United Methodist Women’s Work to End Human Trafficking
by Susie Johnson, executive for public policy and leader of the Human Trafficking Initiative, United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women is resolute in its stance against the exploitation of those who are forced to submit to civil to meet their basic needs or as a result of their position in society. The organization has been active in fighting human Trafficking for more than a decade. More than 20 million people internationally have fallen victim to human Trafficking, and the epidemic has become the second largest criminal activity behind the sale of illicit drugs. As advocates for social justice, United Methodist Women will continue to work towards ending cruel trade and fight for the rights of those exploited by it.

In 1998, Dr. Laura Lederer initiated America’s first systematic examination of global sex Trafficking, labor Trafficking and labor bondage when she began The Protection Project at Harvard University. United Methodist Women has been closely involved with the project from the beginning, seeding its formation with a grant. In 2000, the project moved to Washington, D.C., and worked closely with the United Methodist Women Washington Office of Public Policy to heighten attention and national advocacy on the issue. Dr. Lederer later joined the U.S. Department of State to monitor and report on Trafficking in persons and build anti-Trafficking legislation.

Human Trafficking preys on the vulnerable and voiceless. For this reason, United Methodist Women has continuously fought to raise awareness of this modern-day slavery and give its survivors a voice. Through resource distribution and education, United Methodist Women has helped promote legislation that combats human Trafficking.

In 2008, United Methodist Women joined others around the nation to advocate passing the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA). The original 2000 act, known as the William Wilberforce Trafficking Protection Act (TVPA), was reauthorized in 2003, 2005 and 2008. It provided other countries with assistance combating human Trafficking and added more protections for children trafficked across the United States border.

In 2015, U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) announced that major bipartisan legislation sponsored by Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) and Senator Klobuchar has been signed into law by the president. “This bill will help ensure that more of our young girls are able to go to school, play with their friends, and make plans for their future—rather than being sold for sex,” Klobuchar stated. The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act helps victims rebuild their lives by using fines and penalties against perpetrators to improve the availability of victim services.1 The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act was put into to law to help law enforcement further crack down on human traffickers in communities across the country while bringing about greater restitution and justice for victims.2 The legislation is supported by the National Conference of State Legislatures, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Fraternal Order of Police, Shared Hope International, National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, and United Methodist Women.

However, the law, which is a cornerstone of the United States’ efforts to combat Trafficking, stalled in Congress until 2013, when President Obama signed a bipartisan bill as an amendment to the Violence Against Women Act. The 2013 TVPRA, supported by United Methodist Women, “establishes and strengthens programs to ensure that United States citizens do not purchase products made by victims of human traffickers and to prevent child marriage. It establishes emergency response provisions within the State Department to respond quickly to disaster areas where people are particularly susceptible to being trafficked. It also strengthens collaboration with state and local law enforcement to charge and prosecute traffickers.”1 The law also helps foreign countries investigate Trafficking in labor recruitment centers.2

In 2015, United Methodist Women collaborated with congressional representatives to secure the passage of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act to make sure minors sold for sex are treated as victims, not prosecuted as defendants.3 Rather than being arrested and charged, minors should instead go to child protection services under this safe harbor law.4 Safe harbor laws were developed by states to address inconsistencies with how children that are exploited for commercial sex are treated.5 At the state level, United Methodist Women joined its partner organization, Living Water for Girls led by Lisa Williams, to pass Rachel’s Law, a safe harbor bill in Georgia in 2015. This law established a state fund to aid victims and a mandate that requires convicted traffickers to be registered as sex offenders.6 Passage of Rachel’s Law reflects the efforts of bi-partisan, coalition-based efforts.7 In 2016, a “Safe Harbor Fund” was established for victims of sex trafficking. Additional penalties and taxes will be placed on those found guilty of sex crimes under Georgia code.8

Though government pressure is an effective means of combating human Trafficking, United Methodist Women has also called its members to action. In 2008, the Women’s Division (now United Methodist Women) Board of Directors affirmed an anti-Trafficking resolution of the National Council of Churches and directed staff to develop program responses that result in justice for those violated by Trafficking.

In 2012, the Women’s Division Board adopted a social policy statement on human Trafficking with a commitment to “be voices of change calling for an end to these crimes against human dignity [and to] engage with policymakers to adopt more supportive laws that expand preventative service resources and enable increased prosecutions.”9

2. www.americanbar.org/publications
4. Ibid.
In 2009, United Methodist Women took a direct, hands-on approach with its Train-the-Trainer program. United Methodist Women social action coordinators partnered with a national mission institution and trained members to recognize, report and care for women and children who have been subjected to the social injustice of human Trafficking. After convening this educational forum, United Methodist Women has reached out to victims and anti-Trafficking allies, helping them to break the chains of repression and suffering. Each January, United Methodist Women observes Human Trafficking Awareness Day. For the past six years, the Intercept the Traffickers Super Bowl campaign has enabled United Methodist Women to join a virtual resistance to Trafficking. Through a web-based photo network, United Methodists around the world take a public stand against trafficking and in defense of survivors. In 2015, the Intercept theme was “Let’s Huddle” and in 2016, the theme will be “Open Your Umbrellas.” Go to www.unitedmethodistwomen.org to see pictures from the campaign. The website is turned into an interactive, informational slideshow during the campaign that’s dedicated to raising awareness of human Trafficking. The United Methodist Women Twitter and Facebook accounts also dedicate that day to sharing information on human Trafficking, garnering web coverage from other United Methodist agencies.

This year United Methodist Women are Standing in the Red Zone! In football, the area between the 20-yard line and the goal of the defensive team is known as the “red zone” because a team that has a high red zone percentage—the team finishes its drives to score touchdowns scored on a regular basis. In the fight to end human trafficking, United Methodist Women are moving in the red zone poised to score points that Intercept Human Trafficking. A team that is in the Red Zone is one that has the ball and is less than 20 yards from scoring. Hearing that a team is in the Red Zone makes fans take notice and pay attention to what is happening on the field.

The National Football League created a television network called the NFL Red Zone to report on “every touchdown and field goal scored” and the “strong offensive drives. “Taking its origins from military terms, the Red Zone means “generally close to the enemy.” Teams in the Red Zone usually get a touchdown and if not, they get a field goal. United Methodist Women are keeping score; we are counting new beds, new funding for services; and increased prosecutions. We are making offensive plays to Intercept the Traffickers, our efforts have put us in a Red Zone where we are applying our skills of advocacy and action to capitalize on the weaknesses of those who prey on the vulnerable.

To symbolize our push to move through the goal posts toward victory against the traffickers, we are moving in the Red Zone. We are putting pressure on the traffickers by raising our voices: United Methodist Women have educated and outreached to over 42,000 people all across America. We’ve helped pass anti-trafficking legislation at the Federal level and Safe Harbor laws in state and supported global partners working to end trafficking which impacts over 20 million people, with 70% of all detected trafficking incidents involving women and children.

By joining the global movement to end the complex web of sexual slavery, domestic servitude and labor bondage, United Methodist Women continues to be at the forefront of the fight against the exploitation of the world’s most vulnerable.
United Methodist Women in Action Against Human Trafficking:
Launch of Human Trafficking Team

In August 2009, United Methodist Women embarked on a mission of learning about, sharing information on, and acting against human Trafficking, a criminal act of violence that impacts women and children throughout the United States and the world. The training event was convened by the United Methodist Women Washington Office of Public Policy and Hands That Heal.

Twenty-five conference social action coordinators and a National Mission Institution representative gathered at the Candler School of Theology in Atlanta for two and a half days of intensive education and the launch of the United Methodist Women Human Trafficking Team. The program was designed as a train-the-trainer opportunity, whereby participants made a commitment to share what they learned with their churches and local communities. Participants would be the first ripple in a widening circle of public actors to stop human Trafficking. To date, almost 42,000 people have become aware of this issue through the direct action of a team member.

The section on Christian Social Action also initiated this train-the-trainer project to inspire and help all United Methodist Women members take effective action in their communities. During the training, representatives from local service provider programs, the mayor’s office, and local and federal law enforcement agencies provided a broad context.

Atlanta was chosen because of its mayor’s activism and to creatively challenge the city’s position as a leading center for Trafficking in the United States. Two additional United Methodist Women members have joined the team and each person has developed an action plan with two goals: to heighten awareness surrounding human Trafficking within their conferences, and to combat human Trafficking at the state and national levels. United Methodist Women members are working with policymakers and collaborative groups to advocate for Trafficking survivors.

United Methodist Women doesn’t search for so-called victim sob stories—that’s the easy route, the one that grabs the heart and has Americans reaching for their handkerchiefs. Nor does the organization promote paid rescues. Whether focusing on labor or sex Trafficking, the stories make it easier to see trafficked people as an “other,” as having nothing to do with the life of the television viewer, the film viewer or the person sitting in an educational forum. The hard work of dealing with the people who perpetuate these crimes means confronting our family members and our own complicity. We want to make human Trafficking personal, make people uncomfortable, make each person we encounter (through our outreach, education and advocacy) feel and bear their responsibility for their actions and inactions. Ending this modern-day slavery demands more than sentimentality. It demands the will to act out a commitment to personal and political transformation.

Human Trafficking is rooted in gender inequality and a ruptured communal commitment to promoting social equity and economic resilience. Both labor and sex Trafficking are connected to the feminization of poverty. Traffickers capitalize on rising unemployment, disintegrating social networks, and the low status of women in source countries by promising high wages and good working conditions in exciting localities. Seventy percent of the world’s poor are women and girls, most of whom live in developing countries with limited options for earning a living to care for their families. However, human Trafficking—a form of modern-day slavery—occurs in all industrialized nations as well, including the United States. Climate change, domestic violence and challenging parent-child
relationships can expose women to conditions that often catalyze exploitation. A search for better life options ensnares women and girls within the web of human Trafficking—women and youth who experience dysfunctional family relationships, migrants from areas no longer economically viable because of environmental degradation, travelers that move for work from the point of recruitment to somewhere with forced labor due to shifting employment centers (within a justice system thwarting attempts to escape or get help), prison inmates who become bonded to others in order to get basic necessities, and inmates being targeted by traffickers who offer to take care of them after their release. These individuals are vulnerable because they lack job skills or even a stable place to go. We need to encompass and amass the actions that lead to preventing human Trafficking, protecting victimized survivors and prosecuting traffickers.

Help the Team
Contact a member of the Human Trafficking Team to arrange for an education forum on human Trafficking or call the United Methodist Women Washington Office of Public Policy at 202-488-5660 to identify a program facilitator.

Learn the signs and report any suspected human Trafficking: You can help someone. Call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888 or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE. You can learn what to look out for on the Department of State’s website at www.state.gov/j/tip/id/. If you are traveling, remember that airport security and attendants can be the first line of defense for international Trafficking. Inform them if you see suspicious behaviors or situations.

Buy Slave-Free Products
We are all complicit in the exploitation of other human beings unless we purchase products that are stamped “fair trade” or “slave free”. Meet with store manager to encourage such products to be available in markets or clothing shops. Measure your slavery footprint at slaveryfootprint.org.

What is Human Trafficking?
Human Trafficking is not only one of the world’s most prevalent forms of criminal activity, but arguably the most degrading, preying on the most vulnerable members of society. More than 20 million people are trafficked throughout the world, and reports indicate that more people are victims of labor Trafficking than for commercial sex. Women and children are the most affected by this complex web of bondage that robs them of their youth and dignity. The Trafficking in Victims Protection Act of 2000 denies “severe forms of Trafficking in persons” as the following:

• **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 subjecting to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.

• **Sex Trafficking**: The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act that is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person forced to perform such an act is under the age of 18 years.
Human Trafficking is a crime fueled by global poverty, inadequate education and opportunity, ethnic discrimination, social inequality between men and women, and demand for cheap labor and cheap sex. It is a crime that transcends culture, class and geography.

Human Trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery. Victims are subjected to force, fraud and coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor. Several factors exacerbate the conditions that lead to victimization, including lax law enforcement, weak or nonexistent United Nations legislation, migration, and proximity to international borders. In addition, where violence in the community or family is endemic, the light of women and girls opens them up to possible exploitation. The experiences of those who are trafficked are best viewed not as an event, but as a process of physical, emotional and psychological abuses. The sexualization of female children and global messaging that debases and devalues women and girls contributes to the culture of impunity that tolerates sexual exploitation. For men and boys, too, vulnerabilities stem from poor education, conflict and ethnic targeting.

Though many may believe it to be unthinkable, human Trafficking is prevalent in the United States. In this country, victims of human Trafficking can be from anywhere in the world, though many are United States citizens. The top three countries that victims are likely to be from are the United States, Mexico, and the Philippines.

One story, shared by Grace Kahng on NBC's Today in December 2007, involves a woman named Katya (not her real name) and the import of internationals to serve as sex slaves. Katya, a university student from Ukraine, had accepted a summer job placement in Virginia Beach. After landing in New York City, she and her friend were met at the airport by two men holding signs with the girls' names on them. The men, helpful and reassuring, informed Katya and her friend that they had been reassigned to Detroit. After arriving in Detroit, the men took the girls' passports and provided them with seductive clothing and a job at a strip club to "pay the men back."

While at the club, the girls were forced to work long hours and meet a quota of $1,000 per day. For over a year, Katya was forced to perform sexual acts for both the patrons and her captors, all while being imprisoned through threats of violence toward her and her family. If it weren't for the efforts of a courageous individual who recognized her plight, Katya might still be imprisoned.

International human sex Trafficking is widespread, but the majority of those enslaved are prisoners of labor bondage. Yesenia M., a young woman from Mexico, was working at her family's grocery store when a male customer complimented her on her professionalism and offered her a job caring for his two children in the United States. Her family agreed that this was a good opportunity for the 17-year-old. Her travel was arranged and she arrived in the United States to begin cooking, cleaning, caring for the children, and doing yard work. Yesenia did not have her own room and she had little time to rest. The job was very different from what she expected. She was not paid for her work and was not allowed to speak to anyone outside of the family. Yesenia also endured sexual abuse and rape. She eventually befriended a woman at her church who helped her escape from her traficker.7

Human Trafficking also ensnares American citizens. The Department of State’s Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report recognizes the following United States populations as the most vulnerable to human Trafficking: “children in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems; runaway and homeless youth; children working in agriculture; American Indians and Alaska Natives; migrant laborers; foreign national domestic workers in diplomatic households; employees of businesses in ethnic communities; populations with limited English proficiency; persons with disabilities; rural populations; and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals.”

