

Human Trafficking in Texas

A Study by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund

Summer 2013

MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

The 2000 United Nations Palermo Protocol known as the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime defines trafficking in persons as using or threatening to use force, fraud, or deception to exploit a person for sexual or labor purposes.

[T]he recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person....Exploitation shall include...the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs....The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation...shall be irrelevant....

This definition is the basis of federal and state laws. The protocol also elaborates the “3P Paradigm” as the purpose of government efforts to stop human trafficking: prevention, prosecution, and protection.

GLOBAL REACH, CLOSE TO HOME

Reliable statistics for the number of victims, worldwide, statewide, or local, are problematic. Globally, there may be as many as 27 million people trafficked for both labor and sex, according to the 2012 U.S. State Department’s *Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report)* of which the estimates for sex trafficking victims alone may be as high as 21 million people. In the United States, the numbers have been estimated as high as 800,000 according to many sources on the Internet, although researchers have challenged this number.

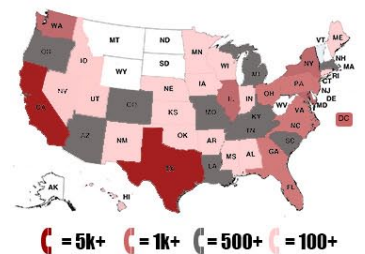
The closest to a reliable figure may be the number of calls to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC), a national, toll-free hotline that answers calls and texts from anywhere in the country. For 2012 the NHTRC reported 20,652 calls nationwide, and 1,900 of those (approximately 10 percent) were from 187 towns and cities all over Texas (see table on page 2).

Human trafficking is estimated to be a business worth about \$32 billion worldwide, right behind illegal drugs and gun-running. Traffickers have the means to corrupt and endanger those who might curtail their profits within

Hope on the Line



1-888-373-7888



States with Most Calls

1-888-373-7888



Survivor Citizenship

In Cases Where Caller Provides Demographic Data

2012 Calls to Hotline from Texas (partial list)

Amarillo (6)	Lubbock (5)
Austin (150)	Midland (3)
Corpus Christi (34)	New Braunfels (2)
Dallas (252)	Plano (7)
Denton (5)	Richardson (8)
El Paso (40)	San Antonio (128)
Fort Worth (62)	Tyler (7)
Houston (547)	Victoria (2)
Irving (15)	Waco (28)
Kerrville (3)	Wichita Falls (2)

the community. The four-year federal plan for services for U.S. victims, “Coordination, Collaboration, Capacity 2013-2017,” states that government has deemed human trafficking to be a threat to national security. Profits are high enough to entice individuals to traffic their own relatives and children. Transnational gangs profit from the ability to sell and resell their “inventory.” In this country, the 2011 U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in its report “Human Trafficking in Texas” estimated the profit to be between \$13,000 and \$67,000 per person trafficked and that sex trafficking in the five most populous counties in Texas could generate over \$60 million every year.

Trafficking can even ensnare people not directly involved in the practice, such as those who invest in entities advertising or promoting trafficking. Its presence correlates with violence in the neighborhood, with drug and alcohol abuse, and with public health issues, such as the spread of AIDS and STDs.

Human trafficking is a problem often described as “hidden in plain sight.” It is easy to overlook or ignore, or to believe that it is far away, but it is also close to home. *Texas Monthly’s* “The Lost Girls” (April 2010) tells the story of physical and psychological abuse and exploitation in Texas. *Vanity Fair’s* “Sex Trafficking of Americans: The Girls Next Door” (May 2011), which focused on a Connecticut investigation, suggests that the way to stop traf-

ficking, if there is one, lies ultimately in the efforts of the community to demand attention to the problem and to the underlying social issues.

Texas is a hub for sex trafficking, according to various materials and presentations from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Houston and El Paso are on the DOJ’s list of “the most intense human trafficking jurisdictions” in the country. Texas is crossed by the I-10 interstate corridor, it is close to Mexico, and it has a highly diverse population. It is estimated that *less than 1 percent* [emphasis added] of all trafficking victims are ever rescued.

SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING

“Trafficking” can describe illegal activity in buying and selling goods, such as drugs or guns or even babies. “Human trafficking” refers to selling adults and children into servitude to exploit for sex or labor as well as for organs and use as soldiers.

Labor trafficking victims can be nannies and domestic workers, sweatshop workers, or construction and agricultural workers. Labor trafficking affects both international and domestic victims. A study of labor trafficking must discuss questions of fair wages and “fair trade,” the role of domestic as well as international unions and labor brokers, oversight in the chain of manufacture, corporate liability issues, and immigration issues.

Sex trafficking victims are exploited as prostitutes and in sexually oriented businesses. A study of sex trafficking must discuss the underlying issues that make someone vulnerable, who is punished, what the penalties should be, what victims need to become survivors, and who pays for services.

Sex and labor trafficking are not always clearly separate issues. Nevertheless, a study of the laws, remedies, and services relevant to labor trafficking leads in different directions. In this study, we focus on sex trafficking.

SEX TRAFFICKING: MYTHS AND CLARIFICATIONS

Myths and misconceptions about sex trafficking abound, making it easy to dismiss the issue or to consider it unimportant or irrelevant.

Myth: Sex trafficking and prostitution are the same thing.

Fact: These are legally different issues, and cases are prosecuted differently. In the Texas Penal Code, prostitution is defined as offering or engaging in sexual conduct for a fee, and sex trafficking is prostitution compelled through force, fraud, or coercion, or if the prostitute is under the age of 18. Sex trafficking includes prostitution but prostitution is not necessarily sex trafficking.

Myth: All victims are illegal immigrants.

Fact: There are many more domestic victims than illegal immigrant victims. The DOJ estimates that around 17,000 international victims, adults and children, are trafficked into the U.S. each year. An estimated 100,000 children in the United States are involved in the sex trade each year alone. Although statistics are unreliable and often out of date, the NHTRC's 1,900 calls from Texas in 2012 included 1,439 for which the first language was English and 419, Spanish.

Myth: Human smuggling and human trafficking are the same thing.

Fact: The smuggled person pays for an illegal border crossing and once across the border is free to go. Many times, smuggled persons become trafficking victims when the smuggled person, once across the border, is not free to go and is compelled to perform sex or labor services.

Myth: Traffickers are kidnappers and are unknown to their victims.

Fact: Traffickers generally do not “snatch” or kidnap victims. They recruit by promising jobs or offering a girlfriend or runaway “love.” Once the victim is

ensnared, traffickers use psychological and physical control. Traffickers are often well-known to the victim and may even be family members.

Myth: Victims are all girls who have a drinking or drug problem.

Fact: Victims can be adult or minor males or females. They come from every socio-demographic background. Victims often use drugs and alcohol to numb the psychological pain of being trafficked – the violence and brutality along with servicing 10, 15, even 20 buyers (“johns”) a night – but drugs and alcohol are not the proximate cause of vulnerability to ensnarement.

Myth: The buyers (“johns”) have no responsibility in the exploitation of the victims.

Fact: Like the victims, johns come from all demographic groups. Many have wives and girlfriends. Many know that the sex they are purchasing is provided by a trafficked male or female. Many believe they won't be caught or embarrassed. In one study, almost all men surveyed knew where one could buy sex from a minor.

Acronyms

DOJ = U.S. Department of Justice
FBI = Federal Bureau of Investigation
ICE = U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
NGO = Non-governmental organization
NHTRC = National Human Trafficking Resource Center
OAG = Texas Office of Attorney General
TIP = Trafficking in Persons
TVPA = Trafficking Victims Protection Act

PROTOCOLS AND LAWS

International Protocols

Slavery is as old as human society. Modern laws against “trafficking in persons” are embedded in the notion of human rights. In Article 4 of the Declara-

tion of Human Rights (1948), the United Nations prohibited slavery and servitude. Fifty years later, the UN provided the first globally legally binding definition of human trafficking in the first of three Palermo Protocols supplementing the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The countries that ratified the protocol, including the United States, are obligated to a long list of legal protections, social services provisions, and cooperation with other countries. The UN continues to provide information, outreach, and programs aimed to halt human trafficking.

