

What is Human Trafficking?

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Human trafficking is a crime by which people profit from the control and exploitation of others for the purposes of commercial sex acts, labor, or services. Human trafficking is happening in all parts of North Carolina.

If you or someone you know is in ***immediate danger***, call 911.

If you would like to report information about a trafficking situation, contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline:

- **Call** 1-888-373-7888
- **Text** 233733
- [Chat online with a Hotline representative](#)

Anti-trafficking advocates are available 24/7 to receive tips about potential trafficking situations and connect survivors of trafficking to services and support. All reports are confidential and callers can choose to remain anonymous.

What is Human Trafficking?

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 defines human trafficking as:

1. Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or,
2. 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 U.S.C. § 7102(9))

Contrary to popular belief, a victim does *not* have to be physically transported from one location to another for it to be considered human trafficking.

It can be tricky to determine when an exploitative situation moves from something like a violation of labor rights to the crime of human trafficking. A useful tool for determining if a situation is a case of human trafficking is the Action-Means Purpose (AMP) model.

To utilize the AMP model, consider if the potential trafficker undertook any of the following **Actions**:

- Recruiting

- Harboring
- Transporting
- Providing
- Obtaining

....by any of the following **Means**:

- Force
- Fraud
- Coercion

...for any of the following **Purposes**:

- Exploitation
- Involuntary Servitude
- Peonage
- Debt Bondage
- Slavery

The one exception to the model is the sex trafficking of minors. If the individual induced to perform the sex act is under the age of 18, the use of force, fraud, or coercion by a trafficker need not be proven nor present for it to be considered human trafficking.

Grooming, Exploitation, and Control

Ah love It is the universal human need, the stuff of songs and sonnets, the subject of libraries of literature and countless works of art. It is also, in the wrong hands, a powerful weapon of exploitation. Indeed, it is the most common weapon used in sex trafficking operations. Contrary to popular misconceptions, sex trafficking rarely begins with kidnapping by a stranger. Instead, sex traffickers groom their victims by using love – romantic love, friendship and familial love – to manipulate them into cooperating in their own exploitation.

Of the sex trafficking situations reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline in 2019, the top two ways that sex trafficking victims were recruited into their situations were through [intimate partners or family members](#).

Anyone selling sex who is under 18 is legally a trafficking victim. There are a number of racial myths and stereotypes associated with sex trafficking. While available evidence shows that racial minorities are more likely to be victims of sex trafficking, there is no truth behind the stereotype that certain races of men are more likely to be traffickers than men of other than races.

People you know might be vulnerable to trafficking if they:

- Have an unstable living situation
- Have a history of domestic violence
- Has a caregiver or family member who has a substance abuse issue
- Are runaways or involved in the juvenile justice or foster care system
- Are undocumented immigrants
- Are facing poverty or economic need
- Have a history of sexual abuse
- Are addicted to drugs or alcohol

Unfortunately, there are children who are victims of human trafficking and sometimes their family members exploit them. Then in situations where a parent has some type of drug dependency and they'll use that child as a source of income

Here are a few situations that might raise concerns:

- A would-be employer refuses to give workers a signed contract, or asks them to sign a contract in a language they can't read
- A would-be employer charges a potential worker fees for the "opportunity" to work in a particular job
- A friend, family member, co-worker or student appears to be newly showered with gifts or money or otherwise become the object of some kind of overwhelming, fast-moving and asymmetric (young/older; wealthy/struggling) romantic relationship
- A family member, friend, co-worker or student is developing a relationship which seems "too close" with someone they know solely on social media
- A family member, friend or co-worker is offered a job opportunity that appears too good to be true
- A family member, friend or co-worker is recruited for an opportunity that requires them to move far away but their recruiter/prospective employer evades answering their questions or is reluctant to provide detailed information about the job.

