

Human Trafficking 101

- Dispelling the Myths -

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Holly Gibbs and Philip Brown



DignityHealth.org/human-trafficking-response

Introduction

Human trafficking is crime based on **exploitation**¹

Anyone can become victim.

International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates:²

- **20+ million victims worldwide**
- **55% are women and girls**



Child laborer at carpet loom, Uttar Pradesh, India (ArtWorks for Freedom)

Many Forms of Exploitation Worldwide



Organ trafficking in Philippines (“Tales from Organ Trade” by Associated Producers Ltd)

Child soldiers in Uganda, **child brides** in India, **sex trafficking** of women and children in Thailand.⁴

Forced labor & human trafficking fuel **\$150 billion industry worldwide.**³ **How can WE make a difference?**

Healthcare and Human Trafficking



Healthcare professionals come in contact with trafficked persons.

2017 survey report:⁵

- Surveyed **labor** and sex trafficking survivors
- Over half reported **healthcare encounter** during victimization
- Nearly 97% received **no information** about human trafficking

Medical care providers too often unprepared to identify victims.

Dignity Health changing this reality!

Hello humankindness

Dignity Health, with Dignity Health Foundation, launched program to identify trafficked persons in healthcare and assist with victim-centered, trauma-informed care.

Aligns with **core mission and values**:

- Deliver **compassionate**, high quality, affordable health services
- **Serve and advocate** for our sisters and brothers who are poor, disenfranchised
- **Partner with others** in community to improve quality of life



Understanding Human Trafficking

Learning objectives:

- Recognize **myths/ misconceptions**
- Identify **three victim populations**
- Identify **high-risk populations**
- **Know what to do**



Child of indentured family working in brickworks, Uttar Pradesh, India (ArtWorks for Freedom)

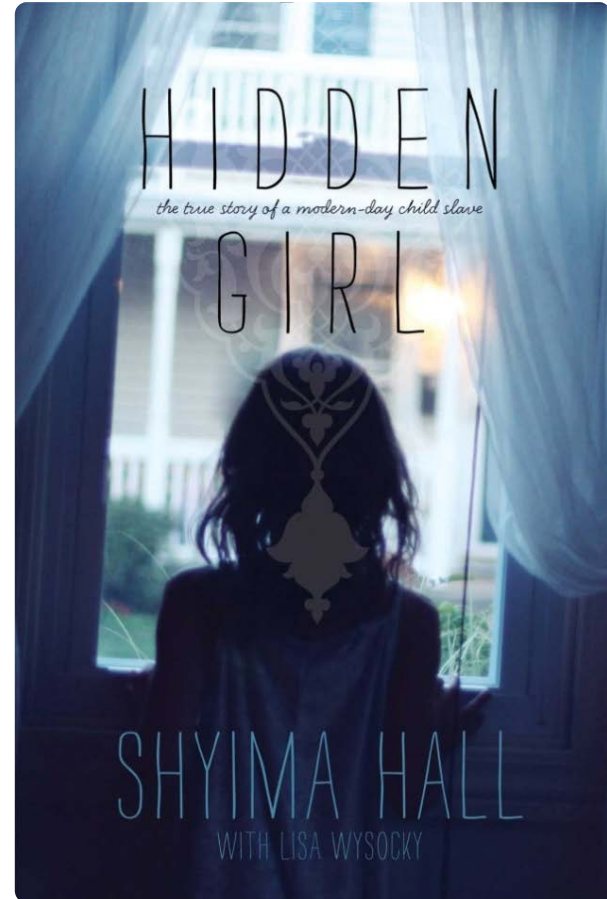
Myth #1: Human trafficking only happens overseas.

Shyima Hall's Story

Every country is affected, including **United States**⁶

- Sold into slavery by parents, in Egypt, age 8
- Moved/forced into domestic servitude
- Cooked, cleaned, cared for children 12+ hours daily
- Forced to wash clothes in bucket, slept in garage

Age 12, recovered by law enforcement.