Federal Laws

The history of federal laws against slavery begins in 1865 with the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which prohibited involuntary servitude. In 2000 the U.S. Congress passed the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA). The Act was most recently reauthorized as part of the Violence Against Women Act in March 2013. The TVPA created the U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which is mandated to issue the annual *TIP Report*, which puts trafficking into the context of human rights and civil liberties.

As a result of the TVPA as amended, the federal law now addresses sex tourism, remedies for victims, and rights to sue for damages from the trafficker.

State Laws

Texas and Washington were the first states to pass anti-trafficking legislation, based on the TVPA, with Washington signing its bill into law a few months ahead of Texas in 2003. Texas bases its definition of trafficking on the TVPA.

A person commits an offense if the person knowingly (1) traffics another person with the intent that the trafficked person engage in forced labor or services; receives a benefit from participating in a venture that involves an activity...including by receiving labor or service the person knows

are forced labor or services; traffics another person and, through force, fraud, or coercion, causes the trafficked person to engage in [prostitution or compels prostitution];....(Tex. Penal Code §20A.02)

Additionally, Texas has passed laws to increase penalties and to clarify criminal procedure to protect victims. In 2009 the Texas Legislature mandated the creation of the Attorney General's Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force, which reviews the extent of human trafficking in Texas, the effectiveness of laws, and makes legislative recommendations in its report issued biennially in December. Members come from law enforcement agencies, county and federal attorneys' offices, health agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

PREVENTION

Informing and Training the Public

Federal and private agencies and public-private partnerships undertake campaigns to raise public awareness about trafficking. The goal is to increase the effectiveness of "proactive policing" (citizen awareness and engagement) as well as effective street policing. Homeland Security offers a toolkit. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services funds the NHTRC through the Polaris Project, an NGO that offers information, research, and training materials for activists and relevant professionals. Rescue and Restore Coalition, an NGO, sponsors awareness campaigns with films, workshops, and lectures. Churches and universities have invited NGO and regional task force representatives, state and county prosecutors, activists, and victims to speak.

Texas also engages private businesses through regulation. The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission requires holders of a liquor license to post a sign advertising the National Human Trafficking Hotline in English and Spanish. Counties and municipalities develop their own ordinances to regu-

late massage parlors, and applicants for licenses for sexually oriented businesses are screened.

Law enforcement and justice administration personnel receive training, as described below in the *PROSECUTION* section. However, others who may come into contact with victims as part of their jobs also need training. The NHTRC has a campaign to train city and county code inspectors who may encounter trafficking when they check for compliance with building, fire, and health and safety codes. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has offered symposia to train medical personnel in the psychology and dynamics of trafficking. Doctors, nurses, and EMTs, the 2012 Texas Attorney General's report noted, should be able to recognize that a pregnant 11-year-old is a possible victim. The World Affairs Council of Houston gave an all-day workshop on human trafficking in January 2013 to middle school teachers of health and social studies.

Internet Safety

Children, parents, and teachers are coping with the explosion in the use of social media on the Internet. Traffickers contact victims and sell their "inventory" under false pretenses. The effort of identifying and persuading victims to leave the trafficker becomes more complicated. Traffickers have advertised in multiple locations online on sites such as Craigslist and Backpage.com to ensnare and move victims as needed. These sites fall under the protection of the federal Communications Decency Act, where they are categorized as "Internet Service Providers" and not "Internet Content Providers." Thus, states are encountering difficulties when they try to hold these sites accountable for the advertisements posted by third parties.

Services for At-risk Populations

Most vulnerable to ensnarement are the homeless, runaway and "throw-away" youth, and mistreated and exploited children. According to the organization Children at Risk, there are 200,000 American children who are "at risk" to be sex trafficked each

year; one out of three runaways is lured into sex trafficking within 48 hours of leaving home. NGOs and faith-based organizations address some of the underlying conditions that foster human trafficking. These organizations typically support and advocate for safe houses, shelters, and services. Availability and quality of local resources vary widely from place to place.