The story of Tina Frundt, founder and director of Courtney’s House (www.courtneyshouse.org) and a Brighter Future grantee, offers a telling example of how deception and coercion are used to trap individuals for Trafficking. At age 14, Tina dated an older man who showered her with compliments, gifts and promises. After six months of dating, she was coerced into running away to join the man’s family in Cleveland, Ohio. Upon arrival, she soon realized that the “family” was actually three other women who worked for the man by selling their bodies. Threatened and severely punished if she did not meet her quota, Tina eventually escaped. Her story serves as an example of how false pretenses are often the bait used to enslave women.

In 2000, the United Nations adopted the Palermo Protocols, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as an international standard to combat Trafficking as a crime. More than 167 countries, including the United States, have signed on. During the same year, Congress passed the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act.

Each state has at least one anti-Trafficking law, and 40 states have state-wide interagency task forces to coordinate victim assistance and data collection. As of July, Congress has passed 11 new bills addressing human Trafficking this year alone. Among them, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act became law in May 2015. The act extends the minimum punishment for soliciting sex from a minor to 10 or 15 years and creates more anti-sex Trafficking task forces and state-administered outpatient treatment for survivors. Like this new law, most of the bills in Congress address sex Trafficking. While an important facet to the overarching issue of human Trafficking, to ignore coerced and forced labor denies its victims support, justice and a voice.

In the United States, forced labor occurs most commonly in the domestic service and sales industries. Thirty-four percent of cases reported in the sales industry involved minors.

More needs to be done for victims of both labor and sex Trafficking. Legislative activity, though important, can only do so much. It takes a vigilant and discerning outlook from all citizens to recognize the horrific act of Trafficking and thus attempt to stem the tide of this most demeaning industry.

Human Trafficking Fact Sheet

But this is a people robbed and plundered, all of them are trapped in holes and hidden in prisons; they have become a prey with no one to rescue, a spoil with no one to say, “Restore!” Who among you will give heed to this, who will attend and listen for the time to come?

—Isaiah 42:22-23

Human Trafficking is a crime. United Methodist Women from members across the nation have joined this sacred mission by taking a stand to prevent, protect and prosecute those impacted by this trade in human beings that occurs everywhere in the world. Through education, partnership and action, United Methodist Women members are working with faith representatives, elected officials and other community groups to build awareness and ignite lames of hope for those who are trafficked.

—Susie Johnson
United Methodist Women Washington Office of Public Policy

What Is Human Trafficking?
Human Trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery is the second largest criminal industry in the world after drug trading. The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children denies human Trafficking as the recruiting, transporting and harboring of persons by use of threat, force or deception for the purpose of exploitation. Traffickers take advantage of vulnerable persons with false promises or physical abduction, forcing them into contract slavery, forced labor and sexual Trafficking.

Worldwide Statistics
According the U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report 2017, worldwide convictions of human traffickers listed in this year’s report were fewer than 10,000, while estimates of the number of victims of human trafficking remain in the tens of millions. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime maintains a public case law database with more than 1,400 human trafficking cases from around the world as well as a case digest to assist criminal law and other practitioners interested in how evidentiary issues are addressed in other jurisdictions.¹

United States Policy
The Department of State publishes the TIP Report annually. It reports the efforts of 175 countries to combat Trafficking in persons and is used by the United States government to build worldwide partnerships in ending modern-day slavery. It can be found at https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/index.htm. In 2000, President Bill Clinton signed and the Senate ratified the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. This can be found at https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=tREaty&mtdsg_no=XVIII-12-a&chapter=18&lang=en.

Why It Happens
Our current global economic system continues to reward wealth and exploit the poor. Forced labor, obtained from either sex or labor trafficking, makes about $150 billion in illicit profits every year in the private economy, according to the International Labor Organization. Sex Trafficking in particular, is connected to the feminization of poverty. Seventy percent of the world’s poor are women and girls, most of whom live in developing countries with limited options available to them. Cultural norms that perpetuate inequality and violence against these women and girls often make them.

¹. https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/271339.pdf
vulnerable to sex and labor Trafficking, according to the TIP Report. Women and girls make up 55 percent of the Trafficking victims around the world, according to the International Labor Organization. These cultural practices, beliefs and traditions can also harm children, minorities, domestic workers and migrant workers by creating an environment where human Trafficking remains hidden or is socially accepted. Traffickers often take advantage of the vulnerability of migrant workers, of which there are about 232 million globally.

Where Can Victims Be Found?
Human Trafficking victims can be found in all types of establishments and locations in rural, suburban and urban settings in the United States and worldwide. You'll find victims on the streets, in houses, in trailers and on farms. Victims of human Trafficking can be landscaping and agricultural workers, panhandlers, day laborers, factory and sweatshop workers, hotel workers, and housekeepers. Victims are exploited by the service industries in restaurants, bars, strip clubs, nail salons, and similar businesses. You'll find many victims on websites for adult services; the commercial sex industry relies heavily on human Trafficking victims. Prostitutes, strippers, escorts and workers in massage parlors, brothels and for phone chat lines are often victims. Right now, traffickers in many American cities are exploiting workers and sexually abusing women and girls.

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<td>Factories/manufacturing</td>
<td>Garment industry: sewing, assembling, pressing and packing apparel</td>
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<td>Food processing</td>
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<td>Commercial sex industry</td>
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<td>other</td>
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* Information compiled from the Polaris Project (www.polarisproject.org)
Why Help?
*The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2012* states that United Methodists “deplore all forms of the commercialization and exploitation of sex, with their consequent cheapening and degradation of human personality. To lose freedom and be sold by someone else for sexual purposes is a form of slavery, and we denounce such business and support the abused and their right to freedom. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation or use of children by adults and encourage efforts to hold perpetrators legally and financially responsible.” (111-112)

*The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church, 2012* declares, “Therefore, The United Methodist Church, through education, financial resources, publication, lobbying, and the use of every relevant gift of God, shall join in the active battle against the modern-day enslavement of humans for commercial sexual exploitation, i.e., sex Trafficking.” (Resolution 6023, “Abolition of Sex Trafficking”)

“Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.” (Psalm 82:3-4)

How to Spot Human Trafficking

- Victims of human trafficking often live on or near their work premises, often with a large number of occupants in a small space. Bouncers, guards, guard dogs or barbed wire may be present. Many victims live in isolated areas.
- Victims lack private space, personal possessions and financial records and are kept under surveillance or are escorted by an employer when they are out in the community. The trafficker may act as a translator.
- The victim may be branded or have other scarring indicating ownership. Victims are often malnourished and may show signs of rape, sexual and physical abuse, posttraumatic stress and poor psychological health. They may also have sexually transmitted diseases or other untreated medical problems.
- Brothels often contain barred windows, locked doors and electronic surveillance. Women do not leave the house unescorted, and men come and go frequently. Large amounts of cash and condoms are usually present, as is a customer receipt book.
- For more information on how to spot trafficking, visit [https://oag.ca.gov/human-Trafficking/identify](https://oag.ca.gov/human-Trafficking/identify), [www.humanTrafficking.org/combat_Trafficking](http://www.humanTrafficking.org/combat_Trafficking), and [www.state.gov/j/tip/id/](http://www.state.gov/j/tip/id/).

Root Causes of Human Trafficking

Our current global economic system continues to reward wealth and exploit the poor. Sexual Trafficking is connected to the feminization of poverty. Seventy percent of the world’s poor are women and girls, most of whom live in developing countries with limited options available to them. Women comprise 55 percent of the 21 million trafficked adults and children, according to the International Labor Organization.
Widespread Poverty

How You Can Help

• United Methodist Women members all over the country can join together to stop modern-day slavery. Your unit can host an education forum to help educate others on the realities of human Trafficking. Call the United Methodist Women Washington Office of Public Policy at 202-488-5660 to identify a program facilitator. Invite local law enforcement agencies, friends and other faith-based and humanitarian groups to your program.

• Contact your local law enforcement agency about human trafficking in your community. How does your local agency prevent and prosecute Trafficking? Are there safe houses, legal or translation services, medical or counseling services to assist victims of Trafficking in your community? How can you help? Tell us what you learn at umwanet@unitedmethodistwomen.org.

• Watch for signs of trafficking. Be aware, and report possible trafficking to local authorities and the U.S. Department of Justice at 1-888-428-7581. Share the signs of human Trafficking with youth groups and other groups in your church and community. Create a community task force. Victims don’t usually identify themselves.

• Buy fair trade. Know where the products you buy come from and how they are made.

• Support education and business opportunities for women and girls.

• The United Methodist Women website (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org) provides many tools, including human Trafficking Bible studies, action alerts and a PowerPoint presentation, as well as downloadable flyers and materials from its Intercept Human Trafficking campaign.

• For immediate help, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888. You can also call the National Runaway Hotline at 1-800-RUnAWAY or the National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE.

For more ways to help, visit www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/act.
As United Methodist Women members, we are called to action to eliminate the devastating industry that is human Trafficking. Historically, we have striven for equal rights and social justice, and nowhere are these ideals more violated than by this form of modern-day slavery. This crime affects the most vulnerable members of society, so there is often no outlet for those being victimized. Because the duties forced on trafficked individuals inhabit the most private areas of daily life, such as domestic servitude and sexual exploitation, abuses often go unnoticed by society. Therefore, as Christians attempting to promote progress, we must take an active and all-encompassing approach to ending these atrocities. Through education, advocacy and the formation of partnerships, United Methodist Women members can independently foster change and collectively help to facilitate the end of human Trafficking, both domestically and internationally.

**Education**

Education is crucial in halting the low of women, children and men into forced bondage. It is through education that we have the most direct influence in the fight against human Trafficking. In many cases where those entrapped achieve freedom, an outside observer has recognized the signs of oppression and aided the individual, either through risky liberation or by contacting the proper authorities to induce action. Central to both efforts is recognizing when a person is or has been trafficked and is in a subjugated relationship. To this end, United Methodist Women has and will continue to reach out to its members to spread awareness surrounding human Trafficking and instruct willing individuals on how to identify forced servitude. This proactive measure, which has already educated almost 20,000 people through our Train-the-Trainer Program, will continue to be an essential aspect of United Methodist Women’s effort to end human Trafficking.

**Advocacy**

Just as work on the individual level is immensely important, so is the work against human Trafficking in the broader political sphere. International work to end human Trafficking is still relatively new, spanning little more than a decade. As a result, legislation is still being shaped to deter the exploitation of so many. To this end, United Methodist Women has sought to influence legislation that enhances how national and state governments perceive and address human Trafficking.

As noted in the introduction, United Methodist Women has already been active in this process, but we cannot stop because more must be done to effectively contest those who seek to take advantage of the most vulnerable members of society.

**Partnerships**

The third way in which United Methodist Women can stand up against human Trafficking is through the formation of partnerships that can collectively bolster the fight against this atrocity. By forming these connections, financial and logistical resources can be amassed and used to their fullest extent. It is through cooperation that we can best curtail the low of humans across borders or within the United States. By partnering with groups such as Living Water for Girls and Courtney’s House, organizations that help women and children recover from the horrors of sexual exploitation, United Methodist Women has influenced the fight on a personal level. Coalition building is therefore paramount in deterring traffickers of individuals who often have little recourse or self-determination as a result of their enslavement by others.
In 2013, the Brighter Future for Children and Youth grants, in the amount of $10,000 each, were awarded to prevent and end child Trafficking. Grantee organizations embody the global engagement of United Methodist Women’s Human Trafficking Initiative to confront modern-day slavery.

In the United States, grantees in 2013 and 2014 included David & Margaret Youth and Family Services in California for its My Life, My Choice and Ending the Game programs; Harrison Center for Career Education in Washington, D.C. for its Anti-Sex Trafficking Peer Education program; Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) for its work helping trafficked minors in Los Angeles; Courtney’s House in Washington, D.C., for its Drop-in Center program; the Friendly Center in Ohio for coordinating with other youth human Trafficking stakeholder organizations; StreetLightUSA in Arizona for its therapeutic services to end victim recidivism; and Wesley-Rankin Community Center in Texas for its Human Trafficking, Sexual Abuse, and Child Labor program.

The Bright Future for Children and Youth grant also awards international organizations. Grantees in 2013 and 2014 included The United Methodist Church Conference in Sierra Leone for its Empowering Communities for Increased Protection of Children project, Hagar International in Vietnam for its The Start of the Healing Journey program, and Georgian Union of Educators “Lampari” in Georgia for its Defend Your Future program.

Several National Mission Institutions are critical centers linking individuals affected by human Trafficking to a wide range of services, including those from refugee and immigrant communities. David & Margaret Youth and Family Services in California, Tacoma Community House in Washington, Susannah Wesley Community Center in Hawaii, and Friendly Center in Ohio are a few exemplary organizations that combat Trafficking with United Methodist Women.
What You Can Do to Help End Human Trafficking
Who Is our neighbor? Whom Am I a neighbor To? What Can I Do?

1. Know the facts about human Trafficking. Start with the United Methodist Women Human Trafficking fact sheet and explore some of the other sources available on the United Methodist Women website: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/act/Trafficking. Understand that this is just a tiny drop in an ocean of information and Trafficking activity.

2. Raise awareness of human Trafficking by sharing what you learn with all women, especially those who are vulnerable to being trafficked.

3. Learn about your state and federal laws. For Internet searches, type in your state’s name and “human Trafficking laws” to find this information.

4. Advocate for serious penalties against traffickers along with services to assist the rescued victims.

5. Rescue missions are not something you can do. To get the rescue process underway, talk with local and regional professionals who are in a position to identify victims. Ask if they have been trained to identify and assist anyone they suspect of being trafficked. Talk to healthcare professionals, social services professionals and law enforcement professionals.

