

ENSLAVED IN

AMERICA

— ○ ● 🔍 — Investigating Sex Trafficking

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

The terms “human trafficking” and “trafficking in persons” describe the acts associated with recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for the purposes of forced labor or prostitution. This brutal crime can take many nuanced forms, but the common thread among them is a person, or group of people, being held against their will and forced to either work or perform sex acts for the benefit of their captor and often with little or no benefit of any kind to themselves.

It is important to differentiate between human trafficking

and the act of migrant smuggling. There are four key differences. First, smuggling always involves consent, while trafficking does not. Second, smuggling ends with the migrants’ arrival at their destination, while trafficking involves the ongoing exploitation of the victim. Third, smuggling is always transnational, whereas trafficking does not have to involve transporting the victim. Finally, income from smuggling is derived from the transportation or facilitation of an illegal border crossing, while income from trafficking is derived from continued exploitation of the victim.

The Act

Recruitment
Transport
Transfer
Harboring
Receipts of persons



The Means

Threat/use of force	Abuse of power
Coercion	Giving payments
Abduction	Giving benefits
Fraud	Deception



The Purpose

Prostitution of others	Removal of organs
Sexual exploitation	Slavery
Forced labor	Other exploitation

The **three primary elements** of human trafficking, the act of trafficking, the means of trafficking, and the purpose of trafficking, are listed in this chart.



The Numbers

800K

The number of people trafficked across international borders every year is approximately 800,000.

2.5M

It is estimated that the number of total human trafficking victims in the world is 2.5 million at any given time.

\$32B

The global human trafficking industry generates \$32 billion a year in profits.

76%

In 2009, 76 percent of all global human trafficking victims were female.



Trafficking Across the Globe

According to the United Nations 2012 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, exploitation may take many forms. For the UN report, 81 countries reported information about the forms of exploitation for a total of 34,800 victims detected between 2007 and 2010 in those countries. The data show that in Europe, Central Asia, and the

Americas, more than half of all human trafficking cases involved sex trafficking. And while sex trafficking crimes make up a smaller percentage of cases of human trafficking in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and the South Pacific, they still make up a significant portion of the total cases of human trafficking in those regions.

Sexual exploitation Forced labor Organ removal & other forms

EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA

62%
31%
7%



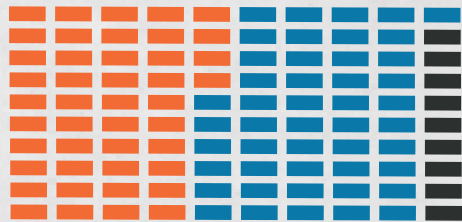
AMERICAS

51%
44%
5%



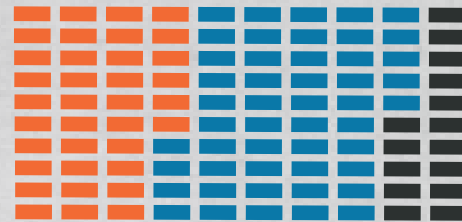
SOUTH ASIA, EAST ASIA, & PACIFIC

44%
47%
9%



AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

36%
49%
15%



Sex Trafficking



According to the United States State Department, when an adult or child is coerced, forced, or deceived into prostitution — or kept in prostitution through one of these means after initially consenting — that person is a victim of sex trafficking. Under these circumstances, the perpetrators involved in recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for that purpose are responsible for trafficking crimes. The State Department says sex trafficking also may occur within debt bondage, as women and girls are forced to continue in prostitution through the use of unlawful “debt” purportedly incurred through their transportation, recruitment, or even their crude “sale” — which exploiters insist they must pay off before they can be free.

79%

Of all of the types of exploitation, sex trafficking is identified 79 percent of the time, making it the most commonly identified form.

1M

Approximately one million children are exploited by the global sex trafficking industry each year.

12-14

The average age of entry into sex trafficking in the United States, Canada and Mexico is 12 to 14 years old.

BRUTALITY WITHIN OUR OWN BORDERS

Sex trafficking is undoubtedly an international issue that affects many countries. And with billions in profits generated domestically every year, the United States is no exception. America's convenient system of highways and interstates, as well as its varied geography provides a perfect setting for sex traffickers. Some researchers have even suggested that large sporting events, such as the Super Bowl, can lead to increased demand of illicit sex in cities hosting those events, thereby causing an increase in sex trafficking.

