

Human Trafficking

What You Need to Know



**Presented by Palm Beach County Department of
Public Safety, Division of Victim Services and the
Human Trafficking Coalition of the Palm Beaches**

Any person under
age of 18 in
comm
act is
a victim of
human trafficking

NO EXCEPTIONS



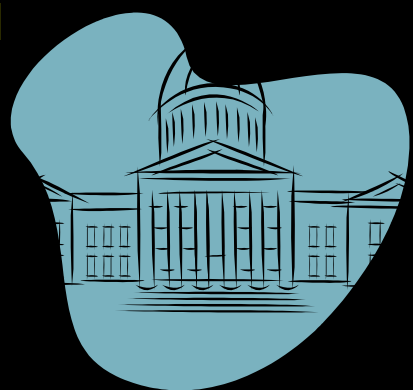
What is Human Trafficking?

MODERN DAYS SLAVERY



“Despite more than a dozen international conventions banning slavery in the past 150 years, there are more slaves today than at any point in human history.”

TIME Magazine
Jan. 2010



Federal Law

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000

Outlines Trafficking under 2 Headings:

- Sex Trafficking
- Labor Trafficking

Human trafficking is a crime against a person.
It does not have to involve travel, transportation or border crossings.

Sex Trafficking

- the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion *or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.* (22 USC § 7102)

Labor Trafficking

- the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of **force, fraud, or coercion** for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. (22 USC § 7102)

Florida Law: Florida Statute § 787.06 Defines Human Trafficking

The transporting, soliciting, recruiting, harboring, providing, enticing, maintaining, or obtaining another person for the purpose of exploitation of that person.

Control Mechanisms

- **Force:** rape, beatings, confinement, physical restraints, torture, denies food/water, continuously moves victims to unfamiliar places, induces drug addiction
- **Fraud:** false offers of employment, promises of marriage, educational opportunities, fame, money, a better life
- **Coercion:** threats of harm to victim or victim's family members, debt bondage, abuse of legal process, threat of arrest or deportation, intimidation & humiliation, blames victim for trafficking situation, convinces victim the trafficker is the only one that really cares



SMUGGLING VS. TRAFFICKING

What's the Difference?

Smuggling vs. Trafficking

Smuggling involves Transportation

- Facilitation, transportation, attempted transportation, or illegal entry of a person(s) across an international border
- May or may not have a continued relationship with smuggler/"coyote" after arriving in the destination country
- The smuggled person(s) generally consent and often pay large sums of money
- It is possible for smuggled persons to become a trafficking victim

Trafficking involves Exploitation

- Does not require the crossing of an international border
- Does not require the transportation of victims from one locale to another
- Continued relationship with trafficker(s)
- Includes elements of force, fraud, and/or coercion

Case Example One

Sonia was invited to come to the United States by family friends. She was told she could work as a housekeeper and they told her they would pay her \$100 per week. Sonia was provided fraudulent documents and departed for the US with her new employer. She knew she was undocumented but she needed the money and was willing to take the risk.



Was Sonia smuggled or trafficked?

Case Example One

Sonia was smuggled into the United States.

She left willingly with full knowledge that she was entering the United States undocumented.



Case Example Two

Local law enforcement authorities executed a search warrant at a brothel and arrested three 17-year-old girls for prostitution. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) notified Department of Homeland Security Investigations (formerly ICE) concerning the immigration status of the three girls.



Were the girls smuggled or trafficked?

Case Example Two

The girls were trafficked into the United States.

In cases where victims are age 17 and under, force, fraud, and/or coercion does not have to exist in commercial exploitation cases.



Case Example Three

A woman from out-of-state was offered a free vacation to Disney World by an acquaintance. She accepted the offer. Once she arrived, she was forced to have sex with strangers for money.

Was she smuggled or trafficked?



Case Example Three

She was trafficked because she was lured to Florida fraudulently then forced into prostitution.



The Dynamics of Human Trafficking

Who Are the Victims?

General Vulnerabilities

Poverty
Lack of Education
Poor Employment
Opportunities
Prior Childhood Abuse
Homelessness
Disability
LGBTQ
Foreign Born/No Permanent
Residency

Vulnerable Youth

Physically/Sexually
Abused
Neglected
Abandoned
Homeless
LGBTQ
Runaways
Disabled
History of Foster Care
Involvement
History of Juvenile Justice
Involvement

Who are Traffickers?

- Traffickers can be a one person operation, a family enterprise, a loose network of criminals, a local gang, or a large scale organized crime syndicate that operates internationally.
- There is no typical trafficker. While females comprise the majority of trafficked victims, the 2014 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons noted 30% of convicted traffickers worldwide between 2010 – 2012 were women.



