



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF UTAH

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

An Educational Study by the League of
Women Voters of Utah

March 2016

The League of Women Voters of Utah is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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The League of Women Voters of Utah wishes to thank these women for the countless hours they spent meeting together, planning and writing the study.

League of Women Voters of Utah
Human Trafficking Study
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At a Human Trafficking Conference, a young woman from Salt Lake City, who was a former victim of homelessness and sex trafficking, who had since escaped the life and wished to draw attention to the plight of countless, silent victims still out there shared her personal story and an illustration she drew. She encouraged the use of her story to help people understand the true story of Human Trafficking.

A Victim's Story

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is hope and faith, I am a victim of Human Trafficking here in Salt Lake City. My experience is Salt Lake City is full of Human Trafficking but a lot of it is being ignored and dismissed by society and by legal authorities as the fault of the victims, which causes me an intense amount of daily pain. A woman once told me I deserved to be trafficked because I am a drug addict and homeless and therefore I am asking for it.

While it is true that drug addiction and homelessness makes women very vulnerable to being trafficked, still, a broken or dysfunctional home is a significant cause of both homelessness and drug addiction, and I did not ask for this! I did not ask to be conceived by parents who could not take care of me. I did not ask to be abused by them. I did not ask to be put up for adoption by them when I was two years old. I did not ask to be raised by an adoptive single parent with no father ever in my home or in my life. I did not ask to be molested by a man in my ward as a small child. I did not ask to be orphaned at age 15 here in Salt Lake City. It is easy to look at me and to dismiss me saying: here is an addict who is asking to have her boyfriend/drug dealer mix her shot of Meth with date rape drugs before injecting it into her so that he can charge \$20 a person to men who are queuing up to rape her while she is unconscious, but I did not ask for this! Nor did I ask to be secretly videotaped having sexual relations with and by a man whom I loved and thought was my protector and to whom I was loyal, but who in return was only selfish and loyal only to the almighty dollar and to using my sacred love for him only as a way to make him money. But I tell you I did not ask for this!

Yet all of these things have happened to me repeatedly and for years here in Salt Lake City. Yes, I have a responsibility to overcome all of these deficits and setbacks and yes I am responsible to overcome my drug addiction and homelessness and prostitution and the whole mean violent cycle that feeds on itself. But yes I am also a daughter of God with inestimable worth and this worth was just as real and valuable at my lowest point in life as it is right now that I am trying to be sober and trying, with God's help to make something of my life. I would like to see less judgment of battered confused broken women from broken dysfunctional homes and more sting operations in Salt Lake City aimed at removing violent men from the streets—men who prey on the weak and the vulnerable. Relative to another kind of prayer, I have recently taken to visiting Temple Square and talking to the missionaries and feeling the sweet peaceful spirit that is there. But all around Temple Square is another sort of preying, where women are used and discarded like hamburger wrappers being passed around from man to man, sold, bartered, traded, beaten, degraded and abused.

I recently saw a beautiful young Asian girl in Salt Lake City. She was a shell of a creature with beautiful tragically black eyes. Beautiful blackened by ethnicity and tragically blackened by continual beatings. Every time I see her she has beautiful tragically black eyes. Oh, To Whom It May Concern, will you please help these girls? Will you be an advocate for these women? Will you please help expose what is hidden and swept under the rug. Will you help society to come together---law enforcement, religious and civic organizations---by first putting light on the situation so steps can be taken to root out these men who operate even now with little fear of either God or man. Please help me, To Whom It May Concern.

I AM TIRED OF BEING PART OF THE PROBLEM, I WANT TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

A Victim's **Soul** Has No Voice...



Slavery does not discriminate.
People are Blind to Homelessness
Yet Homeless **women** are the
number one target of Slavery.
As humans how can we let
This go on? We need to stop
Ignoring **victims** and start
Creating survivors. If you think
Someone is a victim please
Don't hesitate to make a call.

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE CENTER
888-373-7888

PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY

In the spring of 2015 a small group of League of Women Voters of Utah (LWVUT), Salt Lake City Unit, met to discuss possible topics for future position or study papers. In all, 10-12 topics were discussed, and then these were narrowed down to the few that would get more attention.