Imagine this: You argue with your mother and run out of the house. You need somewhere to spend the night, so you stay with your friend's older brother. **Instead of helping you** return home the next day, he confines you to a room, physically abuses you, and **sells you on the Internet** as a prostitute. One day you see your mother hanging missing person posters through the window, but **you can't do anything** because your pimp threatens you with death. Oh, and you're only **12**.

Or what about this? You start **dating this guy** and after a while you move into his place. But, after that he tells you that you should sell yourself as **an escort to random men**. After he forces you to get his name tattooed on your skin, he rents hotel rooms around the city and **advertises you on the Internet**. The man who you thought was your boyfriend constantly **assaults you** and threatens you with an assault rifle. You are just **16**.

These are the stories of **Ashley** from New York and **Alissa** from Texas.

Spotlight States



South Dakota (Sioux Falls)

South Dakota is one of the worst states in regards to sex trafficking largely due to their lack of adequate laws. Another major factor contributing to the prevalence of sex trafficking in the state is the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and the hunting season that lead to what some call "sex tourism." Also, traffickers have taken advantage of poor young women in unstable family situations, particularly Native Americans from Sioux Falls, S.D.



Illinois (City v. Country)

Illinois, which has contributed the fifth greatest amount of hotline calls to the National Human Trafficking Resources Center, is a state where sex trafficking is very prevalent. Chicago, the state's largest city, is not only a major national metropolis but also has a population strongly divided along racial lines, leaving outsiders vulnerable. The large airport and numerous highways allow traffickers to move around the state easily while the rural areas grant them the isolation needed to go unnoticed by law enforcement.

