

# NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS

### WHY IT MATTERS

Human trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons by means of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, or abuse of power of a position of vulnerability for the purpose of exploitation.<sup>1</sup> The U.S. Department of State estimates that of 600,000 to 800,000 women, men, and children trafficked across international borders each year,<sup>2</sup> 40,000 to 50,000 are trafficked into the United States.<sup>3</sup> Victims of trafficking suffer devastating physical and psychological harm, but due to language barriers, lack of knowledge about services, and the frequency with which traffickers move victims, law enforcement and service providers face significant challenges in helping victims and bringing traffickers to justice.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- More than 80% of trafficking victims are female.<sup>4</sup>
- Human trafficking is the third most profitable criminal activity, following only drugs and arms trafficking.<sup>5</sup>
- Annually, an estimated \$9.5 billion is generated through all trafficking activities, with at least \$4 billion attributed to the worldwide brothel industry.<sup>6</sup>
- Trafficking victims rescued in connection with U.S. government activities have been trafficked from more than 50 nations across the globe.<sup>7</sup>
- According to the U.S. Department of Justice, between 2001 and 2005 only 140 defendants have been convicted of human trafficking in U.S. courts, which represents a 109% increase from 1996-2000.<sup>8</sup>

### WHAT IS TRAFFICKING?

Trafficking primarily involves exploitation. However, exploitation comes in many forms, including:<sup>9</sup>

- Forcing victims into prostitution
- Subjecting victims to slavery or involuntary servitude
- Compelling victims to commit sex acts for the purpose of creating pornography
- Deceiving victims into debt bondage

Overall, approximately 80% of trafficking involves sexual exploitation, and 19% involves labor exploitation.<sup>10</sup>

### THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF TRAFFICKING

- According to one study, 65% of female victims of sex trafficking sustain serious physical internal injuries, 24% experience head injuries, and 12% report broken bones.<sup>11</sup>
- Women who have been trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation experience a tenfold risk of contracting HIV.<sup>12</sup>
- Female sex trafficking victims experience a significantly higher rate of sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, and permanent damage to their reproductive systems.<sup>13</sup>
- 68% of female sex trafficking victims meet the clinical criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder.<sup>14</sup>

### THE TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN

- According to the U.S. Department of State, 50% of trafficking victims internationally are under age 18.<sup>15</sup>
- 300,000 children in the United States are at risk of becoming victims of trafficking.<sup>16</sup>
- Many American children who have been trafficked had run away from homes where they had been physically or sexually abused.<sup>17</sup>
- More than 2/3 of sex trafficked children suffer additional abuse at the hands of their traffickers.<sup>18</sup>
- One study found that 71% of trafficked children exhibit suicidal tendencies.<sup>19</sup>
- Children who are victims of trafficking are more than twice as likely to develop serious mental health problems, including clinical depression, personality disorders, and dissociative disorders.<sup>20</sup>
- Trafficked children are significantly more likely to abuse substances, engage in prostitution as adults, and either commit or be victimized by violent crime later in life.<sup>21</sup>

### BARRIERS TO SEEKING SERVICES

- There is only one shelter in the United States designed specifically to meet the needs of trafficking victims, and it currently only houses 7-9 victims.<sup>22</sup>
- Trafficking victims generally do not seek services because they fear retaliation against themselves and their families, fear deportation, do not understand the American legal system, and lack knowledge of available services.<sup>23</sup>
- Because traffickers move their victims every 15 to 30 days and limit their victims' contact with the outside world, victims generally are unable to develop social networks or gather resources to escape.<sup>24</sup>
- Due to the number of perpetrators involved in many trafficking operations, a number of victims do not know all of their perpetrators.<sup>25</sup>
- Because trafficking is often closely associated with organized crime, there are very serious security risks involved in providing shelter for trafficking victims.<sup>26</sup>

NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Every Home A Safe Home

The Public Policy Office of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is a national leader in the effort to create and influence Federal legislation that positively affects the lives of domestic violence victims and children. We work closely with advocates at the local, state and national level to identify the issues facing domestic violence victims, their children and the people who serve them and to develop a legislative agenda to address these issues. NCADV welcomes you to join us in our effort to end domestic violence.

