized as the premier legal services organization serving farmworkers and other low-wage workers in Upstate New York. Among immigrant communities in our region, we are widely regarded as a trusted source of information and legal assistance, as well as grassroots advocacy. WJCNY serves approximately 15,000 people each year, most of whom are migrant or immigrant individuals and families. Our programs support a largely rural, marginalized population with legal, human trafficking, survivor, outreach, and advocacy programs through direct service, education, consultation, and referrals. With offices in Hawthorne, Rochester, and Kingston, we can respond to the unique needs of low-wage and agricultural workers across the state” (Worker Justice Center of New York, n.d.-a).
  
- [ECPAT-USA](#)  
“As the leading policy organization in the United States seeking to end the commercial, sexual exploitation of children, ECPAT-USA focuses on awareness, advocacy, policy, and legislation. ECPAT-USA is a member of ECPAT International, a network of organizations in over 100 countries working together toward one common mission: to eliminate the sexual exploitation of children...ECPAT-USA:
  - Advocates for federal and state policy and legislation that prevent exploitation, protect children, and guarantee that any child subjected to sex trafficking or exploitation will not be prosecuted in the courts for prostitution.
  - Promotes corporate responsibility among private companies with a strong focus on the tourism sector.
  - Educates first responders and ordinary citizens about this issue so that they can identify victims and join us in the fight to better protect children.
  - Empowers youth to take the lead against human trafficking by equipping them with the knowledge and tools necessary to help them become activists against this terrible trade” (ECPAT-USA, n.d.-q).



- [Polaris Project](#)

The Polaris Project is “leading a data-driven social justice movement that reduces, prevents, and ultimately ends sex and labor trafficking and supports survivors on their paths toward freedom and healing...Our approach recognizes that human trafficking doesn’t happen in a vacuum. It is the predictable end result of social, political, and economic inequities and injustices that leave some people in a position to exploit others. Rather than tackling those individual situations of trafficking, one at a time, we want to fundamentally reduce the amount of trafficking by reforming – and in some cases entirely – upending the failed systems that allow it to thrive – poverty, gender discrimination, lack of worker protections, failed social safety nets and child welfare systems, to name but a few” (Polaris, n.d.-h).

In addition to conducting innovative research, Polaris operates the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#). The Hotline “connects victims and survivors of sex and labor trafficking with services and supports to get help and stay safe. The Trafficking Hotline also receives tips about potential situations of sex and labor trafficking and facilitates reporting that information to the appropriate authorities in certain cases” (National Human Trafficking Hotline, n.d.-a). The Hotline offers both full and part-time work. “The Hotline is staffed by a dynamic team of professionals with experience in the human trafficking field and related human rights arenas such as domestic violence and sexual assault, immigrant and refugee rights, labor rights, runaway, and homeless youth, mental health, law, social work, and child welfare. Trafficking Hotline staff receive extensive training and evaluation prior to taking hotline calls” (National Human Trafficking Hotline, n.d.-c).

- [STOP THE TRAFFIK](#)

Stop the Traffik runs “geo-targeted awareness campaigns in communities vulnerable to human trafficking around the world, reaching millions of people each year. We overlay data with human insight to determine local hotspots, routes, trends, exploitation types and techniques used to deceive and exploit. Using this information we can effectively target our awareness campaigns, by location, language, demographic and potential vulnerability, to enable communities to take the appropriate action to stay safe and tackle human trafficking.”

- [Thorn](#)

Thorn “[houses] the first engineering and data science team focused solely on developing new technologies to combat online child sexual abuse. We bring together a team with deep technical knowledge and subject matter expertise to innovate and deploy new technology solutions at a much faster rate. We are able to quickly assess whether new technologies can be repurposed to protect children from sexual exploitation through one of our three strategic pillars: 1) accelerating victim identification, 2) equipping platforms, and 3) empowering the public” (Thorn, n.d.-a). Thorn is based in Los Angeles but employs people in several remote locations (Thorn. n.d.-b).

### **Government Agencies**

State and federal agencies have the best-paying, most secure positions for people in many occupations, including those that fight human trafficking. Government positions also typically offer the best fringe benefits.

Many government agencies fill positions through a rigorous testing process. Civil Service Departments schedule the exams on an irregular basis and may not offer tests for some jobs or years at a time. Information about federal exams can be found at <https://federaljobs.net/exams/> (FederalJobs, n.d.). Most state civil service agencies, including the one in [New York](#), send free announcements about pending exams upon request (New York State Department of Civil Service, n.d.-b).

Civil Service officials establish minimum qualifications for each exam. A typical test might require a Bachelor's degree and at least two years of related experience. A Master's degree can often be substituted for one of those years. Some civil service agencies consider relevant internships, summer jobs, and part-time work when determining whether an applicant has the necessary amount of experience.

Six federal agencies that work on human trafficking issues are listed below. The Guide then describes five New York state agencies that do similar work to illustrate the range of career possibilities that exist at the state level. Many agencies at both levels of government offer student internships.

#### Federal Agencies

- [U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security](#)  
Blue Campaign  
“The Blue Campaign is the unified voice for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) efforts to combat human trafficking. Working in collaboration with law enforcement, government, non-governmental and private organizations, the Blue Campaign strives to protect the basic right of freedom and to bring those who exploit human lives to justice” (U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2016).
- [U.S. Dept. of State](#)  
Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons  
See also: [www.state.gov/careers](http://www.state.gov/careers)  
“The Department of State’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons leads the United States' global engagement against human trafficking, an umbrella term used to describe the activities involved when someone obtains or holds a person in compelled service.” (U.S. Department of State, n.d.-b).
- [U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services](#)  
Office on Trafficking in Persons (part of the Administration for Children and Families)  
“The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families (OAS) provides executive direction, leadership, and guidance for all Administration for Children and Families programs. OAS provides national leadership to develop and coordinate public and private initiatives for carrying out programs that promote permanency placement planning, family stability, and self-sufficiency. OAS advises the Secretary on issues affecting America's children and families, including Native Americans, refugees, legalized aliens, and victims of human trafficking. OAS provides leadership on human service issues and conducts emergency preparedness and response operations during a nationally declared emergency" (Statement of Organization, Functions, and Delegations of Authority, 2015).

- [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#)

“The FBI works human trafficking cases under its Crimes Against Children and Human Trafficking program. We take a trauma informed, victim-centered approach in investigating these cases. Victim recovery is the primary goal of trafficking investigations. The FBI’s multi-disciplinary team of agents, analysts, victim specialists, and forensic interviewers work together to ensure a victim-centered, trauma-informed response. FBI victim specialists work with local state and federal resources to provide immediate assistance (shelter, food, clothing) and long-term support (counseling, education assistance, job training). After recovering a victim of human trafficking, field offices seek to arrest and successfully prosecute the traffickers.

Over the past decade, the FBI’s human trafficking investigations have been responsible for the arrest of thousands of traffickers and the recovery of numerous victims. The FBI will continue to take part in multi-agency efforts to combat the threat.”

Criminal justice students often dream about being FBI Special Agents. Those interested in pursuing a career with the FBI are encouraged to do so, but they need to understand that the competition will be formidable. The Bureau often gives preference to lawyers, accountants, and those who speak fluent Russian, Chinese, or Arabic. Police officers and those with military experience are also strong candidates. Other issues that students may want to consider include the fact that there is no way of knowing where an agent will be stationed or what his/her assignments are likely to encompass.

- [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement](#) (ICE)

Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center

“The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 established the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center. The Center serves as a clearinghouse for all information related to human smuggling and trafficking. Subject-matter experts with expertise in intelligence analysis, law enforcement collaboration, and support and diplomacy staff the Center” (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, n.d.).

- [Defense Advanced Research Projects](#) (DARPA)

“Established in 1958 as part of the U.S. Department of Defense, DARPA pursues opportunities for transformational change rather than incremental advances” (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, n.d.-d). “Working with innovators inside and outside of government, DARPA has repeatedly delivered on that mission, transforming revolutionary concepts and even seeming impossibilities into practical capabilities. The ultimate results have included game-changing military capabilities such as precision weapons and stealth technology and icons of modern civilian society such as the Internet, automated voice recognition and language translation, and Global Positioning System receivers small enough to embed in myriad consumer devices” (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, n.d.-b).

In one initiative, [DARPA](#) is working with 17 different teams of researchers—from both companies and universities—to craft Internet search tools as part of the [Memex](#)

program that gives government, military, and businesses new ways to analyze, organize and interact with data pulled from this larger pool of sources” (Greenemeier, 2015). “Memex quickly proved its value in efforts to counter human trafficking. Human trafficking is a line of business with a significant web presence to attract customers and is relevant to many types of military, law enforcement, and intelligence investigations. The use of forums, chats, advertisements, job postings, hidden services, etc., continues to enable a growing industry of modern slavery. Identifying technology counterfeiting operations is another of many applications that Memex could help mitigate” (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, n.d.-d).

### New York State Agencies

- [NYS Office of the Attorney General](#)

“As part of the New York State Office of the Attorney General's initiative to combat sex and labor trafficking, the Attorney General has implemented an Upstate Task Force to investigate potential cases, prosecute perpetrators, and connect survivors with service providers who specialize in their unique needs. This Task Force draws upon the resources of the Attorney General’s Labor and Civil Rights Bureaus along with the Office's Organized Crime Task Force to help ensure that trafficking matters are quickly investigated and prosecuted, and to identify the various civil, labor, and criminal claims that may be pursued in each instance” (New York State Attorney General, n.d.).
- [NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services \(DCJS\)](#)

“DCJS enhances public safety by providing resources and services that inform decision making and improve the quality of the criminal justice system. The agency provides direct training to law enforcement and other criminal justice professionals; oversees a law enforcement accreditation program; ensures Breathalyzer and speed enforcement equipment used by local law enforcement operate correctly; manages criminal justice grant funds; analyzes statewide crime and program data; provides research support; oversees county probation departments and alternatives to incarceration programs; and coordinates juvenile justice policy” (New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, n.d.-a).

“New York’s Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking represents ten state agencies committed to enforcing New York’s human trafficking law through a unified and coordinated effort. The law, which took effect in 2007, moved New York to the forefront in the battle against human trafficking. The Task Force is co-chaired by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services and the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance” (New York State Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking, 2022). Those interested in learning more can read the Task Force’s [annual report for 2020](#) (New York State Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking, 2022).
- [NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance \(OTDA\)](#)

“The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) is responsible for supervising programs that provide assistance and support to eligible families and individuals. OTDA’s functions include providing temporary cash assistance; providing

assistance in paying for food; providing heating assistance; overseeing New York State's child support enforcement program; determining certain aspects of eligibility for Social Security Disability benefits; supervising homeless housing and services programs; and providing assistance to certain immigrant populations" (New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, n.d.-a).

["If you are a victim of human trafficking, you may be eligible for services](#) in New York State that will assist with shelter, food, medical care, protection, and legal assistance. If you are a victim of human trafficking and an immigrant, you may be eligible for services as well as help from the federal government with adjusting your immigration status. If you are a US citizen or a child of one, you may be eligible for Public Assistance Benefits and can connect with a Human Trafficking Liaison" (NYC Human Resources Department of Social Services, n.d.).

- [NYS Office of Victim Services](#)

"OVS has a three-tiered mission: to provide compensation to innocent victims of crime in a timely, efficient and compassionate manner; fund direct services to crime victims via a network of community-based programs; and advocate for the rights and benefits of all innocent victims of crime" (New York State Office of Victim Services, n.d.-a). OVS funds many programs throughout the state to provide services for victims of crime, including human trafficking. The Office additionally organizes special events in January for Human Trafficking Awareness Month (New York State Office of Victim Services, 2022).

- [NYS Department of Labor](#)

"The Division of Immigrant Policies and Affairs (DIPA) coordinates the New York State Department of Labor's anti-human trafficking efforts, including receiving and investigating tips of possible trafficking, helping individuals in filing claims for back wages, providing referrals to social service agencies, and, where appropriate, providing certifications for visas for victims of certain qualifying crimes. DIPA additionally raises public awareness through outreach presentations to community organizations, workers, and employers. DIPA also participates in regional taskforces which bring together advocates and law enforcement to coordinate responses to human trafficking" (New York State Department of Labor, n.d.-a).

## **The takeaway**

Students throughout the world have already made noteworthy contributions in the fight against human trafficking. That said, there is a lot of untapped potential.

Students can begin making a difference while still in school. They can act independently or with their peers to raise awareness of human trafficking and help trafficked survivors. They can also motivate their school to take action regarding Fair Trade and other relevant issues.

Today's students are the future leaders of the anti-trafficking movement. The movement needs people with all kinds of skills, so everyone is in a position to contribute. Coursework, internships, and community service collectively provide abundant opportunities to acquire a solid understanding of

this critical topic. Thoughtful preparation while still in school will enable interested students to pursue rewarding careers that benefit potential victims, survivors, and society as a whole.



## X. Commit!

*“The crisis of modern-day slavery does not need interested observers. It needs incurable fanatics” (Exodus Cry, 2011).*  
[Nefarious: Merchant of Souls](#)

Elected officials can do much more to fight human trafficking and assist trafficked survivors. In addition to passing stronger laws, legislators need to do a better job addressing the root problems of poverty, discrimination, and gender bias that make so many people vulnerable to traffickers in the first place.

But we can't wait for the government to act. The suffering is too great, and history has shown us that bureaucracies are often slow and inefficient. Success in the war on trafficking thus requires *everyone* to get involved. As Kevin Bales noted in his book [Ending Slavery](#), we need “global solutions, local heroes” (Bales, 2007, p. 33).

Local heroes don't sign a petition and think they've done their part. True activists acknowledge the horror of modern slavery and resolve to make the issue a personal priority. We need to commit.

Commitment does not have to mean devoting several hours a day to the cause or going hungry to save money for trafficked survivors. Those who do will hopefully earn a special place in heaven, but this type of concerted effort is not a viable option for most people. Commitment, the author would argue, is more about staying informed and doing what we can on a regular basis while still addressing the many other challenges we face daily.

Stephanie Clark puts it this way in her book [Letter to an Activist](#) (p. 4): “We have to *become* the change in order to address the issue effectively. This means rolling up our sleeves, investing real time with those in the movement's trenches, and acknowledging that those people are a part of the larger system that tackles the great problem that shouts at your heart and drives the passion inside you to action. That is the key: recognizing the cogwheel at work. I am a small part in the movement of anti-trafficking. On a global scale, the impact that I have can be likened to a drip of water filling up the expanse of Lake Michigan. And the reality is that the work I do alone will never be able to decrease that number. However, I am a part of a system and movement, and I have my place” (Clark, 2019, p. 4).

### **Sympathy doesn't help**

We all feel sorry for the kidnapped boys who grow cocoa in Africa, the women forced to work in brothels, and those who live in the desperation of debt bondage. Feeling sorry for them changes nothing. Remembering these people in our prayers may help, but that's not enough.

An occasional random act of kindness is not enough, either. People who conclude that they've “done their part” by posting an article on Facebook or retweeting a link to an inspiring story exemplify an approach to reform known as slacktivism. The United Nations defines [slacktivism](#) as occurring when people “support a cause by performing simple measures but are not truly engaged or devoted to making a change” (Muslic, 2017). Sharing an article on Facebook can increase awareness and inspire a few donations. The post is unlikely, however, to generate significant financial support or recruit passionate advocates to join the anti-trafficking movement (Muslic, 2017).

Those who think they are too busy to help may want to consider the contributions that other fully engaged people have made. [Dr. Julie Roy Jeffrey](#) describes one such person: Mary White, who lived from 1778 to 1860. Mary White was the wife of a farmer and shopkeeper and mother of ten children. “Despite all her domestic commitments, she became active in the antislavery movement during the 1830s. She joined a female antislavery society, circulated petitions, attended many antislavery lectures, and sewed for the Boston fair and for fugitives...Her diary records how she integrated her reformism into her day-to-day routine and shows the antislavery involvement of other members of her family and her community” (Jeffrey, 2000, p. 9).

We all lead busy lives and need time to relax. Many of us get bored, however, when we watch reruns or play video games because “nothing good is on TV.” We can spend this time more productively by learning more about human trafficking, writing a letter to the local newspaper, organizing a fundraiser, or contributing to the cause in some other manner. We would all do that and more if traffickers took one of our children.

Chapter II outlined a plan that everyone can follow: Learn the basics, know how to recognize and report human trafficking, stay informed by subscribing to free newsletters, and complete the newsletters’ easy, no-cost action items. Those who really want to make a difference can do much more. The rest of this chapter describes how each of us can operationalize our abstract sense of concern and become true agents for change.

*“You are what you do, not what you say you’ll do” (Quotespedia, n.d.).*  
Carl Gustav Jung

### **Draft a personal mission statement**

Many companies have a mission statement that captures the essence of the business's goals and philosophy in a phrase or a few concise sentences. Corporate mission statements have three main components: An overall mission or vision, a summary of the core values that hopefully shape the behavior of employees, and a note about broad goals and objectives. A good mission statement can inspire and transform. [Patagonia’s mission statement](#), for example, is to “Build the best product...cause no unnecessary harm...use business to protect nature” (Patagonia, n.d.).

Individuals can also benefit from having a mission statement. It will hopefully capture the essence of whatever the person writing it considers most important. Stated differently, personal mission statements offer a broad description of what the individual is about. If drafted carefully, it will provide a clearly stated purpose of who you are, what you do, how you seek to help others, and what you aspire to become.

Activists may want to consider drafting a mission statement that references their concern about human trafficking and their determination to fight it as best they can. Some people may want to focus on a specific type of trafficking or trafficking that occurs in a particular country. Others may prefer to assist a target audience such as vulnerable women in the Third World. Whatever you decide, the process of writing a statement puts you on record. Always remember what you define as the essence of your purpose on earth.

Many resources are available on the Internet to help those who want to write a good mission statement. Common recommendations include:

- Define your purpose first.
- Be specific.
- Use simple language. The statement is for you, so there is no need to be elegant or impress anyone. Buzzwords and jargon are generally ineffective.
- Inspire. While it's important to make your mission realistic and attainable, it should also be powerful and include an inspirational element.
- Think long-term.

### **Make a pledge**

Some activists may find it helpful to make one or more pledges with or without a mission statement. A pledge is action-oriented and more limited in scope. It is essentially a promise to do something.

Pledges can be very simple. (“I promise to buy at least one fair trade item each time I go shopping.”) Several anti-trafficking organizations have drafted more comprehensive pledges. Four that warrant consideration appear below.

[HEMAD](#) (Human trafficking Educators working with Men and boys to stand Against the Demand) urges men to take a public stand against the sex trade and human trafficking. More than 65,000 men had taken the HEMAD pledge thus far (Converge Resource Center, n.d.-b).

#### HEMAD Pledge

“I pledge to educate men on the importance of ending human trafficking

We of HEMAD pledge to work to eradicate the business of human trafficking for our women, for our men and for the world.

It is my duty to not stand by and let the industry of human trafficking benefit off the back of the innocent. Therefore, I pledge my heart, mind, body and spirit to the eradication of an industry that seeks to destroy life rather than build it up”

(Converge Resource Center, n.d.-b).