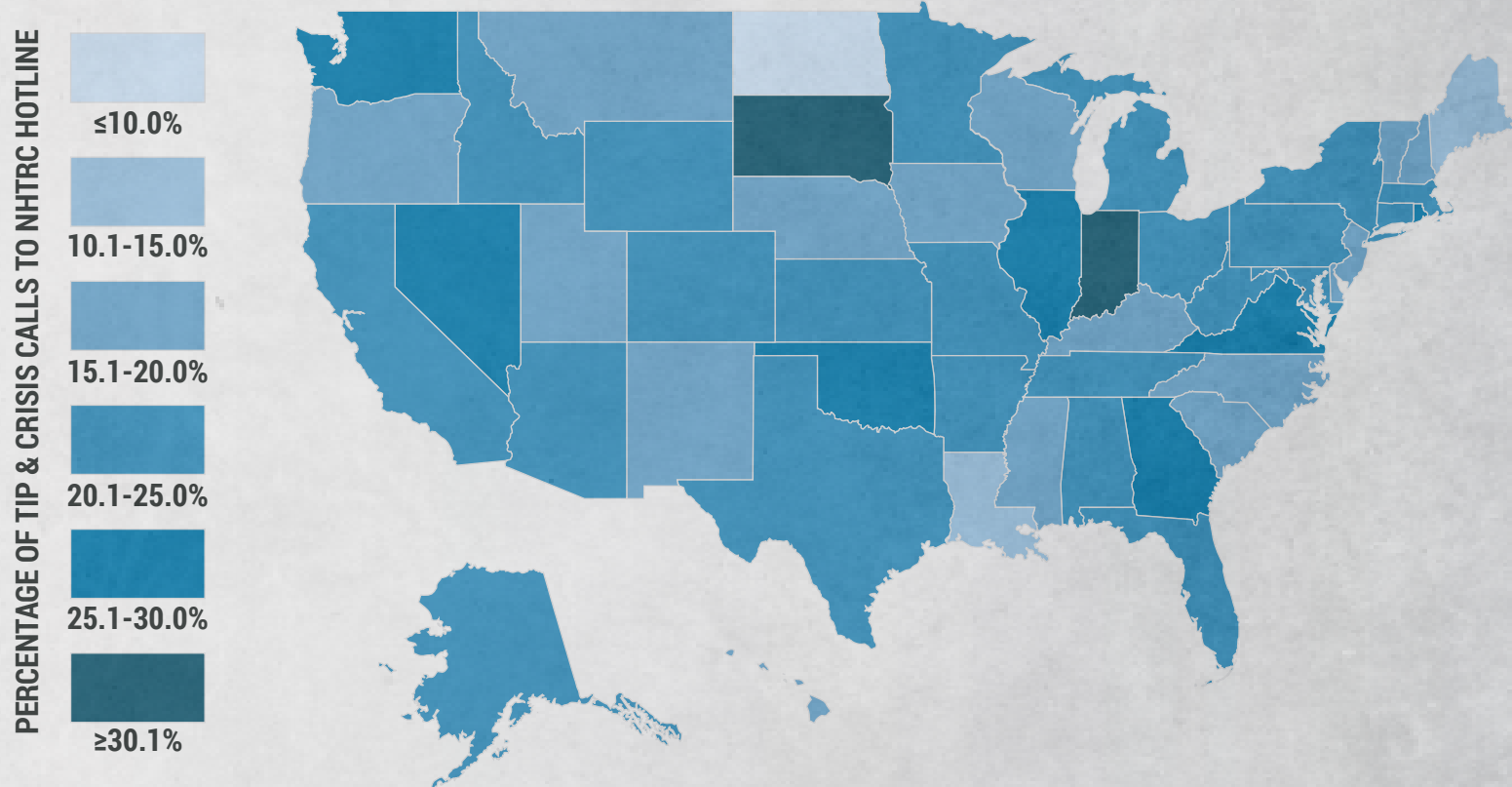


Texas (Houston/Dallas)

Because of its vast system of roads and highways, its ports on the Gulf Coast, and its border with Mexico, Texas is one of the major trafficking states. A large section of Interstate 10, possibly the most commonly used road for trafficking in the United States, runs through Texas. Houston, the fourth largest city in the U.S., has a sizable international population, and 6,000 children runaway from home annually in both that city and Dallas. For these reasons, this region is extremely vulnerable to the sex trafficking trade, as evidenced by the more than 30% of National Human Trafficking Hotline calls that came from just Texas.

Percentage of Tip and Crisis Calls to Trafficking Hotline

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center is a 24-hour hotline operated by the Polaris Project, a nonprofit, non-governmental organization. Through the hotline, individuals can anonymously report suspected incidents of sex-trafficking or simply receive information. The organization will then follow up on the information provided through the hotline either administratively or legally. The map below depicts the percentage of calls received per state, adjusted for population.



Types of Hotline Calls

- **Crisis Calls:** victims in emergency situations
- **Tips:** potential sex trafficking situations
- **Training and Technical Assistance:** information requests
- **Referrals:** organization information requests
- **General Information:** educational information requests
- **At-Risk:** exploitation situations that may lead to trafficking
- **Unrelated:** not involving NHTRC and usually transferred

Isolated Truck Stops

Commercially operated truck stops have long been a major hub for sex trafficking. Because of their often isolated location, and the almost exclusively male presence, these truck stops have presented traffickers with ideal conditions and plenty of customers. In 2004, the FBI conducted Operation Stormy Night, an anti-sex trafficking effort that focused on Oklahoma trucking stops. Federal agents rescued 23 girls and arrested 12 pimps. However, only nine traffickers were convicted of charges resulting from the operation.

A Closer Look: North Carolina

8 The state is ranked 8th in the nation for prevalence of sex trafficking, despite the state's legal provisions.

2 The legislature passed two new laws in October 2013: one to increase penalties for pimps and another to require traffickers to register as sex offenders.

123 Number of cases reported in the state between July and October 2013.

HOTSPOTS FOR TRAFFICKING

CHARLOTTE: Its proximity to Atlanta, often ranked first in the country for trafficking, allows groups to come for a night and then disappear.

RALEIGH: The population of North Carolina's capital is increasing, and the merging of interstates makes for quick travel for traffickers.

GREENSBORO: Truckers pass through this Triad city on Interstate 40, and its numerous truck stops contribute to the high risk.

WILMINGTON: The port city is large in international trade, and I-40 begins here.



SEX TRAFFICKING AND THE LAW

2013 State Ratings on Human Trafficking Laws

Sex Trafficking laws in states and at the federal level have attempted to combat trafficking and provide support for victims. While many advances have been made, different state regulations in relation to federal statutes make prosecuting sex trafficking more difficult. How can laws effectively put an end to sex trafficking across the U.S.? Look through some of the laws that have been enacted and see where the law is lacking.



