

## Sex Trafficking

### Resources to Address this Global Issue

The pandemic of sex trafficking is a global issue, and has hit hard in the United States. It affects all races, ethnicities, genders, and age groups. The most vulnerable groups include undocumented migrants, runaways and at-risk youth, oppressed or marginalized groups, and the poor.<sup>1</sup> Sex trafficking, a form of modern day slavery, is a type of human trafficking that violates federal laws. Human trafficking can include forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.<sup>2</sup> Sex trafficking involves compelling or coercing a person to provide commercial sex acts.<sup>3</sup> Over the years, the number of victims from sex trafficking has risen. According to the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC), 55% of human trafficking detected was sexual exploitation.<sup>4</sup> Since 2007, the National Human Trafficking Hotline, operated by Polaris, has received reports of 22,191 sex trafficking cases inside the United States.<sup>5</sup> There are a large unknown number of victims and sex traffickers that reside globally, but what can be done to stop this number from rising?

It is important that sex trafficking not be confused with sex work. Some statistics on sex trafficking refer to the number of migrant or domestic sex workers, rather than cases of trafficking.<sup>6</sup> There are some individuals that participate in consensual sex work for some type of profit and that is their choice. The individuals that are forced into sex trafficking are not given a choice and are kept against their will. They can be lured and manipulated in many ways. Many victims become romantically involved with someone who then forces or manipulates them into prostitution. Others are lured in with false promises of a job, such as modeling or dancing. Some are forced to sell sex by their parents or other family members. They may be involved in a trafficking situation for a few days or weeks, or may remain in the same trafficking situation for years.<sup>5</sup>

**One way someone can help stop sex trafficking is by getting educated.** The more information people are given on the

topic, the more awareness of the issue they will have. This can help people protect themselves and others in the future. **Report any suspicious behavior.** It could be a misunderstanding but it might save a life. Some suspicious behavior to look out for include: signs of physical abuse, unexplained absences, excessive tiredness, and looking withdrawn or depressed. **Take action by raising awareness and speaking out on this issue.** This can be done by getting involved, writing letters to politicians, volunteering, spreading the word, and many other effective forms of advocating in efforts to bring safety to more communities.

The information provided below includes resources for survivors of sex trafficking as well as information for individuals that would like to know more about the topic. While this document is focused on identifying organizations and resources that are dedicated only to ending sex trafficking, some sources do conflate sex trafficking and sex work, those works will be noted with an asterisk.

#### SEX TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS

**Disclaimer:** Advocates for Youth does not endorse or promote any of these groups but rather shares their contact information for educational purposes.

These organizations assist and support individuals that have been affected by human trafficking. The organizations below can support schools, parents, teachers, and youth by informing them about the harm of human trafficking, including sex trafficking.

#### **Sex Workers Project** (Local Services)

<http://sexworkersproject.org/>

1-646-602-5617

**Location:** New York, NY

**About/Vision/Mission:** Provides client-centered legal and social services to individuals who engage in sex work, regardless of whether they do so by choice, circumstance,

or coercion. The Sex Workers Project is a remarkably effective, dynamic organization deeply committed to improving the lives of their clients. As the only U.S. organization meeting the needs of both sex workers and trafficking victims, the Sex Workers Project serves a marginalized community that few others reach.

**Safe Horizons ATP** (Local Services)

<https://www.safehorizon.org/anti-trafficking-program/>

718-943-8631

**Location:** Brooklyn, NY

**About/Vision/Mission:** Anti-Trafficking Program (ATP) is dedicated to supporting survivors of labor and sex trafficking in New York City. ATP is one of the largest direct service providers to victims of human trafficking on the east coast. We provide both legal and case management services to all victims of human trafficking – labor and sex trafficking – including men, women, children, foreign nationals or U.S. citizens.

**New York Anti-Trafficking Network** (Local Services)

<https://nyatn.org/>  
[info@nyatn.org](mailto:info@nyatn.org)

**Location:** New York, NY

**About/Vision/Mission:** NY Anti-Trafficking Network (NYATN) sheds light on the problem of trafficking in persons, with the goal of ending and preventing trafficking, and providing survivors with the help they need to reclaim their lives and their voices.

**Freedom Network USA** (National Services)

<https://freedomnetworkusa.org/>  
[info@freedomnetworkusa.org](mailto:info@freedomnetworkusa.org)

1- 646-504-9602

**Location:** Arlington, VA

**About/Vision/Mission:** A national alliance of experienced advocates advancing a human rights-based approach to human trafficking in the U.S. Their members believe that empowering survivors with choices and support leads to transformative, meaningful change. Together, they influence federal and state policy through action and advocacy.

**Courtney's House\*** (National Services)

<http://www.courtneyshouse.org/>

1-202-525-1426

**Location:** Washington, DC

**About/Vision/Mission:** Involved in pursuit to help each victim of sex trafficking, bring widespread public awareness of sex trafficking.

