

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NEW MEXICO



**NEW MEXICO
HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE**

- Grant co-partnered by NMOAG and The Life Link with FBI, IHSI, U.S. Attorney's Office and others.
- Collaborative effort between law enforcement and service providers to combat Human Trafficking state wide.
- 1. **Prevention: Enhancing public awareness and training professionals.**
- 2. **Prosecution: Ensuring strong legislation and building strong cases through proactive investigations.**
- 3. **Protection: Victim-centered rescue and long term restoration.**

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: WHAT IS IT?

- **Sex Trafficking:** in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; 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.

TRAFFICKING VS. SMUGGLING

<p>Trafficking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is not voluntary ▪ Entails exploitation of a person ▪ Need not entail physical movement of a person ▪ Can occur domestically ▪ Is a crime against the right of each person to be free from involuntary servitude 	<p>Smuggling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is voluntary – individual typically contracts to be taken across a border ▪ Ends after the border crossing ▪ Fees are usually paid in advance or upon arrival ▪ Is always international in nature ▪ Is a crime against the nation's sovereignty
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CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

1 in 10 of the 50 states reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children in 2014 saw child sex trafficking cases.

The top 10 states in 2014:

74% of child sex trafficking cases occur in the top 10 states.

WHO IS INVOLVED IN TRAFFICKING?

- The **recruiter** gains the victim's trust and then sells them for labor or to a pimp. Sometimes this is a boyfriend, a neighbor, or even a family member.
- The **trafficker** is the one who controls the victims. Making the victim fearful through abuse, threats, and lies the trafficker gains power over his/her victim.
- The **victim** could be anyone.
- The **consumer** funds the human trafficking industry by purchasing goods and services. Often s/he is unaware that someone is suffering.

THE TRAFFICKER

- The trafficker will likely be in a **lucrative business enterprise** as the heart of human trafficking is exploiting cheap labor.
- The trafficker may be part of a **larger organized crime ring**, or may be **profiting independently**.
- Most often, he/she is the **same race/ethnicity** as the victim.
- Might be someone who **knew the victim** and victim's family.
- Will likely be **bilingual**.
- Will likely be an **older man with younger women** who seems to be **controlling**, watching their every move, and **correcting/instructing** them frequently.

THE TRAFFICKED PERSON

Human Trafficking reaches every culture and demographics. *Regardless of their demographics*, victims are vulnerable in some way, and the traffickers will use their particular vulnerability to exploit the victim.

Some risk factors include:

- Youth
- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Desperation
- Homes in countries torn by armed conflict, civil unrest, political upheaval, corruption, or natural disasters
- Family backgrounds rife with violence, abuse, conflict
- Homelessness
- A need to be loved
- Immigration Status

THE TRAFFICKED PERSON

- **Likely has been lied to** about the work they will be doing in the U.S.
- Was **economically motivated** to come to the United States or to seek a new job.
- **Believes they have a real debt** to pay and takes this very seriously
- **Has been lied to** about their rights in this country and what will happen to them if they seek help.
- Does not have any **meaningful social network**.
- Is **extremely embarrassed** about what is happening to him/her
- **May not see themselves as a victim** – they may feel blame for their situation.
- **May be holding out hope** that if he or she proves their worth, things will get better

INDUSTRIES LINKED TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

<p>Sex Trafficking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brothels ▪ Prostitution or other commercial sex venues ▪ Pornography ▪ Exotic Dancing/Stripping ▪ Massage Parlors ▪ Escort Services ▪ Modeling Studios 	<p>Labor Trafficking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Farming/Agricultural work ▪ Landscaping/Construction ▪ Hotel or Tourist Industries ▪ Janitorial Services ▪ Restaurant/Cooks/Waiter or Waitresses ▪ Factory Work ("sweatshops") ▪ Domestic servitude/Housekeeping/Nannies ▪ Peddling/Panhandling
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HOW ARE PEOPLE RECRUITED?

- Grooming process
- Internet and social media
- Fake employment agencies
- Acquaintances or family
- Newspaper ads
- Front businesses
- Word of mouth
- Abduction

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND TECHNOLOGY
SOCIAL NETWORKING

Pimps hit social networks to recruit underage girls to engage in commercial sex

- The pimps "searched Facebook for attractive young girls, and sent them messages telling them that they were pretty and asking if they would like to make some money"
- If a girl expressed interest, a gang member would arrange to meet up. At that point, participation stopped being voluntary.

Kevin Smith
I'm looking for a girl to help me with my business. She should be a girl who is pretty and smart. If you are interested, please contact me at [redacted].

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**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR REFERRALS:
OUR JOB IS TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS.**

- Bureau of Child Labor: School corporation called about teen falling asleep in school who explained he was working late to pay off family debt
- Customer Service Rep: Employment agency charging \$800 to place employees in work assignments, charged for training, paid with limited access debit cards, traded sexual favors for wages.
- Bureau of Child Labor: Complaint about young boys selling door to door candy late at night, who reported they lived out of state.
- OSHA: Complaint about asbestos exposure, employees were bussed in from out of state.
- Wage Claim Filed: Claimant reported she was not paid, and witnessed employee loading up kids who were there for financial literacy classes to sell coffee door to door.

LABOR TRAFFICKING

Common types of labor trafficking:

- Domestic servitude
- Farmworkers coerced through violence as they harvest crops
- Factory workers held in inhumane conditions with little to no pay

LABOR TRAFFICKING IN AGRICULTURE

Who are the victims?

- Men, women, and children as young as 5
- US citizens
- Legal permanent residents
- Undocumented immigrants
- Foreign nationals with temporary H-2A work visas

What is the work?

