

Human Trafficking

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What is Human Trafficking

- Human trafficking is an inhumane act that robs a person of his or her freedom and it is a crime.
- A modern-day form of slavery involving the illegal trade of human beings for the purpose of exploitation or commercial gain.

A National Crisis

- An estimated \$32 billion dollar per year industry
- A threat that does not respect national borders (a transnational crime)
 - The fastest growing segment of transnational crime.
 - Second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable form of transnational crime.

Two forms of Human Trafficking

- **Sex Trafficking:** Involve commercial sex acts induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person performing the act is under age 18.
- **Labor Trafficking:** Using force, fraud or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, obtain or employ a person for labor or services in involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.

Source: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov>

Victims

- An estimated 20.9 million victims of forced labor and trafficking in persons worldwide.
- Between 14,500 and 17,500 people are trafficked into the U.S. each year.
- More than half of victims within the United States are women and children.

Sources: www.ilo.org, thecnnfreedomproject.blogs.cnn.com,

Virginia

- According to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center 145 cases were reported in Virginia in 2015
- Types of Trafficking:
 - Sex Trafficking (103)
 - Labor Trafficking (31)
 - Trafficking Type Not Specified (7)
 - Sex and Labor (4)

Virginia

- 10 arrested in Central VA FBI sex sting operation Operation Cross Country X.
- 82 juveniles were rescued in the U.S.
- 239 pimps and other individuals were arrested.
- The FBI says the youngest victim was 13 years old, and two of the victims, ages 16 and 17, said their mother was their pimp.

Virginia State Law

In the Commonwealth of Virginia current state law may be applied to the identification, investigation, and prosecution of human trafficking offenses.

Virginia Law

On April 1, 2015, Gov. Terry McAuliffe signed into law Virginia's first stand alone sex trafficking law: SB 1188 and HB 1964.

This law:

- Defines and establishes the offense of sex trafficking;
- Establishes penalties reflecting the seriousness of the offense;
- Specifically criminalizes child sex trafficking as a Class 3 felony without requiring prosecutors prove that force, intimidation or deception was used to cause the minor to engage in commercial sexual conduct.
- Assists in protecting and properly identifying sex trafficking victims;
- Closes a loophole in Virginia's existing laws by criminalizing the recruitment of minors and adults for commercial sex-conduct which is currently not criminalized in Virginia.

Recommendations

Public Awareness

- Human trafficking is a hidden crime and a first step to combating it is to raise public awareness.
- Raising public awareness helps to identify victims so they can be rescued and help bring their perpetrators to justice.

Recommendations

Increase the display of educational and informational posters.

<http://www.doli.virginia.gov/laborlaw/pdfs/Human%20Trafficking%20Poster.pdf>

In Virginia signage is required to be posted in

- Truck stops
- Adult entertainment facilities

We recommend locations be expanded to include:

- Welcome centers
- Hospitals
- Emergency care centers
- High prostitution traffic areas
- Rest areas
- Bus Stations
- Rail stations
- Airports

Recommendations

Failure to display signage currently carries the following penalties:

- For adult entertainment centers a \$500.00 fine for failing to post human trafficking notice.
- For truck stops a \$100.00 fine for failing to post human trafficking notice if not remedied within 72 hours of the ticket.

Recommendations

- We recommend a 500.00 fine for any privately owned and operated facility required to post notification which does not do so. No grace period provided.

Recommendations

First Responder Awareness

- First responders including law enforcement, fire, and medical emergency services are in a unique position to identify victims of human trafficking.
- They may be the victim's only outside contact so it is important that they are able to recognize the indicators and know how to report observations and potentially save a life.

Recommendations

Develop a curriculum for first responders:

- Raise awareness about human trafficking and how to identify when an individual may be a victim.
- Increase detection and investigation of human trafficking to protect victims and bring suspected traffickers to justice.
- All local and state law enforcement, fire, and medical services will be trained annually on the curriculum.
- This curriculum will be funded in part by the fines collected from non compliance with posting signage.