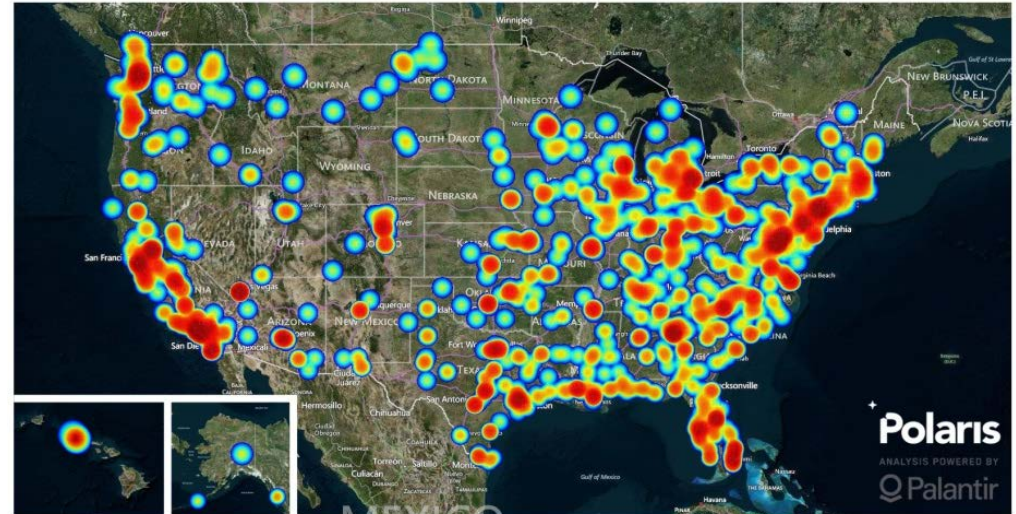


Hidden Girl: True Story of Modern-Day Child Slave by Shyima Hall with Lisa Wysocky (Simon & Schuster)

National Statistics on Human Trafficking

National HT Hotline: Human trafficking reported **in all 50 states, D.C.**⁷ 2016 Statistics:

- **Arizona:** 151 reports of human trafficking, 44 underage victims⁸
- **California:** 1,323 reports of human trafficking, 402 underage victims⁹
- **Nevada:** 161 reports of human trafficking, 50 underage victims¹⁰



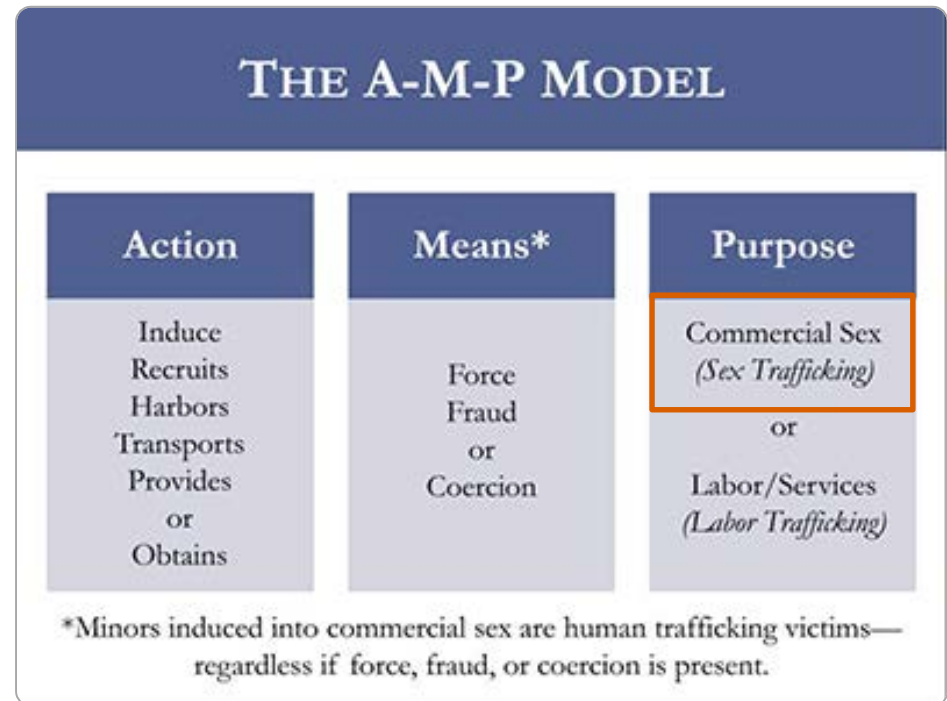
Areas affected by human trafficking, 2014
(Polaris, national anti-trafficking organization,
operates National Hotline)

