



Violence Against Women: Human Trafficking and Exploitation of Workers
AAUW Iowa
Revised January, 2015

AAUW and Human Trafficking

During the past several years a number of AAUW state affiliates and branches across the country have focused on raising awareness of human trafficking. In 2013 the AAUW Iowa Board of Directors selected several priorities in the area of public policy to recommend to branches for study or action. One of them was violence against women, specifically human trafficking of women and girls and exploitation of undocumented women workers.

This is an update of a 2013 document from AAUW Iowa. It is not intended as an all-encompassing study of human trafficking. Rather, it is a starting point to help you find basic information about human trafficking using available resources to aid you in your research about this topic. For example, there are hundreds of books that in some way deal with human trafficking. Instead of trying to list all of them for you, we suggest you do a search of the term *human trafficking* on a site such as Barnes and Noble or Amazon to find titles of books. Some examples include:

Human Trafficking by Kathryn Cullen-Dupont (nonfiction/academic)
Human Trafficking: A Global Perspective by Louise Shelley
Half the Sky by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl Wudunn
Girls Like Us by Rachel Lloyd
Renting Lacy by Linda Smith and Cindy Coloma
From Congress to Brothel by Linda Smith
Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery by Siddharth Kara
Somebody's Daughter: the Hidden Story of America's Prostituted Children and the Battle to Save Them by Julian Sher
The Natashas by Victor Malarek

To learn more about human trafficking, your branch may chose to:

1. form a study group to educate members about human trafficking.
2. select one or more books about this topic for your book discussion group.
3. watch and discuss a video about human trafficking.
4. plan and present an awareness program, perhaps working in coalition with groups in your area.
5. work with organizations in your area that support victims of human trafficking.
6. learn about/support programs that educate students about human trafficking.
7. encourage members to contact state legislators or members of Congress whenever there is legislation related to human trafficking.

8. post information and links about human trafficking on your branch website or social media sites.

AAUW branches in Iowa have worked in coalition with organizations such as United Nations Association chapters, community organizations, or faith groups in presenting awareness programs about human trafficking.

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a low risk, high profit business that according to some estimates reaps \$30,000,000 per year in tax-free profits. Organized crime, gangs, and drug dealers, or former drug dealers, are involved in trafficking. Though difficult to state exact numbers, it is believed more people in our country are enslaved now than at any time since the Civil War.

Human trafficking is defined as the recruiting, abducting, facilitating, transferring, harboring, or transporting a person, by threat or use of force, coercion, fraud or deception or by the purchase, sale, trade, transfer or receipt of a person, for the purpose of subjecting that person to involuntary servitude, peonage, slavery, slave-like practices, sex trafficking, or forced or bonded labor services.

Individuals are forced into labor against their will through out-right force, fraud or coercion. Human trafficking victims may be U.S. citizens, persons who immigrated, or individuals smuggled into this country. Trafficked persons are kept under gang control, pimp control or family control. The average age of entry in trafficking is 11-12 years of age, but children as young as 3 or 4 years old are trafficked.

Traffickers use technology, the internet, and often the “dark web” to post ads and photos on websites. Trafficking victims are often on a circuit in which they are transported from city to city, especially when there are special events that draw large numbers of men. Few prostituted persons are the stereotypical “streetwalker”.

The *National Human Trafficking Resource Center*, a program of the Polaris Project www.polarisproject.org provides the following information about persons who may be trafficked. If you see any of the following red flags, [contact](#) the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline at **1-888-373-7888** to report the situation. [Click here](#) to learn more about reporting potential human trafficking situations. This list is not exhaustive and represents only a selection of possible indicators. Also, the red flags in this list may not be present in all trafficking cases and are not cumulative.

