

The Truth About Human Trafficking

THE FACTS

- Traffickers sell women and children online **every day**.
- Sex and labor trafficking exists within diverse venues in our society including truck stops, strip clubs, fake massage parlors, **restaurants**, agriculture, online escort services, residential brothels, **city streets**, motels and **hotels**.
- The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates there are **14.2 million people trapped in forced labor** in industries such as agriculture, construction, domestic work and manufacturing.
- Enslaved domestic workers can be found in **any neighborhood**. A neighbor/friend may be the only option he or she has to escape.

HOW DOES HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAPPEN?

The Polaris Project tells us

- **Broken Trust:** Thirteen year-old Natalia was told by her parents she was moving to the U.S. She would be staying with family friends who would provide her with an education. In reality, they forced her into domestic servitude. Her parents had no idea.
- **Love Lost:** By the time she was 13, Denise had spent most of her life in and out of foster homes. She was desperate for the love and support of a parental figure. She found it in an older boyfriend in her neighborhood in Southern California. That boyfriend eventually convinced Denise to sell herself through prostitution. She was arrested multiple times, convicted, and sent to juvenile hall. Never once was she identified as a victim of human trafficking. Today, Denise struggles to find work because of her arrest record.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Share what you know about human trafficking with someone else.
- Find out what your church is doing to promote awareness.
- Ask your parish or school to host a speaker
- Visit Polaris website to recognize the signs of a trafficked victim and sign up to get alerts/updates: <https://polarisproject.org/recognize-signs>
- Learn the number to request help or report suspected human trafficking.

Report a tip

888-3737-888

**National Human
Trafficking Hotline**