



# HOW YOU CAN FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human Trafficking is the **second fastest growing crime** in the world. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that between **100,000 to 300,000 kids under the age of 18** are being exploited every year in the United States.

Contrary to popular belief, **70 percent are U.S. citizens!** The U.S. Department of Justice tells us that 82 percent is sex trafficking. People in the developed countries are often shocked to find out how prevalent trafficking is in their own communities. What they may not be aware of is that there are porn addicts in every community in the world who are creating a demand for kids and, in the nations with stronger economies, you can make a lot more money as a trafficker. Most business models consist of supply, demand, and the middle-man/woman. Human trafficking law enforcement can take care of the “middle-man” or the trafficker, but it is doubtful that we will “arrest” our way out of this problem. We need the entire community to engage in the fight to address the supply-side and demand-side of trafficking.

## Economics and Human Trafficking

The only real advantage the traffickers have over us is that they are organized. While law enforcement is organized, citizen groups are not. We need to organize ourselves to take sufficient, effective action that includes both a top-down and bottom-up approach. The fastest way to organize ourselves is through service organizations and faith communities because the infrastructure is already there. There are three main actions we can take to fight human trafficking. One is to raise awareness as to what Human Trafficking looks like and what actions one can take to end it. The second way is to support and volunteer for those organizations that take care of immigrants, runaways, and foster kids—and that go out to rescue street kids, as *these* groups will become the most likely victims. Third, we need to **reduce the demand for sex trafficking** by addressing internet porn addiction and reduce the demand for labor trafficking by taking responsibility for how we shop.

## Raising Awareness

We can raise awareness through the following actions:

- *Call 1-888-3737-888 if you are suspicious.* The Polaris Project will assist in advising one on what actions to take and will call the proper authorities. Please stop reading now and put this number in your cell phone and have your friends do the same. Flyers are available in thirteen different languages.

- Go to [www.oag.ca.gov](http://www.oag.ca.gov) and read the “The State of Human Trafficking in California” report which provides insight as to “What Human Trafficking Looks Like” in every state.
- *Stay alert.* At porn sites are pop-ups that take the user to “escort” sites where one can put in their request for a “client meet,” that most often take place at luxury apartment complexes, with the heaviest traffic occurring during lunch and after work. If you see men coming and going from an apartment, even if they are in business suits, the police request a call.
- *Advocacy.* You can raise awareness regarding what products people are using that were created through slave labor. You could start a letter-writing campaign to every coffee- and electronics-producer, etc. and ask them to join the Fair Labor Association. You can go to your schools and encourage them to do teacher training on how to recognize victims. You could go to your city council meeting and ask them if they are including “What Does Trafficking Look Like?” as part of their neighborhood watch program. You could ask your post office to have Homeland Security provide training for their mail carriers. You can go to all the places where teens hang out, like malls, swap meets, and the movies, and ask the managers to make sure they are providing training to their security team regarding what to do if they find teens who are being solicited.
- Labor trafficking includes domestic servants, sweat shops, cleaning services, pornography, construction, farming, restaurant workers, elder-care facilities, factories, nail salons—to name a few. The Polaris Project tells us that if you run across someone who may look malnourished and/or acts subdued, and someone else is doing all the talking for them or is keeping their papers, you should be suspicious. Several victims were rescued when a neighbor to a nursing home called the police when she noticed that the staff there never got a day off.
- *Hotels and motels.* Employees for these businesses need to call the police if they see “clients” coming and going all night. We can encourage hotels and motels to join “The Code” at [www.thecode.org](http://www.thecode.org), a pledge to be vigilant about reporting suspected cases of child sexual exploitation. That commitment is most often expressed by doing awareness training. We need to also ask them to block porn to their rooms as porn is creating a demand for sex trafficking.
- *Events.* Thousands of women, many of whom are trafficking victims, are brought into major sporting events, car and motorcycle shows, etc. You can distribute flyers about trafficking hotlines to bars and hotels where these events are taking place.
- When victims are asked why they did not run away, their response almost always is that they did not know where they could get help. There are posters available at the Polaris and the Rescue and Restore website that one can either download or order through them. These posters can be put up at churches, bus stations, train stations, airports, etc. California passed a law requiring these notices and you can go to the California Department of Justice website to get ideas of where to put up posters for any community. Search for “Senate Bill 1193.”
- Truck Drivers can join Truckers Against Trafficking.
- Flight attendants can use the information at AIA International to educate their community.