Trafficking Victims Protections Act (TVPA)

Federal legislation outlaws:

- **Sex trafficking**
- **Labor trafficking**

Commercial sex: sex act in which something of value is exchanged (e.g. money, drugs, survival needs).¹¹



AMP Model (National HT Hotline)

Angela Guanzon's Story

Angela **recruited** from Philippines to work in nursing facility

- Passport confiscated
- Told she owed \$12,000
- Restricted from leaving work facility
- Slept on floor
- Threatened, forced to work with little pay

After two years, Angela recovered by law enforcement.¹² Examples of A-M-P in her story? Questions?



Angela is member of National Survivor Network, program created by CAST in Los Angeles, CA. (Photo courtesy of Angela Guanzon, Leslie Menocal, and Runaway Girl, Inc.)

Force, Fraud, and Coercion

Force can involve physical restraint, physical harm

Fraud involves false promises regarding employment, wages, working conditions

Coercion can involve threats against **any person**, abuse/threatened abuse of legal process¹³



EXCEPTION: Sex Trafficking of Children/Youth

Force, fraud, coercion NOT required in cases involving minors (<18) induced to perform **commercial sex**

- Minors easier to manipulate
- Sex traffickers **lure** minors into relationships or **running away from home** with false promises of new, glamorous life

(Photo Source: Truckers Against Trafficking; Photo Credit: Sherry Dooley)



Three Victim Populations

TVPA: Three victim populations of criminal human trafficking

- Any minor (<18) induced to perform commercial sex **under any circumstance**
- Any adult induced to perform commercial sex **via force, fraud, coercion**
- Anyone, **of any age**, induced to perform labor/services via force, fraud, coercion. Labor trafficking includes **debt bondage** (Angela's story), **forced labor**, and **involuntary child labor** (Shyima's story).

If you suspect a person falls in one of these categories, call the **National HT Hotline: 1-888-373-7888**

Myth #2: Only foreign nationals are trafficked in the United States.



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U.S. Citizens Are Also Trafficked in the United States



Carissa Phelps, Founder of Runaway Girl
(Photo: Viking Books)¹⁴



Tina Frundt, Founder of Courtney's
House (Photo: LisaKristine.com)

2016: Over 7,500 tips reported; at least 2,075 involved **U.S. citizen victims**, lawful permanent residents.¹⁵

OVC Video: <https://youtu.be/NxBilNt-PiU>

Myth #3: Human trafficking and human smuggling are the same crime.

Human Trafficking Is NOT Human Smuggling

Human trafficking **NOT** same crime as human smuggling

- Human trafficking is violation of someone's **human rights**
- Human smuggling is violation of country's immigration laws

Example: Angela recruited to USA via legal work visa



Homeland Security defines human smuggling as “importation of people into USA involving deliberate evasion of immigration laws.”¹⁶

Undocumented Immigrants Are Vulnerable Population

Undocumented immigrants are often **victims of crime**

- Any immigrant (regardless of legal status) can be vulnerable if lacking in support/resources
- **Traffickers often target vulnerable immigrants** with whom they can communicate, build trust, share similar ethnicity

TVPA authorizes federally-funded benefits/services for foreign national victims, same extent as refugees.¹⁷



(Photo: Alexander A. Kataytsev / Shutterstock)

CLINICIANS: Watch for unusual infectious diseases

Myth #4: Sex trafficking could never occur in legal business settings like strip clubs.

Sex Trafficking Can Occur in Legal Business Settings

Regardless of location, anyone induced to perform commercial sex or labor via **force, fraud, coercion** may be victim of human trafficking.