PROSECUTION

Federal and state laws on prostitution distinguish between victim and law-breaker. This determines prosecution and penalties for the trafficker, the victim, and the buyer.

Traffickers: Penalties, Coordination among Agencies

Under current Texas criminal law, "forced labor or services," either directly or through participation in a venture that profits from prostitution, is a first-degree felony if the person trafficked is under the age of 18 (2007), as is "continuous trafficking" (2011). Both felonies can carry a life sentence or a term of 25 to 99 years (2011). If the victim is an adult, the charge is a second-degree felony. A sex trafficker convicted of a first-degree felony must register as a sex offender (2011). The public is then put on notice, and the offender may be prohibited from living in certain areas and practicing certain occupations.

The effect of stronger penalties enacted in 2011 is not yet clear, but the intention was not so much to increase the numbers arrested or charged but to give prosecutors a full range of prosecutorial tools used with other serious crimes, according to Krista Melton, Assistant District Attorney in Bexar County. Since crucial victim testimony can be difficult to obtain, prosecution of traffickers is more expensive in money, time, and resources. Consequently, the traffickers may be incarcerated for other charges, such as money laundering.

Under Texas civil law, county and city attorneys use nuisance laws to shut down venues that allow traf-

“Operation Poker Chip”



Victim placed shoe in window of Tulsa apartment to confirm to Homeland Security Investigations her location for obtaining a search warrant. The customer bought poker chips “to pay” the victim and the traffickers could count the number of clients. One victim had been trafficked for ten years. The investigation started in January 2012 and culminated in the conviction of six men under the TVPA in March 2013.

ficking. For example, Harris County sued a “gentleman’s club” in May 2012 and the case, scheduled for trial in December, was settled out of court.

Agencies, task forces, NGOs, and the news media coordinate across county, state, and national jurisdictions to investigate and prosecute traffickers. A dramatic example is the successful prosecution of a 2012 Florida case that put a trafficker in prison for 30 years. The combination that led to a successful conclusion was citizen awareness (the trafficker was profiled on the television show *America’s Most Wanted*), the work of a local task force (Clearwater Human Trafficking Task Force), and the effort and resources of federal agencies (Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation). Almost two years elapsed from the time the trafficking was brought to the attention of the authorities to the time of capture, arrest, charge, prosecution, and sentencing.

Less dramatically but importantly, in 2011 the DOJ, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Department of Labor began a national Human Trafficking Enforcement Initiative to create efficient

cies at the federal level to investigate and prosecute human trafficking. The DOJ has funded task forces for 42 jurisdictions and 36 trafficking victim services, all of which focus on investigation, prosecution, and assistance to victims. These federal task forces also provide training and materials to local law enforcement and victim assistance agencies. Texas has four task forces funded at least partially by the DOJ. The 2012 Texas Attorney General’s report explains different regional and local task forces.

Reliable data are essential to increasing successful prosecutions and to coordinating cross-jurisdictional efforts more effectively. The 2012 Texas Attorney General’s report calls for more reliable data about all human trafficking investigations and prosecutions, not just cases handled by the four federally-funded task forces. Although the Texas Legislature required the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to collect and periodically report data related to human trafficking in Texas, there was no accompanying language requiring law enforcement, local district attorneys, or the courts to report the data to the OAG.

The number of convictions has been trending upwards as those responsible for enforcement have become better trained. Texas requires training about human trafficking for all newly licensed law enforcement officers and officers when they move up in rank. Given the reluctance of victims to press charges, both police and prosecutors are learning how to stabilize victims and to follow “victim-centered” interviewing protocol, which includes not interviewing the victim in sight of the trafficker. Legal associations offer continuing education for judges and attorneys to understand the changes in Texas law about trafficking victims and traffickers.

