

# Washington State Human Trafficking Epidemic of Children



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# What is Human Trafficking of Children (HTOC)

- **Definition: modern-day slavery that involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.**
- **HTOC generates billions of dollars of profit per year, second to drug trafficking as the most transnational crime.**
- **HTOC is becoming a burgeoning risk factor for American youth as gangs find that prostituting minors is a source of prestige and income and traffickers discover that American children are easier to recruit and sell than foreign victims because there is no need to cross the border.**
- **Traffickers look for children who are susceptible for a variety of reasons: psychological or emotional vulnerability, economic hardship, lack of support system, extreme adversity of violence, experience discrimination and natural disaster or political instability.**
- **<https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/what-human-trafficking/> <http://www.atg.wa.gov/sex-trafficking>**



# Human Trafficking Myths and Misconceptions

- **Myth:** HTOC does not occur in the United states, only other countries. **Fact:** An estimated 293,000 children in the U.S. are in danger of being sexually trafficked. The victims are American children, youth of all races and all different backgrounds, and range in age from infants to teens.
- **Myth:** HTOC is only sex trafficking. **Fact:** sex trafficking exists, but is not the only type. *Forced labor:* sweatshops, massage parlors, agriculture, restaurants, hotels, and domestic service.
- **Myth:** only a very small percentage of people look at child pornography or purchase kids for sale. **Fact:** 12 is the average age of entry into porn and prostitution, but their ages are often mislabeled. 1 out of 5 pornographic images is of a child. The sale of child pornography has become a \$3 billion dollar industry and 55 percent of internet child pornography comes from the U.S.
- <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/what-human-trafficking/> <http://www.atg.wa.gov/sex-trafficking>



# Why Washington State?

- Washington State is a hotbed for the recruitment, transportation and sale of people for labor.
- International Borders with Canada
- Abundance of ports
- Vast rural areas
- Dependency on agricultural workers
- Seattle: part of a trafficking circuit that can include Honolulu, Las Vegas, New Orleans, Portland, Vancouver Yakima and Canada.
- <http://www.atg.wa.gov/human-trafficking>



# HTOC Statistics Washington State

- ▶ HTOC happens every day in the U.S., even in the Seattle area. In fact, According to Polaris Project, Seattle is listed in the top 20 for human trafficking cases reported by state for 2014.
- ▶ Seattle is currently the third most active city in terms of child prostitution in the nation. In 2011 Washington state was the #1 state for human trafficking
- ▶ The HTOC has put the Northwest on the map. In 2010, the FBI conducted its annual national operation to recover juvenile prostitutes and arrest their pimps. One-third of the 69 children rescued in 40 cities were in the **Seattle-Everett-Tacoma** area. One-third.
- ▶ Washington took its place at the forefront of the modern anti-slavery fight in 2003 when the state became the first in the nation to criminalize human trafficking on the state level.
- ▶ <https://www2.kuow.org/specials/humantrafficking.php>
- ▶ <http://www.seattlespectator.com/2014/03/05/seattle-a-hotbed-for-human-trafficking/>
- ▶ <http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/waging-war-on-human-trafficking/>