- **Strip clubs**
- **Pornography**
- **Escort services**

Additional reading: Annie Lobert's memoir, *Fallen: Out of Sex Industry & Into Arms of Savior*, tells true account of human trafficking via escort services



Myth #5: Everyone engaging in prostitution is doing so by choice.

Lack of Options Versus an Actual Choice

Many turn to commercial sex due to **lack of options**:

Vulnerable persons:

- Homeless person seeking shelter
- Addicted person seeking drugs/alcohol
- Single mother seeking financial help

May not be a victim of criminal sex trafficking but may need **resources**.

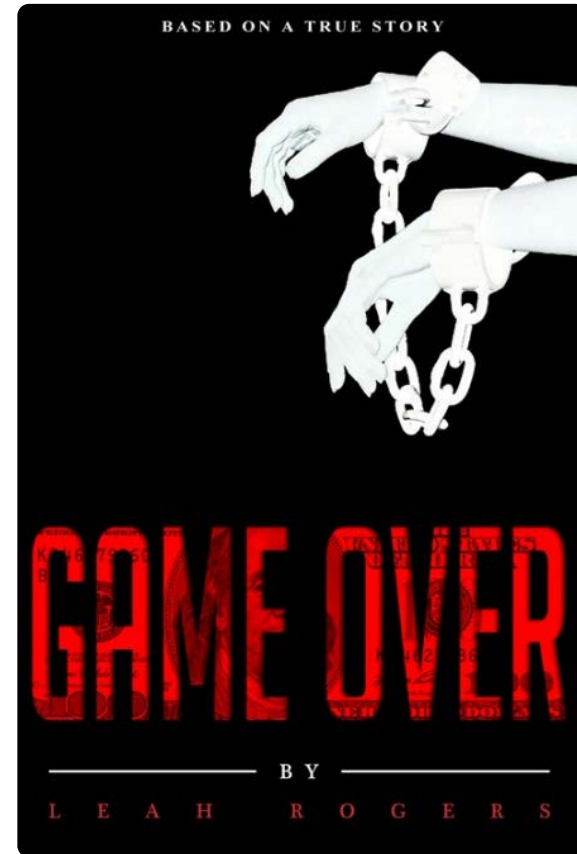


COMMUNITY ACTION: Support community resources that serve vulnerable populations. This is **first line of defense** against exploitation, including human trafficking.

Sex Workers Are a Vulnerable Population

Men, women in commercial sex industry often targeted

- Leah Rogers targeted by violent pimp **while working in strip club**. Posed as boyfriend, **lured** Leah to another state, **forced** to prostitute. For 3 years, Leah was **beaten, terrorized**, even while pregnant.
- Those in **illegal commercial sex** industry also targeted. Gang traffickers known to **abduct** persons in street prostitution, **force** to work under gang's control.¹⁸



Game Over: Story Behind a Sex-Trafficking Victim by Leah Rogers
(Publisher: Indie League Records, I Am Leah Rogers)

Refrain from Passing Judgment



Many survivors describe feeling so **stigmatized** they felt **unable to reach out for help**.

Keep in mind: Use of **force, fraud, coercion** may not always be apparent or visible to others, including health professionals.

An Example of Coercion: Wendy Barnes' Story



Wendy with her daughter,
Latasha

In her memoir, *And Life Continues: Sex Trafficking and My Journey to Freedom*, Wendy Barnes describes years under control of violent pimp who was sentenced to life in prison. Excerpt:¹⁹

Whenever I would attempt to break up with him..., the threats toward my family would begin...

"I know where your mother lives, and I know where she works..."

Do you want to be responsible for her house getting burned down...

If you take my kids, I'll cut the brake lines on your mother's car."

Myth #6: Victims of human trafficking will reach out for help.