The [i5Freedom Network](#) is a nonprofit organization with a three-part mission: “To provide survivors with life skills for a path forward and away from the life of human trafficking; to empower the hospitality industry to become heroes in the fight against human trafficking; [and] to mobilize entire communities to join the fight to end human trafficking” (i-5 Network, n.d.-b). The Network encourages everyone who supports its mission to visit the i5Freedom website and electronically sign the pledge on the following page.

### PLEDGE TO FIGHT MODERN DAY SLAVERY

I acknowledge that human trafficking and modern slavery are crimes against human rights and that we, as community leaders and leaders in our industry, play a pivotal role in the fight against human trafficking, and we will prohibit human trafficking in any form in all activities under our control.

I will ensure that our community and businesses do not encourage or engage in any activity to any degree that may support or result in human trafficking.

I will become educated as citizens, community members, managers, staff, and business owners to identify indicators of human trafficking.

I will report as citizens, community members, managers, staff and business owners, to the proper authorities any activity or observed incidents that come to our knowledge in the course of our business operations.

I will strive to support and defend the rights of any victim of human trafficking that occurs within the purview of our community or business operations.

I MAKE THIS PLEDGE in the belief that living with freedom and dignity is a right afforded to every individual, and that no person should endure the pain and suffering inflicted at the hands of traffickers and purchasers of these illicit services.

(i-5 Freedom Network, n.d.-c).

[Shared Hope](#) has drafted another pledge for men who agree to become “Defenders.” “The Defenders are men who have come to understand the marketplace of commercial sexual exploitation. We are committed to doing everything in our power to stop that exploitation. At the core of our existence is the Defenders Pledge, where we commit our lives to bring dignity, honor, and respect to women and children. Out of that flow our other initiatives which exist to show women that we care, hold other men accountable, and work to end the demand for this destructive market” (Shared Hope International, n.d.-b).

### The Defenders’ Pledge

Today, I am making a commitment in my life to demonstrate the following before my family and friends:

- I am taking a stand to fight against pornography, prostitution or any form of the commercial sex industry.
- I will hold my friends accountable for their actions toward women and children.
- I will take immediate action to protect those I love from this destructive market.

(Shared Hope International, n.d.-b).

Finally, Fair Trade Campaigns has drafted a Graduation Pledge for new college graduates. “Taking the Graduation Pledge will connect you with resources and tools to equip you to find careers that deliver impact. It will also enable you to engage decision-makers within your current place of employment or volunteerism, educate yourself more on the issues that you care about, and uncover ways to leverage your power as a consumer to live a sustainable lifestyle” (Fair Trade Campaigns, 2018c).

#### The Graduation Pledge

“Like all life transitions, graduation is a time of both celebration and uncertainty. No matter the path you follow, you will have new opportunities before you to drive impact – whether as an increasingly independent consumer or through the career choices you make.

I pledge to explore and take into account the social and environmental impact of my personal choices as a consumer and community member, as well as any job I consider. I will work to improve these aspects of any organization for which I work or volunteer” (Fair Trade Campaigns, Graduation Pledge Alliance, & Fair Trade USA, n.d.).

Activists can edit a pledge that others have written in order to make it their own. They can also modify the pledge periodically to make it more helpful. It is important to remember, however, that the promises should be short, realistic, and as specific as possible.

Repeating a short slogan or mantra each morning to supplement the pledge can be a helpful reminder. Possible mantras include “No one should be bought and sold”; “Coercion, abuse, and violence are intolerable”; and “Survivors need and deserve restoration.”

Mission statements and pledges only have meaning if they are remembered and form the basis for action. Displaying them in your personal workspace will ensure that you see them frequently. What exactly are you willing to do to fight human trafficking? Make a pledge and honor it.

#### **Spread the word**

Committed activists should take advantage of every opportunity to let others know what human trafficking involves and how each of us can fight it. Doing so may inspire others to join the struggle.

Activists can share their mission statements and information about relevant current events through personal interactions and social media. As noted in Chapter VIII (“Talk to your friends without being a buzzkill),” however, acting as a zealous preacher can be counter-productive. Even good friends will grow tired of hearing another lecture.

Fortunately, everyone can increase awareness in more subtle but effective ways. The Guide discussed several of them. They include:

- Inserting an inspirational quote under the signature of your emails;
- Placing a bumper sticker on your car;
- Wearing something blue on National Human Trafficking Awareness Day (January 11) and putting a red X on your hand for #MyFreedomDay (February 13);

- Sharing links to interesting articles;
- Writing a letter to the editor of your community newspaper or tweeting about the release of the latest Trafficking in Persons Report;
- Using tees and totes with anti-trafficking messages; and
- Letting friends know about special sales that Fair Trade and other slave-free organizations are sponsoring. Your friends can save money while supporting a good cause.

### **Adopt a slave-free lifestyle**

A slave-free lifestyle includes buying ethically sourced goods, boycotting certain brands, and learning how to recognize the signs of trafficking in restaurants and other settings. We vote daily with our purchases, but many choose not to vote in ways that help the movement.

Part of this strategy is to “Ask before you shop.” Ask the clerk if a manufacturer used child or exploited labor to make any of the products you are thinking about purchasing. The clerk may not know, but the inquiry will alert store personnel that customers are concerned about this issue. Patronize the companies you believe in and leave unethically sourced products on the shelves.

The “Reduce demand (Shop wisely!)” part of Chapter VIII shares additional suggestions for leading a slave-free lifestyle. We can collectively have a significant impact if enough of us make small changes in our daily lives.

### **Choose a project to call your own (Make it fun!)**

Selecting an anti-trafficking project to call your own can be a source of pride that simultaneously addresses a problem that concerns you. The project does not have to be complicated or time-consuming. You can even make it fun!

The first step is to identify a subject or issue that you find interesting. Step two is to identify the type of project likely to give you the most satisfaction. One way to approach this task might be to think of the skills or hobbies you enjoy and how you might use them to fight human trafficking. Examples include the following:

- *Arts and crafts.* Handmade items make wonderful presents to give survivors for birthdays and special holidays.
- *Riding motorcycles.* Those who like to ride motorcycles can join [Bikers Against Child Abuse](#) (Bikers Against Child Abuse, n.d.).
- *Social media.* In her book [Twitter for Good: Change the World One Tweet at a Time](#), Claire Diaz Ortiz argues persuasively that Twitter connects individuals and influences change in ways that were unthinkable just a short time ago. Many nonprofits do not use Twitter and other forms of social media effectively either to publicize their work or the issues they are trying to address. Individuals with social media skills can assist these organizations in ways that will expand their presence on the Internet and reach more people (Diaz-Ortiz & Stone, 2011).



- *Public speaking.* Activists can make powerful and motivating presentations about human trafficking at schools, churches, and public events.
- *Computers.* [Thorn](#) is an international anti-trafficking organization that focuses on the Internet's role in facilitating child pornography and the sexual slavery of children. Thorn often sponsors projects that skilled volunteers can work on from home (Thorn, n.d.-a). Other nonprofits may be grateful for assistance from anyone who can help them with computer programming.
- *Writing.* Those who enjoy writing could start a blog, draft letters to send elected officials and media outlets, or write articles for publication in newsletters and academic journals. Volunteers with strong writing skills might also be able to suggest ways of improving the quality of agency grant applications.

Another type of project brings your passion for fighting human trafficking to your place of work. One way of doing so would be to post an [infographic](#) about trafficking on bulletin boards where permitted. Another option is to ask Human Relations personnel to schedule training that helps employees recognize and report trafficking. The Guide has described several types of industry-specific training programs that are especially appropriate for certain types of workers. Some businesses will undoubtedly be more receptive than others. In-service training of any sort is usually expensive, and it takes busy employees away from their usual tasks. Generating support for this type of proposal may be more challenging than it first appears regardless of the potential benefits.

Activists should be able to identify other projects that are suitable for their profession if they invest a little time to think about it. Those who work in public health, for example, might be able to think of ways to encourage more people to donate organs. Public health professionals who work in developing countries could develop ways of educating children about the importance of their organs and the lies that traffickers often tell when offering to help people sell their kidneys.

Someone concerned about sex trafficking might derive the most satisfaction from raising funds for survivors. Some types of fundraising are very time-consuming, but the task could be as simple as selling baked goods at a public event or asking your place of worship to have a special collection. Organizers can send the proceeds to the shelter of their choice anywhere in the world.

Those who are particularly ambitious can embrace a concept that David Batstone calls “open-source activism” (Batstone, 2010, p. 263). [Dr. Batstone](#) is a professor in the Department of Entrepreneurship & Innovation at the University of San Francisco. His many honors include a Peace Award that the UN Women for Peace Association gave him in 2017. The award recognizes his efforts to enhance the economic and social empowerment of communities at significant risk for exploitation (Interreg Central Europe, n.d.).

In his book, [Not for Sale](#) (p. 263), Dr. Batstone encouraged readers to develop their own creative solutions wherever they live. Open-source activism is a decentralized approach that invites everyone “to identify what slavery looks like in their city, state, or province, addressing these essential questions: What laws are in place? Do law enforcement agents and prosecutors make good use of those laws? What anti-trafficking organizations are already working on the issue in the area? Who is generating primary research about possible trafficking sites? Where are the gaps? Open-source activism catalyzes individuals and small groups armed with that information to exercise social

power while collaborating with others to exchange ideas and share resources” (Batstone, 2010, p. 263).

Open-source activists understand that a perfect initiative for Dallas may not be as helpful in Boston or rural Alabama. Consequently, the nature of these initiatives will vary widely. Do local schools educate students about Internet safety and how traffickers use the Internet to find new victims? Do emergency room staff in area hospitals know how to recognize patients who are being trafficked? Is the nearest shelter for trafficked survivors able to accommodate everyone who seeks help? These are just a few questions that someone with a preference for local action might want to explore.

Some activists will prefer to design a project and work on it alone. Others might choose to work on more structured initiatives that a nonprofit sponsors and oversees. Two organizations with special programs for their volunteers are described below.

- The [U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking](#) has offices in Tampa, Washington DC, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Austin. “Our focus on the prevention of human trafficking in the United States is being accomplished through combating demand in new and innovative ways, raising awareness, educating our youth, disrupting trafficking activities, advocating a consolidation within the industry to maximize efficiencies, and collaborating with organizations who are expert at rescuing abducted youth currently engaged in the sex trade. Our work is also done in conjunction with federal, state, and local government officials who sit in a position to influence policy on ending trafficking in America”
- “USIAHT’s flagship program, the Trafficking Free Zone, is a community-based initiative to reduce the number of sex buyers, whose continuous financial investments create an illicit market for traffickers to exploit young victims. Schedule a meeting with one of our team members to find out how you can become a Trafficking Free Zone and be added to our growing list, nationwide, of TFZ’s who have publicly made a stand to protect their communities and end sex trafficking.” (U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking, n.d.-a).
- The mission of Operation Underground Railroad is “to shine a light worldwide on the global issue of child sex trafficking and exploitation, and in so doing rescue more children from slavery and assist law enforcement in seeking justice for those who violate children. We place survivors on a path to recovery by partnering with vetted aftercare providers” (Operation Underground Railroad, n.d.-a).

“From its inception, O.U.R. has been inspired and informed by the history of the 19th-century Underground Railroad. This complex network of houses, routes, and safe harbors was developed by brave Americans who saw the injustice of slavery and would not rest until they saw their fellow Americans freed. The individuals who ran the operations to free slaves were referred to as ‘conductors.’ Conductors facilitated the escape of slaves, gave them safe harbor on their journey to freedom, provided food and other supplies, made sure freed slaves would have employment after their journeys, and so much more. All under threat of arrest and sometimes even losing their own lives.

O.U.R.’s [Conductor Club](#) invites community members to get involved in awareness and prevention efforts in the fight against human trafficking. We offer resources, educational

materials, and online and location-specific groups to build a thriving community of people ready to make an impact” (Operation Underground Railroad, n.d.-b).

- [Shared Hope Ambassador of Hope](#). Shared Hope International is a nonprofit Christian organization that works to prevent sex trafficking and bring justice to those who have been victimized by it. Shared Hope sponsors an “Ambassador of Hope” program for volunteers. “Ambassadors are trained volunteers, active in their communities preventing trafficking through education. Whether it is hosting a table at a local event, speaking to students, advocating online for a state bill, or leading a session for parents, Shared Hope equips you with all the training and tools you’ll need to educate your community and prevent sex trafficking” (Shared Hope International, n.d.-a).

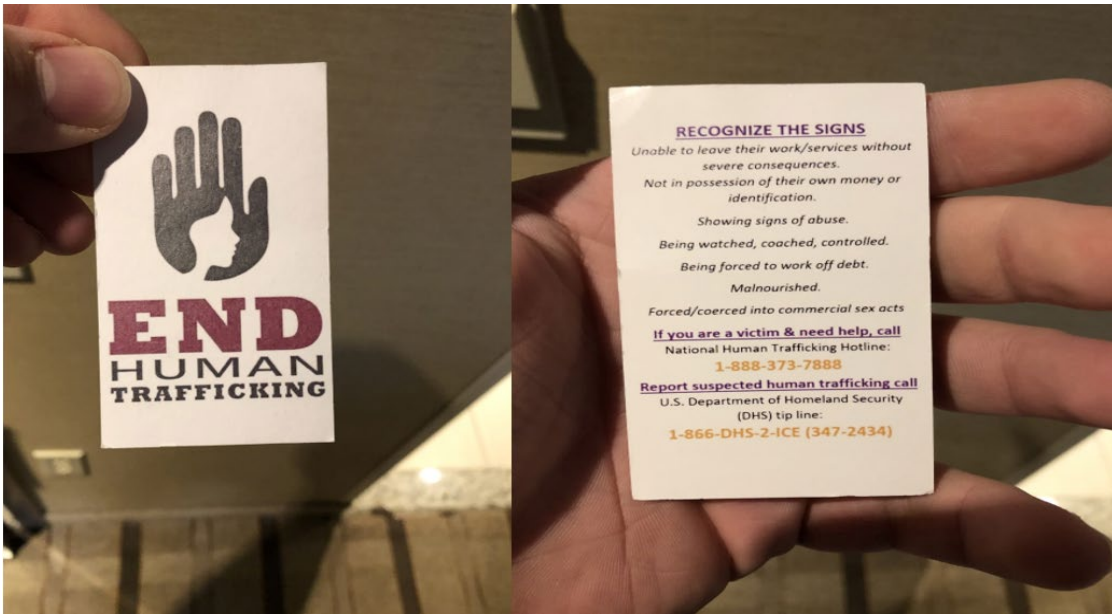
A final illustration of a sample project is one that focuses on trying to change policies in a particular industry or at a company known to use slave labor in its supply chain. Many chocolate manufacturers, for example, rely heavily on cocoa that slaves grow in West Africa, and several apparel brands take advantage of exploited labor in Asia. Potential activities include posting messages exposing the practice on social media, circulating petitions, and organizing letter-writing campaigns demanding that the targeted vendors modify their policies.

### **Travel Proactively**

Many of us travel for work or while on vacation. Whenever possible, those who do should select airlines and hotels that subscribe to ECPAT’s [Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct](#) (ECPAT-USA, n.d.-m). Chapter V provides additional information about the Code.

Chapter V also describes several reward programs that offer points to those who patronize certain hotels, airlines, and car rental agencies. People who rarely travel typically don’t bother to register for these promotions. It’s important to remember, however, that consumers can often transfer reward points to anti-trafficking organizations which use them to support their work. The few points that an occasional traveler earns can make a big difference when combined with donations from other travelers.

Everyone should always be on the lookout for possible victims of trafficking. Chapter II included common indicators in the section “How to recognize and report suspected trafficking.” In 2018, [New York State passed a law requiring hotels, inns, and motels to make cards available with information about the signs of trafficking and how to report suspicious activity](#) (Hadley, 2019). The photograph on the following page was uploaded from the author’s personal files. Those traveling in New York will find that the cards provide helpful reminders.



Travelers should also know that traffickers often take photographs of their victims in hotel rooms and post them online to advertise. These photographs are evidence that the police can use to find and prosecute the perpetrators. In order to use the photos, however, investigators must first determine where the photos were taken. Nix Conference & Meeting Management developed [TraffickCam](#) in 2015 to address this need. The app allows anyone with a smartphone to upload photos of hotel rooms to a law enforcement database. Law enforcement then matches patterns in the carpeting, furniture, room accessories, and window views against other pictures in the database to identify a list of possible hotels. The database rejects images that include people. No personally identifying information is stored other than the phone's GPS location. (Exchange Initiative, n.d.-b).

Early testing indicates that TraffickCam is 85% accurate in identifying the correct hotel in the top 20 matches. Users have uploaded nearly three million photos from more than 250,000 hotels in every major metropolitan area of the U.S thus far (Exchange Initiative, n.d.-b).

### **Provide financial support**

Non-governmental organizations struggle to pay their bills and contend with the constant frustration of knowing how much more they could do if they had additional resources. Serious activists understand this and do what they can to financially support their favorite organization(s). As previously noted, recurring monthly donations are better than one-time contributions because they make it easier for administrators to manage the organization's budget and plan for the future.

Chapter VIII discussed several additional ways that activists can assist nonprofits financially. Purchasing products through Amazon Smile, for example, provides an economic boost in a way that doesn't incur extra costs for consumers. Nonprofits that employ trafficked survivors frequently sponsor special promotions to sell their products, so activists can also help boost revenues by publicizing the sales on social media.

### **Generate support from local civic groups and your place of worship**

Individuals who work alone can make valuable contributions to the war on human trafficking. Activists should nevertheless try to recruit as many allies as possible within their spheres of

influence. These spheres include informal social groups, civic organizations, and, where applicable, places of worship.

Almost any type of social gathering can provide an opportunity to promote anti-trafficking issues. A book club, for example, can discuss a book that describes the experience of a trafficked survivor. A group that builds low-income housing can request referrals from a human trafficking shelter in addition to other more traditional sources. Those who play organized sports can have a “human trafficking night” featuring informational tabling with brochures and a tip jar to raise funds.

Several civic organizations solicit suggestions for an annual cause to support. Others have an ongoing commitment to address some of the issues that make people vulnerable to trafficking. [Zonta](#), for example, explicitly advocates for gender equality, stopping child marriage, and ending gender-based violence generally (Zonta International, n.d.-a). The goals of [Rotary International](#) include “[supporting] basic education and literacy, [reducing] gender disparity in education, and [increasing] adult literacy (Rotary International, n.d.-b). Joining a service organization will not appeal to everyone because of the requirements that members attend regular meetings and pay annual membership dues. Civic clubs of this nature do, however, offer the opportunity to make new friends and business connections that can be useful outside the context of human trafficking.

Those who belong to an organized religion can help shape the priorities of their faith community. The importance of human trafficking should be readily apparent regardless of the groups’ understanding of the Divine and how liberal or conservative the congregation may be. The effort can be as simple as making relevant brochures available at the back of the church, temple, or mosque. Clergy can support the cause by giving a sermon about trafficking. They can do so on any day of the year, but it is particularly appropriate to do so on “Freedom Sunday,” a special day that heightens awareness about modern slavery and the kinds of things each person can do to help end it (Set Free, n.d.). Chapter VI identified a variety of resources that can assist members of major faiths.

