

DID YOU KNOW...

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

Iowa passed laws to address human trafficking prevention. In addition, the State established and funds an Office to Combat Human Trafficking (OCHT) within the Department of Public Safety.

OCHT is developing human trafficking prevention training programs and recently hired a training coordinator.

OCHT has certified more than 630 in places of lodging and trained 21,750 individuals thru the website since the beginning of the program. Additionally, 1,500 law enforcement/public private sector individuals were trained in 2022.

OCHT is currently developing a **multi-media outreach campaign** to notify/educate businesses and the public.

OCHT website: **stophiowa.org** provides a training platform, resources, and a tip function.

* School Bus Drivers in Iowa must take mandatory Human Trafficking Prevention training developed by the Iowa Department of Education.

HOW CAN I HELP?

**"If you see something, say something."
(DO NOT CONFRONT TRAFFICKERS)**

- Install human trafficking apps on phone.
- Call a HT HOTLINE or HELPLINE.
- Distribute brochures to family, friends, co-workers, non-profits, businesses, medical clinics, colleges, schools, PTAs, houses of worship, community groups, convenience stores.
- Arrange age-appropriate programs to create awareness and urge action. <https://www.nea.org/resource-library/combating-human-trafficking>
- Seek training to expand your knowledge.
- Arrange a table or booth display with "combat human trafficking" information.
- Develop a school or college project on human trafficking prevention.
- Create and place stickers inside portable potties, at county fairs, community celebrations.

Text the Hotline to "Be Free" 233733
Iowa Crisis Line: 800-770-1650 or
Text IOWAHELP TO 20121
Iowa Child Abuse Hotline Child
Sex Trafficking: 800-362-2178

National Human Trafficking Hotline
888-373-7888
WEBSITE:
humantraffickinghotline.org
WEBSITE: survivorshelpline.org



This hand signal could **SAVE YOUR LIFE** or the life of another! This **HAND SIGNAL** is a signal for **HELP** by someone being trafficked!

"In IOWA?" you ask. **YES!** Trafficking is taking place in small and large communities. **"Why should I care?"**



"During this horrific experience I lost my identity. I never felt safe, was drugged and always watched. I had to stay grounded and use my own voice. Make sure you are with the right advocacy group. It helped me heal. Never give up hope," urges Renee, an Iowa Human Trafficking Survivor.

Photo Provided by Renee

Human trafficking is second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable form of transnational crime.

FIND OUT what it is, how you can recognize it, who is being trafficked and how you can help children and adults in your area who may be victims.

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Recruitment, harboring, transporting, obtaining or maintaining of a person by means of force, fraud, or coercion for purposes of servitude, debt bondage, slavery or participation in commercial sex trade.

- VICTIM NUMBERS - ALARMING!

- 50 MILLION people are being trafficked internationally.
- 75% are women or girls; 25% men or boys.
- Children 12-15 years old are the most targeted demographic.
- Estimated U.S. victims total 30,000 annually and 80% are U.S. citizens.
- **Iowa** Human Trafficking Hotline has identified 644 trafficking cases and 1,490 victims since it began.*

* Iowa OCHT – humantrafficking@dps.state.ia.us

Age Appropriate Information
<https://iowanahotline.org/resources/>

NOTICE... SIGNS OF VICTIMIZATION

- Working long or unusual hours
- Receiving unexplained gifts
- Youth in foster care/LGBTQIA+
- Substance abuse
- Mental health issues/physical injuries
- Keeping quiet; someone else does all the talking
- Being controlled/closely monitored
- Immigrant/runaway in poverty; person without family
- Person dressed inappropriately or unfamiliar with town
- Unwillingness to look you in the eye
- Tattoos – look for crown, king, property of, or trafficker's initials

For more information
enetwork.ht@gmail.com

Outreach project of the Iowa American Association of University Women and AAUW Iowa eNetwork Branch.

HOW IS THE VICTIM TRAFFICKED?

Traffickers offer victims care, love, support, companionship, take an interest in them, and try to develop a relationship.

Victim becomes trauma-bonded to trafficker. Less than 10% are abducted.

Traffickers promise modeling, singing, TV career and glamorize sex.

Traffickers control victims mentally/emotionally/physically and then separate them from family and friends.

Traffickers use victims to recruit prospective victims into the "family."

Traffickers approach youth in malls, schools, parks, and other events.

Recruitment online and via social media has risen dramatically; on Facebook up 125% and Instagram up 95%.

Traffickers use any platform (Tik-Tok, gaming systems) with chat functions to groom and recruit victims, especially those 12-15 in age.

Hand Signals artwork is generously provided by
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