Victims Often Do NOT Self-Identify as Victims

Victims may not ask for help²¹

- May **blame** themselves
- Youth may view commercial sex work as **survival** to escape abuse/neglect in home
- Due to prior abuse, **may not see difference between healthy** and abusive/exploitative relationship

Youth may lie about age or use false identification



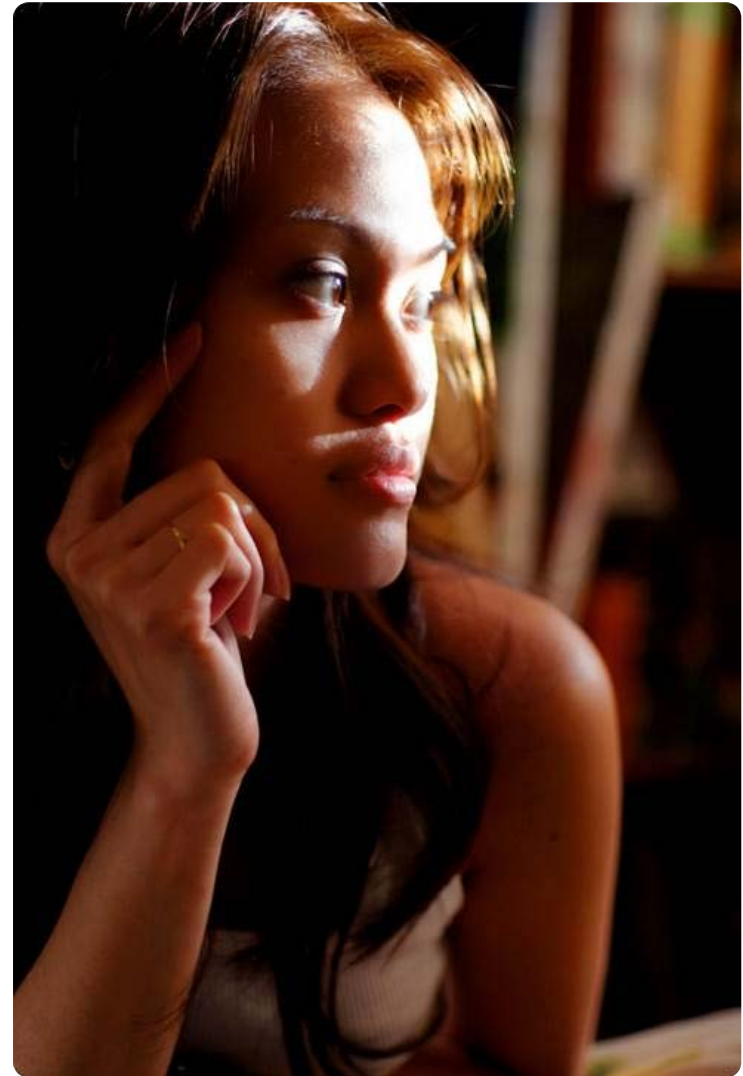
Statistic: 2001 study from University of Pennsylvania estimates **100,000 children** in America are victims of sex trafficking each year.²²

Victims May Not Know Their Rights

Foreign national victims **may not speak English**, may not know **rights** in America.

- May be **threatened, intimidated**
- May feel **legally/morally** obligated to serve contract

U.S. Department of State created video/pamphlet to explain rights, protections, resources to temporary employees. Available in multiple languages online.²³



Myth #7: Only women and girls are victims of sex trafficking.

Boys Are Also Vulnerable to Sex Trafficking

Men/boys at risk. Traffickers often target young people **living on streets**.²⁴

- 380,000 youth experience homelessness annually
- 50,000 youth sleep on street six months or more

Large proportion of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ, making this an additional risk factor. Studies: 1 in 5 homeless youth identify as LGBTQ.²⁵



Survivor, LGBTQ advocate Nikolaos Al-Khadra advocates for homeless/runaway youth and male victims of sex trafficking (Photo taken by Amy Andrews, Survivors Consultation Network)

Myth #8: Child sex trafficking could never occur in *my* community.