Polaris Project

The Polaris Project has rated all 50 states and the District of Columbia based on 10 categories of laws that are critical to combating human trafficking and supporting survivors. States rated with Tier 1 have the most comprehensive laws. Below, you will find categories important to combating sex trafficking and how many states have passed laws since 2013.



Sex Trafficking Provisions 49
Criminalizes sex trafficking including force, fraud, and coercion to engage in commercial sex



Asset Forfeiture 37
Provides forfeiture of assets acquired or used in the course of the crime



Training 29
Encourages law enforcement to be trained in trafficking issues



Lower burden of proof for minors 43



Victim Assistance & services 33



Safe Harbor 18
Recognizes minors under 18 as victims in need of protection and services



Investigative Tools 38



Access to Civil Damages 30



Vacating Convictions for Victims 14

Significant U.S. Laws

The Mann Act

The act first made it a felony to transport a person across state lines for purposes of prostitution.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)

This act in 2000 was important in combating human trafficking by using prosecution, protection, and prevention. It made human trafficking a federal crime, attaching several penalties, and victim assistant programs. It established the Office to Monitor and Combat

Trafficking in Persons, which must publish a Trafficking in Person Report each year. TVPA does not make physical transportation of a person a requirement. It also established the T visa, which allows victims of trafficking to become temporary residents of the U.S.

TVPA Reauthorized

The law gave civil rights for survivors to sue their traffickers. It also adds sex trafficking of children or by force, fraud, or coercion to the racketeering offenses list, which helps the federal government more effectively prosecute traffickers.

1910, 1978, 1986

2000

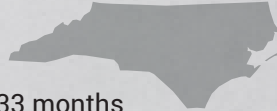
2001

2002

2003

2004

Sentencing in North Carolina



Sex Trafficking of Adult	Class F Felony: 13-33 months
Sex Trafficking of Minor	Class C Felony: 58-149 months
Unlawful Purchase/Sale of Minor	Min \$5,000; Min \$10,000 Next Violation
Not Reporting Sex Trafficking	Class 1 Misdemeanor: 1-45 days

*Depends on offender's prior record level
 *Federal law parallels with harsher punishments

NC SB 683 Safe Harbor/Victims of Human Trafficking Act

This law protects minors from being charged with prostitution. It also allows prostitution offenses to be erased from a victim's records and requires convicted traffickers to compensate their victims according to the Fair Wages Act.

Challenges with Prosecution



The Internet

Backpage.com, owned by Village Voice Media, is a well-known website for classified ads with photos. It is similar to Craigslist but Backpage has an "adult" section, where escorts, body rubs, strippers, and similar services are advertised by users. According to the New York Times, and other major news sources, Backpage is the biggest forum for sex trafficking of under-aged girls. Backpage makes it convenient and inexpensive for pimps to continue their business.

3

days

105

rescued victims

150

arrested pimps

Operation Cross Country

In July 2013 over the course of three days, the FBI took on a nationwide enforcement action, targeting underage victims of sex trafficking. It was the seventh and largest enforcement action of its kind to date. The FBI partnered with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.



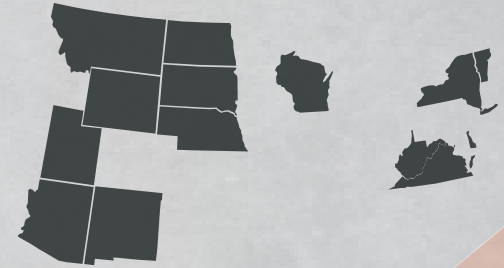
Safe Harbor Laws

Under these laws, minors cannot be prosecuted for prostitution. These are important because they recognize minors as victims of prostitution. The states to the right do not have safe harbor laws, making it harder to collaborate with federal laws. Some states not included only have half coverage.



Asset Forfeiture

Under these laws, the profits from sex trafficking are taken away from the traffickers. This is important because profit is what drives this **\$32 billion** per year criminal enterprise. Some pimps serve time, but keep their profit and will go out and do it again. The states to the right do not have these laws.



Victim Identification

Victims can be afraid to report the crime making it difficult to testify. Only about **14%** of calls come from victims. In a study in 2008, out of 289 TVPA prosecuted cases, **89%** of victims did not testify at disposition and **40%** testified at trial.