6. Find out if there are any shelters for victims who are rescued and need to go through legal and reintegration processes. They do exist—but don’t expect to get an address or even a town name. Offer to collect and provide needed supplies for daily life and hygiene.

7. Keep learning about Trafficking, its victims and its survivors. Don’t support businesses that you know take part in human Trafficking.

8. If you come in contact with a victim of human Trafficking, call the national Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-3737-888 or the national Runaway Hotline at 1-800-RUnAWAY. Some states recommend that you call your local law enforcement and/or the district attorney. Do both.
Human Trafficking Faith Imperative

As people of faith, we are called to aid the most helpless among us. As Jesus notes in Matthew 25:40, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” The moral imperative Jesus provides applies directly to those suffering from the bondage of forced labor or sexual exploitation as a result of society’s iniquities. Specifically, human Trafficking is a widespread social injustice leading to the exploitation of many women and children as a result of their social status. It is when we acknowledge the immorality associated with trafficking, recognize its presence and seek to liberate those ensnared that we truly gain virtue in the eyes of the Lord.

Our Christian faith calls on us to actively seek justice for those in bondage. When considering the plight of human Trafficking, we must not only have empathy, but also seek to vindicate those in shackles. Luke 4:18-19 states, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

It is through assisting the most needy that we truly walk in the path of Jesus Christ. We therefore are morally obligated to assist those who, for whatever reason, have fallen in the trap of forced servitude. By viewing our faith through this new lens, we can reshape our concept of mission.

Finally, as United Methodists, virtue is of paramount significance. Historically, we have sought to actively promote virtue in society and right social inequality. Our outlook must consist of both inward reflection and outward achievement. Thus, we are called to take action against moral injustice. As declared in Habakkuk 2:2, “Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it.” This verse, when considered within the context of the book’s focus on social inequalities and God’s justice, implores us not to stand idly by as society’s unfortunate individuals are being exploited. We must speak out and bring awareness to these abuses. United Methodist Women views this call to action as a justification to mobilize against one of the world’s most prevalent forms of human degradation.

It is a moral obligation to fight against one of the fastest growing criminal industries and end the constant imprisonment of God’s children.
Stories from the United Methodist Committee on Relief Armenia’s Anti-Trafficking Project

Ending Human Trafficking, ONE LIFE AT A TIME

By Isabella Simonyan

Alisa (not her real name) fell prey to a human trafficker in her Armenian hometown. She was 20 years old and a single mother to a 9-month-old baby. The trafficker forced Alisa into prostitution by threatening to kidnap her child if she did not do as he said. He kept her enslaved and took all the money she made.

Alisa felt isolated and without recourse, her only defender being her grandmother, with whom she and her child lived. She was one of the more than 20 million people worldwide who today are trafficked into forced labor, bonded labor or forced prostitution.

One night, more than a year after Alisa’s ordeal began, she happened to catch the hotline number for a human Trafficking prevention program on a TV news ticker. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), which runs the program, invited anyone in need to call for information and assistance. Alisa wrote the number on the palm of her hand. It seemed to be a sign—a chance to change her life.

When Alisa finally called the hotline, she was identified as a victim of human Trafficking and promptly referred to UMCOR’s shelter. Police officers arrested the trafficker.

She was safe. But now she had to deal with the trauma from her experience. Alisa found it impossible to speak, eat or sleep, haunted as she was by her nightmarish life. She was unable to interact properly with the child she loved so much and remained fearful that the child would be taken from her. She felt desperate; the light in her eyes seemed to fade.

Safe Haven and a new Life
The shelter’s psychologists worked with Alisa to awaken in her the will to live. They spoke to her about how much her child needed her for support. Eventually, Alisa began to eat, cook and feel better. She started speaking and interacting with her child again, and ultimately, the nightmares left her.

With medical attention, Alisa’s physical health began to improve and she was able to take care of her child on her own. She participated in culinary courses. The possibility of finding a job and supporting her child and grandmother brought the light back into her eyes.

Soon Alisa will leave the shelter, and when she does, she will take with her the memories of kind people, good treatment, and new skills and knowledge that will help her rebuild her life.

Alisa escaped a life of slavery thanks to UMCOR Armenia’s Anti-Human Trafficking project. While the problem of human Trafficking seems overwhelming, the project’s staff focuses on each person in need who seeks help.
“A Single Starfish”
In this way, the staff say, they are reminded of “The Star Thrower,” a story by anthropologist Loren C. Eiseley. In one adaptation of this classic story, a little girl is faced with the overwhelming problem of how to help thousands of beautiful starfish that have washed up onto the seashore. She tosses one after another back into the sea to save them, but many more remain.

A man approaches the child and says, “Little girl, why are you doing this? Look at this beach! You can’t save all these starfish. You can’t begin to make a difference!” But the child just picks up another starfish, hurls it into the ocean, and responds, “Well, I made a difference to that one!” Inspired, the man joins the girl in her effort to help the starfish.

Read more about UMCOR’s Anti-Human Trafficking project at www.umcor.org and visit United Methodist Women’s human Trafficking website at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/act/Trafficking. Learn how you can help.

Isabella Simonyan is a program officer for UMCOR Armenia’s Anti-Trafficking project. She works with human trafficking survivors and their families, as well as with police and other counterparts.

REFUGE for Survivors of Human Trafficking

By Judith Santiago

Anahit (not her real name), 24, lived in a small town in Armenia. She had no parents, only a sister and a brother who immigrated to Russia in search of employment. Like her siblings, Anahit also needed work, but due to difficult socioeconomic conditions in Armenia, local jobs were scarce. Acquaintances persuaded Anahit to travel to Dubai, where she could work as a housemaid. Pursuing of this opportunity, Anahit left her home with hopes of a promising future.

Shortly after arriving in Dubai, Anahit connected with her prospective employers, who made luring promises of work and success. Her newfound opportunity quickly spiraled into a hellish nightmare. Anahit was forced into prostitution through one of the most lucrative traps in the world—human Trafficking.

For Anahit and others like her, hope for a better life is tragically deferred. Thankfully, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Armenia’s Anti-Human Trafficking project, with funding support from the Dr. Edward C. and Georgina Perkins Fund of The United Methodist Church, shelter services are provided to rescue and offer refuge for Trafficking survivors like Anahit.

UMCOR is encouraging United Methodists to remember trafficked survivors everywhere. Please share information on eliminating forced labor and involuntary servitude or consider taking up a special offering to restore and heal those traumatized by human slavery.

Harsh Realities
An estimated 20.9 million people around the world are forced into unpaid labor, including sexual exploitation. The majority of trafficked survivors are 18–24 years old and an estimated five million are children, according to the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking. Traffickers
around the world make about $150 billion each year. The Trafficking industry is profitable because little start-up capital is needed and prosecution is relatively rare. For every 800-people trafficked, only one person is convicted, according to the U.S. Department of State.

Anahit’s yearlong ordeal involved intense psychological trauma and physical violence. When the police conducted a raid in Dubai, Anahit was deported back to her home. Anahit returned to Armenia very ill and depressed. Her sister came to care for her.

Hope Restored
UMCOR Armenia’s comprehensive anti-Trafficking programming played a key role in Anahit’s reintegration back into society. After learning about her situation through a referral by local police, an UMCOR social worker and psychologist visited Anahit to discuss options for recovery. Anahit stayed in a shelter and received UMCOR assistance, including much-needed medical attention and treatment. An UMCOR psychologist worked with Anahit to help her overcome the trauma she endured by helping her learn specific coping strategies. This helped her regain trust in other people while building her self-esteem. In addition to the medical and psychological care, Anahit also received a nourishing diet in a warm, safe and loving environment.

“Our shelter program is a truly comprehensive solution for those wounded by traffickers,” says Kathryn Paik, program officer for UMCOR’s Europe-Asia office. “They not only receive physical and psychological healing but are also supported and encouraged through vocational training opportunities, significantly reducing their chances of being re-trafficked.”

Today, Anahit is taking active steps toward a brighter future. She is participating in manicurist training provided by UMCOR and is one of the best students in her class. Professional skills training including culinary arts and hairdressing help students enter the work field and live a life independent of Trafficking predators.

UMCOR Armenia
In partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and in coordination with the Armenian government, UMCOR Armenia’s anti-human Trafficking program provides those who have been trafficked with a safe environment and reintegration back into society. UMCOR Armenia combats further human Trafficking by operating a telephone hotline for people to get more information, conducting public education and outreach activities, and by training border guards through the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs on how to detect and assist populations at risk for Trafficking.

Judith Santiago is the project manager for UMCOR Communications.

Trafficking Survivor Rediscovers A World of BEAUTY

By Isabella Simonyan

Mariam (not her real name) was 15 years old when her parents married her to a man 20 years her senior. She worked day and night, a servant to her husband’s extended family, and was not allowed
to sleep until her husband came home. He was connected to a world of crime and did not usually arrive before five or six o’clock in the morning. Mariam then would rest for an hour or two and start the same routine all over again.

After two years of marriage, Mariam gave birth to a child, but the baby died at the hospital. Around this time, her husband was imprisoned for theft. She sought refuge with her family, but they were a traditional Armenian family and refused to take her back. At 17, she was left to fend for herself. Then Mariam met some people who offered her a well-paying job as a waitress in a Moscow café. She accepted. It turned out, however, that they did not send her to Moscow but to the United Arab Emirates, where they attempted to force her into prostitution. Mariam refused and was beaten many times. Seeing that her resistance could not be broken, Mariam’s captors threw her out of a third-story window. She broke a vertebra and her hands and legs were temporarily paralyzed. She received no medical attention and was bedridden for two months.

When the feeling returned to her hands and legs, Mariam was sent without a passport or any other documents to Kazakhstan. There, she met a man for whom she was forced to work as a housemaid for the next six years. When she finally managed to escape, she was arrested and deported to Armenia. Police in Armenia identified Mariam as a survivor of human Trafficking. They referred her to a shelter run by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Although her stay at the shelter was voluntary, Mariam seemed unreachable. Her hard life had left her feeling isolated and distrustful.

The shelter’s psychologists, who used a variety of rehabilitative approaches, helped Mariam to once again find meaning in her life and faith in her future. She received medical attention, especially for her back, and recovered physically as well as emotionally.

Mariam embraced her new start in life. She took vocational courses in local design and discovered a new world of color and beauty; the progress of her art reflected the progress of her recovery. With legal assistance, she got a new passport. Moreover, the shelter staff had approached her family and worked with them to accept their lost child.

The process of Mariam’s rehabilitation and reintegration into society was a long one, but successful. Time has passed, and Mariam has remarried and is going to have another baby.

*Isabella Simonyan is a program officer for UMCOR Armenia’s Anti-Human Trafficking project. She works with survivors of human trafficking and their families as well as with police and other counterparts.*
Alternate GAME Plan for SUPER Bowl

By Linda Bloom

Before it was ever determined that the New York Giants would be facing the New England Patriots in the 2012 Super Bowl, members of United Methodist Women had decided on their game plan.

As the organization did the previous year in Texas, United Methodist Women is working with local groups and law enforcement to find a teachable moment about human Trafficking during the pre-Super Bowl festivities.

Along with the fun of lining up to ride the zip line downtown, taking the kids to an indoor football theme park or claiming seats for Sunday's championship game in Indianapolis, some visitors may notice messages about Trafficking: how crimes can be reported and where victims can find help.

The United Nations denies human Trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of people — by threat, abduction, deception or abuse of power — for the purpose of sexual or labor-related exploitation. Eighty percent of those trafficked are women and girls and half of all Trafficking victims are younger than 13.

Through its Intercept the Traffickers 2012 project, the United Methodist Women Human Trafficking Team is addressing both an opportunity and a concern.

“There is no documented evidence of large athletic events causing Trafficking, but incidences can escalate because those victimized by the crime are engaged in all aspects of commerce related to any highly-attended activity,” explained Susie Johnson, executive secretary for public policy for the Women’s Division, United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, which is United Methodist Women's administrative arm.

“What we do know is that men are principally the perpetrators of this crime, and using a male-centered event like the Super Bowl affords us the opportunity to engage with boys and men and expand their knowledge about a morally reprehensible crime that denies all persons to live free and to live whole.”

Graphic from Intercept the Traffickers campaign, courtesy of United Methodist Women
Governor Signs Law
In January 2012, the Indiana General Assembly did its bit to raise awareness by fast-tracking legislation to strengthen penalties against sex Trafficking of children younger than 16. Governor Mitch Daniels (R) signed the bill into law on January 30, three days after Senate Bill 4 received a unanimous vote in the House of Representatives.

Senate Democratic Leader Vi Simpson, a member of Ellettsville United Methodist Church, co-authored the legislation, which had earlier received the same unanimous approval from the Senate.

“This is an issue that has demanded attention long before news that the Super Bowl was coming to Indiana,” she said in a statement, “but I’m happy we have finally reached bipartisan support on legislation that will better protect children in Indiana.”

Other United Methodists who signed on as the bill’s sponsors included Senator Patricia Miller (R), a member of Old Bethel United Methodist Church in Indianapolis; Senator Travis Holdman (R) of Markle United Methodist Church; and Senator Susan Glick (R) of LaGrange United Methodist Church. Miller is also executive director of the Confessing Movement, an unofficial evangelical caucus of the denomination.

“I really think we are sending a message that we are going to be one of those states that will try to go out and prosecute people,” said Rita Gaither-Gant, a member of the Human Trafficking Team and a director of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

Working on Root Causes
Gaither-Gant, chair of mission resources for the Indiana Annual (regional) Conference of United Methodist Women, and Rosa Bernard, the conference United Methodist Women nominating chair, both from Indianapolis, are representative of the organization’s efforts to engage in advocacy work on the root causes of human Trafficking at state and local levels.

United Methodist Women has been involved with the Trafficking issue for more than a decade, often working ecumenically, and sponsored a national training event in Atlanta in 2009.

Through its awareness programs at churches, community centers and conferences, the organization has educated an estimated 10,000 men, women and youth on Trafficking facts, Johnson said.