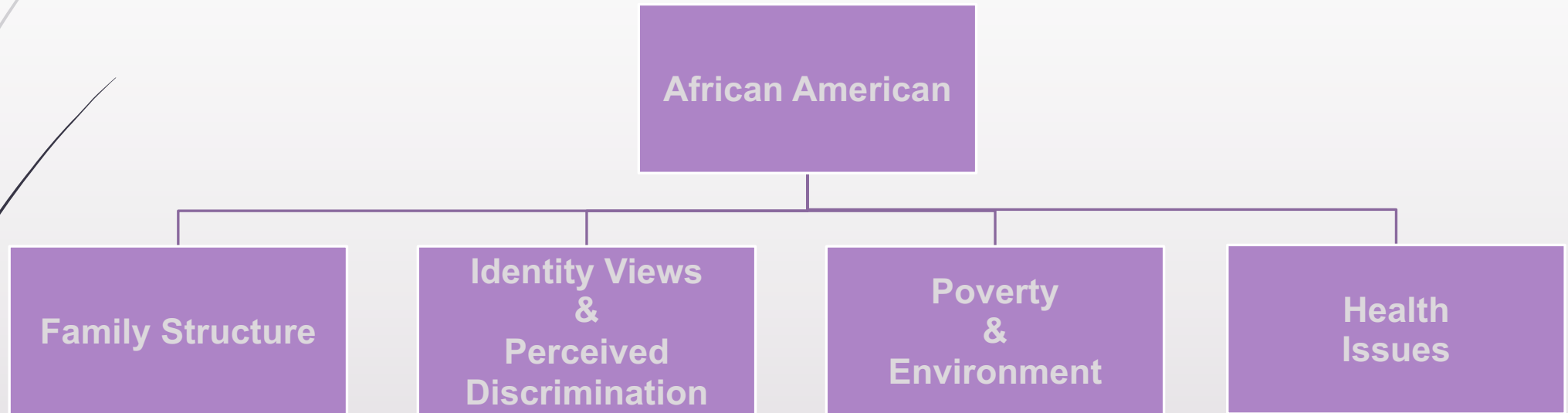


# Identifying Signs for Children at Risk

- ▶ Children rarely disclose they have been sexually exploited. Children often do not realize they are victims of trafficking. Many view their exploiter as a boyfriend, and the process of breaking that trauma bond is time and resource intensive.
- ▶ Children who are trafficked may still be under the control of a pimp/trafficker, even after they are returned to foster care, a family home, or are rescued.
- ▶ Children who are trafficked may have a history of repeated sexual exploitation or running away.
- ▶ Trafficked children often suffer from depression, hostility, stress, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and fear of authority, as well as fear of those who victimize them.
- ▶ Outward symptoms of depression, anxiety, or hostility may present as difficult behavior or resistance to assistance.
- ▶ Other physical symptoms, such as pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and drug addiction, may mask the fact they have been exploited.
- ▶ [http://www.missingkids.com/en\\_US/documents/Social\\_Services\\_Indicator\\_Card.pdf](http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/documents/Social_Services_Indicator_Card.pdf)