Activists can also organize an informal program about human trafficking after the service. The [“Free the Slaves” website](#) has links to more than 50 films that the organizer can use to start the program or facilitate conversation. Many of the videos are five minutes or less and are ideal for sparking thought-provoking discussions (Free The Slaves, n.d.-i).

Other ways of engaging the members of a person’s faith community include sharing petitions and raising funds for a trafficked individual who needs help rebuilding his/her life. The “Survivor intervention and aftercare” section of Chapter VIII has information for those who want to consider sponsoring a particular survivor. Congregations with sufficient interest could even [start their own faith-based anti-trafficking group](#) or work with other religious alliances such as [Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking](#).

## **Volunteer**

*“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart”*

*(Parsons, 2022).*

Elizabeth Andrew

Former member of the Australian Legislative Assembly



Volunteers are vital to the success of all social movements. Volunteers who want to help fight human trafficking have many local, international, and remote options to consider.

End Slavery Now operates the biggest and arguably best data bank that activists can consult to search for all types of positions. [The directory enables potential volunteers to search for in-person and remote opportunities worldwide](#) (End Slavery Now, n.d.-b). [End Slavery Now](#) seeks volunteers for its own needs as well. It particularly values volunteers with skill sets in Google Analytics, Google ads, social media, daily research, web design and development, bloggers, and writers. The invitation posted when the Guide was being completed was concise and direct: “Please contact us today if you're interested in contributing” (End Slavery Now, n.d.-l).

This Guide mentions a few of the many anti-trafficking NGOs that actively seek volunteers. [A21](#), for example, is one of the largest organizations in the world that works exclusively to fight human trafficking. It has offices abroad and in the District of Columbia, North Carolina, Texas, and California. In February 2022, A21 sought volunteers to help with supporter relations, advocacy, business development, marketing, administration, events, and technology (A21, n.d.-m). Those who prefer to work at a shelter where they can assist survivors directly can often help residents study for a GED or find long-term housing.

Activists can identify local organizations of potential interest by doing a simple Internet search. In addition to shelters, groups such as the [Philadelphia Anti-Trafficking Coalition](#) focus on increasing outreach efforts to vulnerable populations. The Coalition also organizes training events for people likely to encounter or provide services to victims (The Philadelphia Anti-Trafficking Coalition, n.d.). Groups with similar missions exist in other states. Those who want to fight human trafficking in Tennessee, for example, may want to collaborate with [Engage Together](#) because, as noted in its website, “it will take everyone to engage together to end human trafficking” (Engage Together, n.d.-a).

Some activists may want to volunteer abroad. Those wishing to do so should review the pros, cons, and options that Chapter VIII discussed in the section on “Survivor intervention and aftercare.”

Individuals who cannot find a suitable local organization and are unable to travel internationally may be able to contribute remotely. Several antitrafficking nonprofits that are seeking volunteers to work remotely have already been mentioned. One more is [Peace-Work](#), a cooperative of statisticians, data scientists, and other researchers who apply analytics to issue-driven advocacy. “An all-volunteer organization, Peace-Work projects are often in the area of academic and policy research, with volunteers as likely to be found working with government economic data to write a position paper for publication as to work hand-in-hand with a social justice organization. With a practice focusing on issue-driven advocacy, projects have included human trafficking, education performance metrics, root cause analysis of homelessness, the impact of racial bias and descriptive statistics of privilege, among others.

Peace-Work operates by connecting volunteers with organizations and datasets, often from governments and other official sources, to address issues volunteers care about deeply. With no full-time staff, larger statistical projects are broken into small pieces to accommodate volunteers’ busy schedules. While volunteers rely on the software tools of their choosing, many projects use SAS. Peace-Work actively promotes the use of SAS University Edition as a powerful analytic tool with



extensive statistical, machine learning, and big data capabilities available to their researchers for free” (Peace Work, n.d.).

Volunteering of any type can be very rewarding. Each act is another step toward ending modern slavery, and the experience can be a positive addition to nearly everyone’s resume. Those wishing to learn more about the benefits of volunteering and community service generally may want to review Chapters VII and VIII. Whatever the assignment, however, volunteers must honor the commitments they make during the interview process. Volunteers can have a disruptive influence when they do not show up at the expected times, miss deadlines, or resign after just a few weeks.

### **Staying Motivated**

*“If you can’t fly, then run. If you can’t run, then walk. If you can’t walk, then crawl. But whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward” (Connors, 2019).*  
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Many of us periodically vow to lose weight, exercise more, or stop smoking. We often do well for a week or so and then resume our old habits. In a similar way, fighting human trafficking in the days after we hear a compelling speech is a nice thing to do, but those who want to make a real difference need to make a lasting commitment.

#### **Keep your eye on the prize**

A popular folk song during the height of the American civil rights movement urged listeners to “keep your eye on the prize.” That was good advice because the challenge sometimes seemed insurmountable.

The task of ending human trafficking can also seem overwhelming, so we, too, need to keep our eye on the prize. The prospect of giving millions of victims an opportunity to rebuild their lives should inspire and motivate all of us.

#### **Be realistic**

We need to set realistic goals and expectations for ourselves. Everett Hale, a noted 19<sup>th</sup>-and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century minister and anti-slavery activist, once said, “I am only one, but still, I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something.” Little acts we can all do include reading brief newsletters that antitrafficking organizations disseminate at no charge, signing petitions, and purchasing items trafficked survivors have made.

We should also celebrate small victories such as an event that went well. And it’s OK if only a few people attended! You may have made a big impression on those who came.

Individuals who can provide financial support should also pause to think very specifically about the things their contributions make possible. Perhaps last month’s donation enabled a survivor to have dinner or enroll in a job training program. Small victories such as these should help you sleep well. Take pride knowing that you did what you could today.

## Network

Regardless of the project an activist chooses to focus on, he/she doesn't have to do it alone. Connecting with others who have a similar interest can be informative, energizing, and fun. It will also increase the impact of your efforts.

Whenever possible, it is best to network in person. Several states, such as New York and Ohio, have formed human trafficking task forces to blend the strengths and insights of several state agencies. Activists who live in states that have such a coalition can check to see where it meets and whether or not they are open to the public. If not, they could at least request to get on a mailing list to receive press releases and news of special events.

Nonprofit organizations have also formed state-level alliances to fight human trafficking. One example is the [Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking \(CAST\)](#). “CAST is a Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization that is working to put an end to modern slavery and human trafficking through comprehensive, life-transforming services to survivors and a platform to advocate for groundbreaking policies and legislation” (Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking, n.d.-a). In 2008, CAST founded the California Legislative Collaborative on Human Trafficking. The Collaborative “is a forum for practitioners, experts, and those interested in human trafficking in California to come together to discuss current trafficking-related legislation in California and receive insight and guidance on policy advocacy” (Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking, n.d.-d).

Chapter VIII mentioned the [Young Supporters Network associated with Restore N.Y.C.](#) as an example of a group whose members meet periodically to discuss trafficking and socialize (Restore NYC, n.d.-a). You can even start your own anti-trafficking group on [MeetUp](#). “Meetup is an online service used to create groups that host local in-person events...Each user can be a member of multiple groups or RSVP for any number of events. As of 2017, there [were] about 35 million Meetup users. Users usually use the website to find friends, share a hobby, or for professional networking. Meetup users do not have ‘followers’ or other direct connections with each other like on other social media sites. Meetup users self-organize into groups. [As of 2017, there \[were\] about 225,000 Meetup groups in 180 countries. Each group has a different topic, size, and rules.](#) Groups are associated with one of 30+ categories and more than 18,000 tags that identify a group's theme” (“MeetUp”, 2022).

Those who cannot network in person can do so virtually. One way to start might be to follow anti-slavery trailblazers such as Ted Bales and Nadia Murad on social media. Another option is to network virtually through special interest groups on LinkedIn or partnerships such as the [Freedom from Slavery Forum](#). “This prestigious gathering of anti-slavery leaders from around the world is designed to create a collegial space to coalesce, create partnerships, discuss promising practices, and develop a shared agenda for action. Participants build relationships and prioritize actions in areas such as advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, and collaboration with other sectors” (Freedom From Slavery Forum, n.d.)

Those who qualify may want to join the [Anti-Trafficking Resource \(ATR\) Network](#). The Network is a peer-to-peer communication listserv that Shared Hope created for anti-trafficking professionals. The resource “is designed to support cross-discipline connections from state to state and foster the sharing of anti-trafficking practices and strategies for NGOs, law enforcement, service providers and other professionals combatting trafficking in the United States” (Shared Hope

International, n.d.-d). The listserv is for professionals in the anti-trafficking field and is by invitation only. Those who are interested can apply on the Shared Hope website (Shared Hope International, n.d.-d).

Activists with a robust academic foundation can join the [Global Association of Human Trafficking Scholars](#). The Association has more than 472 members in 39 states and 38 countries (Global Association of Human Trafficking Scholars, 2022).

The Association:

- “Is dedicated to an international partnership with an understanding of the historical, political, and cultural components of human trafficking as they influence research, policy, and activism in each respective global community.
- Approaches scholarly discourse with a respect for pluralistic views while steadfastly pursuing social justice for all, regardless of racial or gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality, socioeconomic status, age, or ability.
- Encourages the collaboration and integrity of innovative research-based approaches to inform policy, advocacy, and activism.
- Asserts clear ethics grounded in the importance of moving the knowledge base forward by producing high-quality research that goes beyond institutional barriers to be accessible to all” (Global Association of Human Trafficking Scholars, n.d.-b).

Three levels of membership are available. The most prestigious is for those who have published a peer-reviewed article about human trafficking. Another is for those who have at least a Master’s Degree and hope to publish an article about human trafficking. The third level is open to anyone who wants to learn more about the way that multi-disciplinary fields are addressing human trafficking (Global Association of Human Trafficking Scholars, n.d.-a).

However you do it, effective networking can be a powerful way of enhancing your efforts to fight human trafficking. Networking creates friendships, facilitates learning, and provides opportunities to celebrate successes. The connections also enable activists to find encouragement when the fight seems a bit overwhelming.

“Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little”  
(Leung, 2014).

Edmund Burke

## **The takeaway**

Human trafficking causes immeasurable suffering throughout the world. We may never eradicate it, but we can lessen the pain for vulnerable populations.

You do not need to devote your life to the cause to be a movement hero. Do what you can and hope for the best. It’s not that hard.

Playwright and activist Vaclav Havel perceptively noted that [“Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out”](#) (Havel, 2021). In the context of fighting human trafficking, this means we understand that trafficking is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. Hope nevertheless gives us the certainty that our efforts make sense and that our struggle is a noble one.

But we have to commit if we are serious about making a difference. Those who wish to support the cause should not wait until they graduate or retire. There will always be something else that is more fun or needs our attention. Every little bit helps.

“A young girl was walking along a beach upon which thousands of starfish had been washed up during a terrible storm. When she came to each starfish, she would pick it up, and throw it back into the ocean. People watched her with amusement.

She had been doing this for some time when a man approached her and said, ‘Little girl, why are you doing this? Look at this beach! You can’t save all these starfish. You can’t begin to make a difference!’

The girl seemed crushed, suddenly deflated. But after a few moments, she bent down, picked up another starfish, and hurled it as far as she could into the ocean. Then she looked up at the man and replied, ‘Well, I made a difference to that one!’

The old man looked at the girl inquisitively and thought about what she had done and said. Inspired, he joined the little girl in throwing starfish back into the sea. Soon others joined, and all the starfish were saved.”

You see, what that young girl’s actions represent is something that is special in each and every one of us. We have all been gifted with the ability to make a difference. And if we can, like that young child, become aware of that gift, we gain through the strength of our vision the power to shape the future.

And that is your challenge, that is my challenge. We must each find our starfish. And if we throw our stars wisely and well, I have no questions that the 21st century is going to be a wonderful place.

(Adapted from [The Star Thrower by Loren C. Eiseley](#))  
(Barker, n.d.).



“Make A Difference” by Letting Go of Control is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0  
(Letting Go of Control, n.d.).

## XI. Now what?

*“I’m not telling you it’s going to be easy. I’m telling you it’s going to be worth it”*  
(Williams, n.d.).  
Art Williams, Life Coach

No one minimizes the challenges associated with fighting a multi-faceted, multi-billion-dollar transnational crime such as human trafficking. A credible effort to address this problem will require state and national governments to give the initiative a much higher priority than they do now.

Activists understand the limits of what a single person can do. Sharing a link on social media will only take the cause so far, and a one-time fundraiser won’t meet the ongoing needs of a shelter that assists trafficked survivors. That said, previous chapters of the Guide have demonstrated how people of all ages and professions can help. Our combined efforts do make a difference.

The 2020 death of George Floyd in Minneapolis during his arrest for allegedly passing a counterfeit \$20 bill launched national and international protests. Police departments and governments at all levels moved quickly to improve officer training and revise agency policies. Citizens tore down statues of slave owners, municipalities strengthened the power of police review boards, and some states even adopted Juneteenth as a holiday. There is more work to do, but this concerted effort was a remarkable demonstration of what the nation can accomplish in a relatively short time when people mobilize to demand change.

The reforms mentioned in the last paragraph should not be attributed exclusively to Mr. Lloyd’s death. According to Kandace Montgomery of the Black Visions Collective in Minneapolis, [“This moment is a direct result of long-term, sustained, often slow community organizing”](#) (Campo-Flores & Jamerson, 2020). The movement was ready when Mr. Floyd’s death caught the nation’s attention.

There is a similar need for patient community organizing with regard to human trafficking. The author hopes that those who have read all or part of the Guide found it beneficial, but very little will be gained if readers now move on to other projects.

### **Easy ways to check all the boxes**

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has”* (Meade, n.d.).  
Cultural anthropologist Dr. Margaret Meade

So what can you do given all the other demands that life has placed on you? What you see on the next few pages are just a few of the suggestions that the Guide has offered. They are repeated here as a final reminder.

### **If you can spare some time**

Just about everyone can find an extra hour or two each week by reducing the amount of time they spend watching television or watching TikTok videos. Those who choose to do so can:

- Write a letter to their local newspaper to express support for pending legislation or outrage about a recent event involving human trafficking.
- Sign a petition that an antitrafficking organization is promoting and then post the link on social media.
- Call their elected representatives to demand that they strengthen regulations regarding the importation of products made by slaves and exploited labor.
- Post signs on community bulletin boards about the indicators of trafficking and how to report suspicious activity.
- Help organize a school or church event featuring a documentary about human trafficking.
- Make cookies for a fundraiser that a local shelter or antitrafficking organization hosts.

### **If you can spare some money**

The popular 1972 musical *Cabaret* included a song with the perceptive refrain that “money makes the world go round.” Indeed. Ending human trafficking will require new laws and cultural practices, but it will also require substantial funding to assist survivors and reduce the poverty that makes so many people vulnerable to traffickers. Every dollar helps. Something as simple as using the Round-Up change app or donating an item for a nonprofit’s auction can make a difference in ways you won’t even notice.

### **If you can’t spare any time or money**

Many caring people won’t be able to donate time or money because of difficult personal circumstances. What follows is a list of painless ways that they, too, can help the anti-trafficking movement as they go about their daily business:

- Stay informed and act when possible
  - Register for a free weekly newsletter from an anti-trafficking organization such as Freedom United. The newsletters only take a few minutes to scan and often provide links to important petitions readers can sign.
- Increase awareness
  - Post a comment and a link to this Guide on social media. You will not incur a cost or violate any copyright restrictions. You can share the Guide with anyone who might be interested. It will only take a minute.
  - Wear a T-shirt or carry a tote with an inspiring message from an anti-trafficking organization.



- Download some handouts about human trafficking from sources such as the DHS Blue Campaign. Leave copies at your place of worship or post one on the bulletin board of the supermarket where you shop.
- Put a free bumper sticker with an anti-trafficking message on your car.
- Put a red X on the back of your hand to commemorate #MyFreedom Day. Friends and co-workers will almost certainly ask about the mark, and their inquiries will provide an opportunity to share some brief comments about the horror that trafficking represents. You can also wear blue to support DHS' #WearBlueDay (January 11). Just remember to let your colleagues know why you are wearing blue that day.
- Use social media to share links to anti-trafficking petitions, announcements, and articles you find especially meaningful.
- Help prevent human trafficking
  - Educate your children about Internet safety and follow up to ensure that they adhere to your rules when they are online.
  - See something? Say something. Get a small plastic card with a list of things to watch for from DHS and attach it to your keychain. Chapter II has additional information about how to recognize and report suspected trafficking.
  - Take photographs of the hotel rooms where you stay. [Upload the pictures to help build a database that the police can search when trying to locate trafficked victims](#) who are posed in hotel rooms for online advertisements.
- Shop wisely
  - Buy gifts, household items, and other products from organizations that employ survivors. Chapter VIII identifies many places where you can do so.
  - Friends or family members may inquire what they can get you for your birthday or another special occasion. You can “donate” your birthday by asking them to contribute to your favorite anti-trafficking organization instead. Alternatively, you can request that they buy something you want from one of the vendors that Chapter VIII mentions.
  - If you purchase items on Amazon, be sure to use Amazon Smile so that the organization of your choice receives a small donation.
  - Buy Fair Trade products if you can. Doing so may increase the cost of your coffee, but you will enjoy it more knowing that the farmers who grew the beans received an honest wage for their work.
  - Patronize hotels and tour companies that support ECPAT-USA's Child Protection Code of Conduct.

- It might be time to buy a new T-shirt or shopping bag. Why not get one that features an anti-trafficking message? If possible, avoid purchasing items made in sweatshops that local malls often sell.
- Instead of buying high-priced items such as organic sheets, you can purchase less expensive ones and donate the money saved to your favorite nonprofit.
- Say a prayer if that's in your tradition. We need all the help we can get!

### **Final thoughts**

*“You may choose to look the other way, but you can never again say that you did not know”  
(Sheridan, 2015).*

William Wilberforce

(a British politician and leader of the movement to abolish the slave trade)

The process of writing this Guide was both educational and humbling. I had no idea how much each person could do before I started doing research for this project. What I initially thought would result in a brief article took more than two years to complete and resulted in a book with several hundred pages. Even then, space limitations only allowed me to cite a fraction of the individuals, organizations, and resources that deserve recognition.

The most important message readers can take away from the Guide is that we can *all* play a role in fighting human trafficking. The second most important lesson is that every little bit helps. We don't need to become experts, and we don't have to devote all our free time to the cause. Our contribution can be as simple as signing an online petition, shopping as wisely as our budget allows, and “donating” our birthdays to a worthy nonprofit. These actions require very little time, effort, or sacrifice. Doing what you can will qualify you to join the many anonymous heroes who are helping to help end modern-day slavery.

We often dwell on our limitations but seldom pause to think about our power. Each of us can have an awesome impact just by making a regular donation to a shelter for trafficked survivors. Your life will continue as it always has, and you may soon forget that you even donated. But don't lose sight of the fact that your gift may have enabled staff to give someone the treatment or skills she needed to rebuild her life. You will never know her name, but understand that she is grateful beyond words. This one act of kindness can change her and her family for generations.

