End Trafficking: Fast Facts

What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking has been likened to modern-day slavery that subjects children, women, and men to force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor. This horrific practice can include prostitution, pornography, and sex tourism as well as labor for domestic service, factory or construction work, and migrant farming.

Victims suffer from physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, and rarely have access to an education or to health care.

Anyone can be trafficked regardless of class, education, gender, or age when forcefully coerced or lured by false promises.

Human trafficking and forced labor are extremely profitable, generating an estimated $150 billion in yearly profits.

Labor trafficking occurs in a wide variety of industries.

Sex trafficking is facilitated in numerous ways.

The ILO estimates that there are 5.5 MILLION child victims of trafficking and forced labor.

In the U.S., human trafficking has been reported in all 50 states, — a source, destination, and transit point for trafficking victims.

The high demand for cheap goods and commercial sex puts children around the world at risk of becoming the “supply.”

Human trafficking rates are particularly high in California, Texas, Florida, and New York.
What UNICEF is Doing

- Help governments strengthen child protection systems.
- Ensure that child victims are placed in safe environments and provided with social services, health care, and psychosocial support.
- Support the training of social workers, health workers, police, and border officials to spot signs of trafficking and to treat children with dignity.
- Work with communities and faith-based organizations to change harmful societal practices that increase children’s vulnerabilities to trafficking.

What Can I Do to Help?

Three Ways to Take Action

1. Join or start a UNICEF club at your high school or college. Visit: unicefusa.org/highschool or unicefusa.org/supporters/volunteers/campus.
2. Find out how many exploited people work for you. Slavery Footprint’s website allows you to better understand the connection between your purchases and forced labor. Take the site’s survey and raise your voice for ethically sourced products. Visit: slaveryfootprint.org.
3. Keep Learning. Visit: unicefusa.org/endtrafficking and notmylife.org to learn more about what UNICEF and other organizations are doing to protect children.

About the U.S. Fund for UNICEF

The End Trafficking project is the U.S. Fund for UNICEF’s initiative to raise awareness about child trafficking and mobilize communities to take meaningful action to help protect children. In partnership with concerned individuals and groups, the End Trafficking project aims to bring us all closer to a day when there are no exploited children.

UNICEF works in more than 150 countries to help children survive and to protect them from violence, exploitation, and abuse. To combat child trafficking, UNICEF strives to reduce factors that place children and families at risk in the first place.

For more information, please contact endtrafficking@unicefusa.org.

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children first.