“Each team member has collaborated with elected officials and advocates to ensure passage of legislation, providing financial resources, offering preventive services and other supports for survivors of the crime of human Trafficking,” explained Johnson, who serves on the D.C. Task Force Against Human Trafficking in Washington. “We have experienced success in Ohio, Iowa, California and now Indiana.”

In Indiana, Gaither-Gant and Bernard have spent the past two years “trying to educate our women to let them know what is going on and how they can get involved,” Gaither-Gant said. “We are always asking them to write letters to their representatives and senators.”

They are encouraged that Trafficking has become a more visible issue. When the pair spoke at the denomination-wide Youth 2011 event at Purdue University, Gaither-Gant said she was “very impressed” by what the youth already knew about the subject. “They were, indeed, the most educated group that we have spoken to so far,” she added.
Resources Available

Trafficking has become more of a problem in the United States in recent years. In its 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report, the Department of State acknowledged that fact by ranking the United States with those countries fully complying with the minimum standards for protection of Trafficking victims and providing information on domestic efforts to combat human Trafficking.

In the United States, people are primarily being trafficked for labor-related situations, the report said, including domestic servitude, agriculture, manufacturing, janitorial services, hotel services, construction, health and elder care, hair and nail salons, and strip club dancing. However, United States citizens themselves, including runaway and homeless youth, are more likely to be found in sex Trafficking.

Bernard, who is part of the Indiana Protection for the Abused and Trafficked Humans Task Force, known as IPATH — one of 42 nationwide task forces funded by the U.S. Department of Justice — said she talks about human Trafficking “every chance I get.”

On its human Trafficking website, United Methodist Women offers a downloadable Human Trafficking Resource Guide and other tools for educational and advocacy work, including a bulletin insert, flier, postcard, list of partners and action suggestions.

As the Super Bowl approached, Bernard planned to be among the volunteers packaging bars of soap on February 2 for distribution to local hotels. The Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution project was created by Theresa Flores, a sex-Trafficking survivor who grew up in northern Indiana. The soap bars are imprinted with the national Trafficking hotline phone number as a way to reach potential victims.

Members of 11 women’s Roman Catholic religious orders from Indiana and Michigan have also targeted hotels, ordering 2,000 brochures from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and preparing a fact sheet to help hotel employees detect sex Trafficking.
CBS SPECIAL: CHURCH Response to Human Trafficking

By Linda Bloom

The forced Trafficking of workers is a growing problem that requires companies to look for accountability in their global supply chains.

That’s a concern of the Reverend David Schilling, a United Methodist pastor who serves as a senior program director of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), whose members include United Methodist agencies.

“For us, the labor component [of Trafficking] is highly underreported,” he said, adding that the focus is moving beyond establishing workplace standards to “raise the issue of how did workers get to the workplace.”

How faith communities are raising awareness about Trafficking and empowering survivors is the focus of “Living in the Shadows: Religion’s Response to Human Trafficking,” a CBS-TV interfaith special that will began airing on December 15, 2013.

A 2012 survey by the International Labor Organization has found “well over 20 million” men, women and children who are victims of various forms of Trafficking and slavery, Schilling said.

Even governments can play a direct role, he pointed out, as in Uzbekistan, where schools close three to four months so students as young as 10 can go to the cotton fields to bring in the harvest. “Many are not paid at all,” Schilling told United Methodist News Service.

In the United States, when agriculture, hotel or restaurant workers are brought in by labor brokers charging around $5,000, “that is a slippery slope to bonded slave labor,” he said.

ICCR has compiled a statement on principles and recommended practices on human Trafficking that it will send to companies in January “to really look at what they are currently doing, and if they aren’t doing anything, how to get started.”

The organization started a major campaign in 2014 urging companies to adopt ethical recruiting protocols, which include prohibitions on workers having to pay to obtain employment. “That’s where you have that moment of exploitation,” Schilling explained.

Awareness at Super Bowl
United Methodist Women has taken on various forms of human Trafficking as a focus, as Susie Johnson, staff executive for public policy, discusses during the broadcast.
For example, United Methodist Women members are among the volunteers who approached hotels in the New York metropolitan area to raise awareness about potential sex Trafficking during Super Bowl XLVIII in New Jersey.

United Methodist Women was promoting an “Intercept the Traffickers Photo Campaign” to create awareness around the Super Bowl. Groups were encouraged to take photos of themselves in the snow, in the freezer section of a grocery, or another “freezing” place, holding a sign that reads “Freeze! United Methodist Women is Intercepting Human Trafficking.”

Labor exploitation is also a concern. Karen Prudente, who is interviewed in the CBS program, introduced the Damayan Migrant Workers Association — a grassroots advocacy organization in the New York Metro Area led by domestic workers — to the organization.

Many in vulnerable populations “have dreams of improving their standard of living,” Schilling noted, but without an ethical labor broker, they end up living in isolation and abuse. “Some of the great leaders in the anti-Trafficking movement… are survivors who know this firsthand,” he said.

John P. Blessington is the executive producer and Liz Kineke is the producer of Living in the Shadows. The documentary is produced in cooperation with a consortium of Roman Catholic, Protestant and Jewish organizations; the Islamic Society of North America; and other interfaith organizations.

This program can be viewed online at http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/living-in-the-shadows-religions-response-to-human-Trafficking/.

Linda Bloom is a United Methodist News Service multimedia reporter based in New York.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: TIER 1

The Government of the United States fully meets the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. The government continued to demonstrate serious and sustained efforts during the reporting period; therefore, the United States remained on Tier 1. The government demonstrated serious and sustained efforts by investigating and prosecuting both sex and labor trafficking, and significantly increasing the number of convictions; providing services to a greater number of trafficking victims and increasing overall funding levels for these services; providing various types of immigration relief for foreign national victims, including a pathway to citizenship; granting nonimmigrant status to more trafficking victims and extending Continued Presence from one to two years duration to allow victims to remain in the United States temporarily during the investigation and prosecution of their traffickers; enhancing outreach to and engagement with survivors to improve training, programs, and policies on human trafficking; expanding industry- and sector-specific outreach initiatives; and continuing funding for an NGO-operated national hotline and referral service. Although the government meets the minimum standards, advocates called for increased efforts to investigate and prosecute labor trafficking cases and continued to urge more consistent, victim-centered implementation of anti-trafficking laws and policies, including increased efforts to ensure more trafficking victims have timely access to immigration relief. Furthermore, NGOs reported continued instances of state and local officials detaining or prosecuting trafficking victims for criminal activity related to their trafficking, notwithstanding “safe harbor” laws in some states. Advocates called for the U.S. Congress to adopt a federal vacatur bill that would allow trafficking victims to vacate any such convictions and encouraged the government to enhance protections for foreign workers, who are particularly vulnerable to labor trafficking.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES

Increase investigation and prosecution of labor trafficking cases and cases involving nonviolent forms of coercion; dedicate additional resources for and increase access to comprehensive services across the country, including appropriate housing for all trafficking victims and economic opportunities for survivors; encourage state, local, and tribal authorities to adopt policies not to criminalize victims; increase training of prosecutors and judges on criminal restitution for trafficking victims; strengthen survivor engagement and incorporate survivor input in policies and programs; increase protections for foreign workers in the United States; ensure federal law enforcement officials apply in a timely and consistent manner for Continued Presence for eligible victims; enhance screening procedures to improve identification of trafficking victims among vulnerable populations; enforce federal acquisition regulations aimed at preventing trafficking in federal contracts, including pertaining to providing strong grievance mechanisms for workers, and increase transparency related to any remedial actions against federal contractors; strengthen prevention efforts aimed at populations vulnerable to human trafficking and the demand for commercial sex and labor trafficking; increase training for state, local, and tribal agencies on victim identification and available benefits; improve data collection on prevalence and on victims identified and assisted; and support federal legislation to allow victims to vacate federal convictions that are a direct result of being subjected to trafficking.
PROSECUTION

The U.S. government increased federal anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), as amended, prohibits all forms of human trafficking. U.S. law also prohibits conspiracy and attempts to violate these provisions, as well as obstructing their enforcement and benefitting financially from these acts. Additionally, a criminal statute on fraud in foreign labor contracting prohibits the use of fraud to recruit workers abroad to work on a U.S. government contract performed within or outside the United States, on U.S. property, or on military installations outside the United States. Penalties prescribed under these statutes are sufficiently stringent and commensurate with penalties prescribed for other serious offenses, such as rape. Penalties can include up to life imprisonment. Several bills that address human trafficking were introduced in the U.S. Congress during the reporting period, including the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act, which would allow victims to vacate federal convictions of crimes committed as a direct result of being subjected to trafficking. Advocates noted support for the adoption of federal vacatur legislation. The Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and Department of State (DOS) are the primary investigating agencies for federal trafficking offenses, with federal human trafficking cases prosecuted by DOJ. DOJ, DHS, and the Department of Labor (DOL) continued to develop complex human trafficking investigations and prosecutions through the Anti-Trafficking Coordination Team (ACTeam) Initiative and delivered advanced training to federal agents, prosecutors, and victim assistance professionals. DOJ provided $15.8 million in fiscal year (FY) (October 1 through September 30) 2016 to 22 law enforcement agencies and victim service providers that make up 11 Enhanced Collaborative Model (ECM) anti-trafficking task forces in partnership with other federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement entities and community partners. This represents a decrease from 16 ECM task forces funded in FY 2015. NGOs noted ECM task force grantees should receive additional training and technical assistance and called for an evaluation of the model to assess its effectiveness and identify best practices in task force development and operations. To improve identification of labor trafficking cases, DOJ launched a labor trafficking initiative to strengthen efforts through training, enhanced intelligence models, and strategic outreach. DOL, with assistance from DOJ, enhanced its protocols for detection and referral of potential labor trafficking cases.

The federal government reports its law enforcement data by fiscal year. In FY 2016, DHS reported opening 1,029 investigations possibly involving human trafficking, compared to 1,034 in FY 2015. DOJ formally opened more than 1,800 human trafficking investigations, a significant increase from 802 in FY 2015. DOJ’s ECM task forces separately initiated 982 investigations, a slight decrease from 1,011 in FY 2015. DOS reported opening 288 human trafficking-related cases worldwide during FY 2016, an increase from 175 in FY 2015. The Department of Defense (DoD) reported investigating at least 13 human trafficking- 416 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA related cases involving U.S. military personnel, compared to 10 in FY 2015. The Department of the Interior (DOI) investigated one human trafficking case involving a victim of sex trafficking, which led to a conviction and a 22-year sentence. DOJ initiated a total of 241 federal human trafficking prosecutions in FY 2016, a decrease from 257 in FY 2015, and charged 531 defendants, an increase from 377 in FY 2015.

Of these prosecutions, 228 involved predominantly sex trafficking and 13 involved predominantly labor trafficking, although some involved both. DOJ and DHS partnered with Mexican law enforcement counterparts to initiate prosecutions on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border that disrupted international criminal enterprises. During FY 2016, DOJ secured convictions against 439 traffickers, a significant increase from 297 convictions in FY 2015. Of these, 425 involved predominantly sex trafficking and 14 involved predominantly labor trafficking, although several involved both. These prosecutions and convictions include cases brought under trafficking-specific criminal statutes and related non-trafficking criminal statutes, but do not include child sex trafficking cases brought under non-trafficking statutes. Sentences ranged from 12 months to life imprisonment. Advocates continued to call on federal prosecutors to seek and for courts to award mandatory restitution for victims of human trafficking.

Advocates urged for increased efforts to investigate and prosecute labor trafficking cases and more systematic efforts to prioritize these cases. Advocates continued to call for increased prosecution of trafficking cases involving nonviolent forms of coercion and called for an increased role for DOL and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to investigate labor trafficking. State laws form the basis of most criminal actions in the United States. All U.S. states and territories have anti-trafficking criminal statutes. NGOs continued to report state and local law enforcement demonstrated uncertainty regarding their authority over forced labor cases and lacked formal structures to increase the identification of such cases.
Although at least 34 states have “safe harbor” laws, advocates reported the continued criminalization of victims for crimes committed as a direct result of being subjected to trafficking, and urged federal, state, local, and tribal agencies to adopt policies not to criminalize victims. In addition, 36 states have vacatur laws allowing survivors to seek a court order vacating or expunging criminal convictions entered against them that resulted from their trafficking situation, and advocates noted increased efforts to provide remedies for survivors who have criminal records as a result of their exploitation. Advocates also reported inconsistencies between federal and state treatment of child trafficking victims due to differences in how child trafficking is defined, and urged states to use the definition in the TVPA. The federal government continued to collect state and local data on human trafficking investigations during the reporting period through the Uniform Crime Reporting Program; however, not all state and local jurisdictions participated. Data from 2015 collected from participating jurisdictions are publicly available.

In 2015, jurisdictions reported a total of 387 human trafficking offenses resulting in arrest or solved for crime reporting purposes, an increase from 120 in 2014, due in part to more state and local participation in the reporting program. NGOs noted an increase in law enforcement efforts to investigate and prosecute human trafficking by street gangs. There is no formal mechanism to track prosecutions at the state and local levels. The government continued to take some actions to address official complicity at both the federal and state levels. Authorities arrested an Army service member for sex trafficking involving a 15-year-old and administratively discharged him under other than honorable conditions for a pattern of misconduct. A federal contractor working overseas was convicted in the United States of child sexual exploitation and child sex trafficking. Law enforcement officers from several agencies around the San Francisco Bay Area were charged with crimes related to their sexual misconduct involving a child sex trafficking victim, including obstruction of justice and failure to report. The U.S. government expanded efforts to train officials. Federal agencies collaborated with survivors to improve law enforcement strategies for victim identification, incorporate survivor centered best practices in investigations and prosecutions, and increase efforts to prevent and detect trafficking.