**youthSpark: Atlanta** (Local Services)

<http://youth-spark.org/>  
[info@youth-spark.org](mailto:info@youth-spark.org)

1-404-612-4628

**Location:** Atlanta, GA

**About/Vision/Mission:** youthSpark is an innovator in transforming the lives of youth at risk for exploitation and abuse, and a thought-leader in reducing child exploitation and sex trafficking rates in Georgia and across the country.

**My Life My Choice** (National Services)

<http://www.fightingexploitation.org/mlmcfinfo@jri.org>

1-617-779-2179

**Location:** Boston, MA

**About/Vision/Mission:** Through survivor-led programs we work to end commercial sexual exploitation of children by empowering youth and their allies to fight back.

**Kristi House** (Local Services)

<http://www.kristihouse.org/>  
[lcarter@kristihouse.org](mailto:lcarter@kristihouse.org)

1-305-547-6800

**Location:** Miami, FL

**About/Vision/Mission:** Kristi House provides treatment, advocacy, and coordination of services, within a healing environment, for all child victims of sexual abuse and their families, as well as education and prevention services to end child sexual abuse. They also strive to end the epidemic of child sexual abuse in Miami-Dade County by healing those who have been victims and breaking the cycle of abuse for future generations.

## SEX TRAFFICKING HOTLINES

### National Human Trafficking Hotline

(National Services)

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/mis-sion>  
[help@humantraffickinghotline.org](mailto:help@humantraffickinghotline.org)

1-888-373-7888

**Location:** Washington, DC

**About/Vision/Mission:** The National Human Trafficking Hotline is a national anti-trafficking hotline serving victims and survivors of human trafficking and the anti-trafficking community in the United States. The toll-free hotline is available to answer calls from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year in more than 200 languages.

### Colorado Human Trafficking Hotline

(State Wide Services)

1-866-455-5075

**Location:** Denver, CO

**About/Vision/Mission:** To end human trafficking and inform social change that eliminates human exploitation.

## PERSONAL WORKS FROM AUTHORS

### Alex Lutnik

Works: Books, Research

[Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: Beyond Victims and Villains. \(2016\) England: Columbia University Press.](#)

Writer and researcher Alexandra Lutnick, PhD, has more than 10 years of experience conducting community-based research with marginalized populations such as drug users, the homeless, sex workers, and trafficked persons. She has expertise in community-based participatory research, program evaluations, qualitative and mixed-methods research, quantitative risk assessments, and the epidemiology of HIV and sexually transmitted infections.

### Melissa Gira Grant

Works: Articles, Books

Melissa Gira Grant is a journalist and author, covering sexual politics, criminal justice, and human rights. She is a contributing writer for

Pacific Standard and the Village Voice, and a writer in residence with the Fair Punishment Project (a joint initiative of Harvard Law School's Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice and its Criminal Justice Institute). Her feature reporting has been published in the Guardian, BuzzFeed, VICE, and The Nation, and her commentary has appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, Slate, and Jezebel, among other publications.

## CURRICULUM

### Love146: Not a #Number

<https://love146.org/notanumber/>

**Objective:** Love146 is an international human rights organization working to end child trafficking and exploitation through survivor care and prevention. Through prevention education, they give youth the advantage by being able to identify traffickers. This is done by teaching beyond awareness and providing a skill set.

**Offers:** Not a #Number is an interactive, five-module prevention curriculum designed to teach youth how to protect themselves from human trafficking and exploitation through information, critical thinking, and skill development. Not a #Number uses a holistic approach focusing on respect, empathy, individual strengths, and the relationship between personal and societal pressures that create or increase vulnerabilities. They also offer certificate training for care givers and professional trainings with teachers, social workers, law enforcement officers, and others that are involved in the lives of sex trafficking survivors and victims.

### A21: Bodies are Not Commodities

<http://www.a21.org>

**Objective:** A21 is a non-profit organization that exists to abolish injustice in the 21st century through a comprehensive system of preventative measures, victim protection, prosecution of violators, and strategic partnerships.

**Offers:** The A21 High School Curriculum: Bodies Are Not Commodities is a resource for secondary educators, students, and abolitionists who want to bring awareness and action against injustice through the educational system. It has been created for the purpose of ensuring more participatory and sustainable solutions to injustice issues.

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## CITATION RESOURCES

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2. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2018) "Human Trafficking". Retrieved from <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>
3. The United States Department of Justice (January, 2017) "What is Human Trafficking". Retrieved from <https://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking/what-is-human-trafficking>
4. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2016) "Global Report on Trafficking in Persons". Retrieved from [http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2016\\_Global\\_Report\\_on\\_Trafficking\\_in\\_Persons.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2016_Global_Report_on_Trafficking_in_Persons.pdf)
5. Polaris (2018) "Sex Trafficking". Retrieved from <https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/sex-trafficking>
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