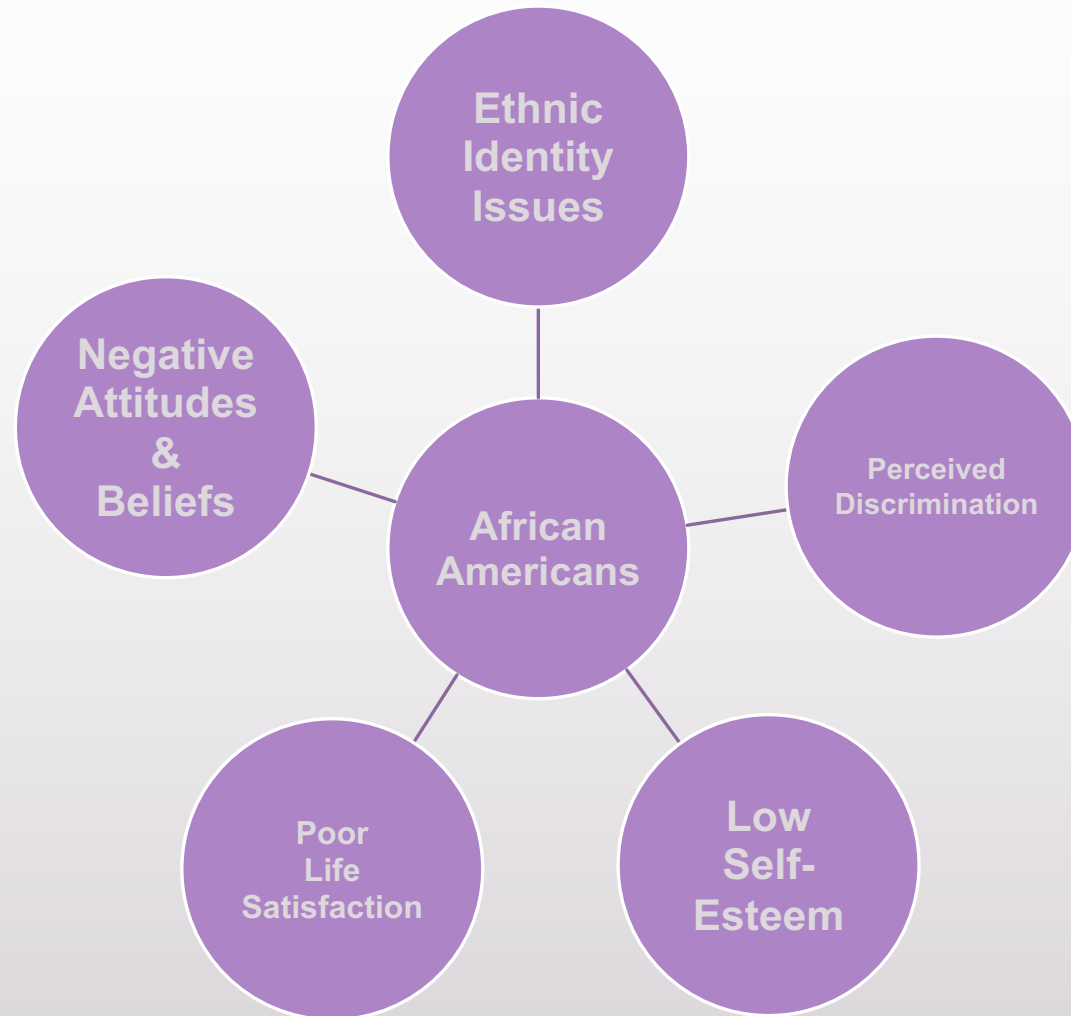


# **Vulnerability Factors of Mental Illness Contributing to Domestic Violence In African-Americans**





# RACIAL Prejudice & Discrimination



# POVERTY & ENVIRONMENT





# The Traffickers

- ▶ Often the traffickers and their victims share the same national, ethnic, or cultural background, allowing the trafficker to better understand and exploit the vulnerabilities of their victims.
- ▶ Traffickers can be foreign nationals and U.S. citizens, males and females, family members, intimate partners, acquaintances, and strangers.
- ▶ They lure and ensnare people into forced labor and sex trafficking by manipulating and exploiting their vulnerabilities. Human traffickers prey on people who are hoping for a better life, lack employment opportunities, have an unstable home life, or have a history of sexual or physical abuse.
- ▶ Traffickers promise a high-paying job, a loving relationship, or new and exciting opportunities and then use physical and psychological violence to control them.
- ▶ Traffickers can be lone individuals or part of extensive criminal networks, with the common thread of exploiting people for profit.
- ▶ <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/what-human-trafficking/human-trafficking/traffickers>



# Red Flags for HTOC

- ▶ Chronic runaway/homeless youth
- ▶ Excess amount of cash in their possession (may be reluctant to explain its source)
- ▶ Hotel keys and key cards
- ▶ Inconsistencies when describing and recounting events
- ▶ Unable or unwilling to give local address or information about parent(s)/guardian
- ▶ Presence or fear of another person (often an older male or boyfriend who seems controlling)
- ▶ May try to protect pimp/trafficker from authorities
- ▶ Prepaid cell phone
- ▶ High number of reported sexual partners at a young age
- ▶ Sexually explicit profiles on social networking sites
- ▶ Injuries/signs of physical abuse (that they may be reluctant to explain)
- ▶ Inability or fear of social interaction
- ▶ Demeanor exhibiting fear, anxiety, depression, submissiveness, tenseness, nervousness
- ▶ Is not enrolled in school or repeated absence from school
- ▶ Does not consider self a victim
- ▶ Loyalty to positive feelings toward pimp/trafficker