The Top Venues/Industries for Trafficking



sex trafficking



agriculture



health & beauty



Restaurants & food service



traveling sales crews



domestic servitude



HUMAN TRAFFICKING: THE NUMBERS

Statistical Overview



International Statistics

- 20.9 million people are estimated to be trafficked around the world at any given time
- Trafficking is now estimated to be a \$150 billion dollar annual business

(International Labor Organization 2014 report)



20,612,439 Population

(2017 US Census Bureau est.)

The number of people trafficked in the world is about equal to the total population of Florida.

In the US



- **73% of hotlines calls in 2016 were sex trafficking, 14% were labor trafficking, 9% were not specified, 4% were sex and labor.**
- **84% were female, 13% were male**
- **65% were adults, 32% were minors**
- **Of those callers identifying citizenship, 59% were US citizens or legal permanent residents.**



- Florida is ranked 3rd in the nation for reported call volume to the National Human Trafficking Hotline
- Palm Beach County is ranked 3rd in the state for reported call volume to the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

Why Palm Beach County?

- Thriving Agricultural Industry
- Thriving Tourism Industry
- PBIA Serves Over 6 Million Travelers Annually
- Proximity to Miami International Airport
- Includes 47 miles of Atlantic Coastline
- Includes a Diverse Demographic
- Extensive Highway Systems



**What are the
warning signs?**

Work and Living Conditions

- Is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- 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 the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)
- Living at place of employment
- Lives with multiple people in cramped space





Behavioral Signs

People who are trafficked may:

- Show fear or anxiety
- Seem depressed, intimidated, submissive, tense, nervous, or paranoid
- Become unusually fearful or anxious after bringing up law enforcement or are distrustful of authorities
- Avoid eye contact or lack emotional responsiveness
- Act as if someone else instructed them, give responses that seem scripted or rehearsed
- Allow others to speak for them or are accompanied by a group or a controlling friend or boyfriend who speaks for them
- Resist assistance



Physical Signs

People who are trafficked may:

- Appear malnourished
- Shows signs of physical abuse such as bruises, scratches, scars, missing teeth, lacerations, burns, carvings
- Lack health care and have rotten teeth
- Be dressed inappropriately for the weather or venue
- Have tattoos or other forms of branding usually on the neck or lower back. Tattoos may say “Daddy” or “Property of” or “For Sale”

Tattoos



Other Warning Signs

- Multiple victims coming from the same home address/location
- Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where he/she is staying/address
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or do not know what city he/she is in
- Loss of sense of time
- Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story
- Has false identity or travel documents
- Has few or no personal possessions
- Is not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account
- Does not understand the language, culture or laws of the US



**Where might you
encounter human
trafficking?**

Barriers To Identification & Rescue

Barriers to Victim Identification

- Victims are often isolated
- Victims are often moved frequently to avoid detection
- Victims often comply with traffickers and don't seek help
 - Fearful for personal safety and safety of family
 - Fearful of Deportation
 - Dependent on Trafficker
 - Blame themselves
 - Shame/Guilt
 - Hopelessness
- Some victims do not speak English and are unable to communicate with potential "help"





Why Don't Victims Escape or Seek Help?

- Fear - threats of death or harm, deportation, losing their children
- Taught by traffickers to avoid or lie to authorities
- No hope for a better life, learned helplessness
- Victims are dehumanized and treated as marketable property
- Don't see themselves as victims
- Trauma Bonding - intermittent reinforcement of punishment and rewards through the cycle of abuse; dependent on trafficker out of fear, need for survival, and gratitude for being alive, cared for

Questions to ask:

- Can you leave your job if you want to?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you been hurt or threatened if you try to leave?
- Has your family been threatened?
- Do you live with your employer?
- Are you in debt to your employer?
- Where do you eat and sleep?
- Do your family/friends know where you are?
- Do you have easy access to your personal identity information (ID, SS card, passport)? Who keeps it for you?



What are the needs of HT victims?

- Interpretation services
- Crisis intervention
- Clothing
- Food
- Protection
- Legal assistance, T-Visa
- Medical & dental care
- Transportation
- Employment
- Mental health services
- Substance abuse treatment
- Childcare
- Life skills
- Housing (short & long-term)
- Education

What is Palm Beach County doing?

- Human Trafficking Task Force
- Human Trafficking Coalition of the Palm Beaches
- Trainings to county employees, schools, community agencies, law enforcement etc.
- Direct service agencies i.e. Victim Services, Catholic Charities, International Rescue Committee, etc.

If you see someone who may be a victim
or if it doesn't look or feel right call

- National Human Trafficking Hotline:

1-888-373-7888

- Department of Children and Families
Hotline for children under 18 years old:

1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-
962-2873)

No single glimpse into the lives of the enslaved or single photo can answer these questions. It is only when we observe, listen, ask questions and hear a person's story that we identify cases of human trafficking.

Excerpt from Mariah Long's article "Why You Can't Take a Picture of Human Trafficking"