Common Work and Living Conditions:

The Individual(s) in Question

- Is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- Is under 18 and is providing commercial sex acts
- Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp/manager
- Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Works excessively long and/or unusual hours

- Is not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work
- High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)

Poor Mental Health or Abnormal Behavior

- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up topic of contacting law enforcement
- Avoids eye contact

Poor Physical Health

- Lacks health care
- Appears malnourished
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture

Lack of Control

- Has few or no personal possessions
- Is not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account
- Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport)
- Is not allowed or able to speak for herself (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)

Other

- Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where he/she is staying/address
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or do not know what city he/she is in
- Loss of sense of time
- Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story

To request [assessment tools](#) and for more information about reporting trafficking [click here](#). For resource packs on human trafficking and how to recognize the signs [click here](#).

The following human trafficking information is from the *Iowa Women’s Foundation: “Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking--Identifying and Caring for America’s Prostituted Youth”*:

WARNING SIGNS

- Presence of an older adult boyfriend
- Exhibits fear, reserved demeanor
- Avoids eye contact with service provider
- Tattoos and branding often serve to mark victims as property of a pimp
- Signs of physical and/or sexual abuse
- Doesn’t identify herself as a victim in spite of evidence of abuse of sexual abuse

POTENTIAL PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

- Depression
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Suicidal

- HIV/AIDS
- Self-mutilating
- Pregnancy
- Eating Disorder
- Substance Abuse
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Physical Abuse

IF YOU SUSPECT YOU ARE CARING FOR A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING

- Separate victim from her escort (*Note: only if safe to do so, best to call authorities*)
- Call local law enforcement
- Call local social service provider
- Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888

For More Information:

Network Against Human Trafficking (NAHT) www.iowanaht.org
 Shared Hope International www.sharedhope.org

The Victims

Information in this section is from the *National Human Trafficking Resource Center/Polaris Project*. There is not a consistent type or profile of a trafficking victim. Based on U.S. federal law, trafficked persons in the U.S. can be men or women, adults or children, and foreign nationals or U.S. citizens. Some are well-educated, while others have no formal education. Some immigrant victims are currently in the U.S. legally, and others are undocumented. Some form of vulnerability tends to be the common thread amongst all different trafficking victims.

It is essential to remember that vulnerability to human trafficking is far-reaching, spanning different areas such as age, socio-economic status, nationality, education-level, or gender. Traffickers often prey on people who are hoping for a better life, lack employment opportunities, have an unstable home life, or have a history of sexual abuse - conditions that are present in all spheres of society.

Human trafficking victims have been identified in cities, suburbs, and rural areas in all 50 states and in Washington, D.C. They are forced to work or provide commercial sex against their will in legal and legitimate business settings as well as underground markets. Some victims are hidden behind locked doors in brothels and factories. In other cases, victims are in plain view and may interact with community members, but the widespread lack of awareness and understanding of trafficking leads to low levels of victim identification by the people who most often encounter them. For example, women and girls in sex trafficking situations, especially U.S. citizens, are often misidentified as "willing" participants in the sex trade who make a free choice each day to be there.

While anyone can become a victim of trafficking, certain populations are especially vulnerable. These may include: undocumented immigrants; runaway and homeless youth; victims of trauma and abuse; refugees and individuals fleeing conflict; and oppressed, marginalized, and/or impoverished groups and individuals.

Undocumented immigrants in the U.S. are highly vulnerable due to a combination of factors, including: lack of legal status and protections, language barriers, limited employment options, poverty and immigration-related debts, and social isolation. They are often victimized by traffickers from a similar ethnic or national background, on whom they may be dependent for employment, shelter, and other means of support.

Runaways and at-risk youth are targeted by pimps and traffickers for exploitation in the commercial sex industry or different labor or services industries. Pimps and sex traffickers are skilled at manipulating child victims and maintaining control through a combination of deception, lies, feigned affection, threats, and violence.

Trafficking victims in the U.S. under the federal [Trafficking Victims Protection Act \(TVPA\) of 2000](#) include:

- Minors (under age 18) induced to perform commercial sex acts
- Those age 18 or over who are forced, deceived, or coerced into providing commercial sex acts
- Children and adults forced to perform labor and/or services in conditions of involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery, through force, fraud, or coercion

The needs of survivors of trafficking are among the most complex of crime victims, often requiring a multidisciplinary approach to address severe trauma and medical needs, immigration and other legal issues, safety concerns, shelter and other basic daily needs, and financial hardship. For more information about the services available to victims of human trafficking, including comprehensive service referrals in the U.S., [click here](#).