## IF YOU NEED HELP

If you or someone you know is the victim of trafficking and would like more information, please call:

### Trafficking in Persons and Worker Exploitation Task Force at 1-888-428-7581

This hotline is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time. Operators have access to interpreters in most languages and will speak to all victims, regardless of immigration status.

### National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE

Hotline advocates can provide translators in over 140 languages, 24 hours a day and will speak to all victims, regardless of immigration status.

### National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE

### National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-CHILD

## HOW TO HELP

- Contact your Members of Congress and urge them to support additional funding for anti-violence programs through the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, Violence Against Women Act, Victims of Crime Act Fund, and Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.
- Work with policy advocacy organizations to influence your state legislature to pass progressive anti-violence laws and ensure that local programs receive state funding for prevention and intervention services.
- Become a member of a local, state, or national advocacy organization to learn more about what is happening in the effort to stop trafficking in your community and country.
- Educate your community and arrange speaking engagements at local schools, churches, or civic groups to address the problem of trafficking.

## SOURCES, as of 8-1-06

<sup>1</sup> Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. 22 USC §7101.

<sup>2</sup> United States Department of State. (2005). *Trafficking in Persons Report*. <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/47255.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Richard, A.O. (1999). *International Trafficking in Women to the United States: A Contemporary Manifestation of Slavery and Organized Crime*. Central Intelligence Agency: Center for the Study of Intelligence. <http://www.cia.gov/csi/monograph/women/trafficking.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of State. (2005).

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of State. (2005).

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Department of State. (2005).

<sup>7</sup> United States Department of Justice: Civil Rights Division. (2006). *Report on Activities to Combat Human Trafficking: Fiscal Years 2001-2005*. [http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/trafficking\\_report\\_2006.pdf](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/trafficking_report_2006.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Justice: Civil Rights Division. (2006).

<sup>9</sup> Innocenti Research Centre. (2005). *Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation and Other Exploitative Purposes*. United Nations Children's Fund. [www.unicef-icdc.org/publications/pdf/trafficking-exploitation-eng.pdf](http://www.unicef-icdc.org/publications/pdf/trafficking-exploitation-eng.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> Kangaspunta, K. (2003). *Mapping the Inhuman Trade: Preliminary Findings of the Human Trafficking Database*, as presented to the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women. [www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/meetings/consult/CM-Dec03-CRP1.pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/meetings/consult/CM-Dec03-CRP1.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> Hynes, P. & Raymond, J.G. (2002). Put in Harm's Way: The Neglected Health Consequences of Sex Trafficking in the United States. In J. Silliman & A. Bhattacharjee (Eds.), *Policing the National Body: Sex, Race, and Criminalization* (197-229). Cambridge: South End.

<sup>12</sup> Hynes & Raymond. (2002).

<sup>13</sup> U.S. Department of State. (2005).

<sup>14</sup> U.S. Department of State. (2005).

<sup>15</sup> U.S. Department of State. (2005).

<sup>16</sup> Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. 22 USC §7101.

<sup>17</sup> Estes, R.J. & Weiner, N.A. (2001). *The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico*. [http://caster.ssw.upenn.edu/~restes/CSEC\\_Files/Abstract\\_010918.pdf#search=the%20commercial%20sexual%20exploitation%20of%20children%20in%20the%20U.S.%2C%20Canada%2C%20and%20Mexico](http://caster.ssw.upenn.edu/~restes/CSEC_Files/Abstract_010918.pdf#search=the%20commercial%20sexual%20exploitation%20of%20children%20in%20the%20U.S.%2C%20Canada%2C%20and%20Mexico).

<sup>18</sup> Klain, E.J. (1999). *Prostitution of Children and Child-Sex Tourism: An Analysis of Domestic and International Responses*. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. [http://www.missingkids.com/en\\_US/publications/NC73.pdf](http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/NC73.pdf).

<sup>19</sup> Klain. (1999).

<sup>20</sup> Klain. (1999).

<sup>21</sup> Estes & Weiner. (2001).

<sup>22</sup> U.S. Department of Justice: Civil Rights Division. (2006).

<sup>23</sup> Clawson, H.J. (2003). *Needs Assessment for Service Providers and Trafficking Victims*. National Institute of Justice. [www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/202469.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/202469.pdf).

<sup>24</sup> Richard. (1999).

<sup>25</sup> Clawson. (2003).

<sup>26</sup> Clawson. (2003).

For more information please see our website at [www.ncadv.org](http://www.ncadv.org).