Sex Providers (Victims): Criminal Charges, Decriminalization, and Diversion

Under the Texas Penal Code, minors who are arrested for soliciting sex or who are sexually exploited are victims, not law-breakers. The state is allowed to hold them and provide services without

bringing charges for prostitution, but they may be charged with juvenile delinquency. In May 2013, the governor signed into law Senate Bill 92, which provides elements of “safe harbor” laws, in that it allows, but does not mandate, deferral and dismissal for minor victims by special courts. Failure to successfully complete the program results in a CINS (conduct indicating a need for supervision) offense. Texas still does not provide a systematic response for placing minors into necessary rehabilitation services without criminalization. Minnesota, on the other hand, passed a statute in 2011 with both decriminalization and diversion for juveniles out of the criminal justice system and into programs with services.

Adults arrested for prostitution can be charged with a Class B misdemeanor or, if arrested three or more times, a state jail felony. Texas is the only state where prostitution is a felony. With rare exception, an adult does not “choose” prostitution (or “sex work”). Earlier abuse and exploitation often mean the adult is left with few or no marketable skills “to choose” otherwise. Determining whether an adult arrested for providing commercial sex is a victim or a law-breaker is often complicated. A criminal record for an adult can be a barrier to re-entry into a restored life; advocates in the state of New York have found ways to vacate criminal records of trafficked victims.

Diversion programs and specialty court dockets, such as the successful GIRL Court (Growing Independence Restoring Lives) in Harris County, which handles only juveniles, allow persons identified as victims to receive services to rebuild their lives with counseling, education, and training rather than serving time as criminals. These programs are a form of probation and the criminal charge or conviction is not necessarily expunged.

Buyers or “Johns”

Traditionally, both the law and society do not subject a buyer to serious penalties. Nor is the john subject to social marginalization or censure, or

“La Costeñita”



At a cantina in Houston, customers paid at the taco truck in the parking lot for sex services, where they were given a condom.

even embarrassment if arrested. New York, however, is one state that is trying to reduce the demand for sexual services by introducing penalties for purchasing these services. Most famously, Sweden has forbidden the purchase of commercial sex since 1999. In 2010, the Swedish government issued an evaluation. The report found that the prohibition banning the purchase of commercial sex did not increase prostitution, counteracted the establishment of organized crime, and contributed to combating prostitution and human trafficking. Others disagree. Noy Thrupkaew (*New York Times*, Sept. 23, 2012) points out that anti-john laws won't stop prostitution and may make life more dangerous for the “victim” or “sex worker.”

Texas has an anti-john law (Tex. Penal Code 43.02) regarding solicitation of sex for hire, but it has not been vigorously enforced. A charge under this statute is a second-degree felony. Johns are not required to register as sex offenders. Texas also has an anti-john provision in the trafficking statute which holds accountable a person who “engages in sexual conduct with a [trafficked] child . . .” A charge under this statute is a felony of the first degree. (Tex. Penal Code 20A.02(8)).

“Reduce the Demand” campaigns seek to make johns aware of trafficking and to encourage law enforcement to arrest johns. In cooperation with a

campaign by Free the Captives (a Houston NGO), the Harris County Sheriff has made arrests and set up reverse stings and, shortly before a large offshore technology conference, released a video called “Buyer Beware! You will be arrested!” featuring arrested men. Names of arrested johns are not announced, although the number of arrests themselves is on the organization’s website and in the local newspaper as statistics. The Fort Worth Police Department has a “John-TV” website to make the public aware of sex-related offenses. Despite the efforts to shame the buyer with arrest or education programs, surveys have shown these approaches ultimately have little effect on desire to purchase.

In 2011, the Texas Legislature passed a “first offender prostitution prevention program” for johns (Tex. Health and Safety Code §169) “to promote public safety, to reduce the demand for the commercial sex trade and trafficking by educating the offender.” It is too soon since the law went into effect to track increase in awareness on the part of those who buy sex.

