Human Trafficking Hotline Number
1-888-373-7888

Protecting Women and Children from Human Trafficking

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www.innocentsatrisk.org
“To see but not to see,  
To see but to deny,  
To see but not to act is a crime against a child.  
You can all do something.  
You can make a difference.  
Save a child.”  
Queen Silvia of Sweden

“Human trafficking has no place in our world today.”  
Ricky Martin  
Entertainer  
Founder of the Ricky Martin Foundation

Our children are our future.  
We must keep them safe.
Dear Concerned Reader,

In 2002, while on holiday in Europe, I first heard the phrase “human trafficking.” I had no idea what this was. When the issue was explained to me, I was horrified that buying and selling children is actually a huge business. In fact, it is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world today, producing $32 billion annually. Every day, young women and children are being bought and sold, used and tortured. As a mother, I felt something had to be done.

To learn more about the issue, I talked to the non-profit organizations, The Protection Project, Save the Children and Vital Voices. In addition, I went to the United Nations to hear what was being done and met with Ricky Martin and the Ricky Martin Foundation. Knowing of her dedication to the issue, I flew to Stockholm to meet with Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden, who had been working on this issue since 1996. The belief we all shared was that combating trafficking had to become a major global effort and together we could become a stronger voice.

From the U.S. Department of State, I learned that there is a tremendous need to create awareness. When I talked to my circle of friends, they agreed to help. As a result, we formed Innocents at Risk, which became a 501 (c) (3) in 2005. Today, we have reached hundreds and we are continuing to work on a major awareness campaign.

It is crucial that we all work together to put an end to child sexual exploitation and modern-day slavery. Please join with us in this fight to eliminate this serious evil. Together, we can make a difference.

Deborah S. Sigmund
Founder
Innocents at Risk
Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. It plagues every country. The United States is one of the largest destination countries in the world. Victims are often deceived into accepting a job offer that promises them a better life. Instead, they find themselves trapped in a cycle of physical and psychological abuse. They are prisoners who cannot escape. Their lives are full of pain, brutality and despair.

Approximately 18,000 persons are trafficked into the United States from over 50 countries every year. Over 300,000 children are trafficked throughout the United States annually. U.S. children are trafficked to large urban centers such as Washington, D.C., New York, and Los Angeles, as well as to main tourism destinations including Las Vegas and Florida. Trafficking is a $32 billion global industry.

Innocents at Risk is a child-advocacy non-for-profit 501 (c) (3) organization established to fight human trafficking by raising awareness of this problem among the international and diplomatic community, the corporate sector, students in public schools and universities and among the general public. We work with a vast network of partners to create a climate of intolerance of this global threat and assist where needed.

Our current activities include:

- Creating global and local awareness on human trafficking.
- Developing awareness-raising campaigns for schools to warn young women about the threat of human trafficking.
- Sponsoring events for schools, churches, synagogues, embassies, airlines, corporations, elected officials and members of the community.
- Providing speakers for churches, synagogues, schools, conferences and community organizations.
- Supporting rehabilitation and after-care for survivors of trafficking.
- Establishing a fund to provide life-sustaining necessities for victims of trafficking after they have been rescued.

Our advisory board:

- Ingrid Aielli
- Claudia Barlow
- Dianne Alfandre
- Bruce Carter
- Cunningham
- Izette Folger
- The Reverend Stuart A. Kenworthy
- Valerie LoCascio
- Cidalia Luis-Akbar
- Shahin Mafi
- Richard Marks
- Dr. Mohamed Y. Mattar
- Emily Miller
- Erica Moorhead
- Marsha Nelms Muawwad
- Lorraine Naughton
- Conchita Sarnoff
- Lolo Sarnoff
- Robin Wilder
- Judith Wilson-Beard
“Future generations will not excuse those who turn a blind eye to it.”
Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

If you would like to get involved call Innocents at Risk. To learn more, visit our Web site or one of our partner organizations and agencies can provide the tools and information.

Government Agencies
- U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking
- U.S. Department of Justice
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Partner Organizations
- Ayuda
- Catholic Charities
- Childhood Foundation
- MiraMed
- The Polaris Project
- The Protection Project (Johns Hopkins Univ.)
- The Ricky Martin Foundation
- The Salvation Army
- Shared Hope International
- Vital Voices
- World Vision

Human Trafficking, a television mini-series, aired in the United States on Lifetime Television in 2005. Watch this moving drama of the struggles and rescuing of three trafficked women.

Fact & Fiction on Human Trafficking

**FICTION:** Human trafficking happens only in poor countries.

**FACT:** Human trafficking takes place in every country, from the richest to the poorest. According to the United Nations, over 130 countries are origin, transit or destination countries for human trafficking. Human trafficking feeds on the world’s most vulnerable women and children and is driven by the demand in affluent countries.

**FICTION:** Trafficking does not happen to American women and girls.

**FACT:** Yes, it does. The American girls and women that are trafficked come from big cities and small towns. They come from affluent, middle class, and lower income families and from many ethnic backgrounds. They are recruited from malls, schools, youth centers, beauty salons, and online.

**FICTION:** Human trafficking does not affect me.

**FACT:** Human trafficking is a health, security, and moral issue. It erodes our political systems. It harms our communities. It endangers the lives and wellbeing of those who become victims. It could be taking place right next door to you. Since it thrives on secrecy: the more you know, the more you can do to prevent it.