Human Trafficking in Iowa

Many Iowans assume that since we are a mostly rural state in the middle of the U. S. that human trafficking does not occur here. Unfortunately, that is not the case. The fact that we have major interstates crossing Iowa facilitates transportation of persons for purposes of sex trafficking or forced labor such as work in factories or as domestic servants; forms of modern day slavery. Iowa has major truck stops, bus lines, hundreds of hotels and motels, adult entertainment establishments, massage parlors and escort services—all typical locations for prostitution related activities. Documented cases of human trafficking have occurred in a number of cities and counties in Iowa.

Three hundred children under the age of eighteen go missing or are reported as missing each month in Iowa. One in three of them are approached by pimps or traffickers within the first 72 hours.

Iowa Laws/Legislation:

Iowa's first law regarding human trafficking was signed on April 21, 2006. Iowa Senator Maggie Tinsman of Davenport was a major advocate for the legislation. Additional laws or amendments have been approved since then. Code of Iowa **Chapter 710A** Human

Trafficking can be found at:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/DOCS/ACO/IC/LINC/2013.Chapter.710A.PDF>

Iowa - Current Criminal Statutes	
710 A.1	Definitions
710 A.2	Human Trafficking
710 A.3	Affirmative defense
710 A.4	Restitution
710 A.5	Certification
915.51	General rights of human trafficking victim

HF 2390, signed on April 4, 2009, related to human trafficking, obscene material, and commercial sexual activity. In 2014 the Iowa legislature passed **SF 2311 (Chapter 1097)**, effective January 1, 2015) to reclassify pimping involving a minor from a Class D felony to a Class C felony, which means the possibility of longer prison sentences. Instead of punishing children for involvement in prostitution, county attorneys would be granted the option of referring a minor they suspect has been forced into prostitution to Iowa's Department of Human Services as a child in need of assistance. The bill allowed removal of offenses from the records of anyone previously convicted of prostitution as a minor. The legislation allowed the attorney general to intercept electronic communication as it deals with human trafficking.

Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller has stated, "Anyone who is being forced to any type of labor should be treated as a victim, and whoever is forcing them should be treated as a criminal." The Iowa Attorney General's Office created a human trafficking division, the Human Trafficking Enforcement and Protection Initiative, as part of the national effort to combat human trafficking. It has provided specialized prosecution and enforcement training for county attorneys, law enforcement agencies and officers across the state. Law enforcement personnel are gaining awareness and gradually changing terminology, such as referring to "prostituted persons" rather than prostitutes. There is also increased emphasis on comprehensive treatment for victims of trafficking. In addition, the AG Office and law enforcement work with Operation Detour, which is designed to make Iowa "hostile" to traffickers; to make them go around, not through Iowa.

What should you do if you think someone is a trafficking victim?

Iowa human trafficking enforcement personnel advise:

- 1) If you see something, say something.
- 2) Organize your thoughts and report in detail what you have seen, not what you think is happening, e.g. describe clothing, jewelry, tattoos, weapons, color of vehicle, license plate number, the number of people, what you observed, what you heard.
- 3) Contact law enforcement by dialing 911.
- 4) Call **1-888-373-7888** (National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline). **Enter this number in your cell phone so that it is readily available.**

Human Trafficking Resources and Organizations

Following is a listing of human trafficking resources and organizations working to combat trafficking. This is not a complete list of all available resources or information.

Speakers:

Michael J. Ferjak, M.A., Senior Criminal Investigator
Iowa Department of Justice - Office of the Attorney General

michael.ferjak@iowa.gov

515-281-6295 (AG office)

In 2012, Mike was selected to lead the Iowa Department of Justice Human Trafficking Enforcement and Prosecution Initiative (HTEPI), is specially assigned to the Iowa DCI Special Crimes Unit (SCU) Human Trafficking Squad and works with Operation Detour.

