

- Anyone under the age of 18 performing commercial sex acts is considered a victim.
- Victims are usually afraid to come forward, or they lack documents that identify them.
- Most women in prostitution were either coerced, duped, beaten and/or drugged.
- Forced labor happens not just in the sex trade; it is found in sweatshops, agriculture, restaurants, hotels and domestic service.
- An estimated 27 million people are considered to be victims of human trafficking at any given time.³ The International Labor Organization says 5.5 million of them are children.⁴
- Human trafficking happens in 161 of the world's countries; 104 have no laws or regulations prohibiting human trafficking.⁵
- The average age of entry into sex trafficking in the United States is 12–14.⁶

How do we participate?

Most of us are part of unjust systems of commerce that feed human trafficking.

- We buy clothing that is inexpensive because garment workers are held in slavery.
- We eat fast food that is inexpensive because farmworkers are trapped by very low wages and cultural isolation.
- We use landscaping and domestic services that are affordable in many areas because workers are virtual slaves to bosses who threaten deportation if there are complaints.

Recognizing our complicity can give us a place to begin working with God to build relationships, policies, and practices that make us accountable to one another and help us love our neighbor in all that we do.

For prayer and study⁷

The spirit of the LORD God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners (Is. 61:1).

Notes

1. International Labor Organization (ILO), "A Global Alliance Against Forced Labor," 2005.
2. "Human Trafficking: It Happens Here," Indianapolis Protection of Abused and Trafficked Humans (IPATH), 2011.
3. U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report 2013*.
4. ILO, "Global Estimate of Forced Labor," 2012.
5. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
6. Heather J. Clawson, et al, "Human Trafficking Into

Why, O LORD, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? In arrogance the wicked persecute the poor—let them be caught in the schemes they have devised. For the wicked boast of the desires of their heart, those greedy for gain curse and renounce the LORD (Ps. 10:1–3).

Pray: Holy God who hears the cries of the oppressed, we come to you as if we were the ones in held in slavery. There seems to be no light in this darkness, no hope for our future. Allow someone to see me, to look beyond the outward appearance and into my eyes. Give them the courage to ask, to help, to save me from this captivity. God, turn the hearts of those responsible for my slavery and help the leaders of countries around the world ensure that this does not happen to another person. In the name of One love, One hope, we pray. Amen.⁸

Act to end human trafficking

- Support organizations that raise awareness and/or provide education, outreach and services for victims, survivors and those at risk.
- Learn to recognize signs of trafficking.
- If you suspect human trafficking in your community, contact the national hotline at 888-3737-888. Call 888-428-7581 to report suspected instances of worker exploitation.
- Learn about fair food and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' antislavery campaign at <http://ciw-online.org/slavery>.
- Organize a panel of experts in your community to raise awareness. Include a film screening. See www.polarisproject.org for a list.
- Learn more. Download the PC(USA)'s *Toolkit for Action: Modern Slavery*—www.pcusa.org/resource/toolkit-action-modern-slavery.
- Lobby for "Safe Harbor" laws in your state (shifting criminality from victim to trafficker).
- Learn about The Code: www.thecode.org.
- Advocate for U.S. ratification of CEDAW (the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women).
- Find more at www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice.

and Within the United States," 2009.

7. Teresa Stricklen, "Human Trafficking Awareness Worship Resources," PC(USA) Office of Theology and Worship.
8. Office of Immigration Issues, "Human Trafficking: The Sale and Trade of God's Children," www.pcusa.org/immigration.



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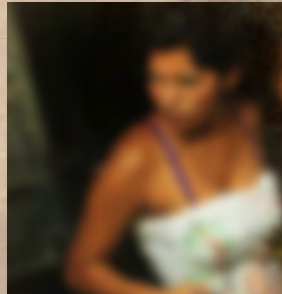


Together in Action

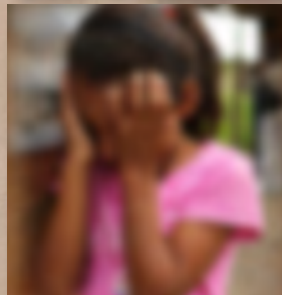
to end human trafficking

Rise up, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand; do not forget the oppressed.
—Psalm 10:12

Nadine Hill was volunteering at a community center on the east side of Indianapolis when a 9-year-old girl disappeared from the playground. The police later learned that she had been sold by her 14-year-old cousin to a pimp for \$1,200. The girl has never been found. Police believe she was trafficked out of state. Imagine if this were your child or grandchild.



Tens of millions of vulnerable children, women and men are captured, sold and held against their will worldwide for forced labor, including sexual services. This is human trafficking, which is the **second largest** and **fastest growing** criminal industry in the world, generating roughly \$32 billion per year.¹ Human trafficking occurs when people are recruited through force, fraud or coercion to work or provide services. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 describes two types of trafficking: sex trafficking and labor trafficking.²



What makes victims vulnerable? Poverty, low self-esteem, innocence, few or no alternatives, substance abuse, lack of security, homelessness, displacement, marginalization . . . What happens to them? False promises, isolation, enslavement, beatings, prostitution, addictions, a life of servitude, many of them killed. None of God's children deserve this.



Myths about human trafficking

- It only happens in other countries, not the United States.
- It only happens to people who are impoverished.
- Human trafficking is only sex trafficking.
- Prostitutes choose their lifestyle.
- Individuals must be forced or coerced to be a victim.
- Trafficking victims are able to seek help when in public.

Facts about human trafficking

Human trafficking is modern slavery and takes many forms—sexual exploitation and forced labor, including the use of children as soldiers. Victims may be held by coercion or by force, or be trapped in unjust systems. Millions are moved around to escape discovery and satisfy markets.

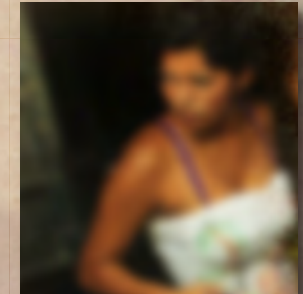


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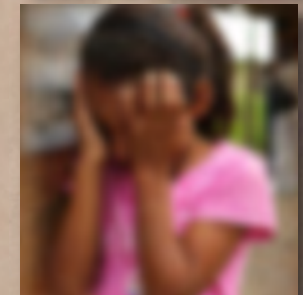
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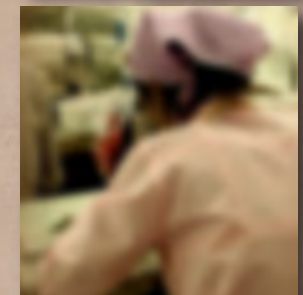
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