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Child Sex Trafficking: In Our Own Backyard

- 2014 federal law enforcement sting: 281 pimps arrested, 168 minors recovered. Includes **27 minors from California**: 10 from **Los Angeles**, 9 from **Sacramento**, 2 from **San Diego**, 6 from **San Francisco**.²⁶
- Melvin Baldwin-Green, Jr. arrested, abducted 16yo from **Sacramento**, forced her to prostitute in **Redding**.²⁷
- FBI works with **Phoenix-area** police during Super Bowl. **Valley agencies** recover juvenile victims, aged 13 to 17.²⁸
- FBI conducts 3-day sweep to recover prostituted youth, 2013. Out of 76 cities, **San Francisco** had highest number of youth recovered, also had highest number of pimps arrested.²⁹
- Following FBI's 9th annual "Operation Cross Country", countrywide sweep to identify child victims of CSEC*, FBI announces recovery of 7 underage victims in **Las Vegas**.³⁰

Child Sex Trafficking: In Our Own Backyard

- FBI works with police in **Central California** to recover CSEC* victims in Clovis, Fresno, and **Merced**. Effort results in recovery of 11 children, 6 pimps arrested.³¹
- Report: **Los Angeles County** DA's Office files 2,188 cases of CSEC* between 2000 – 2010.³²
- Donte Ford, 22 & Joseph Packard, 20, plead guilty to sex trafficking minor in **Bakersfield, CA**.³³
- Rolando Ramirez, 34 & Graciela Vasquez, 23, arrested for sex trafficking 15yo girl in **Oxnard, CA**.³⁴
- Felony warrant issued for Marcale Emon Alexander, 34, for sex trafficking “numerous young girls and women” in **Santa Maria, CA**.³⁵
- 17-year-old female found murdered in **Yorba Linda, CA**, wealthy suburb in **Orange County**. Known runaway, victim of sex trafficking.³⁶

**Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) often used interchangeably with child sex trafficking*

Child Sex Trafficking: Community Risk Factors

Factors increase risk of crossing paths with sex trafficker:³⁷

- **Presence of illegal commercial sex** (street prostitution, prostitution at truck stops)
- **Presence of legal commercial sex** (strip clubs, escort services)
- **Presence of transient male population** (business and bachelor party destinations, major sporting events, military bases)
- **High transit areas**



- **Proximity to truck stops**
- **Proximity to international borders**
- **Presence of gangs / gang activity**
- **Homeless youth culture**

Unsupervised Access to Internet

A predator can reach a child **anywhere** via Internet. Gang leader Justin Strom used Facebook to find victims.

- One victim said she was normal high school student; had friends, played soccer, but Justin ‘brainwashed’ her into believing sex with men for money was normal
- She ate dinner at home, ‘turned tricks at night’. Slid into addiction, dropped out of school, attempted suicide

Justin Strom sentenced to 40yrs, others also convicted.³⁸



Additional reading: *Walking Prey: How America's Youth are Vulnerable to Sex Slavery* offers in-depth analysis of sex trafficking of children/youth in America

Myth #9: All sex traffickers are stereotypical “pimps”.

Anyone Can Be a Trafficker

A trafficker can be anyone: family member, friend, acquaintance. **Not exclusive to pimps, gang members.**

37yo mother convicted of selling 7 and 14yo daughters for sex at hotels, truck stops in Nebraska.³⁹ Only one case among many involving mothers, fathers, step-parents, grandparents.⁴⁰