- Nurses can download the material at the Rescue and Restore website to train each other on how to recognize victims and how to help them. Health clinics are a front-line in the fight against trafficking as victims can't work if they are sick, and a trafficking victim is more likely to open up to a health care professional than most other people they meet.
- Teachers can use the curriculum provided by "The A21 Campaign" and utilize the the Netsmartz videos. Schools can invite Homeland Security to do their iGuardian program and create an assembly on all the ways traffickers trick kids, such as using teen recruiters.
- Attorneys can go to [www.castla.org](http://www.castla.org) and download their "Human Trafficking 101" course. Just click on "Resources and Training" and scroll down to legal resources.
- Participate in the Covenant House "Sleep Out" where adults sleep on the ground at their facility in solidarity with the youth. You can organize a similar activity for your youth group. The youth sleep on a piece of cardboard on the ground with a sleeping bag. No pillows, etc. are allowed.
- We can also raise awareness as to the importance of purchasing "Fair Trade" products. If we all refused to buy products produced by slaves, it would free the over 12 million victims of labor trafficking in the developing world! Host a "Fair Trade" table at your annual church carnival. Download the app at [www.free2work.org](http://www.free2work.org) and you will be able to scan the bar code for anything you buy to determine if any slaves were used. Fair Trade products mostly include chocolate, coffee, tea, wine, electronics and clothes.
- Raise money and have fun doing it! If fundraising is your gift, then knock yourself out, as every organization that is involved in the fight needs money. You could do a recycling drive and put a banner up in front of your church that says, "Recycling drive to benefit Covenant House that protects kids from human trafficking." Raising awareness is as important as the money.
- Become an ambassador for [www.sharedhopeinternational.org](http://www.sharedhopeinternational.org) and set up a table at your place of worship or a strip mall to raise awareness. They will train you and have flyers.
- Find a group in your area by going to [www.freedomcollaborative.org/organizations](http://www.freedomcollaborative.org/organizations). The Freedom Registry was created so people who are involved in the fight can find each other.

## Removing the Supply, Rescuing Lives

The "Supply Side" of human trafficking is made up of mostly street kids, runaways, and foster kids who have "aged out" of the system. 90 percent of victims who have been rescued had some contact with the child welfare system. Within forty-eight hours of a kid hitting the streets, one in three will be approached by a human trafficker. Given how brutal such life is, the life expectancy of a victim is less than seven years. There is one church in the U.S. for every three kids on the street, yet thirteen kids a day die on our streets. There is one church in the U.S. for each and every child in the foster care system, yet only 25 percent of those who are adoptable will ever be adopted. **We clearly have the resources to both protect kids from hitting the streets and**

**rescuing those who have**, we just need to wake up our communities as, for the most part, these kids are invisible to the average person. The six ways we can act to protect kids are by raising awareness for and encouraging volunteering for those organizations that support

1. Adoption and Foster care
2. Mentoring
3. Runaway Prevention
4. Rescue and Shelter
5. Immigrant Support
6. Rehabilitating Victims.

If everyone spent two hours a week volunteering to help somewhere, we could transform our nation regarding the future of kids!

## **We Can All Do Something**

- Become a foster or adoptive parent and/or recruit others to go to an orientation to find out more by inviting a speaker or the Heart Gallery <http://www.heartgalleryofamerica.org/> to your place of worship. Do a fundraiser for a foster care organization as a way to raise awareness.
- Traffickers are targeting kids in group homes and their greatest defense would be to have a mentor or an advocate. So promote [www.casaforchildren.org](http://www.casaforchildren.org) or Big Brothers and Big Sisters.
- Host a donut sale and pass out flyers on upcoming orientations for foster care, adoption, mentoring and street outreach. The staff of these organizations will tell you that it often takes three to six interactions before someone will commit, so do this often.
- Protect families and/or kids from becoming homeless by establishing the “Safe Families” program at your church. [www.safe-families.org](http://www.safe-families.org).
- Volunteer to be on the phones for a Runaway Hotline or ask them how you can help them in other ways at their center.
- Volunteer at an after school program and identify at risk kids, who may be victims of domestic violence or are from families without a lot of extended family support. Offer to help with their homework, let the child share with you. You may be the only healthy/safe adult in their life. Kid Care America ([www.kidcareamerica.org](http://www.kidcareamerica.org)) helps Faith Communities set up After School Programs.
- Encourage the youth of your faith community to invite other kids to your church’s youth group. There are a lot of lost kids who are vulnerable to becoming trafficked. They need a friend.
- Volunteer to go out to the streets to find kids by joining a rescue group like Stand Up for Kids. They have other volunteer opportunities besides Street Outreach that you can do.
- Support any organization that is providing shelter for homeless kids or start your own like one church did with the Regenisis Rising Model.