# Physical & Psychological Effects of Victim's

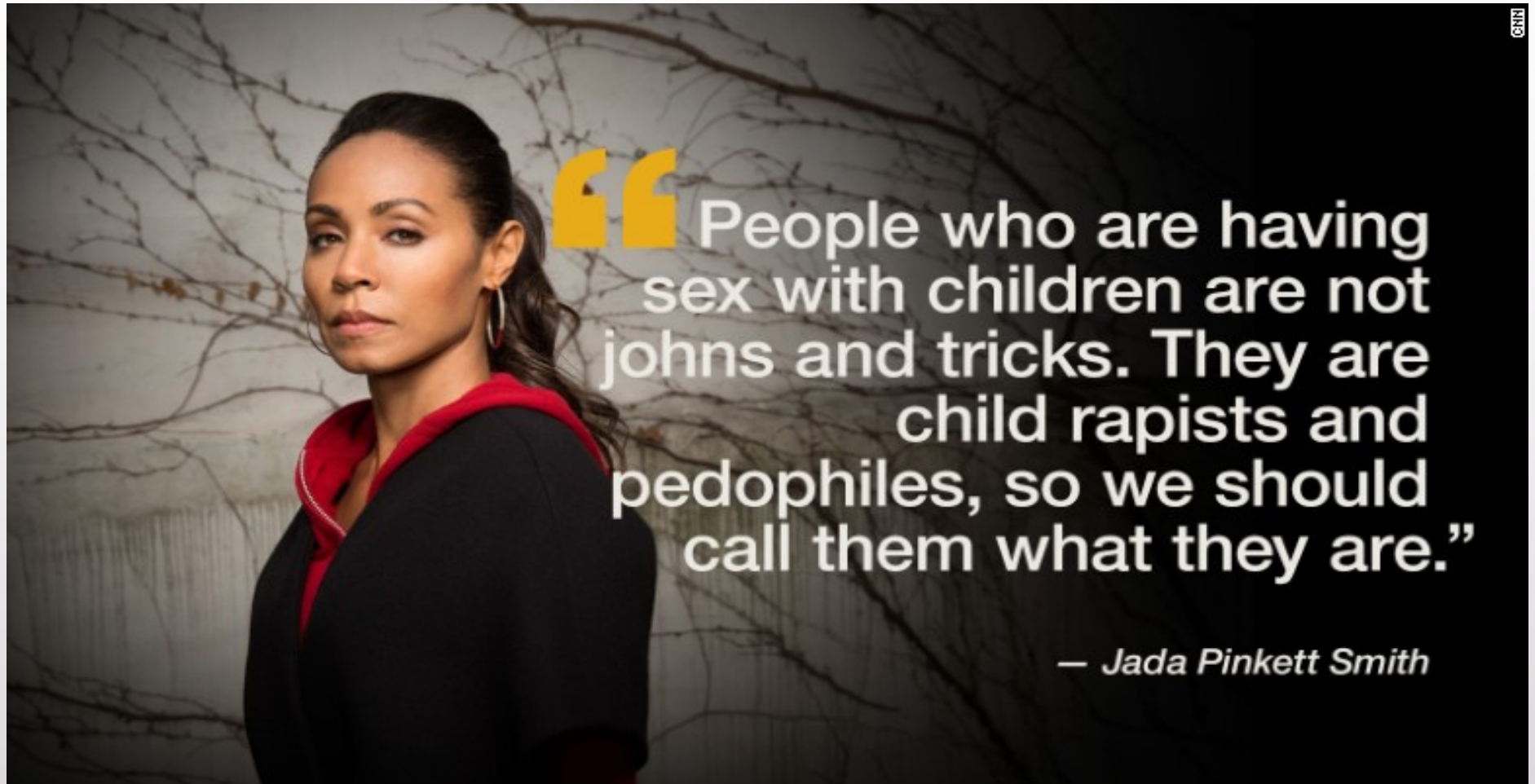
- Average victims age is 11 to 14
- Approx 80% are women and children bought, sold and imprisoned in the underground sex service industry
- Average life span of a victim is reported to be 7 years (found dead from attack, abuse, HIV and other STD's, malnutrition, overdose or suicide)
- Child victims of human trafficking face significant problems. Often physically and sexually abused, they have distinctive medical and psychological needs that must be addressed before advancing in the formative years of adulthood.
- Child victims of exploitation can face a number of long-term health problems:
- Sleeping and eating disorders
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- HIV/AIDS, pelvic pain, rectal trauma and urinary difficulties from working in the sex industry
- Fear and anxiety
- Depression, mood changes
- Guilt and shame
- Posttraumatic Stress Disorder
- <http://arkofhopeforchildren.org/child-trafficking/child-trafficking-statistics>