The people who contributed to the Guide join the main author in hoping that it will be a resource you will want to consult periodically. That said, there is always room for improvement. The author sincerely welcomes all comments as well as recommendations to improve the Guide so that any future editions can be even more helpful. Please send your comments and suggestions to [dmccarty@albany.edu](mailto:dmccarty@albany.edu).

Don't forget. Don't give up. Join us in making a difference.

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*What difference can I make?  
A spark. A drop.  
But,  
Without the spark, there is no fire. Without the drop, there is no ocean.  
Let us become the fire and the flood.*

*Tate Johnson (Everyday Abolitionist, p. 28)*

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# INDEX

**1**  
101 East .....66

**3**  
3 Strands Global Foundation .....233, 263

**A**  
A21 Campaigns .... 180, 224, 234, 258, 277, 282, 287, 288, 342  
abolitionists..11-15, 18, 30, 42, 59, 60, 154, 243, 282, 291, 306, 307, 338, 343  
    female abolitionists ..... 12, 15, 59, 243, 332  
    historically..... 11, 12, 30, 59, 154, 291, 338, 343  
Action, Means, and Purpose (A-M-P) .....1, 2  
    in the case of children.....2  
action plans..... 11, 23, 29, 30, 40, 135, 210, 211  
addiction ..... 17, 25, 33, 205, 262, 303  
Africa..... 5, 8, 10, 31, 67, 77, 151, 176, 190  
Agape International Missions, 27, 155, 180, 258, 268, 273, 310  
airlines ..... 138-140, 339  
AIDS/HIV..... 73, 273  
albinos .....31  
All American Entertainment.....204  
Ambassador Speakers.....204  
American Hospital Association ..... 108  
American Public Health Association..... 110  
Amirah..... 17, 18, 22, 303  
Anti-Slavery Directory ..... 44, 195, 270, 310  
Antislavery International .....285, 296  
anti-trafficking organizations  
    local agencies and nonprofits .....273, 274  
    missions.....26, 333  
    organizations that offer internships ..101, 102, 206, 267, 298-301, 303-311  
    religious affiliations. .25, 27, 57, 96, 115, 154, 155, 203, 204, 262, 273, 323, 324, 339  
    selling products and employing survivors .180, 181 197, 247-252, 258, 258- 264, 340, 349  
    services provided.....275, 276  
Anti-Trafficking Review ..... 45, 53, 81, 175  
armed conflict.. 10, 31, 70, 74, 82, 184, 188, 189, 195  
    child soldiers ..... 31, 74, 184, 188, 192, 193, 195  
arranged marriages 1, 2, 4, 9, 38, 43, 53, 96, 163, 167, 169, 193, 195  
Aruna .....259, 282

Asia... 12, 15, 56, 63, 64, 66, 67, 73, 77, 83, 118, 161, 180, 181, 213, 246, 262, 272, 273, 281, 310, 311  
Assent Compliance .....47, 54, 89, 124, 128  
    "Top 100 Corporate Social Responsibility Influence Leaders List" ..... 14, 15  
Athens Ethical Principles..... 126  
Austin Gibs, Holly..... 24, 205, 206 225, 226, 229

**B**  
Bales, Kevin . 9, 12, 13, 23, 24, 32, 47, 49, 60, 62, 70, 85, 95, 96, 129, 174, 210, 223, 244, 256, 331  
Balkans ACT (Against Crime of Trafficking) Now Project .....229  
Bangladesh ..... 8, 24, 66, 78, 187  
    Rana Plaza..... 78, 187  
Blackout Trafficking..... 181, 185, 287,  
Bloomasia ..... 90, 91, 259, 268, 311  
Blue Campaign ....33-36, 39, 40, 48, 49, 97, 123, 131, 136, 145, 146, 151, 171, 183, 192, 197, 305, 306, 326, 349  
Blue Dragon..... 15, 273  
boycotts .. 12, 129, 172, 243, 244, 246, 253, 254, 292, 336  
    historically ..... 12, 243  
brothels ..... 64, 66-68, 73, 75, 76, 88, 141, 273  
Brown-Long, Cyntoia .....204, 316  
Buycott .....253

**C**  
Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam.....157  
Cambodia 24, 26, 27, 58, 61, 73, 76, 90, 91, 155, 237, 257, 258, 268, 276, 310, 311  
campaigns.....11, 12, 17, 39, 40, 43, 48, 49, 89, 112, 126, 135, 136, 14-142, 152-154, 156, 169, 170, 175, 181, 182, 186, 187, 189, 193, 194, 196, 197, 202, 217, 225, 246, 253, 280, 283, 285-287, 311, 319, 322, 323, 325  
Canada ..... 26, 77, 78, 230, 231  
careers fighting human trafficking or assisting survivors.....323-330  
    government agencies ..... 325-329  
    nongovernmental organizations ..... 323-325  
case studies . 50, 57, 61, 108, 109, 128, 164, 234, 293, 294, 296  
caste-based discrimination.....157  
Catholic Relief Services ..57, 154, 161, 167, 317, 218  
Chab Dai .....268, 310  
Charity Navigator ..... 25-27, 270

- Charity Watch.....270
- charters and conventions
- conventions ..... 104, 195, 271, 319
  - declarations ..... 68, 69, 151, 157, 194, 195
  - proclamations ..... 145, 182, 183, 319
  - protocols..... 1-4, 8, 28, 104, 160, 167, 215, 271
  - resolutions ..... 138, 190, 195, 213, 217, 319, 321
- child labor..... 10, 74, 75, 77, 164, 165, 188, 192, 193, 239, 248, 249, 253-255, 260, 284, 294
- organizations fighting child labor..... 188, 239, 247, 248, 253-255, 260, 284
  - resources..... 64, 74, 75, 89, 247
- child slavery..... 10, 43, 124, 214, 272, 276, 309,
- organizations fighting child labor....43, 124, 272, 276, 309
  - resources.....43, 124
- see also* child labor
- see also* child trafficking
- child trafficking ..... 5, 22, 192, 193, 216, 217, 269
- identification of ..... 34, 230, 301
  - organizations fighting child trafficking.....38, 44, 91, 145, 170, 224, 272, 276, 285, 290, 307, 308
  - resources.....5, 22, 38, 44, 53, 57, 64, 74-77, 145, 161, 170, 224, 225, 232, 276, 285, 290,
- see also* child labor
- see also* child sex trafficking
- child sex trafficking ...20, 21, 34, 75-77, 95, 140, 177, 216, 217
- identification of ..... 33, 34, 99, 116, 118, 216
  - online sexual exploitation.....98, 99, 171, 223, 236-238
  - organizations fighting child sex trafficking....13, 27, 44, 45, 46, 54, 87, 88 116, 154, 155, 215, 216, 338,
  - resources.....29, 75-77, 87, 88, 116, 205, 206, 216, 228, 229,
- see also* child labor
- see also* child trafficking
- Childline ..... 143, 144
- Children of the Night..... 13, 256, 266
- China .....8, 15, 72-74, 239, 240
- Christianity ..... 154-156, 184
- anti-trafficking organizations ... 16, 27, 45, 46, 115, 154, 155, 167, 203, 204, 215, 216, 218, 273, 296, 304, 305, 308, 317, 323, 324, 339
- CNN Freedom Project .....46, 55, 148
- coalitions..... 16, 28, 29, 105, 106, 112, 114, 115, 117, 121, 126-129, 138, 143, 202, 203, 217, 219, 229, 230, 246, 260, 277, 297, 310, 313, 316, 342, 344
- Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) ..... 105, 106, 117, 202, 217, 344
- Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism..... 137
- college campus organizations .....165, 264, 314-322
- commercial sexual exploitation ..... 2, 5, 13, 22 102, 123, 132, 133, 134, 166, 167, 214
- children..... 5, 13, 33, 44, 45 60, 71, 76, 95, 116, 119, 137, 138, 217, 231-233, 235, 237, 267, 274, 303, 304, 307
- educational resources53, 54, 60, 71, 76, 84-86, 99, 116, 136, 232, 235
- commerical sex act, definition of.....2
- nexus with domestic violence.....22
- organizations aiding survivors....25, 26, 44, 45, 98, 99, 116, 119, 120, 155, 231-233, 267, 274, 296, 303, 304, 307, 311, 334
- Community Liberation Model ..... 11
- companies and corporations
- anti-trafficking efforts..... 10, 14, 25, 27, 123-144, 146, 179, 218, 230, 239, 240, 245, 247- 254, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 270, 282-285, 287, 324
  - convenience stores ..... 131, 132, 173
  - Corporate Social Responsibility ..... 14, 15, 47, 123
  - facilitating trafficking.... 10, 78, 89, 122, 177, 214, 240
  - freedom businesses..... 127, 259, 260, 282
- see also* fair trade
- see also* supply chains
- conferences .....5, 13, 54, 82, 111, 115-117, 124, 170, 225, 295, 296
- Council on Foreign Relations .....62, 164
- Covenant House.....275, 304, 305
- Cover Girl Culture .....226
- criminal justice system .....20, 64, 86, 100-106, 117, 175, 213-217, 292-294, 298, 299
- corruption ..... 10, 67, 175, 210, 211, 299
- juvenile justice system .....2, 20, 71, 95 , 104, 118, 216-218, 235, 328
- perception and treatment of victims 5, 10, 56, 100, 166, 204, 216, 217
- criminal justice professionals ..... 100-106
- issues with the criminal justice approach to trafficking...64, 65, 86, 100, 212, 225
- government agencies ..... 325-329
- response to prostitution ..... 166, 212, 214
- survivor case management .....117-119, 217, 274, 309
- See also* Human Trafficking Intervention Courts
- See also* legislation
- criminalization of human trafficking 9, 20, 26, 52, 86, 214, 216
- lack of implementation.....9, 86

cultural beliefs and perceptions ...1, 5, 21, 31, 72, 73, 76, 167, 223, 289  
 child marriages 1, 9, 73, 76, 77, 167, 216, 290, 294  
 cultural differences when addressing trafficking ..... 167, 294  
 feminization of poverty ..... 72, 292  
 forced marriage 1, 2, 4, 9, 38, 43, 53, 96, 163, 167, 169, 193, 195  
 of victims..... 64, 65, 75, 89, 147, 174, 256,  
 of women... ..5, 64, 65, 72, 73, 89, 169, 199, 223, 226, 256,  
 protecting traffickers .....65, 66, 73, 160  
 virginity .....67, 68, 73, 256  
 customers of sex trafficking and prostitution...32, 65, 66, 73, 84, 85, 99, 140, 141, 143, 212, 214, 216, 218, 256, 338

## D

data  
 difficulties obtaining and inconsistencies with 3, 4, 58, 149, 160, 211, 293  
 efforts to consolidate data ...4-7, 16, 37, 40, 47-49, 52, 54, 55, 69, 79-82, 89, 94, 98, 99, 102-104, 106, 118, 119, 124, 125, 127, 160, 164, 225, 253, 269, 270, 299, 306, 325, 327, 328, 340, 342, 349  
 relationship between data and framing ....175, 176  
 debt bondage. 2, 4, 8, 22, 33, 64, 67, 74, 79, 132, 147, 163, 174, 182, 264, 294  
 definition of human trafficking.....4  
 Action, Means, and Purpose.....1  
 differences in definitions .....4, 6, 65  
 force, fraud, coercion .....2, 20, 29  
 UN definition .....1  
 Dellena..... 70, 156  
 developing a course of study ....19, 31, 57- 59, 90, 91, 291, 295  
 discrimination .... 5, 21, 60, 157, 169, 191, 192, 223, 325, 331  
 based on gender..... 5, 21, 169, 191, 192, 223, 325  
 indigenous peoples .....21  
 LGBTQ .....5  
 racism .....5, 21, 22, 60  
 discussion groups and panels..47, 56, 57, 72, 83, 125, 152, 164, 167, 192, 200, 203-205, 209, 319, 320  
 domestic violence16, 22, 38, 104, 110, 193, 278, 298, 325  
 nexus with human trafficking.....22  
 donations..91, 193, 264, 265, 269-287, 321, 331, 340, 348  
 donations that may harm survivors .....91, 193

fundraising information and resources .....43, 118, 119, 194, 196, 199, 280-283, 286, 287, 320, 321, 337, 341, 348  
 selecting organizations to support .....269, 270  
 sponsoring survivors .....277, 278  
 DoneGood..... 240, 241, 247, 248, 284  
 Dressember .....3, 193, 194, 218

## E

ECPAT International .....44, 90, 307, 308, 324  
 ECPAT-USA...44, 45, 71, 90, 136-139, 145, 220, 232, 237, 307, 308, 324  
 ECPAT-USA Child-Protection Code of Conduct.139, 246, 339, 349  
 ECPAT-USA Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism ..... 137, 138  
 effect of global crises.....28, 70, 82-84, 92, 187, 200  
 armed conflict.... 31, 70, 74, 82, 184, 188, 189, 195  
 coronavirus4, 47, 83, 188, 217, 236, 239, 266, 268, 282, 298  
 natural disasters .....5, 82, 83, 92, 242  
 email signatures..... 173, 174  
 Emancipation Nation Network ..... 13, 51, 114, 170  
 empathy ..... 16, 92, 93, 148, 233, 309  
 End Human Trafficking Now .....62, 122, 126  
 End Slavery Now.....43, 44, 194, 195, 247, 253, 270, 307, 310, 323, 342  
 Anti-Slavery Directory ..... 44, 270, 310, 342  
 Boycott .....253  
 Slave Free Buying Guide .....247  
 Enrile, Annalisa .....2, 48, 50  
 ethical consumerism ..... 240-242  
 feel-good-economics .....240, 241, 246  
 Ethical Fashion Guide .....251  
 Ethical Journalism Network .....147, 149  
 Ethical Storytelling .....148  
 Equality Model .....214  
 Europe .22, 23, 32, 56, 67-69, 97, 132, 150, 160, 211, 228, 229  
 Ewart-James, Joanna .....3, 174  
 exploited laborers ..... *See* labor trafficking

## F

FAIR Girls .....233, 303, 304  
 Fair Labor Association .....239  
 fair trade... ..145, 152, 160, 178, 187, 191, 193, 198, 217, 239, 241, 244-254, 296, 308, 314, 321, 322, 335  
 apps ..... 252-255  
 certifications..... 239, 244-246,  
 days celebrating fair trade ..... 187, 191, 193



finding fair trade companies..... 247- 254  
 fair trade towns..... 145, 217, 245  
 Fair-Trade Federation ..... 191, 250, 296  
 faith-based organizations 16, 27, 45, 46, 96, 115, 151,  
 154, 155, 167, 169, 170, 191, 203, 204, 215, 216,  
 218, 261, 273, 296, 304, 305, 308, 317, 323, 324,  
 339, 341  
 false promises ..... 2, 5, 33, 83, 84, 91, 222  
 fashion and beauty .....25, 27, 78, 79, 89, 124, 125,  
 129, 161, 180, 181, 187, 193, 194, 197, 239, 241,  
 243, 247, 248, 250-252, 258-264  
 ethical companies and nonprofits .25, 27, 180, 181,  
 197, 250-252, 258-264  
 Fashion Revolution..... 14, 15, 79, 147, 187, 243  
 Federal Bureau of Investigation 29, 99, 100, 102, 114,  
 320, 327  
 feminism .....179  
 films and documentaries about trafficking . 20-22, 24,  
 31, 55, 56, 58, 166, 176, 198, 319  
 force, fraud, coercion.....2, 20, 29  
*see also* definition of human trafficking  
 forced labor.. 1, 4, 9, 10, 28, 29, 62, 74, 82, 106, 122,  
 124, 128, 132, 143, 163, 170, 188, 210, 214, 217,  
 238, 239, 240, 247, 254,  
 in supply chains..... 10, 20, 28, 122-124, 132, 191,  
 214, 238-240, 245,  
 legislation .....9, 29, 123, 210, 214, 217, 238-240  
 educational resources .....52, 62-64, 74, 128, 136,  
 137, 161, 163, 170, 247, 253, 254  
*see also* labor trafficking  
 forced marriage..... 1, 2, 4, 9, 38, 43, 53, 96, 163, 167,  
 169, 193, 195  
 framing human trafficking .....175-179, 335, 336  
 "victims" vs. "survivors" terminology.....177  
 Free The Slaves 11, 13, 42, 43, 85, 151-158, 174, 180,  
 210, 234, 287, 306, 307, 315-317, 341  
 Community Liberation Model.....11  
 Freedom Business Alliance ..... 127, 259, 260  
 Freedom Collaborative .....41, 52, 54, 81, 88, 89, 114,  
 120, 125, 149  
 Freedom Sundays .....191, 341  
 Freedom United .... 3, 4, 30, 43, 52, 91, 148, 150, 170,  
 172, 174, 181, 182, 190, 201, 218, 221, 222  
 "My Story, My Dignity Pledge" ..... 148

## G

gender-based violence ... 101, 191, 192, 230, 231, 341  
*see also* violence against women  
 Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS)  
 .....24-26, 54, 86, 116, 212, 267, 274, 275, 321  
 Global Emancipation Network .....80, 98  
 Global Modern Slavery Directory .....40, 269

Global Slavery Index .....4, 6, 210  
 grooming..... 1, 96, 230, 236, 237  
 Guatemala..... 63, 161, 248, 249  
 Guidestar.....27, 270

## H

Haiti ..... 190, 211, 249, 272, 309  
 Health, Education, Advocacy, Linkage (HEAL)..107,  
 109, 111, 112, 203, 204  
 healthcare..... 106-112  
 educational resources .32, 107- 112, 119, 162, 203,  
 204  
 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) .....109  
 identification of trafficking .....15, 16, 32, 106-108,  
 112, 119, 206  
 Polaris Medical Assessment Tool .....108  
 public health..... 16, 110, 111, 114, 116, 186, 203  
 health provider lack of preparedness.....106, 110  
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
 "Core Competencies"....107  
 Her Future Coalition.....260, 277  
 history and major trafficking concepts 1, 2, 59-62, 84-  
 89  
 homelessness .. 5, 20, 25, 54, 104, 212, 230, 263, 273,  
 275, 301, 304, 305, 312, 313  
 hotels .....40, 131-138, 283, 339, 340, 349  
 educational resources ..... 135-137, 163,  
 identification of trafficking in hotels.....135  
 labor trafficking..... 132, 136, 137  
 legal issues and legislation ..... 132-135, 339  
 sex trafficking and exploitation 122, 132, 135, 136,  
 138  
 hotlines and textlines.... 6, 13, 33, 36-38, 40, 100,  
 131, 135, 137, 143, 173, 227, 275, 277, 283, 325  
 National Human Trafficking Hotline 6, 13, 33, 36-  
 38, 40, 54, 57, 80, 111, 131, 137, 143, 173, 275,  
 283, 306, 325  
 human rights ..5, 10, 23, 60-62, 64, 78, 105, 122, 128,  
 138, 146, 151, 157, 161-164, 184, 185, 194- 196,  
 214, 215, 224, 225, 244, 247, 271, 272, 285, 294-  
 296, 300, 306- 308, 311, 324, 325  
 declarations and charters ..... 1, 2, 59-62, 84-89  
 human rights perspective to trafficking .....64, 105,  
 214, 215, 271  
 human rights violations ..... 60-62, 78  
 organizations .... 5, 10, 23, 138, 146, 151, 224, 225,  
 272, 285, 295, 296, 300, 306-308, 311, 324, 325  
 Human Rights Watch..... 10, 77, 161, 163  
 Human Trafficking Institute ..... 52, 102, 206, 238  
 human trafficking intervention courts.....20, 103, 214,  
 294, 295  
 human trafficking reports .....55

annual reports by nongovernmental organizations...46, 52, 55, 102, 103, 257, 258  
 published by Government Agencies....55, 94, 95, 127, 215, 320, 328  
 published by the United Nations ....3, 4, 55, 68  
 U.S. State Department Trafficking in Persons Report...4, 13, 28, 29, 55, 122, 293, 306  
 human trafficking task forces .....13, 16, 20, 30, 55, 88, 93-95, 98-100, 112, 127, 135, 202, 219, 296, 320, 328, 344  
 Humanity United .....29, 161, 162