Double Jeopardy

Someone being prosecuted in state court for sex trafficking cannot also be prosecuted in federal court for the same crime. Some states have lower sentences. Although, TVPA is giving states tools to draft tougher legislation.

PROTECT Act

Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to End the Exploitation of Children Today (PROTECT) Act further punishes sexual tourism among children. It makes possession of child pornography a first offense of 15 to 30 years in prison. It also created Amber alerts and other methods to alert when children are missing.

(TVPA) Reauthorized

Grants were added to assist state and local authorities to combat trafficking and create programs to help survivors.

Safe Harbor for Exploited Children Act

New York enacted this law which provided children with specialized services for recovery and more. It also keeps children from being prosecuted for prostitution. Many other states followed New York and enacted safe harbor laws.

(TVPA) Reauthorized

Expanded definitions of various types of trafficking, making it easier for prosecution.

Supreme Court Case In Matter of B.W.

Texas Supreme Court decided that children should be treated as victims after a 13-year-old, B.W., was originally charged with prostitution. "An underage child cannot legally consent to sex is of longstanding origin and derives from common law."

(TVPA) Reauthorized

Strengthened child welfare response in relation to safe harbor laws and provided children with better services.

National Defense Authorization Act of 2013

Sections 1701-1708 seek to limit human trafficking associated with government contractors.

2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013

EXPOSING THE TRAPS

“Sex traffickers frequently target **vulnerable people** with histories of abuse and then use violence, threats, lies, false promises, debt bondage, or other forms of **control and manipulation** to keep victims involved in the sex industry.”

- Polaris Project

How Traffickers Lure Victims Using Basic Human Desires



Want: safety and security



- Financial debt
- Low socioeconomic status
- Residence in a vulnerable geographic location (a place with a high crime rate and legal corruption)

Approximately **75%** of girls with runaway status and who are sexually exploited are under the control of pimps.



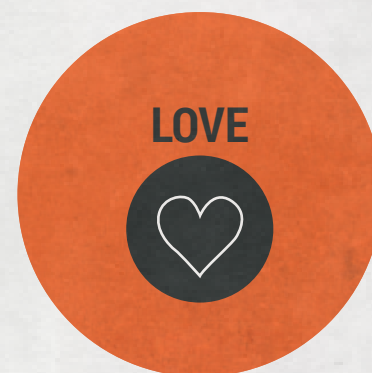
Want: a sense of belonging and connection



Victim Vulnerabilities

- Dysfunctional families
 - Care givers with mental illnesses
 - Abusive parents
 - Substance abuser family members
- Familial collaboration with traffickers
- History with Child Protective Services

70% of domestic minor sex trafficking victims have experienced physical or sexual abuse in their homes.



Want: emotional and physical affection



- Approximately **70-90%** of female victims of trafficking were sexually abused before they were recruited
- Traffickers often prey on people who are hoping for a better life

“**Romancing period**” establishes trust so that when the relationship deteriorates into abuse and exploitation, the victim will hope that one day the love will return.



Warning Signs: How to Spot Victims of Sex Trafficking

Appearance

- Signs of trauma
- Special marked tattoos
- Appears malnourished

Relationships

- Significantly older “boyfriend”
- Travels with older male (not guardian)

Living Conditions

- Homelessness
- Chronic runaway
- Not able to travel freely

Lack of Control

- Does not have ID documents, or is not in control of them
- Isn’t allowed or able to speak themselves

Work Conditions

- Is paid very little or paid only in tips
- Works excessively long/unusual hours
- Has a pimp/manager

