



## Women & Sex Trafficking

*“But this is a people robbed and plundered; all of them are snared in holes, and they are hidden in prison houses; they are prey and no one delivers; for plunder, and no one says “Restore!” (Isaiah 42:22)*

### *Did you know?*

1. **Slavery** has been outlawed in every country but still **occurs everywhere**.
2. Human Trafficking is now the **2nd largest and fastest growing illegal trafficking activity in the world**.
3. The United Nations estimates the total market value of human trafficking at **\$32+ billion-a-year**.
4. **80%** of victims are **women** and **50%** are **children**.
5. A prostituted **child is forced to serve between 100 - 1500 clients** per year, per child.
6. **One million children** are forced to work in the sex industry **every year**. Between **100,000 and 300,000 children** in America are **at risk for sex trafficking each year**.
7. Among the millions trafficked each year hundreds of thousands are **teenage girls, and others as young as 5**, who fall **victim to the sex trade**. ([Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, 2007](#))
8. **Child pornography** is a **multi-billion dollar industry** and among the **fastest growing criminal segments on the Internet**.
9. As many as **2.8 million children live on the streets**, a **third** of whom are **lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home**.
10. The **average age of entry** into prostitution in U.S. is **13 years old**.

### **Sex Trafficking is Closer than you Think**

I think that many of us assume human trafficking is something that happens in other countries, and hardly (if at all) goes on in America, in our own neighborhoods and cities we call home. At the same time, many of us as Americans are morally relativistic in mindset, refusing to view any ways of living or working as unhealthy, damaging, and broken, yet most of us are quick to recognize and disagree with certain injustices.

According to the [2012 Trafficking in Persons Report](#), the United States is a source, destination, and transit country for victims of human trafficking. Slavery in the United States didn't end with the Emancipation Proclamation, and it goes on in places we would hesitate to believe people are being exploited and sold against their wills, such as in strip clubs, pornographic industries, and even houses around us.

The report states that sex traffickers use threats of deportation, violence, and sexual abuse to compel women into jobs in bars and nightclubs. In addition, it explains how state human trafficking laws go unenforced due to inconsistencies in understanding the nature of the crime. The report also explains how we lack the knowledge to increase victim identification.

To collaboratively combat sex trafficking in our country, we need to have our eyes opened and be ready to identify victims in places we would typically overlook, and anywhere around us.

### **We must also keep a constant vigil of prayer:**

**Pray for the rescue and restoration of the countless number of women and children who have become victims of sexual trafficking and sexual exploitation, including the following:**

- For an end to their exploitation and sexual abuse;
- For as many safe and secure shelters as are needed to provide for their physical needs;
- For loving caretakers to provide comforts, and a sense of family; and
- For medical treatment to meet their many health concerns

### **Pray for the breakdown of the Sex Industry:**

- For the complete demise of the pornography industry;
- A ban on internet pornography and sex tourism internet sites;
- For the closure of strip clubs and brothels;
- For strong law enforcement towards obscenity laws, to fight corruption and to arrest/convict the pimps, traffickers and “customers”; and
- For God to convict the hearts of pimps, traffickers and “customers” and to transform their lives.

**Pray for the Church that its response to the sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, including the following:**

- For more Christian aid workers to establish recovery homes for survivors of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation as well as programs to rescue victims;
- For the church, its members and leaders, to remain sexually pure and that they not become the perpetrators or consumers of abuse in any form; and
- For the strength to increase networking and cooperation among Christian groups working on this issue.

*“So if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed” (John 8:38)*

*“I am come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10)*