



Introduction to Human Trafficking

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Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)

Who we are....

- Department of Homeland Security
 - U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
 - Homeland Security Investigations
 - SAC Philadelphia
 - AOR encompasses PA and DE



Homeland Security Investigations

HSI Offices

HSI has 26
SAC,
overseeing
265
domestic
offices and
75 offices in
48
countries



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

HSI Commitment to Fighting HT



- The Blue Campaign is the unified voice for DHS' efforts to combat human trafficking
- Involves Awareness and Education, Victim-Centered Investigations, and a Unified DHS Effort
- Includes informative printed materials, website, training and videos

<https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>

To Report suspected human trafficking: 1-866-347-2423

National Human Trafficking Resource Center: 1-888-373-7888



Why Is This Important for Me?

How do these crimes affect what you do?

Why should this matter to you?

Why is this important?

You, as a local law enforcement officer, security professional, victim advocate, attorney, probation officer, medical professional, child welfare professional, educator, or really anyone who interacts with the public, are the first line of defense in combatting human trafficking

Because you may be the first responder or the first to encounter individuals at a scene of a crime, you may encounter victims for treatment, or may notice changes or signs

Knowing the Signs and Indicators could help you to save someone from commercial exploitation

Uber example



Homeland
Security
Investigations

Law Enforcement Sensitive

NOT INTERCHANGEABLE TERMS

Human Smuggling is
transportation-based

- **Entered into voluntarily – people want to come to the U.S.**



Human Trafficking is
exploitation-based

- **Not a voluntary situation**



Human Trafficking - Exploitation

What do You Envision when you hear Human Trafficking?



Definition:

The **recruitment, harboring, and exploitation** of people being brought into the United States or throughout the United States.

- Through the use of **force, fraud or coercion**.
- For the purpose of **economic or sexual exploitation**.
- For the purpose of an organization's reliance on **long-term exploitation** to continue to produce profits.



TVPA of 2000

Sex

Recruitment, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for commercial sex acts that is induced by **FORCE, FRAUD,** or **COERCION**

OR

When person is under 18, **FORCE, FRAUD,** and **COERCION** is not needed

Labor

Recruitment, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for labor or services through the use of **FORCE, FRAUD,** or **COERCION** for the purpose of subjection of involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery
[U.S.C . § 7102 (8)]



Where Trafficking Can Occur:



Sex Trafficking

- Brothels (houses)
- Escort services
- Bars/strip clubs
- Online – Backpage
- Social Media - Facebook, Instagram, Twitter
- Street Prostitution / Truck Stops



Forced Labor Trafficking

- Sweat shops (abusive labor standards)
- Construction sites
- Restaurant and custodial work
- Commercial agriculture (#1 Mushrooms, #4 Apples, Grapes, Xmas Trees, #5 Peaches, Pears)
- Domestic (maids, nannies)



Human Trafficking Victims

There are many different types of HT victims. Some dynamics are the same, while others may be different...

- Sex vs. Labor
- Domestic vs. International
- Juvenile vs. Adult
- Other distinctions?



How do Cases Originate?

- Local Law Enforcement Encounters
 - Collaborative – Multidisciplinary Approach
- Cooperating Defendants / Sources
- CYS
- Probation / Juvenile Probation
- NGOs or Service Providers
- Tip Lines – NHRTC, DHS
- Victims Themselves
- Public Citizens
- Proactive Investigations



Sex Trafficking

- Fastest Growing Crime in US
- 32 Billion Dollar a Year
Business
- Financially Second only to
Drug Trafficking



Why is this Happening?