## I

I-5 Freedom Network ..... 136, 333, 334  
 identification of trafficking and victims  
 child trafficking indicators .....34, 139  
 generic indicators ..... 32-34, 106, 142  
 identification in healthcare settings..... 16, 106-112, 118, 119  
 indicator cards and key tags .35, 36, 130, 131, 134, 135, 139, 141, 143, 144, 339, 340  
 labor exploitation indicators.....34, 35  
 reporting apps.....37, 38, 340  
 screening tools.. 93-95, 97-100, 104, 118-120, 136, 137  
 trainings for professionals....39, 40, 94- 97, 100, 110-112, 134-136, 138-141  
 immigration  
 foreign labor contractors .....172  
 foreign workers and victims.. 5, 10, 19, 29, 31, 32, 64, 67, 70, 74, 94, 101, 182, 198-200, 210, 324, 329  
 organizations and agencies aiding foreign-born victims....101, 104-106, 116-118, 199-201, 266, 267, 311, 324, 326, 328, 329,  
 refugees ..82-84, 189, 198, 199, 200, 249, 250, 267  
 smuggling.....67, 74, 214, 215, 327  
 visas.....19, 329  
 In Our Backyard ..... 130, 131, 173, 234  
 increasing awareness ..... 174-209, 280-282, 290, 291, 313-320, 335, 336, 348, 349  
 on college campuses.. 165-167, 199-201, 228, 281, 290, 291, 313-320  
 India 4, 26, 27, 64, 72, 73, 77, 79, 83, 84, 87, 90, 143, 144, 157, 161, 172, 181, 197, 256, 259, 260, 263, 263, 277  
 indicator cards and key tags..... 35, 36, 130, 131, 134, 135, 139, 141, 143, 144, 339, 340  
 informational tours ..... 90, 91, 191, 222, 268, 269  
 Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center ....149, 201, 202, 297

International Air Transport Association .....138, 140  
 International Justice Mission .....45, 46, 52, 102, 151, 154, 171, 185, 189, 277, 278, 290, 308, 317, 320, 321  
 International Labour Organization.4, 57, 74, 161-163, 188, 248  
 International Organization for Migration .4, 118, 119, 129, 137  
 internships.....101, 102, 206, 267, 297-311  
 intersection of trafficking with other phenomena...45, 53, 60, 88, 89, 103, 110, 136  
 intervention  
 human trafficking intervention courts .20, 103, 214  
 organizations .....103, 116, 117, 141, 155, 199-201, 233, 263, 299-301, 303, 304  
 resources.....61, 109, 113, 114, 116, 233  
 strategies.....92, 99, 100, 113, 114, 143, 199-201  
 involuntary servitude .....2, 20  
*see also* labor trafficking  
 Ivory Coast ..... 10, 22, 77, 166, 214

## J

Jeffrey, Julie Roy..... 12, 59, 243, 332  
 Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders Against Modern Slavery.....151  
 journalism..... 147-150, 293  
 journals ..... 53-55  
 Anti-Trafficking Review .....45, 53, 81,175  
 Joyya (Freeset)..... 181, 197, 260, 314, 318

## K

Koch, Barry .....7

## L

labor rights.....128, 161-163, 239  
 labor trafficking  
 agriculture .... 7, 10, 63, 64, 78, 123, 161, 182, 191, 213, 243, 245, 257, 324  
 brick industry .....31, 63, 64, 74, 161  
 cocoa industry 10, 22, 77, 164-166, 245, 246 , 252, 253  
 construction.....64, 161  
 debt bondage .... 2, 4, 22, 64, 74, 79, 132, 157, 294  
 domestic work .....7, 63, 80, 129, 163  
 hospitality....40, 123, 131-136, 163, 283, 333, 339, 340  
 involuntary servitude.....2, 20  
 role of consumers .8, 191, 238, 240-242, 249, 336, 349, 350  
 seafood industry ..... 10, 28, 29, 63, 78, 162, 246  
 types of..... 7, 8, 62-64, 161-164

*see also* child labor  
*see also* forced labor  
labor trafficking in private businesses ..... 122, 287  
primary risk areas ..... 122  
resources for business owners ..... 124-130  
third party agents and recruiters .22, 61, 74, 83, 84,  
122- 125, 132, 136, 164, 172  
trafficker use of company products and  
properties...122, 132-134  
*see also* supply chains  
law enforcement ..... 95-100, 327  
corruption..... 9, 10, 67, 68, 154, 164, 176, 211,  
317, 299  
task forces and teams.13, 16, 20, 30, 55, 88, 93-95,  
98-100, 112, 127, 144, 261, 276, 320, 328, 329,  
344  
trainings, tools, and resources for law  
enforcement.....39, 40, 88, 89, 94-100, 111,  
116, 119, 192, 213, 328, 349  
approaches to human trafficking .... 10, 93, 98-101,  
166, 212, 214, 327  
use of technology .....79-82, 99, 127, 128, 236,  
327, 328, 340  
lawyers..... 2,100-106, 133, 134, 288  
legal services and assistance..... 101-106, 288  
organizations offering assistance .... 105, 106, 117,  
118, 141, 273, 274, 304, 324, 328, 329  
legislation .....8, 9, 19, 20, 211-223  
controversies .....211, 212  
lack/weakness of .. 3, 9, 20, 86, 123, 124, 134, 166,  
167, 189, 210, 238, 275,  
legal advocacy strategies.....209, 210, 218-223, 322  
new laws and reform. 123, 134, 135, 157, 211-217  
organizations advocating for better legislation...44,  
45, 105, 106, 155, 172, 181, 182, 202, 220-222,  
232, 306, 307, 324, 344  
safe harbor laws.....20, 26, 72, 102  
*see also* U.S. Legislation  
Liberty Shared .....41, 118, 119, 134, 141  
Lifeway Network.....34, 274  
Lloyd, Rachel ..... 12, 24-26, 86  
Love 146.....3, 5, 165, 224, 225

## M

Malaysia ..... 61, 83, 161, 182  
media kits.....173  
media literacy .....236, 237  
mental health .....33, 63, 70, 112-120, 255  
mental health of victims .....33, 63, 70, 255  
mental health professionals ..... 112-121  
psychological manipulation.2, 22, 24, 34, 119, 276  
trainings and resources for professionals .. 114-121

methodologies for survivor care and anti-trafficking  
initiatives  
community-based ..... 11, 42, 306, 307, 329, 338  
law enforcement and criminal justice...64, 65, 101,  
103, 123, 166, 212, 214, 327  
public health..... 110, 111, 114, 115,  
holistic.....75, 110, 155, 214, 233, 259, 262, 267,  
273, 282, 303  
survivor-centered.....29, 98, 99, 101, 110, 114,  
115, 327  
systems-wide..... 11, 50, 135  
trauma-informed.....29, 30, 92, 98, 99, 107, 109-  
111, 113-115, 119, 203, 214, 216, 260, 263,  
267, 272, 275, 304, 324, 327  
modern slavery  
Anti-Slavery Directory .....44, 270, 310, 342  
terminology .....3, 174  
data .....4, 9, 112, 189, 238  
Global Modern Slavery Directory .38, 40, 269, 270  
Global Slavery Index.....4, 6, 210  
Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders Against  
Modern Slavery....151  
Murad, Nadia ..... 70, 344  
My Life My Choice .....22, 231, 232

## N

National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking  
.....29, 30  
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children  
(NCMEC)..... 102, 115, 135, 220, 237  
National Human Trafficking Hotline 6, 13, 33, 36-38,  
40, 54, 57, 80, 111, 131, 137, 143, 173, 275, 283,  
306, 325  
National Human Trafficking Resource Center 94, 100  
National Sexual Violence Resource Center.....3  
National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking...23,  
55  
National Survivor Network.....3, 202, 271  
National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance..... 120, 121,  
181, 271, 272  
Native Americans and Indigenous peoples.5, 21, 192,  
248, 326  
Nepal 31, 63, 67, 69, 77, 163, 259, 260, 263, 277, 311  
networking..... 120, 121, 344, 345  
New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking  
.....202, 203  
New York 7, 16, 20, 24-26, 78, 86, 94, 103, 112, 116,  
119, 140, 141, 176, 212, 214, 220, 221, 267, 274,  
275, 278, 286, 301, 304, 305, 317, 320- 322, 324,  
326, 328, 329, 339, 344  
Nigeria .....46, 67

Nomi Network .... 26, 27, 90, 173, 181, 257, 258, 261, 278, 286, 318  
 non-denominational organizations..27, 152, 155, 273, 323  
 Nordic or Swedish Model..... 166, 212  
 Not For Sale..... 181, 253, 323  
*Not My Life*..... 31, 198, 319

## O

open-source activism .....337, 338  
 Operation Underground Railroad .....87, 88, 181, 189, 261, 276, 277, 338, 339  
 organ trafficking .. 31, 68, 69, 165, 221, 222, 294, 337  
   educational resources ..... 31, 68, 69, 219  
   The Declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism .....68, 69  
 Organization for Security and Cooperation of Europe (OSCE).....23, 81, 97, 211  
 organizing public displays and events . 196-210, 318-320, 340, 341, 348  
   book clubs ..... 24, 49, 56, 57, 156, 199, 341  
   bulletin boards..... 145, 173, 197, 337, 348, 349  
   movie nights..... 176, 182, 186, 198, 319  
   speakers for events ..... 201-206  
   tabling..... 198, 208, 316, 318, 339, 341  
   types of activities..... 197-201  
 outreach ..... 25, 88, 92, 113, 121, 180, 198, 262, 303, 304, 307, 312, 313, 329, 342

## P

Palermo Protocol ... *See* Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons  
 parents ..17, 22, 26, 61, 67, 73, 76, 223-226, 237, 277  
   facilitating trafficking.....22, 26, 61, 67, 73, 76  
   resources.....224, 237, 277  
 Patagonia ..... 10, 239, 332  
 personal mission statements ..... 332, 333, 335, 336  
   petitions 172, 181, 182, 219, 221, 222, 292, 322, 348, 349  
 petitions 172, 181, 182, 219, 221, 222, 292, 322, 348, 349  
 pledges.....148, 279, 283, 333-335  
 Polaris ..6, 7, 13, 35-38, 40, 55, 79, 80, 88, 107, 108, 111, 139-141, 185, 275, 283, 306, 325  
   Global Modern Slavery Directory 38, 40, 269, 270  
   Medical assessment tool.....107, 108  
   National Human Trafficking Hotline 6, 13, 33, 36-38, 40, 54, 57, 80, 111, 131, 137, 143, 173, 275, 283, 306, 325  
   partnerships ..... 40, 138, 141, 283  
   "The Typology of Modern Slavery".....6, 7, 40, 55  
 political advocacy ..... 209-223

advocacy strategies.....209, 210, 218-223, 322  
 organizations advocating for better legislation .....44, 45, 105, 106, 155, 172, 181, 182, 202, 220-222, 232, 306, 307, 324, 344  
 petitions... 172, 181, 182, 219, 221, 222, 292, 322, 348, 349  
 lobbying ... 211, 213, 214, 218, 289, 316, 317, 322  
   *see also* legislation  
 poverty....21, 26, 61, 69, 72, 163-165, 172, 187, 199, 209, 223, 245, 247, 250, 252, 256, 257, 259, 264, 276, 277, 278, 291 292, 311, 331, 348  
 prevention education..... 44, 216, 223-238, 303, 304, 307, 309, 339, 349  
 private sector .....*See* corporations and companies  
 prisons ..... 10, 25, 26, 70, 100, 175, 204, 240  
 protocols 1-4, 8, 94, 98, 104, 111-113, 125, 167, 203, 229, 231, 234, 256, 271  
 prosecutions.2, 9, 20, 29, 44, 52, 66, 88, 99-104, 175, 210-212, 216, 217, 324, 327, 328, 340  
 prostitution  
   arrest and prosecution of victims....20, 25, 26, 102, 166, 189, 212, 214, 217, 220, 221, 324  
   children..... 24, 25, 26, 66, 99, 100, 102, 113, 137, 138, 148, 177, 189, 217, 228, 256, 266, 312, 313, 324  
   criminal justice approaches ..... 166, 212, 292  
   employment following prostitution 25, 256, 259, 262, 263, 276, 303  
   human trafficking intervention courts... ..20, 103, 214  
   legalization of..... 166, 212, 293  
   Nordic or Swedish Model ..... 166, 212  
   pimps..... 21, 24, 33, 66, 67, 70, 73, 96, 99, 113, 116, 119, 129, 133, 134, 140, 141, 147, 214, 226, 235, 294  
   resources covering prostitution..... .21, 24, 56, 61, 64, 66, 67, 68, 70, 76, 73, 84, 89, 104, 155, 228, 235  
   rest areas and truck stops.....99, 143  
   rideshare services ..... 140, 141  
   role of race.....60, 189  
 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons.....1, 3, 4, 8, 28, 104, 160, 167, 271  
 public officials ..... 145-147, 322

## R

race .... 5, 21, 22, 60, 183, 189  
 Rana Plaza ..... 78, 187  
 red-light districts..... 76, 90, 155, 181  
 Red Sand Project ..... 199-201  
 Refuge for Women .....261, 324  
 religion.... 150-158, 178, 191, 199, 273, 323, 341, 348

Baha'i Faith ..... 158  
 Buddhism ..... 157,  
 Christianity ..... 16, 27, 45, 46, 115, 154-156, 167,  
 184, 203, 204, 215, 216, 218, 273, 296, 304,  
 305, 308, 317, 323, 324, 339  
 faith-based organizations 16, 27, 45, 46, 96, 115,  
 151, 154, 155, 167, 169, 170, 191, 203, 204,  
 215, 216, 218, 261, 273, 296, 304, 305, 308,  
 317, 323, 324, 339, 341  
 Hinduism ..... 157,  
 Islam ..... 157, 239, 240  
 Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders Against  
 Modern Slavery ..... 151  
 Judaism ..... 153, 154, 273,  
 spiritual leaders ..... 150-153, 155  
 survivors and connection with religion ..... 23, 156,  
 204  
 reporting human trafficking... 141, 143, 147, 151, 154  
 reporting apps ..... 37, 38, 340  
 research paper questions ..... 292-294  
 Responsible Sourcing Tool ..... 124, 125, 160  
 restavek ..... 272, 309  
 Restore NYC ..... 116, 267, 274, 277, 279, 280, 344  
 role of men in ending sex trafficking.... 168, 170, 333,  
 344  
 Roy Jeffrey, Julie ..... 12, 59, 243, 332  
 runaways.... 20, 94, 144, 212, 230, 273, 304, 312, 313  
 Runaway Girl ..... 115, 116, 230

## S

safe harbor laws ..... 20, 26, 102, 293, 294  
 screening tools ..... 93-95, 97, 100, 110-112, 118, 119,  
 211  
*See also* indicator cards and key tags  
 service providers... 38, 43, 92, 94, 111, 115, 116, 120,  
 121, 270, 271, 285, 300, 307, 344  
 challenges ..... 92  
 screening tools ..... 93  
 sex tourism ..... 213  
 sex trafficking .. 21, 22, 29, 32, 34, 58, 60, 64-68, 70-  
 73, 75-77, 86, 87, 89, 90, 92, 96, 97, 99, 103, 104,  
 106, 111, 115, 116, 118, 119, 122, 132-137, 143,  
 145, 149, 154-156, 169, 197, 203-206, 212, 215-  
 217, 220, 221, 224-230, 234-236, 249, 257, 258,  
 262, 263, 266, 267, 273, 274, 291, 294-296, 303,  
 308, 310-313, 318, 338, 339  
 educational resources . 3, 19, 24, 49, 60, 64-68, 70-  
 73, 75-77, 86, 87, 89 90, 96, 103, 104, 111,  
 115, 116, 118, 119, 136, 145, 149, 156, 204-  
 206, 215-217, 224, 226-230, 234, 235, 291  
 legislation ..... 9, 20, 133, 212, 215-217, 220, 221

organizations fighting against sex trafficking .... 17,  
 27, 45, 46, 90, 102, 111, 116, 130, 136, 154,  
 155, 197, 203, 249, 262, 263, 266, 267, 273,  
 274, 296, 303, 308, 310-313, 318, 324, 338,  
 339  
 types of ..... 6,7  
 sexual violence ..... 2, 70, 75, 186, 224, 230, 231, 256,  
 319  
 Shared Hope International ..... 115, 135, 136, 154, 155,  
 203, 215, 216, 273, 296, 296, 308, 309, 323, 334,  
 339, 344, 345,  
 JuST Faith Summit ..... 296  
 shopping wisely ..... 178, 187, 238-255, 288, 318, 336,  
 349, 350  
 buying guides and resources ..... 245, 247, 248-255,  
 318  
 difficulties ..... 239, 240  
 ethical consumerism ..... 240-242  
 ethical companies .... 180, 181, 197, 248-252, 258-  
 264, 284, 318  
 what it means to “shop wisely” ..... 246, 247, 255  
*See also* boycotts  
*See also* fair trade  
 slacktivism ..... 331  
 slavery  
 historically .. 3, 5, 11, 12, 23, 30, 60, 154, 157, 188-  
 190, 195, 243, 261, 291, 292, 332, 338  
 religious views on slavery ..... 153, 155, 157, 158  
 special days bringing attention to the history of  
 slavery ..... 188-190, 192, 195  
*See also* abolitionists  
*See also* modern slavery  
 social media ..... 46, 47, 49, 79, 96, 99, 166, 170-173,  
 182-184, 186, 188, 193, 201, 219, 220, 225, 237,  
 244, 268, 282, 283, 298, 304, 311, 315, 322, 323,  
 335, 336, 339, 340, 342, 344, 347-349  
 instagram ..... 80, 171, 173, 183, 186, 225, 283, 315  
 hashtags ..... 49, 136, 140, 173, 183, 186, 193, 201,  
 244, 282, 319, 335, 349  
 facebook ... 43, 48, 77, 80, 127, 171, 173, 183, 192,  
 220, 225, 228, 253, 283, 186, 315, 316, 331  
 resources ..... 49, 80, 96, 173, 225  
 social media campaigns ..... 46, 166, 170, 171, 183,  
 184, 186, 193, 201, 225, 244, 282, 311  
 TikTok ..... 171  
 twitter ..... 48, 171, 183, 186, 225, 244, 336  
 volunteering and internships ..... 267, 289, 298-  
 313, 323, 342  
 use of by traffickers ..... 79, 80, 96, 99, 170, 188  
 social work ..... 13, 50, 58, 60, 61, 111-121, 170, 224,  
 295, 296, 300, 303  
 Somaly Mam ..... 58,  
 Soul Survivor Ink ..... 120, 276

special days to draw attention to human trafficking....46, 165, 182-196, 319, 320, 329, 335, 341, 349

