

## **HUMAN TRAFFICKING THE SECRETS & DISTURBING STATISTICS**

Human trafficking is a global, national and local crisis. Educating others is the first step toward minimizing the problem. **Please read on and learn.**



### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING: DEFINED.**

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. Traffickers use force, fraud or coercion to lure their victims and force them into labor, domestic servitude or the commercial sex trade.

According to the U. S. State Department, 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year, of which 80% are female and 50% are children.

The FBI estimates that over 100,000 children and young women are trafficked in America today. They range from nine to 19 years old. The average age is eleven. 80% of human trafficking is for sex and 20% is for labor exploitation.

### **NEED HELP: CALL**

**NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE CENTER 24  
HOUR HOTLINE 1.888.373.7888 OR TEXT FOR FREE (233733)**

## HUMAN TRAFFICKERS: HOW DO THEY SUCCEED?

Traffickers groom their victims by gaining the trust of their victim. They use fake flattery, gifts and insincere romance. Then the trafficker uses a variety of techniques to “condition” victims, including subjecting them to starvation, rape, gang rape, physical abuse, threats of violence toward the victims family and forced drug and alcohol use.

Then the trafficked victim is brainwashed into believing they are worthless and that nobody will want them anymore. This makes them extremely afraid to flee the abductor.

Human trafficking spans all demographics. However, runaway and homeless youth are vulnerable to trafficking. They are approached by traffickers at transportation hubs, shelters or public spaces such as the beach. When foster children transition out of foster care at age 19, they



have no support or financial resources and become a target of sex traffickers. Traffickers have been known to circle group homes looking for victims.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING: ROOT CAUSE.

There are many causes of human trafficking: poverty, lack of education, immigration policy, drug addiction, fractured families and lack of good job opportunities. Demand for cheap goods leads to demand for cheap labor.

Of all the significant challenges listed above, the trafficker’s willful decision to profit by using force, fraud or coercion to lure their victims and force them to work or prostitute, is the root cause.

## THE UNDENIABLE LINK BETWEEN PORN & SEX TRAFFICKING

Viewing pornography is wrong. The porn industry leads to people, especially females, being sexually abused at the hands of family members, pimps and strangers. It destroys relationships, steals innocence and breeds violence.

Stopping the demand starts with every user deciding not to contribute to the problem. **If you are a casual user of porn - STOP! If you are concerned that you or a loved one might be addicted - seek help at:** <http://www.sash.net/find-therapist-organization-sash-member/#!directory/map>

### PORNOGRAPHY'S DISTURBING STATISTICS

- 35% of all internet downloads are related to pornography.
- Every second 28,258 users are watching pornography on the internet.
- Every second \$3,075.64 is being spent on pornography on the internet.
- 40 million American people regularly visit porn sites
- 33% of porn viewers are women.
- Search engines get 116,000 queries every day related to child pornography.
- 2.5 billion emails sent or received every day contain porn.
- Every 39 minutes a new pornography video is being created in the United States.
- The average age a child is first exposed to pornography is seven.
- About 3-6% of the U. S. population or 10.5 -21 million Americans are "porn addicts."

**#STOPTHEDEMAND**

## PORNOGRAPHY'S IMPACT ON YOUTH

- Exposing a young, developing brain to pornography can lead to a lifelong porn addiction.
- There is a recognized link between a teen's frequent use of pornography and feelings of loneliness and major depression.
- Adolescents exposed to high levels of pornography have lower levels of sexual self-esteem.

## PORNOGRAPHY'S IMPACT ON FAMILIES AND MARRIAGES

- According to National Coalition for the Protection of Children & Families, 47% of families in the United States reported that pornography is a problem in their home.
- Pornography use increases the marital infidelity rate by more than 300%.
- 40% of "sex addicts" lose their spouses, 58% suffer considerable financial losses and about a third lose their jobs.
- 68% of divorce cases involve one party meeting a new paramour over the internet while 56% involve one party having an "obsessive interest" in pornographic websites.