## Video

- <http://www.cnn.com/2015/07/20/us/sex-trafficking/index.html>

# Sex trafficking: The new American slavery



# POVERTY & ENVIRONMENT







## The FBI's annual crackdown last month

- showed, the exploitation of minors is a very real and perhaps growing issue in the U.S. Known as Operation Cross Country, the sting was carried out in 106 cities nationwide, freeing 168 minors from “the life” of prostitution and resulting in the arrest of 281 pimps. In the 11 years since the Innocence Lost National Initiative, which runs Operation Cross Country with FBI assistance, was launched, around 3,600 children have been rescued from sexually abusive situations.
- To further protect children, anyone under 18 years of age who performs commercial sex acts is considered a victim even if force, fraud or coercion isn't obviously a factor.



# Things We All Need To Know About America's Appalling Child Sex Trade

Division at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, explained to The Huffington Post.

- **At least 100,000 children in the U.S. are sexually exploited each year, according to estimates.**
- **The legal definition of trafficking incorporates more cases of exploitation than you may think.**
- **The FBI has called sex trafficking of adults and minors the fastest-growing global criminal activity and the third-largest behind drugs and weapons.**
- An off-cited statistic claims that a pimp can make \$150,000 to \$200,000 on one victim over the course of a year by forcing her to turn over all her earnings
- A victim made to bring back \$500 every night, a standard quota, will earn \$14,000 per month, or \$168,000 per year.

National Human Trafficking Resource Center operates a hotline dedicated to helping victims called Polaris Project

- between 2008 and 2012, the center saw a 259 percent increase in calls and documented 9,298 potential cases of trafficking. Similarly, the FBI's pending human trafficking cases increased 175 percent between 2009 and 2012.,.
- Anti-trafficking organization ECPAT-USA, boys are a bigger part of the trade than we may think. Whereas girls typically begin "the life" at 12 to 14 years old, boys start a bit younger, at 11 to 13 years old.
- In 2008, about 50 percent of minors involved in the commercial sex trade in New York City were thought to be male, according to researchers at John Jay College.

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- ▶ **Traffickers often make victims stay in dangerous situations by another method of control: drugs**
- ▶ **according to the World Health Organization. Some addictions can be held over a victim's head — one insubordinate act and the drugs are easily withheld, sparking painful and debilitating withdrawal symptoms**
- ▶ Promising a 15-year-old Seattle girl a house, car and family in 2008, James Jackson lured her to a hotel in Portland, where he beat her and later got her addicted to cocaine. The 16-year-old girl coerced by Shamsud-din later wound up addicted to crystal meth. In 2009, Jose Juarez-Santamaria helped coerce a 12-year-old runaway he'd met at a party into the sex trade, giving her alcohol and marijuana so she'd have sex multiple times a day with multiple men.
- ▶ **And many traffickers wield control over their victims with the simple yet powerful threat of violence.**
- ▶ In 2012, a man nicknamed "Gruesome" was able to force two minors into prostitution in Detroit by making threats with a handgun.
- ▶ **Traffickers treat their victims like chattel, branding them or selling them off.**
- ▶ **To assert his "ownership" of the girls, Yarbrough "branded" each of them by tattooing his nickname, "T-Rex," onto their arms. At any point, however, a pimp can choose to sell their victims to another pimp. One girl told Vanity Fair that she was sold, at age 14, from one man called "Love" to another called "Junior" for \$600.**