Starfish Project ..... 180, 181, 249, 258, 262, 318

Stop the Traffik... 34, 37, 80, 130, 136, 143, 178, 181, 325

supply chains ..... 9, 10, 27, 47, 54, 89, 122-130, 132, 137, 144, 161-165, 213, 214, 239-241, 243, 244, 246, 247, 254, 260, 292, 339

difficulty protecting against trafficking.. 239, 240, 243, 293

legislation ..... 9, 123, 213, 214, 239, 240

outsourcing goods and services ..... 122, 132

transparency . 9, 27, 47, 54, 89, 123-125, 213, 243, 244, 254

survivor needs and aftercare... 10, 61, 87, 88, 99, 127, 255-288, 327, 329,

employment and training.... 11, 127, 173, 179-181, 197, 230, 256-264, 275, 277, 278, 282, 311

legal assistance ..... 101-106, 288

medical care .. 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 33, 106-112, 203, 204, 206, 255-257, 289, 329

mental health care ..... 33, 112-120, 255, 257, 289

shelter 10, 12, 13, 72, 100, 120, 121, 145, 255, 257, 258, 260, 262, 264-267, 271-274, 277, 278, 280, 281, 283, 298, 304, 305, 311-313, 321, 323, 342

survivor stories .... 17, 18, 22, 24, 58, 61, 63, 68-71, 74, 78, 87, 93, 147, 148, 156, 205, 206, 225, 226, 228, 229, 257, 258

Survivor's Ink..... 71, 72, 119, 276

sustainability... 9, 11, 30, 45, 53, 54, 94, 99, 109, 115, 126, 128, 136-138, 164, 165, 168, 178, 182, 193, 230, 239, 241, 245, 246, 248-251, 254, 258, 259, 263, 296, 311, 314, 321, 322, 335

Sustainable Development Goals 9, 45, 53, 54, 82, 109, 128, 138, 182, 239

systemic issues..... 22, 66, 223, 312

systems-wide approach ..... 11, 50, 135

## T

talking about trafficking ..... 175-179, 335, 336

tattoos ..... 34, 71, 72, 93, 119, 120, 276

removal services..... 71, 72, 119, 120, 276

teachers ..... 159, 160, 164-168, 225, 229-235, 291

Tech Against Trafficking..... 82, 127, 128

technology .... 79-82, 98, 99, 127, 128, 215, 236-238, 325, 327, 328

apps 36-38, 80, 171, 218, 228, 229, 236, 252-255, 279, 284, 301, 340

artificial intelligence..... 5, 82, 236

dark web ..... 80, 98, 292

online exploitation..... 87, 89, 90, 96, 98, 99, 132, 171, 212, 215, 220, 236-238, 325

recruitment of victims ..... 79, 80, 170

trafficking advertisements . 76, 80, 83, 89, 99, 132, 212, 328, 340, 349

*see also* social media

TED and TEDx talks ..... 52, 53, 290, 291

Teens Against Trafficking ..... 234, 313

tees and totes with a message ..... 179, 180, 258

Ten Thousand Villages..... 245, 258, 314

The Great Silent Army of Abolitionism .... 12, 59, 243

The Guardian Group..... 96, 97, 111, 130, 136

"The Racial Roots of Human Trafficking" ..... 21, 60

*The Slave Next Door*..... 32, 62, 95, 96, 129, 244, 256

Thistle Farms... 25, 181, 197, 262, 263, 303, 314, 318

To Plead Our Own Cause ..... 23, 70

tourism.... 44, 68, 69, 91, 135-139, 141, 191, 213, 246, 268, 269, 339, 349

Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism ..... 137, 138

sex tourism ..... 44, 137, 138, 213

transplant tourism..... 68, 69

voluntourism ..... 91, 191, 222, 268, 269

traffickers .... 2, 4-6, 20, 22, 31, 32, 79, 80-84, 91, 95, 96, 100, 101, 122, 132, 138, 140, 141, 143, 144, 167, 169, 170, 174, 180, 188, 189, 193, 199, 211, 212, 220, 221, 226-228, 236-238, 240, 267, 273, 274, 320, 340

complicit or duped family members. 10, 21, 61, 66, 67, 74, 77, 83, 84, 91, 180, 193, 228, 257, 258, 272

government-led trafficking..... 7, 28, 68, 164

pimps 21, 24, 33, 66, 67, 70, 73, 99, 113, 119, 133, 134, 140, 141, 147, 214, 226, 235, 294

smugglers ..... 67, 74, 214, 215, 327

taking advantage of global crises 5, 82-84, 92, 189, 199

third party agents and recruiters 22, 61, 67, 74, 83, 84, 132, 136, 137, 163, 164, 172

use of technology ... 79-82, 170, 188, 236-238, 340

women..... 4, 61, 67

trafficking education

developing a course of study 19, 31, 57- 59, 90, 91, 291, 295

discussion groups and panels ..... 47, 56, 57, 72, 83, 125, 152, 164, 167, 192, 200, 203-205, 209, 319, 320

informational tours ..... 90, 91, 191, 222, 268, 269

prevention education... 44, 216, 223-238, 303, 304, 307, 309, 339, 349

research paper questions..... 292-294

trafficking in the media 20-22, 58, 147-150, 174, 293



sensationalization .....3, 20-22, 58, 137, 148, 174  
trafficking in the U.S. .... 3, 5-7, 10, 19-21, 24, 28, 29,  
31, 32, 50, 60, 62, 63, 65, 66, 71, 73, 74, 76, 78,  
79, 80, 85- 88, 103, 123, 124, 163, 164, 172, 183,  
188, 189, 213-217, 236, 266, 290, 291  
Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) ....19, 20,  
52, 86, 133, 205  
Protection, Prosecution, Prevention ("3 P's") .....19  
Traffik Analysis Hub .....5, 80  
transnational crime .....5, 6, 299  
transportation systems ..... 138-144, 163  
airlines .....138-140, 247, 283, 339  
buses.....140, 143  
taxis ..... 140-143,  
trains.....143, 144  
trucks.....87, 143, 163, 199  
trauma-informed care and services .29, 30, 92, 98, 99,  
107, 109-111, 113-115, 119, 203, 214, 216, 260,  
263, 267, 272, 275, 304, 324, 327  
Trotter, David .....170, 196, 197, 206-209  
"22 Critical Steps to a Successful Event".. 206-209  
types of human trafficking.... 2, 7, 62-66, 89, 161-164

## U

U.S. Chamber of Commerce.....127  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services9, 54,  
57, 107, 110, 112  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security .....29, 88,  
139, 326  
Blue Campaign..... 33-36, 39, 40, 48, 49, 97, 123,  
131, 136, 145, 146, 151, 171, 183, 192, 197,  
305, 306, 326, 349  
U.S. Department of Justice. 19, 20, 21, 23, 29, 30, 47,  
101, 102  
National Action Plan to Combat Human  
Trafficking .....29, 30  
Office for Victims of Crime .....30, 206  
U.S. Department of State. 4, 6, 8, 13, 28, 29, 55, 122,  
124, 138, 147, 149, 160, 210, 293, 306, 326  
Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in  
Persons ..... 124, 147, 149, 160, 210, 306, 326  
Trafficking in Persons Report .....4, 13, 28, 29, 55,  
122, 293, 306  
U.S. Department of Transportation.....139  
U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking .....96, 154,  
218, 338

U.S. legislation .8, 9, 19, 20, 28, 29, 52, 86, 123, 132-  
135, 205, 211-218, 220, 221, 239, 240, 327, 339  
Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act20, 205, 211,  
212  
Trafficking Victims Prevention Act (TVPA) .....19,  
20, 52, 86, 133, 205  
UNICEF.....48, 137, 232, 248, 317  
United Nations General Assembly ... 1, 184, 185, 190,  
193, 195, 271  
United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human  
Trafficking.....3, 4, 68  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime .3, 11, 55,  
69, 104, 119, 149, 150, 185, 219, 271  
Universal Declaration of Human Rights.....194, 195  
University at Albany..... 15, 159, 291, 311, 312, 315,  
319  
Urban Light Foundation ..... 268, 272, 310

## V

Verité .....124, 125, 128, 129, 160-162, 164  
victim needs and services.. ..... See survivor needs and  
aftercare  
victims and survivor terminology .....147, 176, 177  
violence against women..... 10, 193, 277, 317  
virginity .....67, 68, 73, 256  
volunteering...102, 195, 227, 235, 266-269, 280, 281,  
288, 298, 303-305, 310-314, 323, 335, 337-339,  
341-343  
volunteering abroad.....267-269, 310, 311  
voluntourism ..... 91, 191, 222, 268, 269  
vulnerabilities ... 1, 4, 5, 11, 21, 22, 29, 38, 63, 72, 74,  
75, 80, 82, 83, 92, 93, 114, 157, 167, 169, 183,  
186, 187, 193, 199, 200, 206, 211, 212, 220, 223,  
235, 244, 256-259, 263, 264, 267, 275, 291, 292,  
311, 320, 325, 341, 348

## W

Walk Free Foundation .....4, 9, 128, 151, 164, 238  
*Walking Prey* .....24, 206, 226, 229  
Williamson, Celia 13, 47, 51, 114, 170, 185, 224, 225  
women traffickers .....4, 61, 67  
World Fair Trade Organization ..... 187, 250, 251  
Wyndham Hotel Group .....40, 134, 283

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## INDEX

- 1**  
101 East .....66
- 3**  
3 Strands Global Foundation .....233, 263
- A**  
A21 Campaigns .... 180, 224, 234, 258, 277, 282, 287, 288, 342  
abolitionists.. 11-15, 18, 30, 42, 59, 60, 154, 243, 282, 291, 306, 307, 338, 343  
    female abolitionists ..... 12, 15, 59, 243, 332  
    historically ..... 11, 12, 30, 59, 154, 291, 338, 343  
Action, Means, and Purpose (A-M-P) .....1, 2  
    in the case of children.....2  
action plans ..... 11, 23, 29, 30, 40, 135, 210, 211  
addiction ..... 17, 25, 33, 205, 262, 303  
Africa..... 5, 8, 10, 31, 67, 77, 151, 176, 190  
Agape International Missions, 27, 155, 180, 258, 268, 273, 310  
airlines ..... 138-140, 339  
AIDS/HIV..... 73, 273  
albinos .....31  
All American Entertainment.....204  
Ambassador Speakers.....204  
American Hospital Association .....108  
American Public Health Association.....110  
Amirah..... 17, 18, 22, 303  
Anti-Slavery Directory ..... 44, 195, 270, 310  
Antislavery International .....285, 296  
anti-trafficking organizations  
    local agencies and nonprofits .....273, 274  
    missions.....26, 333  
    organizations that offer internships ..101, 102, 206, 267, 298-301, 303-311  
    religious affiliations. .25, 27, 57, 96, 115, 154, 155, 203, 204, 262, 273, 323, 324, 339  
    selling products and employing survivors.180, 181 197, 247-252, 258, 258- 264, 340, 349  
    services provided.....275, 276  
Anti-Trafficking Review .....45, 53, 81, 175  
armed conflict.. 10, 31, 70, 74, 82, 184, 188, 189, 195  
    child soldiers ..... 31, 74, 184, 188, 192, 193, 195  
arranged marriages 1, 2, 4, 9, 38, 43, 53, 96, 163, 167, 169, 193, 195  
Aruna .....259, 282
- Asia... 12, 15, 56, 63, 64, 66, 67, 73, 77, 83, 118, 161, 180, 181, 213, 246, 262, 272, 273, 281, 310, 311  
Assent Compliance .....47, 54, 89, 124, 128  
    "Top 100 Corporate Social Responsibility Influence Leaders List" ..... 14, 15  
Athens Ethical Principles..... 126  
Austin Gibs, Holly ..... 24, 205, 206 225, 226, 229
- B**  
Bales, Kevin . 9, 12, 13, 23, 24, 32, 47, 49, 60, 62, 70, 85, 95, 96, 129, 174, 210, 223, 244, 256, 331  
Balkans ACT (Against Crime of Trafficking) Now Project .....229  
Bangladesh ..... 8, 24, 66, 78, 187  
    Rana Plaza.....78, 187  
Blackout Trafficking..... 181, 185, 287,  
Bloomasia ..... 90, 91, 259, 268, 311  
Blue Campaign ....33-36, 39, 40, 48, 49, 97, 123, 131, 136, 145, 146, 151, 171, 183, 192, 197, 305, 306, 326, 349  
Blue Dragon..... 15, 273  
boycotts .. 12, 129, 172, 243, 244, 246, 253, 254, 292, 336  
    historically ..... 12, 243  
brothels .....64, 66-68, 73, 75, 76, 88, 141, 273  
Brown-Long, Cyntoia .....204, 316  
Buycott .....253
- C**  
Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam..... 157  
Cambodia 24, 26, 27, 58, 61, 73, 76, 90, 91, 155, 237, 257, 258, 268, 276, 310, 311  
campaigns.....11, 12, 17, 39, 40, 43, 48, 49, 89, 112, 126, 135, 136, 14-142, 152-154, 156, 169, 170, 175, 181, 182, 186, 187, 189, 193, 194, 196, 197, 202, 217, 225, 246, 253, 280, 283, 285-287, 311, 319, 322, 323, 325  
Canada .....26, 77, 78, 230, 231  
careers fighting human trafficking or assisting survivors.....323-330  
    government agencies ..... 325-329  
    nongovernmental organizations ..... 323-325  
case studies . 50, 57, 61, 108, 109, 128, 164, 234, 293, 294, 296  
caste-based discrimination..... 157  
Catholic Relief Services .. 57, 154, 161, 167, 317, 218  
Chab Dai .....268, 310  
Charity Navigator ..... 25-27, 270

- Charity Watch.....270
- charters and conventions
- conventions ..... 104, 195, 271, 319
  - declarations ..... 68, 69, 151, 157, 194, 195
  - proclamations ..... 145, 182, 183, 319
  - protocols..... 1-4, 8, 28, 104, 160, 167, 215, 271
  - resolutions ..... 138, 190, 195, 213, 217, 319, 321
- child labor..... 10, 74, 75, 77, 164, 165, 188, 192, 193, 239, 248, 249, 253-255, 260, 284, 294
- organizations fighting child labor..... 188, 239, 247, 248, 253-255, 260, 284
  - resources..... 64, 74, 75, 89, 247
- child slavery..... 10, 43, 124, 214, 272, 276, 309,
- organizations fighting child labor....43, 124, 272, 276, 309
  - resources.....43, 124
- see also* child labor
- see also* child trafficking
- child trafficking ..... 5, 22, 192, 193, 216, 217, 269
- identification of ..... 34, 230, 301
  - organizations fighting child trafficking.....38, 44, 91, 145, 170, 224, 272, 276, 285, 290, 307, 308
  - resources.....5, 22, 38, 44, 53, 57, 64, 74-77, 145, 161, 170, 224, 225, 232, 276, 285, 290,
- see also* child labor
- see also* child sex trafficking
- child sex trafficking...20, 21, 34, 75-77, 95, 140, 177, 216, 217
- identification of ..... 33, 34, 99, 116, 118, 216
  - online sexual exploitation.....98, 99, 171, 223, 236-238
  - organizations fighting child sex trafficking....13, 27, 44, 45, 46, 54, 87, 88 116, 154, 155, 215, 216, 338,
  - resources.....29, 75-77, 87, 88, 116, 205, 206, 216, 228, 229,
- see also* child labor
- see also* child trafficking
- Childline ..... 143, 144
- Children of the Night..... 13, 256, 266
- China .....8, 15, 72-74, 239, 240
- Christianity ..... 154-156, 184
- anti-trafficking organizations ... 16, 27, 45, 46, 115, 154, 155, 167, 203, 204, 215, 216, 218, 273, 296, 304, 305, 308, 317, 323, 324, 339
- CNN Freedom Project .....46, 55, 148
- coalitions..... 16, 28, 29, 105, 106, 112, 114, 115, 117, 121, 126-129, 138, 143, 202, 203, 217, 219, 229, 230, 246, 260, 277, 297, 310, 313, 316, 342, 344
- Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) ..... 105, 106, 117, 202, 217, 344
- Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism..... 137
- college campus organizations .....165, 264, 314-322
- commercial sexual exploitation ..... 2, 5, 13, 22 102, 123, 132, 133, 134, 166, 167, 214
- children..... 5, 13, 33, 44, 45 60, 71, 76, 95, 116, 119, 137, 138, 217, 231-233, 235, 237, 267, 274, 303, 304, 307
- educational resources53, 54, 60, 71, 76, 84-86, 99, 116, 136, 232, 235
- commerical sex act, definition of.....2
- nexus with domestic violence.....22
- organizations aiding survivors....25, 26, 44, 45, 98, 99, 116, 119, 120, 155, 231-233, 267, 274, 296, 303, 304, 307, 311, 334
- Community Liberation Model ..... 11
- companies and corporations
- anti-trafficking efforts..... 10, 14, 25, 27, 123-144, 146, 179, 218, 230, 239, 240, 245, 247- 254, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 270, 282-285, 287, 324
  - convenience stores ..... 131, 132, 173
  - Corporate Social Responsibility ..... 14, 15, 47, 123
  - facilitating trafficking.... 10, 78, 89, 122, 177, 214, 240
  - freedom businesses..... 127, 259, 260, 282
- see also* fair trade
- see also* supply chains
- conferences .....5, 13, 54, 82, 111, 115-117, 124, 170, 225, 295, 296
- Council on Foreign Relations .....62, 164
- Covenant House.....275, 304, 305
- Cover Girl Culture .....226
- criminal justice system .....20, 64, 86, 100-106, 117, 175, 213-217, 292-294, 298, 299
- corruption ..... 10, 67, 175, 210, 211, 299
- juvenile justice system .....2, 20, 71, 95 , 104, 118, 216-218, 235, 328
- perception and treatment of victims 5, 10, 56, 100, 166, 204, 216, 217
- criminal justice professionals ..... 100-106
- issues with the criminal justice approach to trafficking...64, 65, 86, 100, 212, 225
- government agencies ..... 325-329
- response to prostitution ..... 166, 212, 214
- survivor case management .....117-119, 217, 274, 309
- See also* Human Trafficking Intervention Courts
- See also* legislation
- criminalization of human trafficking 9, 20, 26, 52, 86, 214, 216
- lack of implementation.....9, 86

cultural beliefs and perceptions ...1, 5, 21, 31, 72, 73, 76, 167, 223, 289  
 child marriages 1, 9, 73, 76, 77, 167, 216, 290, 294  
 cultural differences when addressing trafficking ..... 167, 294  
 feminization of poverty ..... 72, 292  
 forced marriage 1, 2, 4, 9, 38, 43, 53, 96, 163, 167, 169, 193, 195  
 of victims..... 64, 65, 75, 89, 147, 174, 256,  
 of women... ..5, 64, 65, 72, 73, 89, 169, 199, 223, 226, 256,  
 protecting traffickers .....65, 66, 73, 160  
 virginity .....67, 68, 73, 256  
 customers of sex trafficking and prostitution...32, 65, 66, 73, 84, 85, 99, 140, 141, 143, 212, 214, 216, 218, 256, 338