PROTECTION

Social Services

The path from victim to survivor to re-entry into autonomous, productive lives requires social and legal services. Typically, it takes 76 hours to deprogram a victim, breaking the psychological dependency instilled by the trafficker. Victims see traffickers as relatives or boyfriends, the source of attention and affection. Even after a beating that leaves them in the hospital, it may take five to seven attempts before they are ready to leave permanently. Trafficked adults also may not recognize how they are being exploited, making it difficult for law enforcement personnel to differentiate between consenting sex providers and victims.

The federal report, “Coordination, Collaboration, Capacity,” to coordinate victim services of 17 federal agencies sets forth four goals: increased

public-private collaboration, increased awareness, expanded access to services, and better outcomes from “trauma-informed” services. NGOs and faith-based organizations, directly or through networks, provide counseling and training. The website of Polaris Project has a state-by-state list of organizations under “Resources.” The list by no means covers all the possibilities in individual communities. Programs vary in length, according to the NGO’s purpose and resources.

Safe housing is critical to break the trafficker’s influence to facilitate recovery. Examples in Texas are: The Sparrow, run by the Redeemed Ministries in Houston (only four beds) and Freedom Place near Houston (30 beds). A Polaris Project survey found that the number of beds nowhere meets the needs of sex trafficking victims; that shelter beds for male victims are rare; and that there are no dedicated shelter beds for victims of labor trafficking.

Legal Protections

Protections under the law depend on whether the victim is a minor or an adult and on whether the victim is a U.S. citizen or undocumented immigrant.

For all victims legal representation in court is needed to assert victim rights, but availability of legal aid is limited. Lone Star Legal Aid, for example, is the fourth largest legal aid provider in the country, serving 72 counties in Texas, but it has 11,000 eligible people (for trafficking and other issues) for every lawyer available. Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid serves 68 counties. Legal Aid of Northwest Texas serves 114 counties. The organization of U.S. Attorneys has a list of free legal aid services in counties and cities across Texas.

Translation services may be needed to communicate with the victim in her or his native language not just during the investigation stage but also in court, where some judges accept only certified court translators.

FUNDING

For all victims, federal and state laws allow not only protective orders and confidentiality of information, but also the right to sue the trafficker for civil damages. In a Houston case the five youngest of 14 sex trafficking victims were awarded restitution from the sale of the traffickers' properties and assets, valued at around \$600,000 (*Houston Chronicle*, April 17, 2012). The Texas Legislature in 2011 passed a bill requiring this mandatory restitution for child trafficking victims in criminal cases, the funds to be provided from the forfeiture and sale of the traffickers' assets. Victims also have the right in Texas to seek civil remedies against a trafficker under Senate Bill 94, signed into law in May 2013.

Foreign victims may face the lack of a passport or visa. They are afraid to cooperate with authorities because traffickers threaten harm to them and to their families in their home countries. Under the TVPA, a non-citizen certified as a trafficking victim is eligible for a "T visa," a path to permanent residence, and potentially to citizenship. Niche NGOs, such as the Tahirih Justice Center and YMCA International Services, work with victims to prepare them to testify and to qualify for a T visa.

In the case of minor victims, the Texas Family Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure address court guardianship and parental consent for assignment to a rehab facility, or an enforced stay under court order. Minors require a parent or guardian to consent before services or health care can be provided. This is problematic when parents are absent, unknown, or even are themselves the offending traffickers. According to *The Texas Tribune*, "Child Protective Services is usually involved only if the child is being directly trafficked by a family member." Traditionally, the child welfare system has been charged with protecting children and ensuring family preservation, while the juvenile justice system serves children who are arrested for committing a crime. Some children fall through the cracks because one system mistakenly assumes another system is addressing the child's needs.

It is impossible to analyze budgets of government agencies and NGOs with respect to monies spent on human trafficking or to get a clear picture of how much goes for prevention, prosecution, or protection. Ed Gallagher, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Texas, said in an email (April 11, 2013) that many agencies from all levels of government are involved in a typical trafficking case, with each agency expending funds from its respective allocated budget. Litigation funds for prosecution come out of each office's general budget. The cost of investigating and prosecuting a human trafficking case is higher than the usual prosecution "due to the multiple agencies involved and the unique needs and care required for our victims."