However, survivor advocates reported limited opportunities for input and involvement in the development of anti-trafficking training for law enforcement; they encouraged improved comprehensive training on all forms of human trafficking as well as the hiring of survivors as trainers. Advocates called for increased training of prosecutors and judges on mandatory restitution for victims of trafficking. Multiple federal agencies continued to engage in extensive capacity-building for law enforcement, judges, military personnel, pro bono attorneys, and others to more effectively investigate and prosecute trafficking cases. DOJ expanded training provided to judges and judicial officers on the dynamics of child sex trafficking of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents (LPR) and to law enforcement regarding the use of money laundering charges and asset forfeiture laws. DHS implemented a human trafficking training program for all transportation security and border protection employees as required in the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA), and collaborated with American Indians and Alaska Natives to pilot a “train the trainer” course for tribal leaders and law enforcement. DOS continued an outreach program for domestic field offices and passport centers in the United States to train personnel on human trafficking, including on investigations, prosecutions, and victim services. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) developed resources for courts to assist in the implementation of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, including the identification of and assistance to child victims of trafficking.

PROTECTION

The U.S. government increased its efforts to protect trafficking victims. It granted T nonimmigrant status to more victims than in the prior fiscal year, significantly increased overall funding for victim services, and provided services to significantly more trafficking victims. It also continued collaboration with NGOs, victim service providers, and survivors for a multidisciplinary response to victim identification and service referrals. Advocates continued to report cases of local and state authorities detaining or prosecuting trafficking victims for conduct committed as a direct result of being subjected to trafficking. Federally-funded victim assistance includes case management and referrals for medical and dental care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, sustenance and shelter, translation and interpretation services, immigration and legal assistance, employment and training, transportation assistance, and other services such as criminal justice advocacy. Although federal funding for victim assistance increased for a third year in FY 417 2016, NGOs continued to report funding remained insufficient UNITED STATES OF AMERICA to address the myriad needs of individual victims.
HHS issued Certification and Eligibility Letters for foreign victims to be eligible for services and benefits to the same extent as refugees, provided grant funding for comprehensive case management for foreign and domestic trafficking victims, and funded capacity-building grants for community-based organizations and child welfare systems to respond to trafficking. DOJ provided comprehensive and specialized services for both domestic and foreign trafficking victims. Record-keeping systems used by DOJ and HHS did not allow for cross-referencing to determine which victims were served by both agencies. A Certification Letter enables foreign adult victims to be eligible for federal and state services to the same extent as refugees when Continued Presence is granted or when a victim has a bona fide or approved application for T nonimmigrant status, as described further below. An Eligibility or Interim Assistance Letter allows immediate eligibility for federally-funded benefits and services to the same extent as refugees when credible information indicates a child is or may be a victim of trafficking. HHS issued 444 Certification Letters to foreign adults in FY 2016, a decrease from 623 in FY 2015, and issued 332 Eligibility Letters to foreign children in FY 2016, an increase from 239 in FY 2015. Seventy-five percent of all adult victims certified in FY 2016, more than half of whom were male, were victims of labor trafficking; and more than 73 percent of child trafficking victims who received Eligibility Letters were labor trafficking victims. HHS awarded $6.4 million in FY 2016 to three NGOs for the provision of case management services to foreign national victims through a nationwide network of NGO sub-recipients, a decrease from $7.5 million in FY 2015. Through these grants, HHS supported 152 NGOs with the capacity to serve individuals at 241 sites across the country that provided assistance to a total of 1,424 individuals and their family members. In FY 2016, HHS increased funding to serve U.S. citizen and LPR victims of human trafficking and provided $3.4 million for coordinated victim-centered services, an increase from $3.2 million in FY 2015.

It provided an additional $2.5 million to address trafficking within child welfare systems. DOJ continued to significantly increase the funding allocated to victim assistance, enabling service provision to more victims. During FY 2016, DOJ funded 33 victim service providers offering comprehensive and specialized services across the United States, totaling approximately $19.7 million, compared with $13.8 million in FY 2015 and $10.9 million in FY 2014. DOJ provided $6 million in new funding to improve outcomes for child and youth human trafficking victims up to age 24, and increase services for American Indian and Alaska Native trafficking victims who reside in urban areas. DOJ also provided $2.5 million to enhance services for victims of child sexual exploitation and U.S. citizen and LPR victims of child sex trafficking. From July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, DOJ grantees providing victim services reported 5,655 open client cases, including 3,195 new clients, compared with 3,889 open client cases and 2,180 new clients the year before and a respective 2,782 and 1,366 the year before that. DOJ’s grantees reported that 66 percent of clients served during the reporting period were U.S. citizens or LPRs and 34 percent were foreign nationals. DOJ published a new victim assistance rule in August 2016 that provided more flexibility for states to use increased funding for crime victims, including for trafficking victims.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development, in partnership with a local housing authority and HHS, piloted the first program in the United States to offer housing vouchers for trafficking survivors. In response to the JVTA, DOJ created a webpage for survivors with information on resources and services. NGOs and survivor advocates expressed concern that despite federally funded programs mandating comprehensive services for all victims of trafficking, services were not always provided equally, and they reported inconsistencies in the availability and delivery of services. Advocates called for increased resources and more strategic spending of funds to provide comprehensive services for all survivors across the country. NGOs reported the need for increased availability of trauma-informed services for trafficking victims. NGOs and survivor advocates continued to report insufficient access to shelter and long-term housing options for trafficking victims and called on the U.S. Congress to establish a federal housing preference for survivors of human trafficking.

NGOs and survivor advocates also called for improvements to employment and training services to create more economic opportunities, including expansion of vocational training programs, career development courses, and financial counseling. An OSCE report called for increased resources to assist vulnerable youth exiting foster care. The United States government has formal procedures to guide officials in victim identification and referral to service providers. During the year, HHS child protection specialists continued to provide training and technical assistance to overcome barriers in identifying child trafficking victims. NGOs reported continued concern that governmental efforts to detect and address labor trafficking were insufficient. When children are placed in the care and custody of HHS, they are screened for trafficking exploitation in the United States or abroad.
When appropriate, HHS makes a determination of eligibility for benefits and services, which may include long-term assistance. HHS assisted 122 child victims of trafficking through its Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program in FY 2016, a slight decrease from 124 served in FY 2015. This program requires states to provide such child victims with the same assistance, care, and services available to foster children. HHS also developed a guide on victim identification and other related resources for child welfare agencies and continued to enhance efforts to identify American Indian and Alaska Native victims in both rural and urban areas. Advocates noted concerns about screening procedures at the U.S. borders and in detention facilities, and called for increased training of officials and better monitoring of the care provided to unaccompanied children. DHS provides trafficking-specific immigration options through Continued Presence, which is temporary, and T nonimmigrant status (commonly referred to as the T visa). T visa applicants must be victims of a severe form of trafficking in persons, be in the United States or at a port of entry because of trafficking, and show cooperation with reasonable requests from law enforcement unless they are younger than 18 years of age or unable to cooperate due to trauma suffered. They must also demonstrate that they would suffer extreme hardship involving unusual and severe harm upon removal from the United States. T visa applicants may petition for certain family members, including certain extended family members who face a present danger of retaliation; T visa beneficiaries and their derivative family members are authorized to work and are eligible for certain federal public benefits and services. After three years, or upon the completion of the investigation or prosecution, those with T visas may be eligible to apply for lawful permanent resident status and eventually may be eligible for citizenship.

418 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DHS granted T nonimmigrant status to 750 victims and 986 eligible family members of victims in FY 2016, a significant increase from 610 and 694 in FY 2015. In December 2016, DHS published an interim final rule amending the regulations governing the requirements and procedures for victims of human trafficking seeking a T visa to conform to legislation enacted after the initial rule was published in 2002. The rule became effective in January 2017. DHS manages all requests from federal and state law enforcement for Continued Presence, authorizing foreign nationals identified as trafficking victims who are potential witnesses to remain lawfully and work in the United States during the investigation and prosecution of the crime. In FY 2016, DHS issued Continued Presence to 129 trafficking victims, who were potential witnesses, a decrease from 173 in FY 2015. It granted 179 extensions of Continued Presence, a decrease from 223 in FY 2015. In October 2016, DHS updated the

Continued Presence guidance to law enforcement to improve consistency, extend the duration from one to two years, and increase the renewal duration from one year to up to two years. NGOs continued to call for consistent implementation of Continued Presence across the United States, making sure officials request it as soon as possible during an investigation to enhance the use of this law enforcement tool. International organizations recommended better training for officials, especially at the local level, on the different types of immigration options available to trafficking victims as well as speeding up the process by which these benefits are granted. Another form of immigration relief available to trafficking victims is U nonimmigrant status (commonly referred to as the U visa) for victims of certain qualifying crimes who are helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the qualifying criminal activity and meet other specific eligibility requirements. DHS no longer delineates the number of U visas issued based on the specific underlying crimes for which they are issued.

In FY 2016, a DOS program reunified 279 family members with identified victims of trafficking in the United States, compared with 244 in FY 2015. This program provided two survivors with assistance returning to their home country. Multiple agencies across the federal government continued to provide training to federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement, as well as to NGO service providers and health and human service providers to encourage more consistent application of victim-centered and trauma-informed approaches in all phases of victim identification, assistance, recovery, and participation in the criminal justice process. An NGO noted limited training and resources for child welfare agencies to provide trauma-informed services for trafficking victims. Advocates reported authorities continued to arrest trafficking victims for crimes committed as a direct result of being subjected to trafficking. Survivor advocates continued to call on states to reform their laws to ensure trafficking victims are not criminalized for offenses their traffickers force them to commit. NGOs called for special conditions in federal grants to law enforcement entities that would bar the use of funds to criminalize human trafficking victims. NGOs and survivor advocates continued to report the criminalization of victims creates barriers to accessing public benefits, employment, housing, and other needs essential to avoid re-trafficking and facilitate recovery.
NGOs also called on the U.S. government to address labor trafficking at the same levels as sex trafficking, as much as practicable, in anti-trafficking programs and activities. Survivors continued to report some victims felt pressure to testify against their traffickers to obtain access to services.

PREVENTION

The U.S. government increased efforts to prevent trafficking. Federal agencies conducted numerous awareness and training activities for their own personnel, including law enforcement and acquisition professionals, and field office staff. The Department of the Treasury (Treasury) joined the President’s Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (PITF) to bring added expertise, including in evaluating the nexus between money laundering and human trafficking. To enhance transparency and stakeholder input, the PITF included the presidially-appointed survivor advisory council in its annual meeting and reported on agency accomplishments in combating human trafficking. The government continued to implement its strategic action plan on victim services in the United States and publicly released the second status report in December 2016. The government released a national action plan on responsible business conduct that included commitments to combat human trafficking in supply chains. The government continued public outreach measures on the causes and consequences of human trafficking and continued efforts to increase victim identification among vulnerable populations and sectors and improve prevention efforts. HHS continued to fund an NGO to operate the national human trafficking hotline and in January 2017 launched a training and technical assistance center to enhance the public health response of communities and professionals to human trafficking. In FY 2016, the national hotline received 51,167 calls from across the United States and U.S. territories. In October 2016, the government updated the “Know Your Rights” pamphlet U.S. embassies and consulates provide applicants for temporary work and exchange visitor visas, incorporating public input, including from survivors, and featuring additional resources for workers. In FY 2016, the pamphlet generated 459 calls to the national hotline, compared to 424 calls generated by the pamphlet in FY 2015.

In 2016, DHS continued its nationwide human trafficking awareness Blue Campaign and developed new products, including a toolkit for the hospitality sector. DOJ prepared a toolkit of materials and resources for distribution during outreach events that includes victim identification practices and protocols for assisting possible trafficking victims. HHS launched a new awareness campaign that incorporated stakeholder and survivor input and continued to provide training to health care and social service professionals. The Department of Transportation (DOT) and DHS worked with survivor advocates, law enforcement, and aviation experts to revise their training module for airline personnel. In July 2016, a legislative amendment added an annual training requirement for flight attendants on recognizing and responding to potential victims of trafficking, which led to an increase in the number of airlines partnering with DOT and DHS from four to 16. In FY 2016, the EEOC conducted more than 240 trafficking outreach events, reaching more than 25,000 individuals. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) developed and distributed across the United States a pamphlet on human trafficking and industry vulnerabilities, and it conducted outreach visits to rural communities in three states to increase awareness of trafficking. Treasury continued to analyze and disseminate information received from financial institutions related to human trafficking. The U.S. Agency for International Development funded antitrafficking activities in 34 countries and continued its mandatory 419 trafficking training for employees, including its acquisition UNITED STATE OF AMERICA workforce.

The Department of Education continued outreach efforts to integrate trafficking information into school curricula and resources. DoD incorporated mandatory human trafficking training for contract and acquisition officers into its standard curricula. DOS continued to provide anti-trafficking training for its diplomatic personnel; it provided both classroom and web-based training for Diplomatic Security personnel, consular officers, and other employees. To prevent human trafficking, NGOs called for a more comprehensive approach to address the factors and conditions that increase vulnerabilities to human trafficking. Advocates asked for more specific, easily accessible data on prevalence and on victims identified and assisted. NGOs continued to report abuses, including allegations of human trafficking, of workers in the United States on work based or other nonimmigrant visas. Advocates urged enhanced protections for workers, including regulatory changes to uncouple work visas from an employer or sponsor, and called for the allocation of more resources to protect workers from unscrupulous recruiters. Both the H-2A and H-2B programs prohibit directly or indirectly charging foreign workers job placement, recruitment, or other fees—including certain salary deductions—related to employment, and both require disclosure of the terms of employment. Since August 2016, DOL has maintained an online list of H-2B foreign labor recruiters to increase transparency in the recruitment process, help workers verify legitimate H-2B job opportunities in the United States, and better enforce recruitment violations.
In January 2017, DHS and DOL approved an agreement to share data on employers participating in nonimmigrant and immigrant visa programs. NGOs continued to report inadequate government oversight and enforcement of the recruitment fee ban and noted that workers were still being charged prohibited fees. DOS has implemented steps to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of participants in the J-1 Visa Exchange Visitor Program, which includes the Summer Work Travel (SWT) and the au pair programs. DOS conducted field monitoring of the SWT program in the 2016 summer and winter seasons, visiting 446 SWT exchange visitor sites in 25 states and the District of Columbia. DOS also continued outreach efforts with 25 community support structures in 19 states with significant SWT populations to educate participants on personal safety, among other things. In January 2017, DOS sought public comment on a proposed new rule amending the SWT program requirements, which adds protections for visitors and new responsibilities for sponsors.