## D

data  
 difficulties obtaining and inconsistencies with 3, 4, 58, 149, 160, 211, 293  
 efforts to consolidate data ...4-7, 16, 37, 40, 47-49, 52, 54, 55, 69, 79-82, 89, 94, 98, 99, 102-104, 106, 118, 119, 124, 125, 127, 160, 164, 225, 253, 269, 270, 299, 306, 325, 327, 328, 340, 342, 349  
 relationship between data and framing ....175, 176  
 debt bondage. 2, 4, 8, 22, 33, 64, 67, 74, 79, 132, 147, 163, 174, 182, 264, 294  
 definition of human trafficking.....4  
 Action, Means, and Purpose.....1  
 differences in definitions.....4, 6, 65  
 force, fraud, coercion .....2, 20, 29  
 UN definition .....1  
 Dellena..... 70, 156  
 developing a course of study ....19, 31, 57- 59, 90, 91, 291, 295  
 discrimination ... ..5, 21, 60, 157, 169, 191, 192, 223, 325, 331  
 based on gender..... 5, 21, 169, 191, 192, 223, 325  
 indigenous peoples .....21  
 LGBTQ .....5  
 racism .....5, 21, 22, 60  
 discussion groups and panels..47, 56, 57, 72, 83, 125, 152, 164, 167, 192, 200, 203-205, 209, 319, 320  
 domestic violence16, 22, 38, 104, 110, 193, 278, 298, 325  
 nexus with human trafficking.....22  
 donations..91, 193, 264, 265, 269-287, 321, 331, 340, 348  
 donations that may harm survivors .....91, 193

fundraising information and resources .....43, 118, 119, 194, 196, 199, 280-283, 286, 287, 320, 321, 337, 341, 348  
 selecting organizations to support .....269, 270  
 sponsoring survivors .....277, 278  
 DoneGood..... 240, 241, 247, 248, 284  
 Dressember ..... 3, 193, 194, 218

## E

ECPAT International .....44, 90, 307, 308, 324  
 ECPAT-USA...44, 45, 71, 90, 136-139, 145, 220, 232, 237, 307, 308, 324  
 ECPAT-USA Child-Protection Code of Conduct.139, 246, 339, 349  
 ECPAT-USA Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism ..... 137, 138  
 effect of global crises.....28, 70, 82-84, 92, 187, 200  
 armed conflict.... 31, 70, 74, 82, 184, 188, 189, 195  
 coronavirus4, 47, 83, 188, 217, 236, 239, 266, 268, 282, 298  
 natural disasters .....5, 82, 83, 92, 242  
 email signatures..... 173, 174  
 Emancipation Nation Network ..... 13, 51, 114, 170  
 empathy ..... 16, 92, 93, 148, 233, 309  
 End Human Trafficking Now .....62, 122, 126  
 End Slavery Now.....43, 44, 194, 195, 247, 253, 270, 307, 310, 323, 342  
 Anti-Slavery Directory ..... 44, 270, 310, 342  
 Boycott .....253  
 Slave Free Buying Guide .....247  
 Enrile, Annalisa .....2, 48, 50  
 ethical consumerism ..... 240-242  
 feel-good-economics .....240, 241, 246  
 Ethical Fashion Guide .....251  
 Ethical Journalism Network .....147, 149  
 Ethical Storytelling .....148  
 Equality Model .....214  
 Europe .22, 23, 32, 56, 67-69, 97, 132, 150, 160, 211, 228, 229  
 Ewart-James, Joanna .....3, 174  
 exploited laborers ..... *See* labor trafficking

## F

FAIR Girls .....233, 303, 304  
 Fair Labor Association .....239  
 fair trade... ..145, 152, 160, 178, 187, 191, 193, 198, 217, 239, 241, 244-254, 296, 308, 314, 321, 322, 335  
 apps ..... 252-255  
 certifications..... 239, 244-246,  
 days celebrating fair trade ..... 187, 191, 193

finding fair trade companies..... 247- 254  
 fair trade towns..... 145, 217, 245  
 Fair-Trade Federation ..... 191, 250, 296  
 faith-based organizations 16, 27, 45, 46, 96, 115, 151,  
 154, 155, 167, 169, 170, 191, 203, 204, 215, 216,  
 218, 261, 273, 296, 304, 305, 308, 317, 323, 324,  
 339, 341  
 false promises ..... 2, 5, 33, 83, 84, 91, 222  
 fashion and beauty .....25, 27, 78, 79, 89, 124, 125,  
 129, 161, 180, 181, 187, 193, 194, 197, 239, 241,  
 243, 247, 248, 250-252, 258-264  
 ethical companies and nonprofits .25, 27, 180, 181,  
 197, 250-252, 258-264  
 Fashion Revolution..... 14, 15, 79, 147, 187, 243  
 Federal Bureau of Investigation 29, 99, 100, 102, 114,  
 320, 327  
 feminism .....179  
 films and documentaries about trafficking . 20-22, 24,  
 31, 55, 56, 58, 166, 176, 198, 319  
 force, fraud, coercion.....2, 20, 29  
*see also* definition of human trafficking  
 forced labor.. 1, 4, 9, 10, 28, 29, 62, 74, 82, 106, 122,  
 124, 128, 132, 143, 163, 170, 188, 210, 214, 217,  
 238, 239, 240, 247, 254,  
 in supply chains..... 10, 20, 28, 122-124, 132, 191,  
 214, 238-240, 245,  
 legislation .....9, 29, 123, 210, 214, 217, 238-240  
 educational resources .....52, 62-64, 74, 128, 136,  
 137, 161, 163, 170, 247, 253, 254  
*see also* labor trafficking  
 forced marriage..... 1, 2, 4, 9, 38, 43, 53, 96, 163, 167,  
 169, 193, 195  
 framing human trafficking .....175-179, 335, 336  
 "victims" vs. "survivors" terminology.....177  
 Free The Slaves 11, 13, 42, 43, 85, 151-158, 174, 180,  
 210, 234, 287, 306, 307, 315-317, 341  
 Community Liberation Model.....11  
 Freedom Business Alliance ..... 127, 259, 260  
 Freedom Collaborative .....41, 52, 54, 81, 88, 89, 114,  
 120, 125, 149  
 Freedom Sundays .....191, 341  
 Freedom United .... 3, 4, 30, 43, 52, 91, 148, 150, 170,  
 172, 174, 181, 182, 190, 201, 218, 221, 222  
 "My Story, My Dignity Pledge" ..... 148

## G

gender-based violence ... 101, 191, 192, 230, 231, 341  
*see also* violence against women  
 Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS)  
 .....24-26, 54, 86, 116, 212, 267, 274, 275, 321  
 Global Emancipation Network .....80, 98  
 Global Modern Slavery Directory .....40, 269

Global Slavery Index .....4, 6, 210  
 grooming..... 1, 96, 230, 236, 237  
 Guatemala..... 63, 161, 248, 249  
 Guidestar.....27, 270

## H

Haiti ..... 190, 211, 249, 272, 309  
 Health, Education, Advocacy, Linkage (HEAL)..107,  
 109, 111, 112, 203, 204  
 healthcare..... 106-112  
 educational resources .32, 107- 112, 119, 162, 203,  
 204  
 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) .....109  
 identification of trafficking .....15, 16, 32, 106-108,  
 112, 119, 206  
 Polaris Medical Assessment Tool .....108  
 public health..... 16, 110, 111, 114, 116, 186, 203  
 health provider lack of preparedness.....106, 110  
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
 "Core Competencies"....107  
 Her Future Coalition.....260, 277  
 history and major trafficking concepts 1, 2, 59-62, 84-  
 89  
 homelessness .. 5, 20, 25, 54, 104, 212, 230, 263, 273,  
 275, 301, 304, 305, 312, 313  
 hotels .....40, 131-138, 283, 339, 340, 349  
 educational resources ..... 135-137, 163,  
 identification of trafficking in hotels.....135  
 labor trafficking..... 132, 136, 137  
 legal issues and legislation ..... 132-135, 339  
 sex trafficking and exploitation 122, 132, 135, 136,  
 138  
 hotlines and textlines.... 6, 13, 33, 36-38, 40, 100,  
 131, 135, 137, 143, 173, 227, 275, 277, 283, 325  
 National Human Trafficking Hotline 6, 13, 33, 36-  
 38, 40, 54, 57, 80, 111, 131, 137, 143, 173, 275,  
 283, 306, 325  
 human rights ..5, 10, 23, 60-62, 64, 78, 105, 122, 128,  
 138, 146, 151, 157, 161-164, 184, 185, 194- 196,  
 214, 215, 224, 225, 244, 247, 271, 272, 285, 294-  
 296, 300, 306- 308, 311, 324, 325  
 declarations and charters ..... 1, 2, 59-62, 84-89  
 human rights perspective to trafficking .....64, 105,  
 214, 215, 271  
 human rights violations ..... 60-62, 78  
 organizations .... 5, 10, 23, 138, 146, 151, 224, 225,  
 272, 285, 295, 296, 300, 306-308, 311, 324, 325  
 Human Rights Watch..... 10, 77, 161, 163  
 Human Trafficking Institute ..... 52, 102, 206, 238  
 human trafficking intervention courts.....20, 103, 214,  
 294, 295  
 human trafficking reports .....55



annual reports by nongovernmental organizations...46, 52, 55, 102, 103, 257, 258  
 published by Government Agencies....55, 94, 95, 127, 215, 320, 328  
 published by the United Nations ....3, 4, 55, 68  
 U.S. State Department Trafficking in Persons Report...4, 13, 28, 29, 55, 122, 293, 306  
 human trafficking task forces .....13, 16, 20, 30, 55, 88, 93-95, 98-100, 112, 127, 135, 202, 219, 296, 320, 328, 344  
 Humanity United .....29, 161, 162

## I

I-5 Freedom Network ..... 136, 333, 334  
 identification of trafficking and victims  
 child trafficking indicators .....34, 139  
 generic indicators ..... 32-34, 106, 142  
 identification in healthcare settings..... 16, 106-112, 118, 119  
 indicator cards and key tags .35, 36, 130, 131, 134, 135, 139, 141, 143, 144, 339, 340  
 labor exploitation indicators.....34, 35  
 reporting apps.....37, 38, 340  
 screening tools.. 93-95, 97-100, 104, 118-120, 136, 137  
 trainings for professionals....39, 40, 94- 97, 100, 110-112, 134-136, 138-141  
 immigration  
 foreign labor contractors .....172  
 foreign workers and victims.. 5, 10, 19, 29, 31, 32, 64, 67, 70, 74, 94, 101, 182, 198-200, 210, 324, 329  
 organizations and agencies aiding foreign-born victims....101, 104-106, 116-118, 199-201, 266, 267, 311, 324, 326, 328, 329,  
 refugees ..82-84, 189, 198, 199, 200, 249, 250, 267  
 smuggling.....67, 74, 214, 215, 327  
 visas.....19, 329  
 In Our Backyard ..... 130, 131, 173, 234  
 increasing awareness ..... 174-209, 280-282, 290, 291, 313-320, 335, 336, 348, 349  
 on college campuses.. 165-167, 199-201, 228, 281, 290, 291, 313-320  
 India 4, 26, 27, 64, 72, 73, 77, 79, 83, 84, 87, 90, 143, 144, 157, 161, 172, 181, 197, 256, 259, 260, 263, 263, 277  
 indicator cards and key tags..... 35, 36, 130, 131, 134, 135, 139, 141, 143, 144, 339, 340  
 informational tours ..... 90, 91, 191, 222, 268, 269  
 Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center ....149, 201, 202, 297

International Air Transport Association .....138, 140  
 International Justice Mission .....45, 46, 52, 102, 151, 154, 171, 185, 189, 277, 278, 290, 308, 317, 320, 321  
 International Labour Organization.4, 57, 74, 161-163, 188, 248  
 International Organization for Migration .4, 118, 119, 129, 137  
 internships.....101, 102, 206, 267, 297-311  
 intersection of trafficking with other phenomena...45, 53, 60, 88, 89, 103, 110, 136  
 intervention  
 human trafficking intervention courts .20, 103, 214  
 organizations .....103, 116, 117, 141, 155, 199-201, 233, 263, 299-301, 303, 304  
 resources.....61, 109, 113, 114, 116, 233  
 strategies.....92, 99, 100, 113, 114, 143, 199-201  
 involuntary servitude .....2, 20  
*see also* labor trafficking  
 Ivory Coast ..... 10, 22, 77, 166, 214

## J

Jeffrey, Julie Roy..... 12, 59, 243, 332  
 Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders Against Modern Slavery.....151  
 journalism..... 147-150, 293  
 journals ..... 53-55  
 Anti-Trafficking Review .....45, 53, 81,175  
 Joyya (Freeset)..... 181, 197, 260, 314, 318

## K

Koch, Barry .....7

## L

labor rights.....128, 161-163, 239  
 labor trafficking  
 agriculture .... 7, 10, 63, 64, 78, 123, 161, 182, 191, 213, 243, 245, 257, 324  
 brick industry .....31, 63, 64, 74, 161  
 cocoa industry 10, 22, 77, 164-166, 245, 246 , 252, 253  
 construction.....64, 161  
 debt bondage .... 2, 4, 22, 64, 74, 79, 132, 157, 294  
 domestic work .....7, 63, 80, 129, 163  
 hospitality....40, 123, 131-136, 163, 283, 333, 339, 340  
 involuntary servitude.....2, 20  
 role of consumers .8, 191, 238, 240-242, 249, 336, 349, 350  
 seafood industry ..... 10, 28, 29, 63, 78, 162, 246  
 types of..... 7, 8, 62-64, 161-164

*see also* child labor  
*see also* forced labor  
labor trafficking in private businesses ..... 122, 287  
primary risk areas ..... 122  
resources for business owners ..... 124-130  
third party agents and recruiters .22, 61, 74, 83, 84,  
122- 125, 132, 136, 164, 172  
trafficker use of company products and  
properties...122, 132-134  
*see also* supply chains  
law enforcement ..... 95-100, 327  
corruption..... 9, 10, 67, 68, 154, 164, 176, 211,  
317, 299  
task forces and teams.13, 16, 20, 30, 55, 88, 93-95,  
98-100, 112, 127, 144, 261, 276, 320, 328, 329,  
344  
trainings, tools, and resources for law  
enforcement.....39, 40, 88, 89, 94-100, 111,  
116, 119, 192, 213, 328, 349  
approaches to human trafficking .... 10, 93, 98-101,  
166, 212, 214, 327  
use of technology .....79-82, 99, 127, 128, 236,  
327, 328, 340  
lawyers..... 2,100-106, 133, 134, 288  
legal services and assistance..... 101-106, 288  
organizations offering assistance .... 105, 106, 117,  
118, 141, 273, 274, 304, 324, 328, 329  
legislation .....8, 9, 19, 20, 211-223  
controversies .....211, 212  
lack/weakness of .. 3, 9, 20, 86, 123, 124, 134, 166,  
167, 189, 210, 238, 275,  
legal advocacy strategies....209, 210, 218-223, 322  
new laws and reform . 123, 134, 135, 157, 211-217  
organizations advocating for better legislation...44,  
45, 105, 106, 155, 172, 181, 182, 202, 220-222,  
232, 306, 307, 324, 344  
safe harbor laws.....20, 26, 72, 102  
*see also* U.S. Legislation  
Liberty Shared .....41, 118, 119, 134, 141  
Lifeway Network.....34, 274  
Lloyd, Rachel ..... 12, 24-26, 86  
Love 146.....3, 5, 165, 224, 225

## M

Malaysia ..... 61, 83, 161, 182  
media kits.....173  
media literacy .....236, 237  
mental health .....33, 63, 70, 112-120, 255  
mental health of victims .....33, 63, 70, 255  
mental health professionals ..... 112-121  
psychological manipulation.2, 22, 24, 34, 119, 276  
trainings and resources for professionals .. 114-121

methodologies for survivor care and anti-trafficking  
initiatives  
community-based ..... 11, 42, 306, 307, 329, 338  
law enforcement and criminal justice...64, 65, 101,  
103, 123, 166, 212, 214, 327  
public health..... 110, 111, 114, 115,  
holistic.....75, 110, 155, 214, 233, 259, 262, 267,  
273, 282, 303  
survivor-centered.....29, 98, 99, 101, 110, 114,  
115, 327  
systems-wide..... 11, 50, 135  
trauma-informed.....29, 30, 92, 98, 99, 107, 109-  
111, 113-115, 119, 203, 214, 216, 260, 263,  
267, 272, 275, 304, 324, 327  
modern slavery  
Anti-Slavery Directory .....44, 270, 310, 342  
terminology .....3, 174  
data .....4, 9, 112, 189, 238  
Global Modern Slavery Directory .38, 40, 269, 270  
Global Slavery Index.....4, 6, 210  
Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders Against  
Modern Slavery....151  
Murad, Nadia ..... 70, 344  
My Life My Choice .....22, 231, 232

## N

National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking  
.....29, 30  
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children  
(NCMEC)..... 102, 115, 135, 220, 237  
National Human Trafficking Hotline 6, 13, 33, 36-38,  
40, 54, 57, 80, 111, 131, 137, 143, 173, 275, 283,  
306, 325  
National Human Trafficking Resource Center 94, 100  
National Sexual Violence Resource Center.....3  
National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking...23,  
55  
National Survivor Network.....3, 202, 271  
National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance.....120, 121,  
181, 271, 272  
Native Americans and Indigenous peoples.5, 21, 192,  
248, 326  
Nepal 31, 63, 67, 69, 77, 163, 259, 260, 263, 277, 311  
networking..... 120, 121, 344, 345  
New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking  
.....202, 203  
New York 7, 16, 20, 24-26, 78, 86, 94, 103, 112, 116,  
119, 140, 141, 176, 212, 214, 220, 221, 267, 274,  
275, 278, 286, 301, 304, 305, 317, 320- 322, 324,  
326, 328, 329, 339, 344  
Nigeria .....46, 67

Nomi Network .... 26, 27, 90, 173, 181, 257, 258, 261, 278, 286, 318  
 non-denominational organizations..27, 152, 155, 273, 323  
 Nordic or Swedish Model..... 166, 212  
 Not For Sale..... 181, 253, 323  
*Not My Life*..... 31, 198, 319