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- ▶ **Many traffickers were likely abused and mistreated in their own childhoods.**
- ▶ DePaul University Researchers 88 percent of them said they'd suffered physical abuse growing up, and 76 percent said they'd experienced sexual assault as children. Nearly half ran away from home at some point, suggesting efforts to curb domestic abuse may very well have a positive halo effect on the trafficking industry.
- ▶ "All my life I was pushed around, beat up and treated like shit," one former pimp told the researchers. "But when I got these ladies who let me control and run their lives and give me money ... I had all the cards in my hand. Every man wishes they were me."
- ▶ **But under most current state laws, children forced into prostitution are the ones subject to criminal prosecution.**
- ▶ some hope in the enactment of "Safe Harbor" laws by individual states. The Polaris Project defines "complete" Safe Harbor laws, which have been passed in 12 states, as those that both protect minors from prostitution charges *and* offer rehabilitation services.



# Federal Bill for reporting missing Child

- A federal bill to require guardians and child welfare services to report missing children within 24 hours passed a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives back in May, and goes next to the Senate for consideration. Another federal bill, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, aims to reduce the demand for child sex trafficking by encouraging law enforcement to prosecute the customers themselves. This bill is also poised for Senate consideration.



# Faith-Based Partnerships to Combat Human Trafficking

- Communities of faith have a crucial role in the anti-trafficking field. As integral members of the community, faith communities are in a position to identify situations of trafficking, report tips to law enforcement, connect victims with life-saving resources, and advocate for social change. This resource provides faith communities with nine recommendations for action

■ [https://humantraffickinghotline.org/sites/default/files/Faith-based%20partnerships%20rebranded\\_4.3.17.dotx](https://humantraffickinghotline.org/sites/default/files/Faith-based%20partnerships%20rebranded_4.3.17.dotx)



# HOPE Victim Advocacy Services

- ▶ H.O.P.E Victim's Advocacy Services does our best to provide direct services while also being able to refer out any additional resources that we may not be able to provide. H.O.P.E is committed to getting our clients resources and sticks by your side until you achieve safety.
- ▶ Resource Referrals
- ▶ We assure that you receive the emergency resources that you need. We have built a community of support around helping you.
- ▶ Individual & family support and advocacy
- ▶ We accompany you to court dates, meetings, and other important gatherings that call for advocacy and support
- ▶ Mental health & domestic violence counseling
- ▶ We understand that resources are not the only need. We help you emotionally, spiritually, and psychologically to gain strength and empowerment. We provide both assessments and counseling services.
- ▶ court or legal accompaniment/ advocacy
- ▶ We work with your support system to include lawyers, attorneys, and social workers to help advocate on your behalf.
- ▶ prevention programs
- ▶ We work in the community to assure that different community figures understand how to properly service Domestic Violence Victim's
- ▶ Educational events
- ▶ We hold conferences and events surrounded by domestic violence and proper education. We offer CEU credits for most of our conferences and workshops.



