

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING – SOME STARK REALITIES

- Human trafficking has been reported all across the United States.
- Between 14,500 and 17,500 people are trafficked into the U.S. each year.
- Experts believe that 80% of trafficking involves sexual exploitation; 20% involves forced labor.
- An estimated 244,000 American children and youth are at risk of child sexual exploitation, including commercial sexual exploitation.
- At least 100,000 U.S. children are forced into prostitution each year.
- Human trafficking can take place anywhere, including hotels, nail salons, restaurants, truck stops, and private homes in any neighborhood. Human trafficking “hides in plain sight.”
- After inflicting physical and psychological abuse, traffickers often coerce their victims to become recruiters, transporters, and enforcers.
- Human-trafficking victims often do not seek help due to self-blame, a lack of trust, or their traffickers’ instructions to distrust authorities and others.

### The Uniform Law Commission

Since 1892, the ULC has served the states and their citizens by creating uniform state laws that help families, businesses, property owners, service members, and many more.

The ULC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. Uniform law commissioners are appointed from each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Commissioners work with legislators, attorneys, organizations and others to study, draft, and enact state-specific laws.

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The ULC is grateful to LexisNexis for its generous support and commitment to helping combat human trafficking.

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Uniform Law Commission  
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Uniform Law Commission

**The Numbers Are Disturbing.** Across the globe, an estimated 27 million people are trafficked every year. They are coerced, often by force or else by deception, into forced labor or sexual servitude.

Approximately 14,500 to 17,000 victims are brought into the United States each year. Children make up a distressingly high percentage of human-trafficking victims here and abroad.

Human trafficking is now the second fastest growing crime in the United States, behind only drug trafficking.

## Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery.



### How Do We Stop It?

Every state has one or more laws on human trafficking, but these laws vary greatly across the U.S. To end human trafficking, comprehensive and uniform laws are needed. Criminal laws must enable law enforcement to catch and prosecute victimizers both on the supply side and the demand side of human trafficking. Victim protection and public awareness laws are essential.

**We need to support and protect victims**, which helps make them more willing to trust and assist police and prosecutors.

**We need to provide housing, counseling, and other assistance**, so victims aren't forced back to traffickers.

**We need to build awareness and planning** to help the public, state agencies, and other organizations effectively coordinate efforts to stop trafficking.

### A Uniform Act to Prevent Human Trafficking

The Uniform Act on the Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking is a comprehensive law providing states with the key legal tools needed to end human trafficking. Every state can bolster its efforts by adopting the Uniform Act's provisions.

**The Uniform Act** creates the **three-pronged approach** that law enforcement and victims' advocates consider essential:

#### 1 Penalize the Traffickers and Users

The Uniform Act penalizes the criminal conduct – trafficking, forced labor, and sexual servitude – at the core of human trafficking, including those who knowingly benefit by using human-trafficking victims.

#### 2 Protect the Victims

The Uniform Act provides the protections and remedies that human-trafficking victims need to recover and rebuild their lives.

#### 3 Build Public Awareness

The Uniform Act promotes partnerships in the fight against human trafficking, elevates public awareness, advances preventive methods, and fosters development of coordinated victim services.

**The Uniform Act on the Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking** provides states with comprehensive tools in their efforts to combat human trafficking. When enacted in the states, this new law will enable federal, state, and local law enforcement and agencies to better identify victims, provide needed services, and prosecute those who exploit victims.

## It exists in every state.

How many of these provisions of the Uniform Act are provided for in *your* state?

#### 1. Penalizing the Traffickers and Users

- ☐ Trafficking Defined
- ☐ Forced Labor
- ☐ Sexual Servitude
- ☐ "Coercion"
- ☐ Knowingly Patronizing a Sexual Servitude Victim
- ☐ Patronizing a Minor for Commercial Sexual Activity
- ☐ Business Liability for Knowingly Engaging in Human Trafficking
- ☐ Aggravating Circumstance
- ☐ Restitution Payments by Traffickers
- ☐ Forfeiture of Property Used in or Obtained through Human Trafficking
- ☐ 20-Year Statute of Limitations

#### 2. Protecting Victims

- ☐ Confidentiality Protection for Victims and Families
- ☐ Ban on Use of Victim's Past Sexual History
- ☐ Immunity for Minors for Prostitution/Nonviolent Offenses Committed as a Victim
- ☐ Affirmative Defense for Prostitution/Nonviolent Offenses Committed as a Victim
- ☐ Motion to Vacate Prostitution/Nonviolent Convictions for Acts Committed as a Victim
- ☐ Victims Can File a Civil Action against Traffickers

#### 3. Planning and Public Awareness

- ☐ Human Trafficking Council and Plan
- ☐ Public-Awareness Signs
- ☐ Victim Eligibility for Victims Compensation Funds
- ☐ Law-Enforcement Agency Protocol
- ☐ Authorize Grants to Third Parties for Victim Services

More information on the Uniform Act can be found at  
**[www.LetsEndHumanTrafficking.org](http://www.LetsEndHumanTrafficking.org)**



National Human Trafficking Hotline

**1-888-373-7888**

Text INFO or HELP to BeFree (233733)