- Harvesting crops
- Raising animals in fields
- Working in packing plants, orchards, and nurseries

LABOR TRAFFICKING IN AGRICULTURE

What are the risk factors?

- Isolated and transient work
- Living in housing provided by employer
- Confinement, sometimes through locks, armed guards, dogs
- Irregular income
- Peaks and lulls in employment due to changing harvest seasons
- Travel around the country to find work
- Constant unfamiliarity to surroundings
- Immigration status
- Exclusion from some labor protections, such as laws governing overtime pay, the right to organize and bargain collectively, minimum wage, workers' compensation

LABOR TRAFFICKING IN AGRICULTURE

• **Common means of control include:**

Force = Isolation in migrant camps and rural areas; control over transportation and communication with outsiders; physical or sexual abuse.

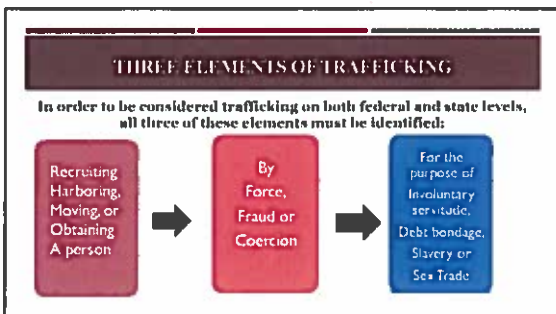
Fraud = False promises about the job, altered contracts and pay-statements; exorbitant recruitment fees for jobs that have low wages in actuality

Coercion = Exploitation of lack of familiarity with the language, laws and customs of the U.S.; verbal and psychological abuse; threats of deportation or other harm to the victim or the victim's family; confiscation of passports and visas; manipulation of debt workers took on to obtain the job; debt bondage through high fees for rent, food, tools, transportation and other expenses.

Labor Trafficking in Agriculture, Project E-PROTECT, www.dhs.gov/e-protect, last revised May 18, 2014

WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS FOR RELIEF AND RECOVERY?

Criminal Prosecution
Civil Law Remedies
Repatriation
Immigration



WHAT IS FORCE, FRAUD, & COERCION?



Force	Fraud	Coercion
Kidnapping Torture Battering Threats with Weapons Sexual Abuse Confinement Forced use of Drugs Forced Abortion Denial of Medical Care	Presentation of Valid Immigration Documents Victim told to use false travel papers Contract signed for legitimate Work Promised Job differs from actuality Promises of Money or Salary Misrepresentation of Work Conditions Wedding into Romantic Relationship	Debt Bondage Threats of Harm to Victim or Control of Children or family Controlled Communication Photographing in Illegal Situations Holding ID/Travel Documents Verbal or Psychological Abuse Control of Victims Money Punishments for Misbehavior



ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

TOPICS

- Community's Role
- Building Awareness
- Building Coalitions
- Case Studies




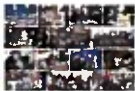
Community's Role

- Local communities are key in creating coalitions that can
- Serve as "intermediaries" in detecting human trafficking
- Ensure delivery of services to victims of human trafficking



BUILDING COMMUNITY AWARENESS

- Build a base of information
- Begin efforts with intermediaries
- Promote general community outreach




Building Awareness — Intermediaries

- Immigrant advocacy groups
- Sexual assault advocates
- Domestic violence advocates
- Homeless shelters/food banks
- Faith-based organizations
- Ethnic organizations
- Health care providers— walk-in health clinics, hospitals
- Schools
- Local labor department
- Code enforcement— fire marshal, utilities, alcohol licensing agency, health department
- Business industry— cable company, restaurant vendors
- Concerned citizens
- Mutual assistance associations


Building Awareness—Intermediaries

- **Begin with those most likely to have contact with victims**
- **Develop multimedia material**
- **Hold one-on-one meetings**
- **Make group presentations**



Building Awareness—General Community

- News stories
- Talk shows (television and radio)
- Public service announcements
- Pamphlets and posters
- Billboards
- Civic clubs
- Business associations
- Neighborhood associations
- Local government/NGO Web sites



BUILDING COALITIONS

- Building community coalitions
 - Organize community-based response
 - Build alliances to help victims
 - Assist in enforcement efforts
- Increasing awareness of human trafficking in your local community
- Coalitions are evolving all over the U.S.

**BUILDING A COALITION
WHAT TO DO**

- A coordinated community response is possibly the best way for communities to respond to human trafficking. Trafficked persons have a variety of needs and developing a collaborative community approach will require the collaboration of many persons, agencies and organizations.
- There are a number of standard elements necessary to building and sustaining a coordinated community response. However, since every community is different as every trafficking case is different, the coordinated response that a community develops will differ.

**BUILDING A COALITION
WHAT TO DO page two**


The following is a list of suggested steps to take however, this may not be an all inclusive list and your steps may vary.

- Someone take charge to get the coalition started. Whomever takes on this role does not have to be responsible for the coalition for ever.
- Training - Do not assume everyone knows about human trafficking or even what trafficking is.
- Determine who should be involved. Do not exclude anyone. You never know where your resources may come from.
- Determine the purpose for organizing.
- Decide on structure and logistics.

NM Attorney General Human Trafficking Unit in 2016

- Search Warrants - 8
- Arrests - 6
- Labor Trafficking - 4
- Sex Trafficking Cases - 33
- Victim Interviews - 31
- Operations - 8
- Devices Examined - 7
- Massage Parlor Cases - 3
- Multi-Agency Response Coordination - 2
- Presentations and training - 23

QUESTIONS?



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