# ACTION STEPS FOR FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

- Create a welcoming environment for trafficking survivors
- Build partnerships with anti-trafficking organizations
- Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline
- **1-888-373-7888 Hotline advocates are available 24/7**
- Engage in prevention work for human trafficking
- Advocate for stronger protections for survivors
- [https://humantraffickinghotline.org/sites/default/files/Faith-based%20partnerships%20rebranded\\_4.3.17.dotx\\_.pdf](https://humantraffickinghotline.org/sites/default/files/Faith-based%20partnerships%20rebranded_4.3.17.dotx_.pdf)



# Helping Overcome Personal Emptiness (H.O.P.E.) Victim Advocacy Foundation

- ▶ **H.O.P.E.** was founded in 2005 by specializing in serving the needs of domestic violence victims. For the past 11 years, H.O.P.E has serviced ALL women that suffer from Domestic Violence. From Adrienne's work, she found several discrepancies in particular for women of color and remains as an advocate for equity of resource for these survivors.
- ▶ While working in the mental health field as a therapist, **H.O.P.E** was able to observe the discrepancies in Women of Color's accessibility to effective advocates, community support, and direct service related resources. **H.O.P.E** noticed that the lack of these basic resources kept women of color in a cycle of violence that was perpetuated by historical and systematic social norms that often profile these women. In particular, in their faith-based communities, where tradition and male dominance in leadership roles possess a lack of education around the understanding of domestic violence. Minority women are directly correlated to seeking resources and guidance from their spiritual leaders as their first point of contact. This correlation leaves minority women at a disadvantage and further perpetuates their feelings of hopelessness.
- ▶ As an overcomer of domestic violence, **H.O.P.E** believes that it is necessary for victims, especially Women of color, to be able to receive services that will be able to meet their specialized cultural needs to help decrease the cycle of violence in heavy-minority populated communities.



# Continue....Things We All Need To Know About America's Appalling Child Sex Trade

- ▶ **It's easy to exploit missing children because most states do not require parents, guardians or child welfare services to report them missing.**
- ▶ When minors disappear — run away from home, been kidnapped or any other reason — they sometimes fall under the radar of law enforcement, frustrating officials. “No one is reporting them missing,” John Ryan, CEO of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, said of many exploited children.
- ▶ **The foster care system has turned into a veritable pipeline for trafficking as kids desperately seek stability.**
- ▶ Another former foster child, sharing her seven-year experience in sex trafficking [with the House Ways and Means Committee in 2013](#), said the careless attitude of many foster parents “normalize[d] the perception that [the children's] presence is to be used for financial gain.”
- ▶ **Pimps are expert manipulators, sometimes spending weeks and months courting girls online or in person.**



# National Institute of Justice

- ▶ The National Institute of Justice funds research on human trafficking and evaluates promising practices. The overall emphasis for NIJ's research lies on (1) strengthening the science of measuring the prevalence of human trafficking, (2) improving the identification, investigation, and prosecution of traffickers, and (3) identifying best practices for providing services to victims. While NIJ focuses on human trafficking as it occurs in the United States, it draws on research and coordinates findings from around the world.



# Violent Crimes Against Children Program (VCAC)

- VCAC has a number of investigative priorities, including the investigation of child sexual exploitation enterprises, trafficking of child pornography, domestic and international child abductions and parental kidnapping, and other offenses involving children. With respect to the prostitution of children in the United States, VCAC runs the Innocence Lost National Initiative (ILNI).
- In the 13 years since its inception, the ILNI has expanded to 74 dedicated Child Exploitation Task Forces composed of more than 400 law enforcement agencies throughout the U.S. These task forces work in tandem with U.S. Attorney's Offices and the FBI's Office for Victim Assistance. To date, these groups have worked successfully to rescue more than 6,000 children. Investigations have successfully led to approximately 2,000 indictments and 30 life sentences in federal, state, and local court.
- VCAC coordinates Operation Cross Country, the FBI's annual law enforcement action focused on recovering underage victims of prostitution and drawing the public's attention to the problem of sex trafficking at home and abroad. [In 2016, Operation Cross Country](#) expanded to become an international enforcement action, with Canada, Cambodia, the Philippines, and Thailand joining the FBI and its local, state, and federal law enforcement partners—along with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)—during the coordinated three-day operation that ended October 16



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QUESTIONS