Cathy O’Keeffe, Executive Director Braking Traffik

Quad Cities area of Iowa & Illinois

cathy@brakingtraffik.org

319-912-1966

Media:

“**Any Kid Anywhere**” –a DVD produced by Braking Traffik which features three survivors who were trafficked from Cedar Rapids, Dubuque and the Quad Cities.

www.brakingtraffik.org 2014

“Hidden in Iowa”—available on YouTube

This documentary which shines light on the dark subject of human trafficking in Iowa was created as a senior project for Wartburg College's Communication Arts department. Waverly, IA. 2013. 12 minutes.

Enter “Hidden in Iowa” in the search box on the YouTube website or use the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnbtNqAqLMc>

“**Human trafficking: A serious challenge to humanity**” an article by Joseph Chamie in the **2015 Great Decisions** discussion book, Foreign Policy Association.

“Human Trafficking In Iowa”—Iowa Public Radio

A program on River to River, Iowa Public Radio, November 29, 2012

<http://iowapublicradio.org/term/network-against-human-trafficking>

PBS

Watch full episodes of the two-hour documentary "Dying to Leave". The cameras of PBS follow the dramatic journey of people as they are sold and purchased across borders to challenge laws and human life:

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/wideangle/episodes/dying-to-leave/video-full-episode/1126>

Truckers Against Trafficking

This story about the organization Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) was aired on NPR’s Morning Edition on October 19, 2012. If you go to the archives for that program,

you can listen to it and view the transcript or just click on <http://www.npr.org/2012/10/19/163010142/with-a-phone-call-truckers-can-fight-sex-trafficking>

The website for TAT is www.truckersagainstrafficking.org

“Sex + Money: A National Search for Human Worth”

Sponsored by The Lantos Foundation, the documentary Sex+Money: A National Search for Human Worth is a feature length film that follows a group of photojournalists as they travel across the United States seeking to understand how the sexual exploitation of children has become the nation's fastest growing form of organized crime and what can be done to stop it. 92 minutes

“Very Young Girls”—focusing on prostitute turned activist Rachel Lloyd and her support center. 1 hour 22 minutes

Web Resources:

Polaris Project--one of the most comprehensive and best known trafficking websites. Polaris Project is a private, non-governmental, non-law enforcement, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization based in Washington, DC working exclusively on the issue of human trafficking.

www.polarisproject.org

State Ratings On Human Trafficking Laws

At this site, you can see how Iowa compares to other states.

<http://www.polarisproject.org/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/national-policy/state-ratings-on-human-trafficking-laws>

The U.S. Campaign Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

The U.S. Campaign is a program of Polaris Project, one of the largest grassroots anti-trafficking agencies in the US.

www.stopcsec.us

AAUW

Type “human trafficking” in the search box at the upper right hand corner of the website to get to links to articles related to this topic.

www.aauw.org

The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Program (ATIP) & The Campaign to Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking

ATIP identifies and serves victims of human trafficking, assisting foreign trafficking victims in the United States to become eligible for public benefits and services to the same extent as refugees. The program also raises awareness of human trafficking through the HHS Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking campaign.

www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking

Braking Traffik, Cathy O’Keeffe, Executive Director

www.brakingtraffik.org

The organization, based in Davenport, is dedicated to eradicating sex trafficking in the Quad Cities area of Iowa and Illinois. It has developed a school awareness program called “Traffik Jam,” which has been implemented with over 1,000 students in six Quad City middle and high schools, and faculty and parents at three of the schools. A law enforcement officer was co-present with the presenter at each school to address Internet safety with the students.

Goals of the Breaking Traffik Jam program:

1. Prevention: Provide information about human trafficking to keep students from falling victim. More than 100,000 American children fall victim to sex trafficking in the U.S. each year and the average age range of victims is 11-14 years!
2. Intervention: Students learn how to identify when a friend may be in trouble and what to do to help.
3. End Demand: Students learn the concept of “Supply and Demand” in relation to the commercial sex industry. If there were no demand, there would be no need for traffickers to supply women and children into it. The path to ending human trafficking once and for all begins with educating our youth!