## O

open-source activism .....337, 338  
 Operation Underground Railroad .....87, 88, 181, 189, 261, 276, 277, 338, 339  
 organ trafficking .. 31, 68, 69, 165, 221, 222, 294, 337  
   educational resources ..... 31, 68, 69, 219  
   The Declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism .....68, 69  
 Organization for Security and Cooperation of Europe (OSCE).....23, 81, 97, 211  
 organizing public displays and events . 196-210, 318-320, 340, 341, 348  
   book clubs ..... 24, 49, 56, 57, 156, 199, 341  
   bulletin boards..... 145, 173, 197, 337, 348, 349  
   movie nights..... 176, 182, 186, 198, 319  
   speakers for events ..... 201-206  
   tabling..... 198, 208, 316, 318, 339, 341  
   types of activities..... 197-201  
 outreach ..... 25, 88, 92, 113, 121, 180, 198, 262, 303, 304, 307, 312, 313, 329, 342

## P

Palermo Protocol ... *See* Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons  
 parents ..17, 22, 26, 61, 67, 73, 76, 223-226, 237, 277  
   facilitating trafficking.....22, 26, 61, 67, 73, 76  
   resources.....224, 237, 277  
 Patagonia ..... 10, 239, 332  
 personal mission statements ..... 332, 333, 335, 336  
   petitions 172, 181, 182, 219, 221, 222, 292, 322, 348, 349  
 petitions 172, 181, 182, 219, 221, 222, 292, 322, 348, 349  
 pledges.....148, 279, 283, 333-335  
 Polaris ..6, 7, 13, 35-38, 40, 55, 79, 80, 88, 107, 108, 111, 139-141, 185, 275, 283, 306, 325  
   Global Modern Slavery Directory 38, 40, 269, 270  
   Medical assessment tool.....107, 108  
   National Human Trafficking Hotline 6, 13, 33, 36-38, 40, 54, 57, 80, 111, 131, 137, 143, 173, 275, 283, 306, 325  
   partnerships ..... 40, 138, 141, 283  
   "The Typology of Modern Slavery".....6, 7, 40, 55  
 political advocacy ..... 209-223

advocacy strategies.....209, 210, 218-223, 322  
 organizations advocating for better legislation  
   .....44, 45, 105, 106, 155, 172, 181, 182, 202, 220-222, 232, 306, 307, 324, 344  
 petitions... 172, 181, 182, 219, 221, 222, 292, 322, 348, 349  
 lobbying ... 211, 213, 214, 218, 289, 316, 317, 322  
   *see also* legislation  
 poverty....21, 26, 61, 69, 72, 163-165, 172, 187, 199, 209, 223, 245, 247, 250, 252, 256, 257, 259, 264, 276, 277, 278, 291 292, 311, 331, 348  
 prevention education..... 44, 216, 223-238, 303, 304, 307, 309, 339, 349  
 private sector .....*See* corporations and companies  
 prisons ..... 10, 25, 26, 70, 100, 175, 204, 240  
 protocols 1-4, 8, 94, 98, 104, 111-113, 125, 167, 203, 229, 231, 234, 256, 271  
 prosecutions.2, 9, 20, 29, 44, 52, 66, 88, 99-104, 175, 210-212, 216, 217, 324, 327, 328, 340  
 prostitution  
   arrest and prosecution of victims....20, 25, 26, 102, 166, 189, 212, 214, 217, 220, 221, 324  
   children..... 24, 25, 26, 66, 99, 100, 102, 113, 137, 138, 148, 177, 189, 217, 228, 256, 266, 312, 313, 324  
   criminal justice approaches ..... 166, 212, 292  
   employment following prostitution 25, 256, 259, 262, 263, 276, 303  
   human trafficking intervention courts... ..20, 103, 214  
   legalization of..... 166, 212, 293  
   Nordic or Swedish Model ..... 166, 212  
   pimps..... 21, 24, 33, 66, 67, 70, 73, 96, 99, 113, 116, 119, 129, 133, 134, 140, 141, 147, 214, 226, 235, 294  
   resources covering prostitution..... .21, 24, 56, 61, 64, 66, 67, 68, 70, 76, 73, 84, 89, 104 , 155, 228, 235  
   rest areas and truck stops.....99, 143  
   rideshare services ..... 140, 141  
   role of race.....60, 189  
 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons.....1, 3, 4, 8, 28, 104, 160, 167, 271  
 public officials ..... 145-147, 322

## R

race .... 5, 21, 22, 60, 183, 189  
 Rana Plaza ..... 78, 187  
 red-light districts..... 76, 90, 155, 181  
 Red Sand Project ..... 199-201  
 Refuge for Women .....261, 324  
 religion.... 150-158, 178, 191, 199, 273, 323, 341, 348

Baha'i Faith ..... 158  
 Buddhism ..... 157,  
 Christianity ..... 16, 27, 45, 46, 115, 154-156, 167,  
 184, 203, 204, 215, 216, 218, 273, 296, 304,  
 305, 308, 317, 323, 324, 339  
 faith-based organizations 16, 27, 45, 46, 96, 115,  
 151, 154, 155, 167, 169, 170, 191, 203, 204,  
 215, 216, 218, 261, 273, 296, 304, 305, 308,  
 317, 323, 324, 339, 341  
 Hinduism ..... 157,  
 Islam ..... 157, 239, 240  
 Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders Against  
 Modern Slavery ..... 151  
 Judaism ..... 153, 154, 273,  
 spiritual leaders ..... 150-153, 155  
 survivors and connection with religion ..... 23, 156,  
 204  
 reporting human trafficking... 141, 143, 147, 151, 154  
 reporting apps ..... 37, 38, 340  
 research paper questions ..... 292-294  
 Responsible Sourcing Tool ..... 124, 125, 160  
 restavek ..... 272, 309  
 Restore NYC ..... 116, 267, 274, 277, 279, 280, 344  
 role of men in ending sex trafficking.... 168, 170, 333,  
 344  
 Roy Jeffrey, Julie ..... 12, 59, 243, 332  
 runaways.... 20, 94, 144, 212, 230, 273, 304, 312, 313  
 Runaway Girl ..... 115, 116, 230

## S

safe harbor laws ..... 20, 26, 102, 293, 294  
 screening tools ..... 93-95, 97, 100, 110-112, 118, 119,  
 211  
*See also* indicator cards and key tags  
 service providers... 38, 43, 92, 94, 111, 115, 116, 120,  
 121, 270, 271, 285, 300, 307, 344  
 challenges ..... 92  
 screening tools ..... 93  
 sex tourism ..... 213  
 sex trafficking .. 21, 22, 29, 32, 34, 58, 60, 64-68, 70-  
 73, 75-77, 86, 87, 89, 90, 92, 96, 97, 99, 103, 104,  
 106, 111, 115, 116, 118, 119, 122, 132-137, 143,  
 145, 149, 154-156, 169, 197, 203-206, 212, 215-  
 217, 220, 221, 224-230, 234-236, 249, 257, 258,  
 262, 263, 266, 267, 273, 274, 291, 294-296, 303,  
 308, 310-313, 318, 338, 339  
 educational resources . 3, 19, 24, 49, 60, 64-68, 70-  
 73, 75-77, 86, 87, 89 90, 96, 103, 104, 111,  
 115, 116, 118, 119, 136, 145, 149, 156, 204-  
 206, 215-217, 224, 226-230, 234, 235, 291  
 legislation ..... 9, 20, 133, 212, 215-217, 220, 221

organizations fighting against sex trafficking .... 17,  
 27, 45, 46, 90, 102, 111, 116, 130, 136, 154,  
 155, 197, 203, 249, 262, 263, 266, 267, 273,  
 274, 296, 303, 308, 310-313, 318, 324, 338,  
 339  
 types of ..... 6,7  
 sexual violence ..... 2, 70, 75, 186, 224, 230, 231, 256,  
 319  
 Shared Hope International ..... 115, 135, 136, 154, 155,  
 203, 215, 216, 273, 296, 296, 308, 309, 323, 334,  
 339, 344, 345,  
 JuST Faith Summit ..... 296  
 shopping wisely ..... 178, 187, 238-255, 288, 318, 336,  
 349, 350  
 buying guides and resources ..... 245, 247, 248-255,  
 318  
 difficulties ..... 239, 240  
 ethical consumerism ..... 240-242  
 ethical companies .... 180, 181, 197, 248-252, 258-  
 264, 284, 318  
 what it means to “shop wisely” ..... 246, 247, 255  
*See also* boycotts  
*See also* fair trade  
 slacktivism ..... 331  
 slavery  
 historically .. 3, 5, 11, 12, 23, 30, 60, 154, 157, 188-  
 190, 195, 243, 261, 291, 292, 332, 338  
 religious views on slavery ..... 153, 155, 157, 158  
 special days bringing attention to the history of  
 slavery ..... 188-190, 192, 195  
*See also* abolitionists  
*See also* modern slavery  
 social media ..... 46, 47, 49, 79, 96, 99, 166, 170-173,  
 182-184, 186, 188, 193, 201, 219, 220, 225, 237,  
 244, 268, 282, 283, 298, 304, 311, 315, 322, 323,  
 335, 336, 339, 340, 342, 344, 347-349  
 instagram ..... 80, 171, 173, 183, 186, 225, 283, 315  
 hashtags ..... 49, 136, 140, 173, 183, 186, 193, 201,  
 244, 282, 319, 335, 349  
 facebook ... 43, 48, 77, 80, 127, 171, 173, 183, 192,  
 220, 225, 228, 253, 283, 186, 315, 316, 331  
 resources ..... 49, 80, 96, 173, 225  
 social media campaigns ..... 46, 166, 170, 171, 183,  
 184, 186, 193, 201, 225, 244, 282, 311  
 TikTok ..... 171  
 twitter ..... 48, 171, 183, 186, 225, 244, 336  
 volunteering and internships ..... 267, 289, 298-  
 313, 323, 342  
 use of by traffickers ..... 79, 80, 96, 99, 170, 188  
 social work ..... 13, 50, 58, 60, 61, 111-121, 170, 224,  
 295, 296, 300, 303  
 Somaly Mam ..... 58,  
 Soul Survivor Ink ..... 120, 276

special days to draw attention to human trafficking....46, 165, 182-196, 319, 320, 329, 335, 341, 349

Starfish Project ..... 180, 181, 249, 258, 262, 318

Stop the Traffik... 34, 37, 80, 130, 136, 143, 178, 181, 325

supply chains ..... 9, 10, 27, 47, 54, 89, 122-130, 132, 137, 144, 161-165, 213, 214, 239-241, 243, 244, 246, 247, 254, 260, 292, 339

difficulty protecting against trafficking.. 239, 240, 243, 293

legislation ..... 9, 123, 213, 214, 239, 240

outsourcing goods and services ..... 122, 132

transparency . 9, 27, 47, 54, 89, 123-125, 213, 243, 244, 254

survivor needs and aftercare... 10, 61, 87, 88, 99, 127, 255-288, 327, 329,

employment and training.... 11, 127, 173, 179-181, 197, 230, 256-264, 275, 277, 278, 282, 311

legal assistance ..... 101-106, 288

medical care .. 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 33, 106-112, 203, 204, 206, 255-257, 289, 329

mental health care ..... 33, 112-120, 255, 257, 289

shelter 10, 12, 13, 72, 100, 120, 121, 145, 255, 257, 258, 260, 262, 264-267, 271-274, 277, 278, 280, 281, 283, 298, 304, 305, 311-313, 321, 323, 342

survivor stories .... 17, 18, 22, 24, 58, 61, 63, 68-71, 74, 78, 87, 93, 147, 148, 156, 205, 206, 225, 226, 228, 229, 257, 258

Survivor's Ink..... 71, 72, 119, 276

sustainability... 9, 11, 30, 45, 53, 54, 94, 99, 109, 115, 126, 128, 136-138, 164, 165, 168, 178, 182, 193, 230, 239, 241, 245, 246, 248-251, 254, 258, 259, 263, 296, 311, 314, 321, 322, 335

Sustainable Development Goals 9, 45, 53, 54, 82, 109, 128, 138, 182, 239

systemic issues..... 22, 66, 223, 312

systems-wide approach ..... 11, 50, 135

## T

talking about trafficking ..... 175-179, 335, 336

tattoos ..... 34, 71, 72, 93, 119, 120, 276

removal services..... 71, 72, 119, 120, 276

teachers ..... 159, 160, 164-168, 225, 229-235, 291

Tech Against Trafficking..... 82, 127, 128

technology .... 79-82, 98, 99, 127, 128, 215, 236-238, 325, 327, 328

apps 36-38, 80, 171, 218, 228, 229, 236, 252-255, 279, 284, 301, 340

artificial intelligence..... 5, 82, 236

dark web ..... 80, 98, 292

online exploitation..... 87, 89, 90, 96, 98, 99, 132, 171, 212, 215, 220, 236-238, 325

recruitment of victims ..... 79, 80, 170

trafficking advertisements . 76, 80, 83, 89, 99, 132, 212, 328, 340, 349

*see also* social media

TED and TEDx talks ..... 52, 53, 290, 291

Teens Against Trafficking ..... 234, 313

tees and totes with a message ..... 179, 180, 258

Ten Thousand Villages..... 245, 258, 314

The Great Silent Army of Abolitionism .... 12, 59, 243

The Guardian Group..... 96, 97, 111, 130, 136

"The Racial Roots of Human Trafficking" ..... 21, 60

*The Slave Next Door*..... 32, 62, 95, 96, 129, 244, 256

Thistle Farms... 25, 181, 197, 262, 263, 303, 314, 318

To Plead Our Own Cause ..... 23, 70

tourism.... 44, 68, 69, 91, 135-139, 141, 191, 213, 246, 268, 269, 339, 349

Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism ..... 137, 138

sex tourism ..... 44, 137, 138, 213

transplant tourism..... 68, 69

voluntourism ..... 91, 191, 222, 268, 269

traffickers .... 2, 4-6, 20, 22, 31, 32, 79, 80-84, 91, 95, 96, 100, 101, 122, 132, 138, 140, 141, 143, 144, 167, 169, 170, 174, 180, 188, 189, 193, 199, 211, 212, 220, 221, 226-228, 236-238, 240, 267, 273, 274, 320, 340

complicit or duped family members. 10, 21, 61, 66, 67, 74, 77, 83, 84, 91, 180, 193, 228, 257, 258, 272

government-led trafficking..... 7, 28, 68, 164

pimps 21, 24, 33, 66, 67, 70, 73, 99, 113, 119, 133, 134, 140, 141, 147, 214, 226, 235, 294

smugglers ..... 67, 74, 214, 215, 327

taking advantage of global crises 5, 82-84, 92, 189, 199

third party agents and recruiters 22, 61, 67, 74, 83, 84, 132, 136, 137, 163, 164, 172

use of technology ... 79-82, 170, 188, 236-238, 340

women..... 4, 61, 67

trafficking education

developing a course of study 19, 31, 57- 59, 90, 91, 291, 295

discussion groups and panels ..... 47, 56, 57, 72, 83, 125, 152, 164, 167, 192, 200, 203-205, 209, 319, 320

informational tours ..... 90, 91, 191, 222, 268, 269

prevention education... 44, 216, 223-238, 303, 304, 307, 309, 339, 349

research paper questions..... 292-294

trafficking in the media 20-22, 58, 147-150, 174, 293



sensationalization .....3, 20-22, 58, 137, 148, 174  
trafficking in the U.S. .... 3, 5-7, 10, 19-21, 24, 28, 29,  
31, 32, 50, 60, 62, 63, 65, 66, 71, 73, 74, 76, 78,  
79, 80, 85- 88, 103, 123, 124, 163, 164, 172, 183,  
188, 189, 213-217, 236, 266, 290, 291  
Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) .... 19, 20,  
52, 86, 133, 205  
Protection, Prosecution, Prevention ("3 P's") ..... 19  
Traffik Analysis Hub ..... 5, 80  
transnational crime ..... 5, 6, 299  
transportation systems ..... 138-144, 163  
airlines ..... 138-140, 247, 283, 339  
buses ..... 140, 143  
taxis ..... 140-143,  
trains ..... 143, 144  
trucks ..... 87, 143, 163, 199  
trauma-informed care and services . 29, 30, 92, 98, 99,  
107, 109-111, 113-115, 119, 203, 214, 216, 260,  
263, 267, 272, 275, 304, 324, 327  
Trotter, David ..... 170, 196, 197, 206-209  
"22 Critical Steps to a Successful Event" .. 206-209  
types of human trafficking .... 2, 7, 62-66, 89, 161-164

## U

U.S. Chamber of Commerce ..... 127  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 9, 54,  
57, 107, 110, 112  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security ..... 29, 88,  
139, 326  
Blue Campaign ..... 33-36, 39, 40, 48, 49, 97, 123,  
131, 136, 145, 146, 151, 171, 183, 192, 197,  
305, 306, 326, 349  
U.S. Department of Justice . 19, 20, 21, 23, 29, 30, 47,  
101, 102  
National Action Plan to Combat Human  
Trafficking ..... 29, 30  
Office for Victims of Crime ..... 30, 206  
U.S. Department of State . 4, 6, 8, 13, 28, 29, 55, 122,  
124, 138, 147, 149, 160, 210, 293, 306, 326  
Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in  
Persons ..... 124, 147, 149, 160, 210, 306, 326  
Trafficking in Persons Report ..... 4, 13, 28, 29, 55,  
122, 293, 306  
U.S. Department of Transportation ..... 139

U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking ..... 96, 154,  
218, 338  
U.S. legislation . 8, 9, 19, 20, 28, 29, 52, 86, 123, 132-  
135, 205, 211-218, 220, 221, 239, 240, 327, 339  
Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act 20, 205, 211,  
212  
Trafficking Victims Prevention Act (TVPA) ..... 19,  
20, 52, 86, 133, 205  
UNICEF ..... 48, 137, 232, 248, 317  
United Nations General Assembly ... 1, 184, 185, 190,  
193, 195, 271  
United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human  
Trafficking ..... 3, 4, 68  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime . 3, 11, 55,  
69, 104, 119, 149, 150, 185, 219, 271  
Universal Declaration of Human Rights ..... 194, 195  
University at Albany ..... 15, 159, 291, 311, 312, 315,  
319  
Urban Light Foundation ..... 268, 272, 310

## V

Verité ..... 124, 125, 128, 129, 160-162, 164  
victim needs and services.. ..... *See* survivor needs and  
aftercare  
victims and survivor terminology ..... 147, 176, 177  
violence against women ..... 10, 193, 277, 317  
virginity ..... 67, 68, 73, 256  
volunteering ... 102, 195, 227, 235, 266-269, 280, 281,  
288, 298, 303-305, 310-314, 323, 335, 337-339,  
341-343  
volunteering abroad ..... 267-269, 310, 311  
voluntourism ..... 91, 191, 222, 268, 269  
vulnerabilities ... 1, 4, 5, 11, 21, 22, 29, 38, 63, 72, 74,  
75, 80, 82, 83, 92, 93, 114, 157, 167, 169, 183,  
186, 187, 193, 199, 200, 206, 211, 212, 220, 223,  
235, 244, 256-259, 263, 264, 267, 275, 291, 292,  
311, 320, 325, 341, 348

## W

Walk Free Foundation ..... 4, 9, 128, 151, 164, 238  
*Walking Prey* ..... 24, 206, 226, 229  
Williamson, Celia 13, 47, 51, 114, 170, 185, 224, 225  
women traffickers ..... 4, 61, 67  
World Fair Trade Organization ..... 187, 250, 251  
Wyndham Hotel Group ..... 40, 134, 283