In March 2017, a Florida man was sentenced to 30 years in prison for sex trafficking in a 2011 case involving the exploitation of two SWT exchange visitors. With respect to the au pair program, DOS continued to monitor the health, safety, and welfare of au pairs. Recent media reports detailed allegations of abuse in a small number of cases under the au pair program involving au pairs working extra hours without additional pay and not receiving the appropriate wage for their placement jurisdiction. U.S. law exempts U.S. vessels in fleets that fish for highly migratory species from a requirement that at least 75 percent of crew on vessels in U.S. waters be U.S. citizens. As a result, most workers on these fleets, which dock at ports in Hawaii and along the U.S. west coast, are foreign nationals. These workers are not eligible, based on this work, for any U.S. work based visas to enter the United States, are not covered by U.S. labor law protections, and consistent with industry practice are subject to a requirement whereby vessel captains hold the crew’s identity documents. DHS monitored these workers’ conditions to mitigate potential risks of exploitation.

In February 2017, a federal judge certified a class of immigration detainees who allege they were forced to work in violation of the TVPA during their detention in a privately owned and operated prison company contracted by DHS. The class certification has been appealed. DHS is not party to the lawsuit. In 2016, DOS continued to administer its In-Person Registration Program for domestic workers on A-3 and G-5 visas employed by foreign mission and international organization personnel, respectively, in the Washington, DC area and began annual renewal appointments. DOS hosted a briefing for senior foreign embassy and international organization officials to reiterate program requirements, introduce a suggested employment contract template, and emphasize foreign mission responsibility for the welfare of these workers. DOS also held a consultation with NGOs on issues related to domestic workers.

Despite these efforts, an OSCE report called for expansion of the In-Person Registration Program to include all A-3 and G-5 visa holders in the United States and raised concerns that some foreign mission personnel evade current protection measures for foreign domestic workers. NGO reports called for increased efforts to prosecute domestic servitude cases involving diplomats when possible, the inclusion of all domestic workers in federal labor and employment law protections, and strengthened protections under state laws. Civil enforcement of federal laws continued to be a significant component of the government’s anti-trafficking efforts. DOL investigated complaints and conducted targeted civil labor investigations involving workers in industries and sectors known to be vulnerable to labor trafficking. In FY 2016, DOL increased enforcement activities in industries including agriculture, landscaping, seafood, reforestation, and hospitality. However, survivor advocates noted the high number of cases in hospitality, agriculture, and construction and recommended more investigations of these industries.

During the reporting period, EEOC, which enforces federal employment discrimination statutes, continued to pursue cases on behalf of trafficked workers and ensure compensation for victims of trafficking, but did not file any new cases. Federal law also allows a person subjected to trafficking to independently file a civil cause of action, and there were cases in which individuals took this action during the reporting period. The government continued its efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex and forced labor in the reporting period. DoD investigated at least seven cases of service members allegedly violating DoD’s prohibition on procuring commercial sex, compared to at least 38 investigations the previous year. DOJ continued to prosecute individuals who pay or attempt to pay for commercial sex involving children.
For example, in 2016, one defendant received a sentence of 293 months in prison for engaging in a commercial sex act with a 12-year-old child. NGOs urged increased efforts to address the demand for commercial sex, including efforts to prosecute those who solicit sex from trafficking victims. DOJ and DHS continued to proactively investigate allegations of child sex tourism offenses perpetrated overseas by U.S. citizens and partnered with foreign law enforcement counterparts to share information regarding international travel of registered child sex offenders. Ten defendants were convicted of federal child sex tourism charges under the federal statute, 18 U.S.C.
Resources to Visit

Please visit the Human Trafficking Legal Access Center

What is the Human Trafficking Legal Access Center?
This site is a project developed by the American Bar Association Task Force on Human Trafficking and Polaris Project, and hosted by probono.net. The goal of this site is to provide information and resources for service providers that work with human trafficking survivors and to connect human trafficking service providers that have the capacity to provide training, mentoring and supervision to pro bono attorneys who want to work with their clients.

How Does It Work?
The Human Trafficking Legal Access Center brings together attorneys and law firms with the non-profit service providers working with survivors of human trafficking. In addition to a calendar of events and trainings, news, and legal cases, the site will include resources for nonprofits and resources for pro bono attorneys.¹

If you have questions about the site, please contact Meredith Mitnick at meredith.mitnick@americanbar.org.

Please Visit Polaris

What is Polaris?
Polaris is a leader in the global fight to eradicate modern slavery. Named after the North Star that guided slaves to freedom in the U.S., Polaris systemically disrupts the human trafficking networks that rob human beings of their lives and their freedom. Our comprehensive model puts victims at the center of what we do – helping survivors restore their freedom, preventing more victims, and leveraging data and technology to pursue traffickers wherever they operate. https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking.

Please visit the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

What is United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime?
UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime. Established in 1997 through a merger between the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention, UNODC operates in all regions of the world through an extensive network of field offices. UNODC relies on voluntary contributions, mainly from Governments, for 90 per cent of its budget.

UNODC is mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism. In the Millennium Declaration, Member States also resolved to intensify efforts to fight transnational crime in all its dimensions, to redouble the efforts to implement the commitment to counter the world drug problem and to take concerted action against international terrorism.

Please check out at this video from The Mandarin Journal: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dVvl4Tf6oij4

¹. https://www.humantraffickinglaw.net/learnmore/
Films and Books about Human Trafficking

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 Seconds</td>
<td>film.10secondsmovie.com</td>
<td>$5.99</td>
<td>Gilbert Horn is a successful business and family man with a deep, dark secret. His obsession leads him to lie to those around him, betray his wife and enslave innocent girls. As he struggles with temptation, he is desperate for intervention to save him from self-destructing. <em>10 Seconds</em> is a story of a sex addict and a sex slave.</td>
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<td>At the End of Slavery</td>
<td><a href="http://www.attheendofslavery.ca">www.attheendofslavery.ca</a></td>
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<td>Narrated by actor Danny Glover, <em>At the End of Slavery: The Battle for Justice in our Time</em> takes you inside the violent and ugly business of modern-day slavery — the buying and selling of human beings — from the brothels of the Philippines to the brick kilns of India.</td>
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<td>Born into Brothels</td>
<td><a href="http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/born-into-brothels/">http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/born-into-brothels/</a></td>
<td>$49.95 on Amazon</td>
<td>A tribute to the resiliency of childhood and the restorative power of art, <em>Born into Brothels</em> is a portrait of several unforgettable children who live in the red-light district of Calcutta, where their mothers work as prostitutes. Zana Briski, a New York-based photographer, gives each child a camera and teaches them all to look at the world with new eyes.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chosen</td>
<td>sharedhope.org/store/chosen-dvd/</td>
<td>$49.00</td>
<td>Hear the shocking true stories of two American teenage girls tricked into trafficking. Eighteen-year-old Brianna was an honor roll student, cheerleader and worker at a local café. Thirteen-year-old Lacy was an active member of her youth group and a volunteer in her community. Both were manipulated. Both were exploited. Both were chosen.</td>
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<td>Cocoa-nomics</td>
<td>thecnnfreedomproject.blogs.cnn.com/2014/03/04/cocoa-nomics-watch-the-documentary-in-full/</td>
<td>Free on website</td>
<td>Two years after exposing slavery in the cocoa plantations of Ivory Coast, a CNN team went back to see how the chocolate industry and the Ivory Coast government were tackling the problem.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Eden</td>
<td><a href="http://broadgreen.com/films/eden">http://broadgreen.com/films/eden</a></td>
<td>From $8.83 on Amazon</td>
<td>Hyun Jae accepts a late-night ride home from a young firefighter after a night out with friends. A promising night quickly turns into a nightmare when she is abducted and imprisoned in Las Vegas as a sex slave. Renamed Eden, she learns she must build the trust of her captors and sacrifice everything in a desperate plea to survive.</td>
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<td>Food Chains</td>
<td><a href="http://www.foodchainsfilm.com">http://www.foodchainsfilm.com</a></td>
<td>Free on Netflix $9.99 on iTunes</td>
<td>From Eva Longoria and Eric Schlosser, author of <em>Fast Food Nation</em>, and a producer of Food, Inc., comes a powerful and shocking exposé about what feeds our country and how one small group of workers fought corporate greed to end slavery and abuse in America’s fields. Narrated by Academy Award winner Forest Whitaker, this must-see film will open the eyes of everyone who shops in a supermarket.</td>
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<td><strong>The Freedom Film: Indifference is not an option</strong></td>
<td>aheartforjustice.com/2012/03/15/the-freedom-film-indifference-is-not-an-option/</td>
<td>Free on website</td>
<td>A short, moving film that tells the stories of three people in three different parts of the world who were once held captive as modern-day slaves but are now free.</td>
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<td><strong>Slavery by Another name</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.pbs.org/tpt/slavery-by-another-name/watch/">www.pbs.org/tpt/slavery-by-another-name/watch/</a></td>
<td>$9.99 on Amazon</td>
<td>Slavery by Another Name is a 90-minute documentary that challenges the assumption that slavery in this country ended with the Emancipation Proclamation. The film tells how even as chattel slavery came to an end in the South in 1865, thousands of African Americans were pulled back into forced labor with shocking force and brutality. It was a system in which men, often guilty of no crime, were arrested, compelled to work without pay, repeatedly bought and sold, and coerced to do the bidding of masters. Tolerated by both the North and the South, forced labor lasted well into the 20th century.</td>
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<td><strong>In Plain Sight</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.inplainsightfilm.com">www.inplainsightfilm.com</a></td>
<td>$9.99 on Amazon</td>
<td>Executive produced and narrated by Natalie Grant, this inspiring documentary seeks to raise awareness about the thousands of women and children who are forced, coerced or deceived into the commercial sex trade each year in the United States. The film opens the eyes of the average American to what's happening in plain sight and highlights stories of hope that are emerging from the darkness.</td>
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<td><strong>nefarious: Merchant of Souls</strong></td>
<td>nefariousdocumentary.com</td>
<td>$4.99 (to rent) $20.00 (to buy)</td>
<td>Nefarious: Merchant of Souls is a hard-hitting documentary that exposes the disturbing trends of modern-day sex slavery. From the first scene, Nefarious gives an in-depth look at the human trafficking industry, showing where slaves are sold (often in developed, affluent countries), where they work, and where they are confined. With footage shot in over 19 different countries, Nefarious exposes the nightmare of sex slavery as experienced by hundreds of thousands daily through the eyes of both the enslaved and their traffickers.</td>
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<td><strong>not My Life</strong></td>
<td>notmylife.org</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>Not My Life depicts the cruel and dehumanizing practices of human trafficking and modern slavery on a global scale. Filmed on five continents and in a dozen countries, Not My Life takes viewers into a world where millions of children are exploited every day through an astonishing array of practices including forced labor, domestic servitude, begging, sex tourism, sexual violence and child soldiering</td>
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<td><strong>Red Light Green Light</strong></td>
<td>redlightgreenlightfilm.com</td>
<td>Not yet available for home viewing; screening prices vary</td>
<td>As nations around the globe attempt to fight sex trafficking, many consider legalizing prostitution. Two filmmakers travel across 10 countries to explore the issue, attempting to determine how we can prevent sexual exploitation.</td>
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<td><strong>Santa’s Workshop</strong></td>
<td>toptdocumentaryfilms.com/santas-workshop/</td>
<td>Free on website</td>
<td>Santa’s Workshop takes the viewer to the real world of China’s toy factories. Workers tell us about long working hours, low wages and dangerous work places.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sex+Money: A national Search for Human Worth</td>
<td>sexandmoneystore.com</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
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<td><em>Sex+Money</em> is a documentary about domestic minor sex trafficking and the modern-day abolitionist movement fighting to stop it. Since September 2009, the crew has traveled to over 30 states and conducted more than 75 interviews with federal agents, victims, politicians, activists, psychologists, and pornography actors, among others.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slavery: A Global Investigation</td>
<td>tophumanworth.org</td>
<td>Free on website and on YouTube</td>
<td></td>
<td>Slavery is officially banned internationally by all countries, yet despite this, the world today has more slaves now than ever before. During the approximately 400 years of the slave trade, around 13 million people were shipped from Africa. Today an estimated 27 million slaves exist. They are paid no money, are locked away and controlled by violence. Award-winning documentary makers Kate Blewett and Brian Woods saw this terrible exploitation with their own eyes. The result is an utterly devastating film.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supermarket Slave Trial</td>
<td>tophumanworth.org</td>
<td>Free on website</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prawns have gone from luxury foodstuff to affordable pleasure. But while they are cheap to buy, the human cost of their production is unimaginable. This shocking exposé from Guardian Films reveals the invisible slavery popping up Thailand’s multi-billion-dollar fishing industry and the Western supermarkets who are cashing in. Every year, thousands of migrant workers seek illicit entry into the country, only to become victims of endemic human-trafficking that feeds the long, complex supply chain from boat to supermarket shelf. This undercover investigation unearths a lawless and unregulated industry run by criminals and facilitated by Thai officials.</td>
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<td>The Dark Side of Chocolate</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Vfb6hNeng">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Vfb6hNeng</a></td>
<td>Free on YouTube</td>
<td></td>
<td>A team of journalists investigate how human trafficking and child labor in Ivory Coast fuels the worldwide chocolate industry. The crew interviews both proponents and opponents of these alleged practices and use hidden camera techniques to delve into the gritty world of cocoa plantations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Growing Demand for Fair Food</td>
<td>cwi-2015/08/cbs-sunday-morning-video/</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Brought to us by correspondent Mark Strassmann and producer Mark Hudspeth, this piece traces the hard-fought transformation of Florida’s fields from the “harvest of shame” days in 1960 to what the <em>New York Times</em> today calls one of the best working environments in American agriculture. The <em>CBS Sunday Morning</em> story features interviews with members of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, representatives of the Fair Food Standards Council, participating growers, and buyers such as Whole Foods, where the Fair Food label recently debuted.</td>
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## FILMS

