

This toolkit was designed to help you gain a basic knowledge of human trafficking as it occurs in the United States and around the world. In addition to learning about the problem, you will also learn about efforts to fight human trafficking, and how you can take action within your community.

## Get Informed: 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 exploitation. This horrific practice can include prostitution, pornography, and sex tourism as well as domestic servitude, factory work, and migrant farming. Human trafficking is not the same as smuggling; it does not require movement across borders.

### The Numbers

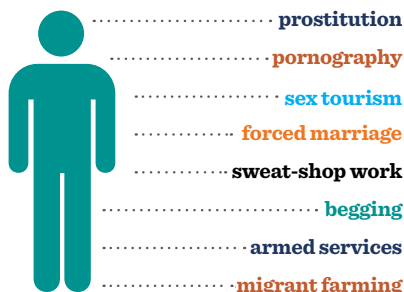
Around the world today, it is estimated that 27 million people are enslaved (Kevin Bales, Free the Slaves). That is more than the total number of slaves transported during the four centuries of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Some estimate that about half of all trafficking victims are children.

### Forms of Child Trafficking

Child victims of trafficking are often exploited for sexual purposes or forced labor including prostitution, pornography, sex tourism, forced marriage, sweat-shop work, begging, armed service, and migrant farming.

### Who Are the Traffickers?

Traffickers include a wide range of criminal operators, including pimps, small families or businesses, and organized crime networks. They entice children and unsuspecting families with material goods, promises of employment and a better life, and false marriage proposals.



### Supply and Demand

Human trafficking operates on principles of supply and demand. It is extremely profitable, generating an estimated \$32 billion in yearly profits (ILO & UNODC). Traffickers make high profits and run low risks thanks to weak legislative policies, loopholes, corruption, and lack of enforcement. The incessant demand for commercial sex and cheap labor puts children throughout the world at risk of becoming the "supply."

### Impact on Children

Human trafficking of any kind violates a child's rights to be protected, grow up in a safe family environment, and have access to an education. Victims often suffer from inhumane living conditions, neglect, poor diet and hygiene, and physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.

### Is It Really Happening in the U.S.?

There have been reports of human trafficking in all 50 U.S. states (Trafficking in Persons Report, 2011). The U.S. is a source and transit point for trafficking and is considered one of the major destinations for trafficking victims. Anyone can be trafficked regardless of class, education, gender, age, or citizenship when lured by false promises and the desire for a better life.

### Sex Trafficking in the U.S.

In the U.S., more citizens are victims of sex trafficking than labor trafficking (Trafficking in Persons Report, 2012). Pimp-controlled prostitution is one of the most common forms of sex trafficking. It also occurs at truck stops, massage parlors, residential brothels, and through escort agencies and online solicitation. The Internet is also becoming a "marketplace" for sex trafficking where pimps can easily avoid the authorities, facilitate transactions, and lie about the age of their victims.

In the U.S., victims of sex trafficking often share risk factors, including: child sex abuse, parental neglect, parental drug use, emotional and/or physical abuse by a family member, and poverty.

**“Trafficking of children is a grave violation of their rights, robbing them of their childhood, their well-being, and the opportunity to reach their full potential. No country is untouched by human trafficking as a source, transit point, or destination.”**

-- Dr. Susan Bissell Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF

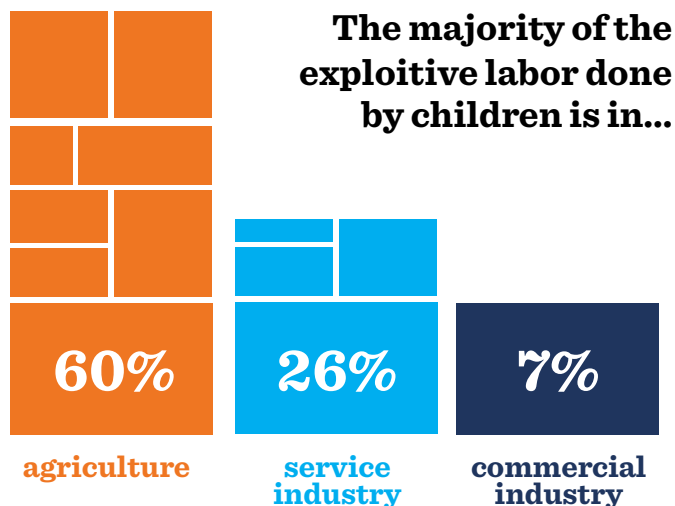
## Labor Trafficking in the U.S.

Child labor trafficking can occur in restaurants, bars, tourist industries, and in janitorial and agricultural work. Other areas include begging rings, traveling sales crews, and domestic servitude.

