



Awareness is Prevention!

FACT: Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world. Innocents at Risk works tirelessly to protect children and prevent trafficking.

Modern day slavery generates over \$150 billion annually for organized crime.

The U.S. Department of State has endorsed Innocents at Risk on behalf of the millions of women and children trafficked annually.

OUR MISSION

Innocents at Risk is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded to fight child exploitation and human trafficking. Our mission is to educate citizens about the grave issue of global and local human trafficking. We are dedicated to protecting children from all forms of abuse, and work to end child exploitation and child trafficking everywhere.

Human Trafficking is happening throughout the world, in every country and across the United States in every major city and small town. According to the Department of State, 2 million women and children are victims of human trafficking every year. In the United States, 300 thousand children are exploited each year.

OUR WORK

Founded in 2005 by Deborah Sigmund, Innocents at Risk works to raise awareness about the horrors of child trafficking. We conduct educational outreach programs through churches, clubs, organizations, schools and embassies. Our awareness DVD has been used throughout the United States as an educational resource.

Since 2008 we have trained airline personnel as a first line of defense in protecting the countless children who are trafficked on major airlines. Our brochures, wrist bands, and educational workshops have armed thousands of flight attendants with information on how to recognize and report trafficking. With the help of our partner, Airline Ambassadors, we are working to expand our outreach to all major carriers.

Innocents at Risk regularly hosts events to raise human trafficking awareness. We educate children, parents, and community leaders to recognize the signs of human trafficking, and the action to take, in order to keep children safe.

GET INVOLVED

Your support is vital to our organization! You can join the fight against human trafficking by supporting Innocents at Risk through donation, becoming a corporate sponsor or volunteering with our organization. Your donation could save a life!!

Visit our website at innocentsatrisk.org to learn more or make a donation.



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INNOCENTS AT RISK

PROTECTING WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING

OUR FOUNDER

In 2003, while on holiday in Europe, Innocents at Risk Founder, Deborah Sigmund, first heard the phrase “human trafficking.” She had no idea what this was. When the issue was explained to her, she 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 over \$150 billion annually. Every day, young women and children are being bought and sold, used and tortured. As a mother, she felt something had to be done.



Mrs. Sigmund learned more about this dangerous criminal enterprise, reaching out to The Protection Project, Save the Children, Vital Voices and other organizations. She went to the United Nations and met with Ricky Martin to discuss his work with the Ricky Martin Foundation. She flew to Stockholm and met with Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden, who had been working on this the issue of human trafficking since 1996.

The belief they all shared was that combating trafficking had to become a major global effort and together they could become a stronger voice.

From the U.S. Department of State, Mrs. Sigmund learned that there is a tremendous need to create awareness. When she talked to her circle of friends, they agreed to help. As a result, Innocents at Risk was formed and became a 501(c)(3) in 2005.

ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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 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. Human trafficking takes place in every country, from the richest to the poorest.

Approximately 18,000 persons are trafficked into the United States from over 50 countries every year. Over 300,000 children are trafficked within the United States annually. 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, theme parks, neighborhoods, and online.

Human trafficking is a health, security, and moral issue. It erodes our political systems. It harms our communities. It endangers the lives and well-being of those who become victims, and it could be taking place right next door to you. Since it thrives in secrecy: the more you know, the more you can do to prevent it. Please get involved, and help Innocents at Risk save innocent lives!

TRAFFICKING WARNING SIGNS

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 her 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.

Innocents at Risk

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