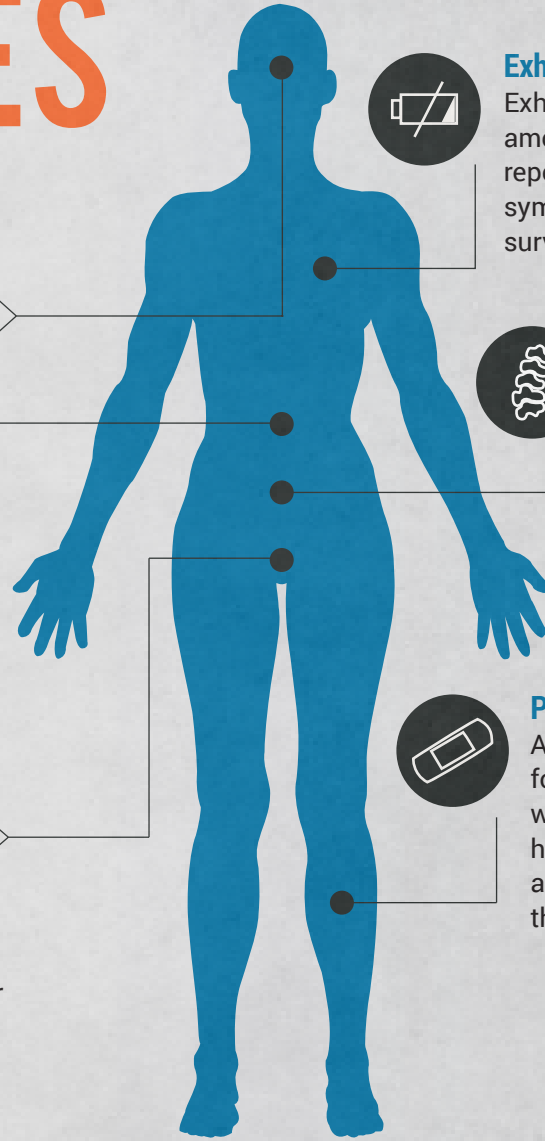
Abnormal Behavior

- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or paranoid
- Avoids eye contact

Other Signs

- Substance abuse
- Multiple delinquency charges
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Has numerous inconsistencies about their past history
- Loss of sense of time
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts
- Fearful of law enforcement

HEALTH ISSUES



Depression & Suicidal Ideations

Recognition of inherent worth can be difficult because survivors often perceive themselves as criminals rather than victims.



Trauma Bond/Stockholm Syndrome

Victims often have a psychological response causing them to become attached to their traffickers and feel compelled to protect them.



Stomach Aches & Eating Disorders

Victims of sex trafficking often experience stomach aches and develop eating disorders. This can be a result of a lack of a proper diet as traffickers often control what they eat.



Sexual & Reproductive Health Problems

Victims of sex trafficking often contract sexually transmitted infections. They are also prone to chronic hepatitis and vaginal infections.



Cervical Cancer

Risk factors for cervical cancer include having your first sexual encounter at a young age and a large overall number of sexual partners. For these reasons, women who have been subject to sex trafficking are often at a higher risk.



Exhaustion & Fatigue

Exhaustion and fatigue are among the most commonly reported physical health symptoms of sex trafficking survivors and victims.



Back Pain

Victims of sex trafficking often endure back pain due to the physical demands of the sex industry.



Physical Abuse

A 2006 study in Europe found that 95% of the 200 women surveyed reported high levels of physical and/or sexual abuse during their exploitation.

For More Information

These are just a few of the organizations dedicated to helping survivors of sex trafficking and raising awareness about the issue.

Polaris Project | polarisproject.org

Polaris Project works to combat and prevent modern-day slavery and human trafficking. One of their programs is the **National Human Trafficking Resource Center**, a hotline that is available to answer calls from anywhere in the United States.

Rights 4 Girls | rights4girls.org

Rights 4 Girls works to achieve policy change and to build coalitions with other organizations to grow a human rights movement for girls in the United States.

FAIR Girls | fairgirls.org

Fair Girls prevents the exploitation of girls through empowerment and education. They create opportunities for girls to become confident, happy, and healthy.

NCCAHT | nccasa.net/nccaht

The **North Carolina Coalition Against Human Trafficking** is a group of professionals from multiple fields that works to raise awareness about human trafficking across North Carolina, support efforts to prosecute traffickers, and identify and assist victims.

Don't Sell Bodies | dontsellbodies.org

Don't Sell Bodies was created by Jada Pinkett Smith to raise awareness about the issue and provide information about sex trafficking.

GEMS Girls | gems-girls.org

Girls Educations & Mentoring Services (GEMS) aims to empower girls and young women to exit the commercial sex industry and develop to their full potential.

SOURCES

The hidden nature of sex trafficking makes it difficult to document all of the cases and statistics that follow. The sources below represent the most credible sources available.

What is Human Trafficking?

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Brutality within Our Borders

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Exposing the Traps and Health Issues

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