



HUMAN TRAFFICKING MYTHS DEBUNKED

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.

MYTH

Small children are abducted by strangers and sold into trafficking regularly.

FACT

According to the FBI, in 2020 there were 365,348 National Crime Information Center entries for missing children. Less than 1% were non-family abductions.



MYTH

Human trafficking only happens in third world countries overseas.

FACT

Human trafficking is happening in the United States, to American citizens, by American citizens, at a higher rate than victims are trafficked into the United States from other countries.

MYTH

There is one central government organization that fights human trafficking.

FACT

Although there are many independent organizations and task forces working around the world to combat the issue of human trafficking, there is no federal agency tasked specifically with fighting trafficking in the United States.



MYTH

Human trafficking and human smuggling are the same thing.

FACT

Human smuggling is a violation of the laws of a nation by illegally crossing an international border. Human trafficking is a violation of a person's civil rights, regardless of movement across any border. Traffickers commit a crime against another person, using force, fraud, or coercion to induce a commercial sex act or other form of slavery.



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MYTH

It's easy for human trafficking victims to escape their situation if they just ask for help.

FACT

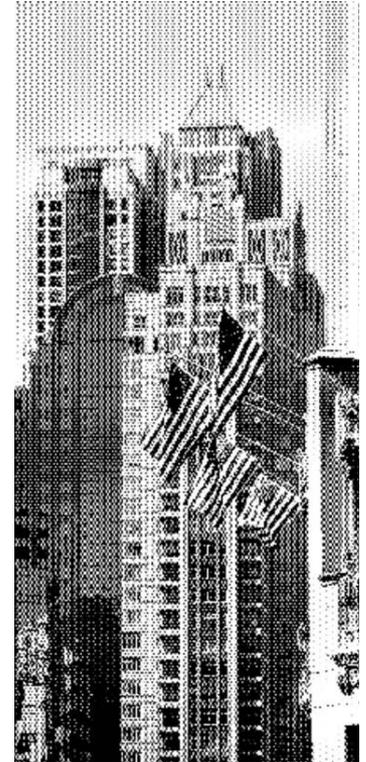
Victims are emotionally manipulated by their traffickers. While they are not physically tied up, they can be "chained" to their traffickers through isolation and segregation, the exploitation of an addiction, and/or the threat of violence.

MYTH

Human trafficking only happens across the border or at the border.

FACT

Human trafficking happens in every city, in every state in the United States. According to the Bureau of Statistics in the Department of Justice, more than 80% of sex trafficking victims in America are US Citizens.



MYTH

Human trafficking victims are brought to the USA in shipping containers, airplane cargo holds, or sent across the border by the truckload.

FACT

Most of the traffickers and victims in the United States are actually US citizens already living in this country. Traffickers often either hunt for potential victims using the internet to target and groom vulnerable people, or look within their own family or social circle for someone they can exploit for a profit.

MYTH

Human traffickers kidnap their victims and keep them tied up or chained to a bed.

FACT

Human trafficking victims are often violated by people they know and should be able to trust. Traffickers keep their victims enslaved with invisible chains of threats, violence, fear, addiction, verbal abuse, emotional blackmail, physical isolation, and other forms of manipulation and control.

MYTH

Human trafficking only affects women.

FACT

While most sex trafficking victims are female or effeminate, boys, young men and members of the LGBT community are sometimes targeted as well. Traffickers do not discriminate based on sex or race, or on what victims look like or where they are from, as long as they can exploit them for profit.