Developers believe Traffik Jam is a tangible and effective way for community volunteers to get involved with anti-trafficking efforts in their communities.

Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition

An alliance of over 40 governmental and non-governmental agencies from the U.S. and Mexico, convened in San Diego, CA to fight human trafficking and slavery.

www.bsccoalition.org

Coalition Against Trafficking In Women

International Coalition to combat trafficking and prostitution in women and children.

www.catwinternational.org

Coalition Of Immokalee Workers

Florida-based coalition of farmworkers against abuse and trafficking.

www.ciw-online.org

ECPAT-USA

ECPAT (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking) is a network of organizations and individuals working together to eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children around the world. Our mission is to ensure that children everywhere enjoy their fundamental rights, free from all forms of commercial sexual exploitation. ECPAT-USA protects children from commercial sexual exploitation through research, training, awareness raising, policy development and advocacy to protect:

- Children who are sexually exploited by Americans who travel abroad;
- Children who are trafficked to the United States from other countries;
- American children who are trafficked and exploited within their own country.

www.ecpatusa.org

Freedom Network USA

A national network of agencies working to ensure that trafficked persons are treated as

victims, not criminals.

www.freedomnetworkusa.org

HumanTrafficking.org

A web resource for combating human trafficking.

humantrafficking.org

International Rescue Committee

Prevention tools, information on initiatives and events. Publishes "Trafficking Watch" a quarterly newsletter.

www.theirc.org/trafficking

Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Services and resources for survivors of sexual violence

www.iowacasa.org

Prostitution Research and Education

Clinical research-based site with information, publications and resources on prostitution and human trafficking.

prostitutionresearch.com

Protection Project

Research Program under Johns Hopkins University founded in 1994 to address trafficking in persons as a human rights violation.

www.protectionproject.org

U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services

Resources, funding and campaigns against trafficking

www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/index.html

The U.S. Department of Labor

The Department of Labor releases a list of goods made with forced or child labor from many countries. It provides a glimpse of the extent and reach of raw and manufactured goods consumed in every day life within the U.S. Without awareness and action to end the commercialization and trade of products known to be made with forced or child labor there is little hope to end human trafficking.

To access the report, do an internet search of the term "US Department of Labor's report of goods produced by child labor or forced labor" or to see a list of goods by country, use

<http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/list-of-goods/>

U. S. Department Of State Trafficking In Persons Report 2014

This is a very lengthy report that is issued each year. You'll probably want to read the introductory section and the country report for the U.S. or other countries of interest.

www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2014

U.S. Department of State

International Reports and Administration of the Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons
www.state.gov/g/tip

University of Iowa Center For Human Rights

A copyrighted document produced by the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights, #37 Sex Trafficking, can be found at:

<http://uichr.org/2013/08/37-sex-trafficking-2/>

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

U.N. Global Program on human trafficking and international laws and definitions of human trafficking

www.unodc.org/unodc/en/trafficking_human_beings.html

Vital Voices

Vital Voices Global Partnership invests in women who are leading social, economic, and political progress in their countries. Home of Trafficking Alert Program.

www.vitalvoices.org

Other groups that may be resources for human trafficking issues: The Iowa Catholic Conference, Conference of the United Methodist Church, The Iowa Civil Rights Commission, Catholic Charities, The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, The Iowa Commission on Latino Affairs, The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, The U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, and the U. S. Attorney's Office.

EXPLOITATION OF UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS

The U. S. Department of State makes available to all U. S. embassies in the world, a pamphlet for applicants of non-immigrant visas to the U. S. (normally for temporary employment or students) as a guide to their rights in the country, and how to seek help as victims of human trafficking. This is a great resource for non-profit organizations in the U. S. with programs for assistance to immigrants. It contains statements about a woman's rights at work, beginning on page 5, and there is a section near the end on human trafficking.

[SOS Immigration Pamphlet](#)

[- English Version](#)

[- Spanish Version](#)

Women who are being exploited or sexually harassed at work are in very difficult situation since they fear possible deportation if they report what is happening. They may also be distrustful of police, depending on conditions they experienced in their country of origin.