## The Products We Buy

The coffee, wine, and tea we drink, the food we eat, the cotton we wear, and the bricks in our buildings may all be products that are harvested or produced by slave labor.

There are 128 “worst offenders”— goods that are most commonly produced by child labor or forced labor. Some goods that have the highest rates of child labor are: gold, sugarcane, coal, cotton, rice, tobacco, cocoa, diamonds, garments, coffee, bricks and carpets.



## Get Inspired: What Is Being Done to Address Trafficking?

Because human trafficking is such a complex, widespread issue, addressing it requires coordination among many groups, including: government, non-profit organizations, businesses, faith-based communities, educators and students, law enforcement, and people like you!

### UNICEF and Child Protection

Active in child protection in more than 150 countries, UNICEF is the primary UN agency focusing on the rights of children and approaches trafficking as a serious violation of these rights. UNICEF works closely with governments at the national and local levels to combat child trafficking. UNICEF focuses its child protection efforts on:

- Reaching the most vulnerable children, including girls, orphans, children living on the streets, and children affected by conflict and natural disasters
- Facilitating community educational activities to change social norms, attitudes, and behaviors that make children vulnerable to exploitation
- Promoting gender equality and ensuring that anti-violence policies, programs, and services are implemented from a gender perspective, while engaging men and boys
- Supporting comprehensive services for children and their families, including access to health, social protection and welfare services, psychosocial support, and legal assistance

### U.S. Government Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking

For more than a decade, U.S. leadership in fighting human trafficking has won international attention and respect. Under the Clinton Administration, the United States established a foundation for combating human trafficking based on the “Three Ps”: prevention, protection, and prosecution. In 2000, President Clinton signed into law the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. The TVPA was the first comprehensive U.S. legislative framework for addressing human trafficking. It was subsequently reauthorized the TVPA in 2003, 2005, 2008 and 2013.

### Task Forces and Coalitions

Across the country, task forces and coalitions of NGOs like The Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (AT-EST) and Freedom Network are developing innovative ways to combat human trafficking.

### Fair Trade and Ethically Sourced Products

These days, consumers are so far removed from the source and production process of the things they buy that they don’t often stop to think:

Where did this come from? Or rather, who was involved in producing this product? Were they treated fairly?

Fair Trade certified products are produced without slave or child labor. Buying Fair Trade means that the laborers involved in production are paid fairly, receive health care, have collective bargaining power, and work under safe conditions. For more information on Fair Trade, visit [fairtradeusa.org](http://fairtradeusa.org).

**“If we are going to end modern day slavery, governments, nongovernment organizations, law enforcement, service providers, communities of faith, businesses and corporations, individuals, all have to work together. The reality is traffickers make up such a small fraction of the human race. Then there are the rest of us.”**

*--Rob Morris, President and Co-Founder Love146*

## Take Action: How Do I Get Involved as an Individual, Group or UNICEF Club?

Now that you've learned about the issue and what organizations around the world are doing to combat human trafficking, you may be wondering what you can do to help. The good news is that there's a lot you can do! Below are 22 ways to get involved.

- 1.** Join or start a UNICEF Club at your high school or college. Dedicate a week to raising awareness about human trafficking. Visit [unicefusa.org/highschool](http://unicefusa.org/highschool) or [unicefusa.org/campusinitiative](http://unicefusa.org/campusinitiative) to get involved.

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- 2.** Post the National Human Trafficking Hotline (Call 1-888-3737-888 or Text "BeFree" 233733), around your neighborhood, school, or work place. The hotline handles calls from anyone, including witnesses, potential victims, service providers, community members, and people hoping to learn more. It is toll free, and can be reached anywhere in the U.S., 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You can download a flyer for free at [polarisproject.org/resources/outreach-and-awareness-materials](http://polarisproject.org/resources/outreach-and-awareness-materials) or make your own. Please ask permission before posting flyers in coffee shops, restaurants, business locations, etc.

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- 3.** Teach your students about human trafficking. Check out our K-12 educator resources for lesson plans and activities for your students at [teachunicef.org](http://teachunicef.org).

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- 4.** Find out how the work of exploited people has a direct effect on your life. Visit the Slavery Footprint website to take an online survey that helps you determine how many slaves touch the products you buy. Through the site's action center and mobile app, consumers are invited to take action and call for ethically sourced products. Visit [slaveryfootprint.org](http://slaveryfootprint.org).

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- 5.** Learn how to spot the signs of human trafficking. Visit: [polarisproject.org/signs](http://polarisproject.org/signs).

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- 6.** A child's vulnerability to trafficking can be greatly reduced by the consistent presence of a caring adult. Invest in the life of a young girl or boy in your community by volunteering as a tutor or mentor. Get connected to an organization near you at [mentoring.org](http://mentoring.org).