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<tr>
<td>Tricked: The Documentary</td>
<td><a href="http://www.trickedfilm.com">www.trickedfilm.com</a></td>
<td>$18.11 on Amazon</td>
<td>Modern-day slavery is alive and well in the United States, as thousands of victims are trafficked throughout the country to satisfy America’s $3 billion-a-year sex trafficking industry. Meet the pimps, johns, police, parents and victims of America’s thriving sex trade in <em>Tricked</em>, a comprehensive documentary that uncovers America’s dirty secret. It’s an industry that is fueled by greed, fantasy and the commercial sexual exploitation of American children and girls.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walking Merchandise</td>
<td><a href="http://www.walkingmerchandise.com/watch.html">www.walkingmerchandise.com/watch.html</a></td>
<td>Free on website</td>
<td>It’s a process that is so complex. One person or just one researcher can’t encapsulate the whole story. When you say trafficking, most people in America think sex trafficking. There’s this glorified horror to sex work that isn’t applied yet to labor. When there’s that much money at stake, the traffickers want to make sure that the victims are out there working and paying it back. There’s a huge amount of exploitation and the journeys that people undertake are dangerous ones.</td>
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## Books

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<tr>
<td>Bonded Labor: Tackling the System of Slavery in South Asia</td>
<td>Siddharth Kara</td>
<td>Colombia University Press</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Drawing on 11 years of research in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan, Kara delves into an ancient and ever-evolving mode of slavery that ensnares roughly six out of every ten slaves in the world and generates profits that exceeded $17.6 billion in 2011. In addition to providing a thorough economic, historical and legal overview of bonded labor, Kara travels to the far reaches of South Asia, from cyclone-wracked southwestern Bangladesh to the Thar desert on the India-Pakistan border, to uncover the brutish realities of such industries as hand-woven carpet making, tea and rice farming, construction, brick manufacture, and frozen shrimp production.</td>
<td>$22.00 from Colombia University Press or $21.16 on Amazon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Crime So Monstrous: Face-to-Face with Modern-Day Slavery</td>
<td>E. Benjamin Skinner</td>
<td>Free Press</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Skinner infiltrates trafficking networks and slave sales on four continents, exposing a modern flesh trade never before portrayed in such proximity. From mega-harems in Dubai to illicit brothels in Bucharest, from slave quarries in India to child markets in Haiti, he explores the underside of a world we scarcely recognize as our own and lays bare a parallel universe where human beings are bought, sold, used and discarded. He travels from the White House to war zones and immerses us in the political and flesh-and-blood battles on the front lines of the unheralded new abolitionist movement.</td>
<td>$11.32 on Amazon or $11.32 at Barnes and Noble</td>
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<td>Book Name</td>
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<td>Disposable People: new Slavery in the Global Economy</td>
<td>Kevin Bales</td>
<td>University of California Press</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Slavery is illegal throughout the world, yet more than 27 million people are still trapped in one of history’s oldest social institutions. Kevin Bales’ disturbing story of contemporary slavery reaches from Pakistan’s brick kilns and Thailand’s brothels to various multinational corporations. His investigations reveal how the tragic emergence of a “new slavery” is inextricably linked to the global economy. This completely revised edition includes a new preface. All the author’s royalties from this book fund antislavery projects around the world.</td>
<td>$29.95 from University of California Press or $26.57 on Amazon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending Slavery: How We Free Today’s Slaves</td>
<td>Kevin Bales</td>
<td>University of California Press</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>In Ending Slavery, Bales again grapples with the struggle to end this ancient evil and presents the ideas and insights that can finally lead to slavery’s extinction. Recalling his own involvement in the antislavery movement, he recounts a personal journey in search of the solution and explains how governments and citizens can build a world without slavery.</td>
<td>$24.95 from University of California Press or $24.95 on Amazon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forgotten Girls: Stories of Hope and Courage</td>
<td>Kay Marshall Strom and Michele Rickett</td>
<td>Intervarsity Press</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Statistics show that the world’s most oppressed are overwhelmingly female. Moved by their plight, Kay Marshall Strom and Michele Rickett traveled across continents to partner with ministries working to help females and to interview girls in some of the most difficult places in the world. These pages hold those stories — stories of deep pain and suffering, inspiring courage and incredible hope.</td>
<td>$14.40 on Amazon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Trafficking Around the World: Hidden in Plain Sight</td>
<td>Stephanie Hepburn and Rita J. Simon</td>
<td>Colombia University Press</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>This unprecedented study of sex trafficking, forced labor, organ trafficking and sex tourism across 24 nations highlights the experiences of the victims, perpetrators and anti-traffickers involved in this brutal trade. Combining statistical data with intimate accounts and interviews, journalist Stephanie Hepburn and justice scholar Rita J. Simon create a dynamic volume sure to educate and spur action.</td>
<td>$27.95 from Colombia University Press or $18.91 on Amazon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Trafficking: A Global Perspective</td>
<td>Louise Shelley</td>
<td>Cambridge University Press</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>This book examines all forms of human trafficking globally, revealing the operations of the trafficking business and the nature of the traffickers themselves. Using a historical and comparative perspective, it demonstrates that there is more than one business model of human trafficking and that there are enormous variations in human trafficking in different regions of the world.</td>
<td>$28.99 from Cambridge University Press or $22.60 on Amazon</td>
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<td>In Our Backyard: A Christian Perspective on Human Trafficking in the United States</td>
<td>Nita Belles</td>
<td>Xulon Press</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td><em>In Our Backyard</em> reveals the lives of human trafficking victims, survivors and the traffickers themselves. These stories inform readers and take them quickly through a well-documented crash course about human trafficking — better described as modern-day slavery, in the United States.</td>
<td>$10.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>The natashas: Inside the new Global Sex Trade</td>
<td>Victor Malarek</td>
<td>Arcade Publishing</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>On the black market, humans the third most profitable commodity after illegal weapons and drugs. Though to their handlers, they are wholly expendable. They are women and girls, some as young as 12, from all over the Eastern bloc, where sinister networks of organized crime have become entrenched in the aftermath of the collapse of communist regimes. In Israel, they're called Natashas, whether they're actually from Russia, Bosnia, the Czech Republic or Ukraine. They're lured into vans and onto planes with promises of jobs as waitresses, models, nannies, dishwashers, maids and dancers. But when they arrive at their destinations, they are stripped of their identification and their nightmare begins.</td>
<td>$10.52</td>
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<tr>
<td>nobody's Girl</td>
<td>Barbara Amaya</td>
<td>Animal Media Group</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Barbara Amaya tells her story of sexual abuse, human trafficking, drug addiction, rape, prison and domestic violence on the streets of New York, most of which happened before her sixteenth birthday. She shares her journey from trafficking victim to human rights advocate, weaving together a story of loss, pain, courage and transformation.</td>
<td>$13.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Princess Found: A Guide for Mentors of Sexually Exploited Girls</td>
<td>Steven R. Tracy and Celestia C. Tracy</td>
<td>Mending the Soul</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Part of a four-piece curriculum for sexually exploited girls and their mentors and caregivers, <em>Princess Found</em> integrates the voices of survivors, social science research, and a theology of healing to direct and guide advocates and caregivers in the compassionate and holistic care of exploited girls, enabling healing. Mentors now have a balanced and interactive tool.</td>
<td>$19.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refuse to Do nothing: Finding Your Power to Abolish Modern-Day Slavery</td>
<td>Shayne Moore and Kimberly McOwen Yim</td>
<td>Intervarsity Press</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Slavery never ended. It just went underground, where it continues to exploit powerless men, women and children in horrific ways throughout the world. In <em>Refuse to Do Nothing</em>, Abolitionists Shayne Moore and Kimberly McOwen Yim share their stories of coming to terms with the power available to them to fight slavery in their normal, everyday lives.</td>
<td>$10.86</td>
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<td>The Road of Lost Innocence: The True Story of a Cambodian Heroine</td>
<td>Somaly Mam</td>
<td>Spiegel &amp; Grau</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Born in a village deep in the Cambodian forest, Somaly Mam was sold into sexual slavery by her grandfather when she was twelve years old. For the next decade, she was shuttled through the brothels that make up the sprawling sex trade of southeast Asia. Trapped in this dangerous and desperate world, she suffered the brutality and horrors of human trafficking — rape, torture and deprivation — until she managed to escape with the help of a French aid worker. Emboldened by her newfound freedom, education and security, Somaly blossomed, but remained haunted by girls in the brothels she left behind.</td>
<td>From $6.55 on Amazon</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Slave Across the Street</td>
<td>Theresa Flores and Peggy Sue Wells</td>
<td>Ampelon Publishing</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>In this powerful true story, Theresa Flores shares how her life as an all-American, blue-eyed, blond-haired 15-year-old teenager was enslaved in the dangerous world of sex trafficking while living in an upper-middle-class suburb of Detroit. Her story peels the cover off of this horrific criminal activity and gives dedicated activists as well as casual bystanders a glimpse into the underbelly of trafficking. And it all happened while living at home without her parents ever knowing. Involuntarily involved in a large underground criminal ring, Ms. Flores endured more as a child than most adults will ever face their entire lives.</td>
<td>$12.17 on Amazon or $12.17 from Barnes and Noble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Slave Next Door</td>
<td>Kevin Bales and Ken Sodalter</td>
<td>University of California Press</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>In <em>The Slave Next Door</em>, we find that slaves are all around us, hidden in plain sight: the dishwasher in the kitchen of the neighborhood restaurant, the kids on the corner selling cheap trinkets, and the man sweeping the floor of the local department store. Weaving together a wealth of voices from slaves, slaveholders and traffickers as well as from experts, counselors, law enforcement officers, rescue and support groups, and others, this book is also a call to action, telling what we as private citizens can do to finally bring an end to this horrific crime.</td>
<td>$18.02 on Amazon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slave: My True Story</td>
<td>Mende Nazer and Damien Lewis</td>
<td>Public Affairs</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td><em>Slave</em> is a story almost beyond belief. It depicts the strength and dignity of the Nuba tribe. It recounts the savage way in which the Nuba and their ancient culture are being destroyed by a secret modern-day slave trade. Most of all, it is a remarkable testimony to one young woman’s unbreakable spirit and tremendous courage.</td>
<td>$10.21 on Amazon or $12.30 at Barnes and Noble</td>
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<td><strong>Sold</strong></td>
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<td>Patricia McCormick</td>
<td>Hyperion Books</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Lakshmi’s life becomes a nightmare from which she cannot escape. Still, she lives by her mother’s words — “simply to endure is to triumph” — and gradually, she forms friendships with the other girls that enable her to survive in this terrifying new world. Then the day comes when she must make a decision — will she risk everything for a chance to reclaim her life? Written in spare and evocative vignettes, this powerful novel renders a world that is as unimaginable as it is real and a girl who not only survives, but triumphs.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Somebody’s Daughter: The Hidden Story of America’s Prostituted Children and the Battle to Save Them</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14.75</strong></td>
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<td>Julian Sher</td>
<td>Chicago Review Press</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Meet the girls who are fighting for their dignity, the cops who are trying to rescue them, and the community activists battling to protect the nation’s most forsaken children. The author takes you behind the scenes to expose one of America’s most under-reported crimes. A girl from New Jersey gets arrested in Las Vegas and, at great risk to her own life, helps the FBI take down a million-dollar pimping empire. An abused teenager in Texas has the courage to take the stand in a grueling trial that sends her pimp away for 75 years. Survivors of the sex trade in New York, Phoenix and Minneapolis set up shelters and rescue centers that offer young girls a chance to break free from the streets. “The sex trade is the new drug trade,” says one FBI special agent, and <em>Somebody’s Daughter</em> is a call to action, shining a light on America’s dirty little secret.</td>
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<td><strong>Terrify no More: Young Girls Held Captive and the Daring Undercover operation to Win Their Freedom</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13.43</strong></td>
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<td>Gary A. Haugen and Greg Hunter</td>
<td>Thomas Nelson</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>In a small village outside Phnom Penh, children as young as five are bought and sold as sex slaves. Day after day, their abuse continues and their hope slips away. In <em>Terrify No More</em>, an international team of investigators goes undercover to infiltrate this ring of brothels and gather evidence needed to free these girls. Meanwhile, skilled legal minds race against the clock, working at the highest levels of U.S. and foreign governments to bring the perpetrators to justice. Headed up by former U.N. war crimes investigator, Gary Haugen, the team perseveres against impossible obstacles — police corruption, death threats, and mission-thwarting tip-offs — on a mission dedicated to freeing the victims.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trafficked: My Story of Surviving, Escaping, and Transcending Abduction into Prostitution</td>
<td>Sophie Hayes</td>
<td>Sourcebooks</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Bledi tricked Sophie into travelling to Italy, where he forced her to sell her body to help him pay off a debt. Terrified and ashamed, Sophie worked the dangerous Italian streets without rest, seeing as many as 30 clients in a night. She was completely at Bledi’s mercy for food, clothes and shelter. And without money, friends or family, she was trapped. But Sophie found the strength to keep going, clinging to life by a single thread of hope: that somehow, she’d find a way to escape</td>
<td>$11.32 on Amazon or $16.95 on Booktopia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trafficked: The Diary of a Sex Slave</td>
<td>Sibel Hodge</td>
<td>CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>This is a gritty, gripping and tear-jerking novella, inspired by real victims’ accounts and research into the sex trafficking underworld. It’s been listed as one of the Top 40 Books About Human Rights by Accredited Online Colleges.</td>
<td>$8.99 on Amazon or $8.99 at Barnes and Noble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The White Umbrella: Walking with Survivors of Sex Trafficking</td>
<td>Mary Francis Bowley</td>
<td>Moody Publishers</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td><em>The White Umbrella</em> tells stories of survivors as well as those who came alongside to help them to recovery. It describes the pain and the strength of these young women and those who held the “white umbrella” of protection and purity over them on the road to restoration. This book offers principles and guidance to anyone with a heart for these hurting young women and a desire to help. It is an ideal resource for individuals or organizations seeking to learn what they can do to assist these victims in becoming whole again.</td>
<td>$10.43 on Amazon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Typology of Modern Slavery: Defining Sex and Labor Trafficking in the United States</td>
<td>Polaris Staff</td>
<td>Design: madebymirna.com</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Polaris’s data-driven Typology segments the market of human trafficking beyond the existing categories of sex trafficking and labor trafficking, revealing the dozens of manifestations of how traffickers control and exploit others for profit. Breaking up modern slavery into types allows us to expose the vulnerabilities in network business models and understand the ways that traffickers leverage and exploit legitimate businesses or institutions - such as social media, hotels, financial institutions, transportation systems, and government visas. The Typology of Modern Slavery offers a map for taking the next steps in creating a world without slavery.</td>
<td>Free on website: <a href="https://polarisproject.org/sites/default/files/Polaris-Typology-of-Modern-Slavery.pdf">https://polarisproject.org/sites/default/files/Polaris-Typology-of-Modern-Slavery.pdf</a></td>
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BIBLE STUDY
What We Can Learn from Daniel

by Marva Usher-Kerr, executive secretary of membership and leadership outreach,
United Methodist Women

Daniel 1:1–7
“In the third year of the reign of King Jehoiakim of Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to
Jerusalem and besieged it. The Lord let King Jehoiakim of Judah fall into his power, as well as some
of the vessels of the house of God. These he brought to the land of Shinar, and placed the vessels
in the treasury of his gods. Then the king commanded his palace master Ashpenaz to bring some of
the Israelites of the royal family and of the nobility, young men without physical defect and
handsome, versed in every branch of wisdom, endowed with knowledge and insight, and competent
to serve in the king’s palace; they were to be taught the literature and language of the Chaldeans.
The king assigned them a daily portion of the royal rations of food and wine. They were to be
educated for three years, so that at the end of that time they could be stationed in the king’s court.
Among them were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, from the tribe of Judah. The palace
master gave them other names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach,
Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.”