- Lucrative Business
- Continuous Quantity of Victims
- Invisibility of Victims
- Difficult to Track and Stop
- Demand



Domestic Sex Trafficking Victims are often:

- From a difficult home life
 - Runaways / Throwaways
 - Emotionally vulnerable
 - Poverty
 - Family substance/physical/sexual abuse
- Targeted and Groomed by a pimp
 - Dating, gifts, attention
- Promised care and love by a pimp
 - Better life, travel
- Addicted to drugs – survival and submission / control
- Approximately 90% have a history of sexual abuse
- 13 is the average age of entry into “prostitution”



International Trafficking Victims

Frequently victims:

- Do not speak English and are unfamiliar with U.S. culture
- Distrust outsiders, especially law enforcement – fear of deportation
- Do not self-identify as victims; often blame themselves for predicaments
- Although many victims have been beaten and/or raped, current situation may still be better than where they came from
- May be unaware of rights or may have been intentionally misinformed about rights in this country
- Fear for safety of families in their home countries, who are often threatened by traffickers



Identifying the Crime of Human Trafficking

Non-verbal crime scene clues that could indicate human trafficking:

- Living conditions of potential victims – sleep on floor or in a different condition, minimal belongings
- Domestic Violence – One guy, several women
- Rape or Violence – Guy won't leave her side
- Working conditions – hours, don't have own money
- Restriction of movement / communication indicators
- Behavior indicators of severe dependency – look to someone else for answers, fearful demeanor, don't look in the eyes
- Possession of false ID, someone else's ID, no ID at all
- Insistence on providing information to officer – coached story, just visiting, unknown address
- Refer to the guy as “boyfriend,” “daddy” or “uncle” - pimp



Physical Indicators of Possible Trafficking

- Lack of ID
- Physical injuries, bruises, signs of abuse
- Disease (STD/STIs, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, etc.)
- Drug & alcohol addiction
- Malnutrition, poor health condition
- Scarring by violence
- Branding or Tattooing
- Internal organ damage (cervical cancer)
- Pregnancy / abandoned children
- Mental abuse (low self-esteem)
- Humiliated/degraded
- Suicide attempts



Control Techniques Used by Traffickers

- Debt bondage
- Isolation – IDs; linguistic; social; captivity
- Threat of exposure – distrust police
- Use and threat of violence, fear, shame (Guerilla Pimp)
- Use and threat of reprisals against family
- Loyalty to Pimp – Stockholm syndrome (Finesse Pimp)
 - Watch Very Young Girls
- Lies and Misinformation
- Lack of knowledge – where to get help
- Any method necessary to separate victim from society/culture – constant movement
- Overall result – physical and psychological imprisonment, hopelessness, no self-worth



Common Challenges in Working with Victims

Not all HT victims are the same, but here are some common challenges...

- Need to take care of immediate needs first
- Victim distrust of legal system and law enforcement
- Uncooperative or hostile victim
- Victim that is ambivalent about the offender (conflicted loyalties, may contact offender, trauma-bonded)
- Desperate and needy but then demanding and specific
- Takes a long time to build trust (expect lies at times)
- Boundary issues and limit testing at times
- Rejection of services and desire to return to the life (for emotional or financial reasons)
- Complex trauma (not just HT)



Collaborative Approach in Philadelphia

City-Wide Local and Federal Task Force

Obtained funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Office of Victims of Crimes to begin a city-wide task force to investigate Human Trafficking

Partners include:

- Philadelphia Police Department (lead LE)
- The Salvation Army (lead Victim Services)
- Homeland Security Investigations
- Federal Bureau of Investigations
- Philadelphia District Attorney's Office
- United States Attorney's Office
- Over 20 local/regional NGOs



Proactive Approach

Training & Education

- Patrol Officers/Detectives/Recruits
- Public Awareness Campaign
- Recognize as a Victim - Not Offender

Establish Relationships & Communication

- Victim Service Organizations
- Community Organizations
- Regular Task Force Meetings and Ongoing Communication

Comprehensive & Ongoing Victim Services from Service Providers



Federal/Local Partnership

Additional Victim Support and Immigration Relief:

- Full Time Victim Assistance Specialist
- Forensic Interviewing for victims
- Comprehensive needs assessment and coordination with other service providers
- Blue Campaign awareness and education materials
- Immigration Relief for victims without legal status
 - Continued Presence
 - T Nonimmigrant Status (T Visa)
 - U Nonimmigrant Status (U Visa)



Questions?

NHTRC: 888-3737-8888

HSI: 866-DHS-2-ICE

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For More Info on Human Trafficking:

<http://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign-resource-catalog>

<http://www.dhs.gov/topic/human-trafficking>

<http://www.polarisproject.org/>

<http://sharedhope.org/>