Red flags may be similar to **child abuse.**



Traffickers Can Be Young and Very Approachable



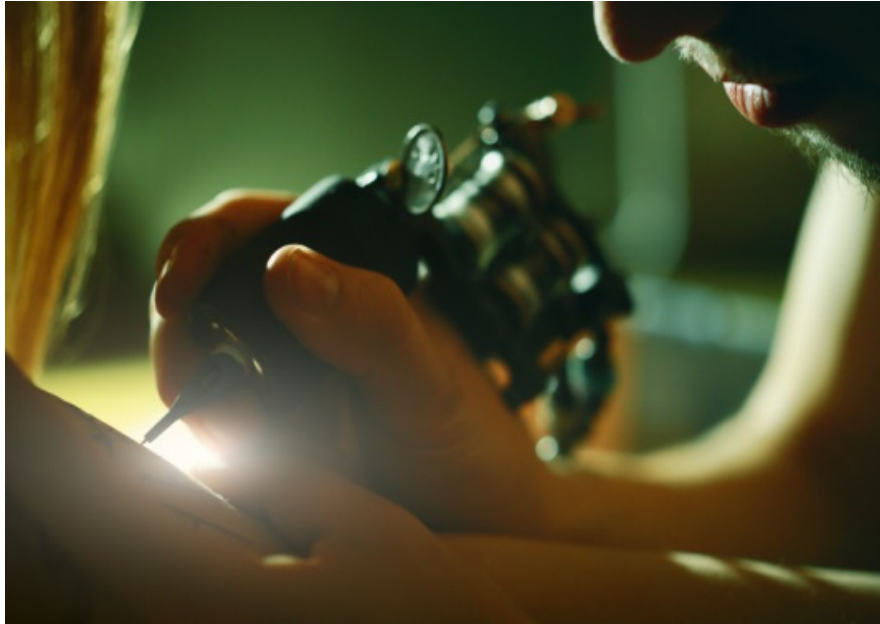
Victor Moreno-Hernandez, 28, sentenced to 30 years for selling 13yo girl for sex multiple times out of strip club in Oregon (KPTV, 2013).⁴¹ Photo used with permission from Washington County Sheriff's Office.

When we hear *pimp*, we often think stereotypical pimp.

“Pimping” has become so accepted (even glamorized in media) that **many men, boys want to become pimps. This is especially true for gangs** as it's considered easier to sell person for sex than to sell drugs/guns.

A drug/gun can be sold only once. **Person can be sold over and over again.**

Victims May Be Branded With Tattoos



CLINICIANS: May present with signs of **assault** or **violence**.

Victims may be **branded** with tattoos, markings to signify “ownership” by pimp/gang.

- “property of”
- trafficker’s street name, initials
- dollar signs, gold coins, crowns, diamonds, tokens of value
- *Daddy, Bottom Girl, The Life, The Game*

Tattoos can vary according to pimp, gang, region.

A “Bottom Girl” May Pose as Friend

Bottom girl serves as “assistant” to pimp/gang:

- Recruits/trains new victims
- Collects money
- Transports victims

Some acting out of fear, others criminal intent. **Any companion could be threat to victim’s safety.**

Victims often moved from city to city, may be forced to recite inconsistent/scripted history.



Myth #10: Human trafficking refers only to sex trafficking.

Labor Trafficking in America

Labor trafficking often gets less exposure in media. Red flags:

- Foreign national victims often **lured** to America (via smuggling, legal work visas) with **false job promises**
- Victims often forced to work **12+ hours per day**, 7 days per week
- Victims **may not be allowed to leave work premises**, often forced to sleep on floor, cot in back of business
- Victims of **domestic servitude** often forced to sleep in home; victims in **traveling sales crews** may be forced to sleep in van
- Victims may not be in control of identification (especially **passports, work visas** for foreign nationals)

Labor Trafficking Can Occur in Any Industry



Domestic work, agriculture, hospitality, fishing industry, massage parlors, nail salons, hair braiding salons, restaurants, construction sites, janitorial work, panhandling rings, door-to-door sales.



(Photos provided by Polaris/National HT Hotline)

Labor Exploitation Versus Labor Trafficking

A victim of **labor exploitation** may not be victim of **labor trafficking**. Example: If nail salon owner pays less than minimum wage, then worker may be victim of exploitation and can file complaint with Labor Department.

If owner uses **force, fraud, coercion** to **induce** worker to remain in position, then worker may be victim of trafficking.



Survivors and Thrivers



There are organizations across America that specialize in offering **shelter, services** to victims of human trafficking. With appropriate care and community resource connections, we can ensure trafficked persons overcome and become thriving members of society. There is **HOPE**.

Know What to Do.



If You Observe Red Flags of Human Trafficking

National Human Trafficking Hotline is available 24/7 to report suspicion, seek support, inquire about local resources:

1-888-373-7888

Hotline specialists speak English & Spanish with access to 200+ languages using a 24-hour tele-interpreting service.



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