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- 7.** Host a panel discussion. Speakers could include local experts in the field, a professor knowledgeable on the subject of human trafficking, a member of law enforcement, or a survivor of trafficking.

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- 8.** Keep learning. Sign up for Google alerts about human trafficking or a newsletter from an anti-trafficking organization like the Polaris Project or International Justice Mission.

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- 9.** Write an article about human trafficking for your local or school newspaper or community blog. Don't feel comfortable writing it yourself? Write to the editors of the paper and ask them to do a piece on it.

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- 10.** Follow us on Twitter @endtraffick, GOOD ([good.is/members/end-trafficking](http://good.is/members/end-trafficking)) and Google+: <http://unconf.us/19JiLzr>.

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- 11.** Change the conversation by working within your social circles. A "pimp" is not a cool guy, but someone who abuses and exploits women. A "prostitute" is often a victim of sexual exploitation. Help your friends rethink their choice of language. For tips on how to talk about these issues, visit [againstourwill.org/how-to-talk-about-it](http://againstourwill.org/how-to-talk-about-it).

**“We could eradicate slavery. The laws are in place. The multi-nationals, the world trade organizations, the United Nations, they could end slavery, but they're not going to do it until and unless we demand it.”** – Kevin Bales, *Free the Slaves*

**12.** Volunteer your skills. Do pro bono legal work, promote products made by survivors, or create an artistic piece to raise awareness about human trafficking.

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**13.** A Call to Men: Men have an important role to play in ending human trafficking. “A Call to Men” shares ways for men to speak out against domestic violence, rape, and human trafficking, visit [acalltomen.org](http://acalltomen.org). Also, check out Man Up at [manupcampaign.org](http://manupcampaign.org).

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**14.** Walk for freedom. Join or organize a walk in your city to raise awareness about human trafficking. For more information on how to organize a walk, visit [forsakengeneration.com/about/freedomwalk/](http://forsakengeneration.com/about/freedomwalk/).

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**15.** Organize a fundraiser to benefit UNICEF or other organizations that address trafficking. For tips and ideas on how to fundraise, sign up as a UNICEF volunteer at [unicefusa.org/actioncenter](http://unicefusa.org/actioncenter) and download a fundraising toolkit. Join the End Trafficking group to share ideas with others.

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**16.** Host a screening of *Not My Life* or another film focused on the issue of human trafficking. Facilitate a discussion afterward about ways to take action. E-mail [endtrafficking@unicefusa.org](mailto:endtrafficking@unicefusa.org) to learn how you can get a copy of *Not My Life* along with a discussion guide.

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**17.** Petition the President of the United States. Ask President Obama to sign the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This international treaty recognizes that children are not possessions, but people who have human rights. Visit [unicefusa.org/advocate](http://unicefusa.org/advocate) to learn more.

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**18.** Switch to Fair Trade brands, and/or host a Fair Trade Party. Fair Trade-certified products are produced without slave or child labor. Profits from Fair Trade products support farmers and laborers involved in production and ensure that they are paid fairly and work under safe conditions. To learn more, visit [fairtradeusa.org](http://fairtradeusa.org).

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**19.** Hoops for Hope. Dedicate a sporting event to raising awareness about human trafficking. Get the team involved, have proceeds from the game go to a local anti-trafficking organization. Feature an info session at halftime and show a short video clip, have a guest speaker, or read a survivor’s story. For video suggestions visit mtvU’s Against Our Will campaign [againstourwill.org/videos](http://againstourwill.org/videos).

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**20.** Purchase products made by survivors of human trafficking. From jewelry and handbags to lotion and soccer balls – purchasing survivor-made products helps to support sustainable employment and rehabilitation programs for survivors. Start shopping. Visit [polarisproject.org/take-action/raise-awareness/buy-products-made-by-survivors](http://polarisproject.org/take-action/raise-awareness/buy-products-made-by-survivors).

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**21.** Be a child-safe tourist. Children in tourist areas are especially vulnerable to physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Learn how to take simple actions to minimize harm to children at [childsafetourism.org](http://childsafetourism.org).

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**22.** Advocate for state laws addressing human trafficking. Visit [polarisproject.org/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/state-policy](http://polarisproject.org/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/state-policy). Advocate for victims by visiting [change.org](http://change.org)’s human trafficking petition page.

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**For more ways to take action, visit**  
[unicefusa.org/endtrafficking](http://unicefusa.org/endtrafficking)

**Sign up as a volunteer to get the latest updates at**  
[unicefusa.org/actioncenter](http://unicefusa.org/actioncenter)

**For more info on the End Trafficking project contact**  
[endtrafficking@unicefusa.org](mailto:endtrafficking@unicefusa.org)