What is the Government doing about Human Trafficking

The landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 laid the groundwork for the federal response to human trafficking. In the years since, Congress has built on this foundation, honing and expanding the U.S. strategy to combat sex trafficking and labor trafficking through a holistic, multi-agency approach. Polaris works with allies to shape, support and share innovative state, federal and local laws and policies that are driven by data, based on survivor experience and focused on expanding accountability for sex and labor trafficking.

North Carolina was in the top 10 states for the most Human Trafficking in 2020. It has lowered but we want Zero

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety says human trafficking is the second-largest criminal enterprise in the world with about 20,000 women and children sold each year just in the U.S.

- The National Human Trafficking Hotline is a resource used by service providers and law enforcement to receive tips about human trafficking in our country. Anyone can call the NHTH to report a tip or request services at 1-888-373-7888. Calls are 24/7 and always confidential.

A Prayer for the Victims of Human Trafficking

Most Merciful God, we thank you for the blessings you shower on us daily,
And we confess that we take these for granted way too often.
We confess that in our comfort we are often indifferent to the sufferings of those who are oppressed.
We think especially of those people who have been trafficked – many of whom suffered tremendous trauma even before they were first lured into situations where they found themselves captive – and we ask your forgiveness for not being concerned enough to learn about the causes and signs of their bondage. We ask that you deal mercifully with us and give us your grace to fan the flame of love for these victims who were made in Your image.

And now we pray for the victims of trafficking.

God of Comfort, we ask that You surround these victims with Your everlasting arms and help them to sense Your deep and abiding love for them. Please help them to know how much You weep with them and that they are not alone.

God our Shield and our Defender, we ask that You provide them with protection,

That You would keep them from bodily injury and the harm that slowly kills the inner person that You created them to be.

God our Rock and Refuge, we ask that You make a way of escape for these oppressed people,

Free them from the traps and nets that traffickers used to ensnare them. Set them free once and for all, and keep those who may be vulnerable to trafficking from becoming the next victims.

God our Provider, we ask that You supply everything these victims need once they are out of bondage – from a place to live and reliable transportation to trustworthy, supportive people to walk with them through their healing and recovery journey.

Great Physician, we ask that You touch these survivors in the very deepest places of their injury and pain and heal them completely. While they need physical healing and healing from addiction, they also need the inner healing that can truly change their lives. Be gentle with them as a mother is with her small children. They have suffered enough for many lifetimes.

Trustworthy and Compassionate God, we ask that You restore these wounded souls' ability to trust that people can be good, loving, and kind with no ulterior motives. We

pray that You would restore any relationship that needs repair and help them to reconnect with children that have been taken out of their lives as well as to those who have meaning in their lives. Bring new and healthy relationships into their lives to bless them, and help them to be a blessing to others.

Now we turn our attention to justice, Righteous Judge, and ask that you would take the nets that the traffickers would use to ensnare their victims and turn them to the traffickers' destruction. We ask that You take their ill-gotten gain and use it to fund the healing and recovery of their victims and to help prevent further enslavement. Most of all we pray that you would prevent them from ever ensnaring another victim.

God of Light, we ask that You bring into the light the crimes of those who purchase sex or force labor from victims of trafficking. May you pierce their hearts with your righteous illumination and help them to humbly repent. We pray that they will turn themselves to the task of helping to prevent others from participating in the victimization of those in forced-labor or sexually-exploitative relationships.

God of Justice, we pray that You would help bring more healing into the hearts of trafficking survivors with an increase in arrests and prosecutions of human traffickers. We know that it may not be possible to see full justice done in this lifetime, but we pray that you would enact more justice on earth to encourage the hearts of the victims and their allies and to bring a bit more of Your Kingdom on earth.

God of Everlasting Love, we ask for Your gentle mercy on all trafficking survivors around the globe, and we trust in Your compassionate heart for the downtrodden and oppressed as demonstrated by Your Son. Give us grace that we may desire this same heart of compassion and mercy in our own lives and congregations, and help us to act on it. These things we ask of You, our Good and Gracious Father – for it is in Your name, the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the name of Your Holy Spirit we pray. Am