

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING CHEAT SHEET

### Overview

- Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery.
- Human trafficking is prevalent in many countries around the world. Different countries may be primarily sites of origin, transit, destination, and/or internal trafficking.
- Cases of human trafficking have been reported in all fifty states of the United States (Free the Slaves).
- Human trafficking is a market-based economy that exists on principles of supply and demand. It thrives due to conditions which allow for high profits to be generated at low risk.

### What is Human Trafficking?

- As defined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, the legal definition of “severe forms of trafficking in persons” is:
  - a) 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
  - b) 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 subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
- Under the legal definition, trafficking victims in the US can be divided into three populations:
  - Minors (under age 18) induced into commercial sex;
  - Adults 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.
- Victims are trafficked for a wide variety of purposes, such as commercial sex, agricultural work, or housekeeping, yet they all share the loss of one of our world's most cherished rights—freedom.
- There is no one consistent face of a trafficking victim. Trafficked persons can be rich or poor, men or women, adults or children, and foreign nationals or US citizens.
- There is no one consistent face of a trafficker. Traffickers include a wide range of criminal operators, including individual pimps, small families or businesses, loose-knit decentralized criminal networks, and international organized criminal syndicates.

### The Law

- Human Trafficking is a crime under US and international law, as well as under many state laws.
- The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 is the main US law on trafficking. It has been reauthorized in 2003, 2005 and 2008.
- The “Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children” is the main international law on the subject.

### Statistics

- The number of trafficking victims in the US is largely unknown. However, hundreds of thousands of US citizen minors are estimated to be at risk of commercial sexual exploitation.

### Myths and Misconceptions

- It is important to dispel certain myths about trafficking.
  - Trafficking is not smuggling or forced 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.
  - The consent of the victim is considered irrelevant, as is payment.