Internationally, the UN provides funds and guidance for assisting victims, publishing handbooks on direct assistance from the point of initial contact to full re-integration, and maintaining a database to track the assistance to individuals. The budgets of federal agencies (e.g., DOJ, FBI, ICE) are set through the Congressional budgeting process. Federal grants are also distributed, for example through the DOJ, to local government agencies, task forces, and NGOs. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is the largest source of funds and grants to agencies providing services. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security offers a Victim Assistance Program as does the ICE. These agencies and NGOs are engaged in enforcement, investigation, and a variety of services to the victims.

The State of Texas, counties, and municipalities fund enforcement, investigation, administration of justice, and victim services through their budgeting processes. In 2009, Texas mandated but did not fund public awareness activities. In the fall of 2012, Houston's mayor appointed an advisory committee on human trafficking whose mandate is to recommend measures to fight human trafficking.

NGOs spend the monies they raise for services to victims and public awareness campaigns.

EFFORTS TO STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The issue of human trafficking is complex and there is no one solution. Required, however, are citizen awareness and collaborative efforts to support the “3P Paradigm”: prevention, prosecution, and protection.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has said:

Trafficking in persons deprives victims of their most basic freedom: to determine their own future. Our work in fulfilling the promise of freedom should be not only the pursuit of justice, but also a restoring of what was taken away. We should aim not only to put an end to this crime, but also to ensure that survivors can move beyond their exploitation and live the lives they choose for themselves. (Trafficking in Persons Report, U.S. State Department, June 2012.)

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Thanks to the many government officials, workshop presenters, and staff members of NGOs who gave generously of their time and expertise to respond to questions.

Special thanks to Janet Imhoff, Chris Davis Garcia, and Dawn Lew.

Photo and Graphics Credits: “Hope on the Line” and NHTRC Hotline graphics courtesy of Polaris Project. Photos from “Operation Poker Chip” courtesy of ICE. Taco truck photo courtesy of Linda Geffin, Chief of Special Prosecutions in the Office of the Harris County Attorney.

The League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund, a nonpartisan organization, encourages active and informed civic participation in government and increased understanding of major public policy issues.



SUGGESTED RESOURCES

Below are some of the resources used in preparing this document. Additional resources are available on the Issue Studies page of the League of Women Voters of Texas website, <http://www.lwvtexas.org/issues.php>.

Government Agencies:

- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/index.html>.
- U.S. Department of State *Trafficking in Persons Reports*, 2001-2013: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/>.
- National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC): <http://www.polarisproject.org/what-we-do/national-human-trafficking-hotline/the-nhtrc/overview>.
- Office of the Attorney General, *The Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force Report 2012*: https://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG_Publications/pdfs/20121912_htr_fin_3.pdf and *2011*: https://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG_Publications/pdfs/human_trafficking.pdf
- Joining the Fight to End Human Trafficking: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/endtrafficking>
- Federal Government Effort to Combat Human Trafficking (links to Departments of Health and Human Services, Justice, Labor, State, and Homeland Security): <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/federal-government-efforts-to-combat-human-trafficking>
- FBI Human Trafficking: http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/civilrights/human_trafficking and FBI Crimes Against Children (Innocence Lost project): http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/vc_majorthfts/cac/innocencelost

Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)

- Polaris Project: <http://www.polarisproject.org/>
- Children at Risk: <http://childrenatrisk.org/>
- Tahirih Justice Center: <http://www.tahirih.org/>
- Rescue and Restore (Houston): <http://www.houstonrr.org/>
- YMCA International Services: <http://www.ymcahouston.org/links/internationaltraffickedpersons.pdf>
- Mosaic Family Services: <http://www.mosaicservices.org/trafficking/index.php>
- Human Trafficking Training and Consulting: <https://sites.google.com/site/lasterglobalconsulting/Home/training-1/dottie-laster>

Published by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund.

LWV-TEF has sole responsibility for the contents of this Facts & Issues. Donors for this study had no editorial control or influence over the content or findings in this report.

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OF TEXAS EDUCATION FUND
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