



## Human trafficking Cheat Sheet

- Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and is now considered the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world next to drugs
  - IT is a crime under US and international law. In many US States it is also a crime.
  - The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), H.R. 2522, of 2000 is the main U.S. law on trafficking. It was reauthorized in 2003 and 2005 and is under reauthorization in 2007
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- The “Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children” is the main international law on the subject via the United Nations.
  - As defined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, the legal definition of a “severe form of trafficking in persons” is:
    - Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or
    - The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
  - There are three general areas to understand those who are considered trafficking victims in the United States:
    - Minors (under age 18) involved in commercial sex;
    - Those age 18 or over involved in commercial sex via force, fraud, or coercion;
    - Children and adults forced to perform labor and/or services in conditions of involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery, via force, fraud or coercion.
  - Human trafficking is prevalent in many countries around the world, though some are primarily sites or origin, transit, destination and /or internal trafficking.
  - Victims are trafficked for a wide variety of purposes, such as commercial sex or agricultural work, house-keeping or stripping, yet they all share the loss of one of our world’s most cherished rights: freedom.
  - Cases of human trafficking have been reported throughout the United States in all 50 states and specifically in 91 cities (cite. Free the Slaves)
  - No one consistent face of a trafficker exists. Traffickers include a wide range of criminal operators, including individual pimps, small families, loose-knit decentralized criminal networks, and international organized criminal syndicates.
  - The U.S. State Department estimates that 600,000-800,000 foreign nationals are trafficked across US borders each year, including minors involved in commercial sex, and internally trafficked individuals.
  - Human trafficking is a market-based economy that exists on principles of supply and demand. Currently, human trafficking is viewed as a high-profit (over 10 billion dollars in 2006), low-risk endeavor by criminals because of low levels of international awareness. Much must be done to address traffickers current impunity.

- It is important to dispel certain myths about trafficking
- Trafficking is not smuggling or forced movement, even though the word connotes a concept of movement.
  - Trafficking does not require transportation or border crossing, and does not only happen to immigrants or foreign nationals.
  - Trafficking does not require physical force, physical abuse, or physical restraint.
  - Trafficking does not only occur in illegal underground criminal networks. Trafficking victims can be employed by legal businesses, such as factories and restaurants.
  - The consent of the victim is considered irrelevant, as is payment.
- Indicators of a potential human trafficking situation may include:
- Individuals not in control of their own identification documents
  - Individuals who are accompanied, watched, or followed, and are not allowed to speak for themselves
  - Signs of physical abuse
  - Fearful, anxious, or submissive behavior or other signs of psychological abuse
  - Individuals who are not in control of their own money
  - Individuals who are unpaid or paid very little
  - Excessively long working hours or odd tasks at odd hours
  - Few or no personal possessions or financial records
  - Under 18 and involved in commercial sex

**If you suspect you may have encountered a situation involving human trafficking or would like to report community tips, please call the National Trafficking Hotline run by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) at 1-888-3737-888**

**Campus Coalition Against Trafficking**