## The Porn Problem

We need to reduce the demand for kids and the rape of women by **addressing pornography addiction, which is creating the demand for sex trafficking victims.** The fact is that watching videos of pornography produces endorphins, is addicting, and leads to perversion. What very few realize is that after a while the user becomes desensitized to the same content and no longer receives the stimulation the user is seeking, so without exception, addicts will seek sites that are increasingly more violent, with younger and younger victims. This process has resulted in legions of new pedophiles being created, which is increasing the demand for kids, thus creating a market for the sex trafficking of young victims. Linking the sex drive with violence has resulted in an increase in domestic violence and large numbers of sex trafficking victims being beaten beyond recognition. Sex therapist Victor B. Kline describes it this way: "...In this phase, (Third phase) material that was originally perceived as unthinkable, shocking, illegal, repulsive, or immoral is now viewed as acceptable and commonplace by the viewer of pornography. Regardless of the deviancy expressed, the viewer perceives the pornography and his or her use of it as legitimate. (Fourth phase) Then the user moves to acting out what they see..." ("Pornography and Sexual Addictions," *Christian Counseling Today* 4, No. 4 (1996). So what can we do about porn?

- First, we need to ask our attorney generals to be more aggressive at prosecuting porn producers who violate our obscenity laws, and shut down all child porn sites. We need to ask our president to follow the example of Prime Minister Cameron of England and have child porn blocked at the Internet provider sites so it can't come into the country. We can ask our representatives to make sex tours illegal in every state, raise the age that an individual can be a porn star to 21, and make it a felony to have sex with a prostitute who is under 21.
- Attempts to limit children's access to porn have been overturned in the name of "free speech." We need to ask the media to raise awareness in such a way that establishes porn as a "drug." Then we can limit children's access to it, as we do have laws that restrict access to drugs for minors. At [www.fightthenewdrug.org](http://www.fightthenewdrug.org) under "Get the Facts," select "The Brain" and you can find downloadable research that anyone can use.
- Google "How to block porn on (name of device)" and block it on all your children's devices.
- At [www.fightthenewdrug.org](http://www.fightthenewdrug.org) are many actions one can take under "Get Involved." They have speakers for teens and a "kit" that youth groups can use to raise awareness entitled "Porn Kills Love."
- Host a "White Ribbon Against Pornography" campaign at your place of worship with local resources for porn addicts at your table such as "Celebrate Recovery" flyers. Materials for a "White Ribbon" campaign are available at "WRAP" sites or <http://pornharms.com/handouts/>.
- Sign the "opt-in" petition at "Porn Harms" which would require that all porn be blocked unless one calls their Internet provider and tells them they want to "opt in" to access porn.

- Ask the county to have porn blocked at our libraries.  
<http://www.safelibraryproject.com>
- Urge your city to oppose sexually-oriented businesses by utilizing the resources at this site: <http://waronillegalpornography.com/>. Select “The Coalition” tab.

Service Clubs and Faith Communities can take on these types of activities and make it possible to quickly raise awareness and accomplish change. A prayer group, a men’s group, a woman’s group, a Social Justice group, a Respect Life group, etc. could take this on. For those who are serious about fighting Human Trafficking, you will want to get the book *How You Can Fight Human Trafficking: Over 50 Ways to Join the Fight*. This book is a must-have for ministry leaders and for those who want to take on raising awareness by speaking.

## Conclusion

When The Center for Missing and Exploited Children began in 1984, their success rate for finding kids was 67 percent. **It is now 97 percent.** Through our faith community and other community organizations, we have the ability to achieve a similar success rate with regard to preventing people from becoming trafficked and rescuing those who have. We just need to start and trust God to lead us to what we need to do and continue to grow our efforts. The traffickers have worldwide networks where they share how to trick kids, avoid prosecution, etc. **When our networks are more powerful than theirs, we will win!**

*This handout is an excerpt from the book How You Can Fight Human Trafficking: Over 50 Ways to Join the Fight. You can find this handout at [www.throughGodsgrace.com](http://www.throughGodsgrace.com) and can distribute without permission. For current updates, please go to our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/HowYouCanFightHumanTrafficking/>.*