Daniel is well-known in the scriptures as the leader of a group of young slaves, including Hananiah,
Mishael, Azariah and himself. His tale is one used over and over to teach young children about faith
and strength.

Daniel’s courage to stand up and be himself against pressure to change has inspired many of us
who have faced the same pressure.

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah were abducted from their homeland of Judah. Because
they were children of royalty and priests, the slave traders felt that the young men were the best of
the chattel and forced them to be “gilded slaves,” trained to serve kings. Although they were in the
company of royalty, they were still not of the conquerors’ blood and were therefore considered
expendable.

According to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons,
Especially Women and Children, Trafficking in persons is considered:

“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the
threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the
abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or
benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the
purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the
prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery
or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.” (Article 3a)

If Daniel and his friends lived in this day and time, they be would considered trafficked persons.

Usually, anti-Trafficking efforts focus on the sex Trafficking of women and children, which is a major
facet of human Trafficking. However, labor Trafficking and the Trafficking of men and boys also
occur.
This is the case with Daniel and his friends; males can also be caught in the web of slavery and exploitation.

**Daniel 1:8–10**

“But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the royal rations of food and wine; so he asked the palace master to allow him not to defile himself. Now God allowed Daniel to receive favor and compassion from the palace master. The palace master said to Daniel, ‘I am afraid of my lord the king; he has appointed your food and your drink. If he should see you in poorer condition than the other young men of your own age, you would endanger my head with the king.’”

This passage speaks to the victim, the oppressors and those of us who want to help victims. For the victim, Daniel is a shining example of inner fortitude:

- Although his situation was dire and there was no hope of return to his homeland, Daniel managed to maintain his personhood despite danger and pressure from outside forces.
- He kept his heart, body and mind fixed on the laws that his God had placed on his life.
- He never lost faith.

**Daniel 1:11–16**

“Then Daniel asked the guard whom the palace master had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: ‘Please test your servants for ten days. Let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. You can then compare our appearance with the appearance of the young men who eat the royal rations, and deal with your servants according to what you observe.’ So he agreed to this proposal and tested them for ten days. At the end of ten days, it was observed that they appeared better and fatter than all the young men who had been eating the royal rations. So the guard continued to withdraw their royal rations and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.”

This passage speaks to the perpetrators.

Here the guard was given a path to aid those who were under him and he took that chance. As advocates for the victims, we need to provide venues that will allow the Holy Spirit to step into the lives of those who have wounded others and renew their minds.

Where is the Word for us? As we are interested in fighting against this evil, our duty is harder. What we take away from these passages is that we are called to be the hands and feet of the God that Daniel believed in so strongly. We as advocates need to support ministries that empower victims and help them recover their dignity. In some cases, we need to stand as role models, and in other cases we need to break systems of injustice for these victims.

**Study Questions**

- Considering what you know about Daniel and the others, what do you think they truly felt about their situation?
- Sometimes we want to do things our way when it comes to conflict. Do you feel that Daniel was right in his approach with the guard?
- Where do you see yourself in this story?
- Do you believe that you could have done the same in Daniel’s place? Why or why not?
- What lessons are learned here?
- Although the Holy Spirit is not spoken about outright, where do you see the Holy Spirit here?
Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.

—Romans 5:9

Scene
Characters (five)
Five chairs
Altar: White cloth, Bible, Christ candle, globe of the world, Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church, silk flowers in United Methodist Women colors

Characters
Joanna: Rescued victim
Roberta: Advocate
Sergeant Chan: Police officer
Dr. Martinez: Medical doctor
Leah: Social worker

Background Information
Rescued Victim
• Needs of the victim: Safe housing, medical help, protection, counseling, resources (training for jobs, life skills, etc.).

Advocate
• What is human trafficking? Power, money, modern-day slavery.
• How can we help train communities? Churches and other organizations, raising awareness, networking with other organizations and interfaith groups.
• What are the resources? Trafficking in Persons Report (www.state.gov/g/tip/), Polaris Project (www.polarisprojects.org), individual state laws and policies, United Methodist Women website (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org).

Police Officer
• Know the statistical facts, national and international.
• Explain what a misdemeanor and what a felony is.
• Explain laws against restraining and abuse.
• What happens to criminals committing human trafficking?

Doctor
• Is second to law enforcement in assisting victim.
• Coordinate and provide care.
• Show compassion and provide a nonjudgmental response.
Social Worker
- Counsel and assist in locating resources to assist victims as needed.
- In some cases, will assist in locating interpreters if there are language barriers.
- Show compassion, understanding, concern and open listening.

Finding Resolution
- Place chair in the middle of semicircle.
- Victim sits in the chair, and the other four actors place a piece of rope around him or her.
- Each actor takes turns, taking each piece of rope off the victim and saying a brief prayer for the victims of human Trafficking.

Dialogue
JOANNA
When I was 15, I was having problems at home and school, so I ran away. I didn’t have a plan, so I went into the city. I soon realized running away had been a mistake. I didn’t have enough money for food or a place to sleep. I was scared, but I couldn’t go back home. I couldn’t face my mom and stepdad, or return to that abusive situation. I stayed in the bus station that night because I didn’t know what else to do. The next day I met this guy. He wasn’t much older than me, and he had also left home. He said I could hang out with him and get off the street. He got me something to eat. He was nice. He introduced me to some other kids and to this older guy, who took me in. Then my life really turned into a nightmare.

Beholden to the man for food and shelter, I lived in indecent places and my body was used, abused, transported and controlled. Sometimes I wondered where the next meal would come from and how I would keep my body clean. I had no self-esteem or dignity and was shown no mercy. I lost hope and direction. I felt I deserved this life.

Rescued, I was given counseling, medical treatment and a safe place to live. I eventually learned not to be afraid and to trust others. I was shown compassion, and I prayed. My social worker and I found a place where I received job training and life skills training, and I went back to school. I recuperated and helped other victims realize that they are whole persons who should not be controlled by another human.

ROBERTA
As an advocate, I work to make others aware of human Trafficking and the struggles of victims. I network with churches and other community organizations. I use Facebook, Twitter and the United Methodist Women’s social network at umwonline.org to inform and stay informed. I’ve read the U.S. State Department Trafficking in Persons Report. I write to state and national representatives and senators. I tell the stories of victims.

SERGEANT CHAN
I listen to the victims of human Trafficking. I help to eradicate pimps and johns. I work to arrest those who traffic people for labor. I listen to young girls, boys, women and men. Make sure your community has a human Trafficking task force, and make sure anti-Trafficking laws are being enforced. I use my authority to protect the victims, not blame or criminalize them. I follow through on investigations of child abuse and exploitation.
One of the first things I saw was that Joanna was traumatized, nervous, anxious and fearful. I screened and treated her for sexually transmitted infections. The nurse calmed her down and showed her compassion and respect. Joanna thanked the nurse for showing that she cared for her as a person.

As a social worker, I treat victims with respect. I listen, get them medical help, and find them shelter. I continue my relationship with them and offer follow-up counseling and mentoring for however long the victims need it. I help victims to adjust back into society by taking classes and teaching them not to give up on themselves. I welcome them back into the community and teach them structure and accountability.

It was you, God! It was you who started us on a new journey of life, and we thank you. We thank you for your comfort, compassion, kindness and hope. We thank you for being a healer and touching us with love, faith and joy. Thank you, God, for courage to do your will. Help us to do justice for all victims and weave us together so that we might do your will. Help us to love and support victims. Help us to reach out and understand their sorrow. Show us how to forgive and forget. It was you who gave us aspirations. Thank you for guiding all victims around the world to a new beginning. And in your name, we pray. Amen.

Action
- Read The Road of Lost Innocence by Somaly Mam, Half the Sky by Sheryl WuDunn and Nicholas Kristof, The Slave Next Door by Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter, and Sold by Patricia McCormick.
- Visit your state capitol and speak to your senators and representatives in person.
- Visit unitedmethodistwomen.org often.
- Write an article about human trafficking for your local newspaper editor or for the online groups at www.umwonline.org.
- Work with ecumenical organizations.
- Coordinate with local law enforcement.
- Understand modern-day slavery.
Voices of Human Trafficking Team Members

“I think that United Methodist Women members are the only ones who enter in when no one else wants to be involved. What I have found over the past year is that fighting human Trafficking is difficult, to say the least. What we can do is raise awareness. The biggest hurdle is to get people involved.”
—Rachel Bachenberg
Missouri Conference

“Even though I must remain in prayer and guard my heart with scripture each time I make a presentation, I know upon its completion that I have impacted and probably enlightened several individuals. However, many remain unaware of human Trafficking’s devastation and are unaware of the changes in legislation that identify the victims (underage teens and children) as just that. United Methodist Women members attack prejudices and lack of information by bringing awareness of this issue to The United Methodist Church and the nation, hosting workshops and sharing alerts and up-to-date information. I believe when individuals become informed, they will want to do their part in helping to end this terrible injustice. I am grateful that this voice is being heard around the world.”
—Patricia Bell
North Georgia Conference

“I’ve changed a lot... everybody I see, I just talk to them about human Trafficking to let them know what’s going on. You’d be surprised at how many women aren’t aware.”
—Rosa P. Bernard
South Indiana Conference

“We have children being sold and rented daily, and it’s a form of modern-day slavery. We can help children and get them out of this lifestyle. We can save their souls and spirits. I believe we want to make people whole again. It’s part of our purpose. I am able to recognize the red flags of Trafficking. I know the risk factors. I spend more time with our young girls in church, mentoring and teaching them.”
—Janice Elmore
Kansas West Conference

“I think two things: If you can get the info to United Methodist Women members, they can easily and quickly and very effectively disseminate the info to their communities. Historically, they have done a superb job raising awareness and training and trying to solve issues. I think it is imperative for people to educate themselves on this issue. It has changed me.”
—Kim Jenkins
Executive Director, Open Door Community House, Columbus, Georgia

“This is one of the most serious issues that we have today, a deep violation of human dignity and human rights because the victims — and they are victims — are controlled, beaten down, and, from my understanding, even when they are rescued, there is a long a road ahead of them.”
—Brenda Moland
Rocky Mountain Conference
"At first I didn’t want to get involved, even though I was a social action coordinator, because it seemed too big and too burdensome to my spirit. I couldn’t do anything. But now I feel empowered, and though I can’t help 27 million people, maybe I can impact one person."
—Anna noble
   California–Nevada Conference

“It’s a human rights issue as well as civil rights. I believe that United Methodist Women has a history of not looking for the easy things to support but really taking on those issues that people are uncomfortable with… We as United Methodist Women members need to look at this issue for what it is.”
—Brenda Lopez
   New England Conference

“First of all I, it was new to me; I didn’t realize, I was like a plant inside a nursery. It just opened my eyes. I realized there is a lot of work to be done. Really a lot of us, including myself, say we are Christian, but just in the head, not much in action. We really have to get involved.”
—Grace Pyen
   North Georgia Conference

“Because As United Methodist Women members, we are women of action and we speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. I’ve become more aware of the situation, whereas I was not aware before. It has really hit home for me.”
—Rita L. Smith
   Northern Illinois Conference

“It involves other people and children of other lands, but I think the thing that brings it home is the number of kids being placed in slavery. Awareness—I think that I didn’t look closely enough at things happening, and now I look at them and I see them from a different viewpoint.”
—Lee Thornton
   Texas Conference

“I have met so many wonderful strong women of all ages who are survivors of this heinous crime. They now have names… and they are my friends. I have heard their stories many times and they will often include something new that I believe they are just getting comfortable sharing. It is a long process, and I hope that we can be involved in helping them put their lives back together and become the people God wants them to be.”
—Rosemary Uebel
   Florida Conference

“Over the past year or several years, I think I have become more passionate about helping people in these situations. I feel more determined to put an end to this.”
—Tien Vo-Doan
   California–Pacific Conference
“It allows us to serve others by raising awareness by educating people and letting them know that, no matter where we are, children, women and men everywhere are being coerced into this type of organized activity. It's just not right. Everybody is entitled to certain human rights that we take for granted.”
—Tara Wilson
West Ohio Justice Fund

“It is vital for us to make others aware of this activity, which is on such a broad scale here in the United States and around the world. It has broadened my knowledge of those who are not in this of their own volition. The children used in this inhuman way is a heartbreaking story, as are the huge numbers who are used as pawns by heartless individuals for their pleasure or greed.
—Helen Jo Satterwhite
New Mexico Conference
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