**Pornography is infiltrating and impacting our society, our families and our children. As Christians, we must educate others and take a stand against pornography.**

## PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN!

Any child is at risk to become a victim of human trafficking. Here are some tips to minimize that risk. Predators can appear unannounced on Snapchat, in the mall, on the street or on the beach. Human trafficking crosses all economic and racial boundaries.

### COMMUNICATION

1. Insist that your children's contacts on social media are only people previously met in person. Communicate with your kids so that you know who their "friends" are both in real life and in the virtual world.
2. Talk to your kids about what is happening in the world using age appropriate words. This includes discussing threatening topics. Hiding the dangers of this world from your children is harmful.
3. Develop a plan with your kids so they know what to do if they feel threatened.
4. Know what your kids are looking at online, what social media outlets they use.
5. When your kids come home ask them how their day was and if they met anyone new and where they met them.
6. Role play. Show your children how to set up personal boundaries with friends when encountering inappropriate requests like sharing sexual images via apps like Snapchat or texting.

### AWARENESS

1. Use the tools you have. If your kids have a phone, turn on the GPS so you know where they are. If they have email and social media accounts, check them. Know who they know.
2. Be aware of what is going on in your community. Don't think it won't happen to me. Being prepared does not make you paranoid.
3. Pay attention to your child and trust your gut instincts. If they appear apprehensive, ask questions.
4. Be involved in their daily lives. You can trust your child and give them freedom while still being engaged. You are not being a "helicopter parent."
5. Parents and employers can filter and monitor online activities by using a reliable internet filter and porn blocker.

## VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING: YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Work with St. Mary Catholic Faith Community to help mitigate the suffering of sex trafficking victims. You can work with or donate to a victim's support agency or educate people on sex trafficking. Businesses can provide jobs, internships, skills training, donations, living wages and other opportunities to sex trafficking survivors. College students can research campus organizations and take action. Elementary and high school students can contact their school's administration.

Become a conscientious and informed consumer. Discover your [slavery footprint](#), ask [who picked your tomatoes](#), or [made your clothes](#), or check out the Department of Labor's [List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor](#).

Encourage companies to take steps to investigate and prevent human trafficking in their supply chains and publish the information for consumer awareness.

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!**

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### HUMAN TRAFFICKING: LEARN MORE - VISIT -

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/aht/taskforce>

<https://www.wcasa.org/pages/SASPs-WASHINGTON.php>

<http://innerbeautycenter.org>

<https://www.exploitnomore.org>

<http://truckersagainsttrafficking.org>

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

<https://polarisproject.org>

<https://www.lotuslegal.org>

<https://endsexualexploitation.org>

<https://sharedhope.org>

<https://www.benedictcenter.org>

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## HUMAN TRAFFICKING: RECOGNIZE POTENTIAL VICTIMS.

It is helpful to learn how to recognize a possible victim of trafficking. Some signs that a person may be a victim of human trafficking include:

- Appearing malnourished and/or showing signs of physical abuse
- Avoiding eye contact, social interaction, and law enforcement
- Seeming to adhere to scripted or rehearsed responses in social interaction
- Lacking official identification documents
- Appearing destitute/lacking personal possessions
- Owning multiple cell phones
- Drastic change in personality and or friends or
- Not allowed to go into public alone, or speak for themselves.

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!**



# END TRAFFICKING



## HUMAN TRAFFICKING: CAN IT BE STOPPED?

Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises. It is a relatively low risk crime with high profit potential. Criminal organizations are increasingly attracted to human trafficking because, unlike drugs, humans can be sold repeatedly.



All forms of human trafficking must be stopped. The resources needed to do this are beyond the reach of our parish. Therefore, we will work to minimize the suffering of current sex trafficking victims and support their efforts to start a new life. To join in our efforts contact Pam Lownik at 414-425-2174, ext. 256 or at [lownikp@stmaryhc.org](mailto:lownikp@stmaryhc.org)