

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACT SHEET

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery. Victims of human trafficking are subjected to force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor. Victims are young children, teenagers, men and women.

*After drug dealing, human trafficking is tied with the illegal arms industry as the second largest criminal industry in the world today and it is the fastest growing.*

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) defines “Severe forms of Trafficking in Persons” as:

- **Sex Trafficking:** the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion or in which the person forced to perform such an act is under the age of 18 years; or
- **Labor Trafficking:** 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.

In both forms, the victim is an unwilling participant due to force, fraud or coercion.

### Trafficking Victims

Approximately 600,000 to 800,000 victims annually are trafficked across international borders worldwide, according to the U.S. Department of State. These estimates include women, men and children. Victims are generally trafficked into the U.S. from Asia, Central and South America and Eastern Europe. Many victims trafficked into the United States do not speak or understand English and are therefore isolated and unable to communicate with service providers, law enforcement and others who might be able to help them.

### How Victims Are Trafficked

Many victims of trafficking are forced to work in prostitution or sex entertainment. However, trafficking also takes place as labor exploitation, such as domestic servitude, sweatshop factories, or migrant agricultural work. Traffickers use force, fraud and coercion to compel women, men and children to engage in these activities.

**Force** involves the use of rape, beatings and confinement to control victims. Forceful violence is used especially during the early stages of victimization, known as the “seasoning process” which is used to break victims resistance to make them easier to control.

**Fraud** often involves false offers of employment. For example, women and children will reply to advertisements promising jobs as waitresses, maids and dancers in other countries and are forced into prostitution once they arrive at their destinations.

**Coercion** involves threats of serious harm to, or physical restraint of victims of trafficking; any scheme, plan or pattern intended to cause victims to believe that failure to perform as act would result in restraint against them; or the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process.

Victims of trafficking are often subjected to debt-bondage, usually in the context of paying off transportation fees into the destination countries. Traffickers often threaten victims with injury or death, or the safety of the victims family back home. Traffickers commonly take away the victims travel documents and isolate them to make escape more difficult.

Victims often do not realize that it is illegal for traffickers to dictate how they have to pay off their debt. In many cases, the victims are trapped into a cycle of debt because they have to pay for all living expenses in addition to the initial transportation expenses. Fines for not meeting daily quotas of service or bad behavior are also used by some trafficking operation to increase debt. Most trafficked victims rarely see the money they are supposedly earning and may not even know the specific amount of their debt. Even if the victims sense that debt-bondage is unjust, it is difficult for them to find help because of language, social, and physical barriers that keep them from obtaining assistance.

### **Help for Victims of Trafficking**

Prior to the enactment of the TVPA in October 2000, no comprehensive Federal law existed to protect victims of trafficking or to prosecute their traffickers. The law is comprehensive in addressing the various ways of combating trafficking, including prevention, protection and prosecution. It is intended to prevent human trafficking overseas, to increase prosecution of human traffickers in the United States, and to protect victims and provide Federal and state assistance to certain victims. Victims of human trafficking who are not U.S. citizens are eligible for a special visa and can receive benefits and service through the TVPA to the same extent as refugees. Victims of trafficking who are U.S. citizens may already be eligible for many benefits due to their citizenship.

If you think you have come in contact with a victim or have observed indicators of Human Trafficking please contact:

**National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1(888)373-7888**

**Or**

**FBI Pittsburgh at (412)432-4000**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE JEWISH COMMUNAL SECURITY PROGRAM,  
PLEASE CONTACT BRAD ORSINI AT [borsini@jfedpgh.org](mailto:borsini@jfedpgh.org) or 412-992-5229.**

**YOU CAN ALSO VISIT OUR COMMUNITY SECURITY WEBSITE <http://jfedpgh.org/security>**