**FICTION:** There is nothing I can do. The problem is too big.

**FACT:** One phone call could save a life. If you suspect human trafficking, call the hotline. If you want to help fight against this evil, get involved with one of the many organizations working to stop human trafficking.
WARNING SIGNALS

Trafficked persons are not always hidden in dark rooms, away from the public eye. They are transported from one place to another. They use public transportation. Since they suffer injury and harm, they require medical care at hospitals and domestic violence shelters. Since they seek relationships with people of the same religious, ethnic and cultural groups, they attend places of worship and go to community centers.

To be able to assist, we need to know what to look for. A combination of any of the following indicators could signal the presence of suspicious activity and possible human trafficking.

A trafficked person may...

- Have injuries or signs of physical abuse.
- Appear malnourished.
- Seem disoriented and not know where he or she is.
- Have few personal possessions and always wear the same clothes regardless of the weather or circumstances.
- Not have identification documents.
- Avoid eye contact and appear hesitant to talk to strangers.
- Be fearful of authority figures, especially law enforcement.
- Rarely be allowed to come and go independently and may be accompanied by someone who controls their every movement.
- Work excessively long hours.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

BE ACTIVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Learn what is going on in your own neighborhood. Recognize signs of activity that seem out of the ordinary.

Lobby for local and state anti-trafficking legislation.

Advocate for local law enforcement training about recognizing and assisting trafficked persons.

Organize or participate in a community task force against trafficking.

Invite a speaker to your local community group, place of work, place of worship or civic organization to talk about human trafficking.

Include trafficking awareness programs in your local schools.

Place an article in your professional publication or newsletter or write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.

TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN

Agree on guidelines concerning Internet usage.

Warn them about exciting job offers. Traffickers lure teens with promises of opportunities like modeling, graduate programs and nannying overseas.

Stress the need to be wary of strangers. Traffickers hang out around malls, theme parks, schools, movies, sports clubs, community centers and other places where groups of children and young people can be found.

Tell them to beware of the Romeo approach. If a man promises a wonderful job with lots of money and lovely clothes, think again.

Encourage them not to travel alone. They can see the world with a friend and they should stay together.

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WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

“\textit{It can be happening in your backyard. It can be happening in mine. Not only could it, it is. We can stop it. We must stop it.}”
\textit{Congressman Christopher Smith}

- **Awareness** needs to be raised. People need to hear about the issue so that more can do something about it.
- State and local governments need to have human trafficking legislation that is in accordance with the federal TVPA and assess current laws that may conflict with federal laws concerning anti-trafficking.
- Every state should raise the age of consent to engage in all commercial sex activities to 21 years.
- States, local governments and communities should make sure that they have the resources to rescue and restore victims of human trafficking. Once they have been rescued, victims need care, security and justice.

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Growing numbers of trafficked persons are being rescued because someone recognized that something was not right. The following stories are examples of how good Samaritans have made a difference.

On a recent flight, some backpackers asked a flight attendant to help a teenage girl traveling alone. Someone had handed her off to them and she spoke no English. After the plane arrived in Washington, D.C., the attendant noticed no one showed up to meet the girl. She had a number to call, but the man that answered became angry that she had arrived earlier than expected. The flight attendant called the authorities.

While taking the train from New York to Washington, D.C., a woman noticed two pretty, teenage girls. Although it was winter, they were not wearing warm clothes. They were coughing and sneezing and looked ill. They were accompanied by a man who watched their every move. The girls seemed afraid and would not make eye contact with the traveler. “I was sure that something was wrong,” she said. She recognized the warning signs, took the initiative and made a call.

A child became separated from her parents in the parking lot of a large theme park. Two men approached her and enticed her over to their truck, offering to help find her parents. She started screaming, but the men forced her into the vehicle and drove away. A passerby noticed the struggle and called the police, providing a detailed description of the truck and the abductors. The child was rescued.

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WHAT IS BEING DONE

The U.S. government is a leader in the global fight against human trafficking. In October 2000, the U.S. Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which includes the prevention of trafficking, the prosecution of criminals and protection and assistance to victims of trafficking, both in the United States and abroad.

The U.S. Department of Justice has prosecuted about 400 cases of trafficking since 2000. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services assists victims of trafficking in the United States by funding service programs and through public information campaigns. The U.S. Department of Labor funds anti-trafficking programs overseas and monitors places of employment in the U.S. to identify abusive labor practices. The U.S. Department of State, through its Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, assesses and reports on the global trafficking situation in its annual Trafficking in Persons Report. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has issued over 1500 T visas to identified victims of trafficking.

“Western New York Working to Halt Human Trafficking” WBFO, N.Y.
“U.S. Exposes Nations for Human Trafficking” FoxNews.com
“FBI Investigates Human Trafficking in Miami Valley” whiotv.com
“Good News: Feds Bust Human-Trafficking Ring” citizenLink, Colo.

Non-profit organizations play an important role in combating trafficking by:

- Activating the community.
- Advocating for better laws.
- Developing information, education and awareness raising campaigns.
- Rescuing and restoring victims.
- Providing direct assistance to victims of trafficking through shelter, food, medical care and psychological counseling, legal aid, employment training and hotlines.
- Conducting research on all aspects of human trafficking.