Human trafficking was suggested as a possible topic. The group (of about 30 people) was asked if there was human trafficking in Utah, only three responded “yes.” Thus, the core of the Human Trafficking Committee was formed by the few that had personal experience and knowledge of human trafficking.

If people in Utah don't think human trafficking exists, it's a great opportunity to educate and expand member awareness about the horrific human rights violations that are occurring worldwide, and yes, right here in Utah.

Trafficking is about power and control, and victims' lack of basic human rights. Organized crime and cartels control drug and human trafficking world-wide; they are big businesses and very profitable. The victims (drug users, prostitutes, laborers) are truly “modern day slaves” and “victims without voices” who are held captive against their will, forced to perform inhumane acts, and are severely mistreated in the process.

MYTHS AND REALITIES

The following are common misconceptions about human trafficking:

Myth #1 – Human trafficking does not occur in the United States, it only happens in other countries.

Fact – Human trafficking exists world-wide, in every country, including the United States. It exists nationwide, in cities, suburbs and rural towns, and probably in your own community.

Myth #2 – Human trafficking victims are only foreign born individuals and those who are poor.

Fact – Human trafficking victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality: young children, teenagers, men, women, runaways, United States citizens, and foreign born individuals. They may come from all socio-economic groups.

Myth #3 – Human trafficking is only sex trafficking.

Fact – You may have heard about sex trafficking, but forced labor is also a significant and prevalent type of human trafficking. Victims are found in legitimate and illegitimate labor industries including sweatshops, massage parlors, agriculture, restaurants, hotels, and domestic service. Note that sex trafficking and forced labor are both forms of human trafficking involving exploitation of a person. (Another area, although it is much less common, is trafficking of human organs, which will not be included in this study.)

Myth #4 – Individuals must be forced or coerced into commercial sex acts to be a victim of human trafficking.

Fact – Some individuals enter willingly because they are told they can earn more money than performing menial labor locally; others may be sold by their families for a seemingly large sum of money; and some are kidnapped or taken against their will. All are introduced into the sex trade life.

Myth #5 – Human trafficking and human smuggling are the same.

Fact – Human trafficking is not the same as smuggling. “Trafficking” is exploitation-based and does not require, but may involve movement across borders. “Smuggling” is movement-based and involves moving a person across a country’s border with that person’s consent, in violation of immigration laws.

Myth #6 – All human trafficking victims attempt to seek help when in public.

Fact – Human trafficking is often a hidden crime. Victims are kept in close quarters and supervised at all times. Victims may be afraid to come forward and get help; they may be forced or coerced through threats or violence; they may fear retaliation from traffickers, including danger to themselves or their families, and they may not be in possession of their identification documents.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

DEFINITIONS

Human trafficking is **modern-day slavery** involving the illegal trade of people for exploitation and monetary gain. Human trafficking is a hidden crime because victims rarely come forward to seek help due to language barriers, fear of the traffickers, or fear of law enforcement.

Every year, it is estimated that millions of men, women, and children are trafficked in countries around the world, including the United States. It is estimated that human trafficking is a **\$32 billion per year industry**, second only to drug trafficking, as the most profitable form of transnational crime, based on 2014 reports.

Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to lure victims into labor or commercial sexual exploitation. They look for people who are vulnerable for a variety of reasons, including economic hardship, little or no formal education, natural disasters, or political instability. Recruiters may be related to, or known to the family.

Victims are offered a better life, a job with good pay, all-expense paid transportation, food and housing. They are assured they can send money home to their family and still have money left for their personal expenses. In reality, once they arrive at their destination, all their identification, passport and cash, are held by their keepers. Victims have limited (only if accompanied by a “keeper”) or no access to the general public outside of their residence. They are not allowed to come and go freely in the community, to go to church, shopping, recreational activities, or even walk in the park. When victims ask about their promised earnings, they are told the money is being held to cover their cost of transportation, food, housing and clothing. In reality, they never receive pay for their work, and have no money for personal expenses if they were free to move about.

HOW TRAFFICKERS OPERATE

Recruiting - Human traffickers look for vulnerable populations that include low income families in inner city slums or rural areas. Recruiters may be related to the family, or are known to family members. They look for younger children or teens that can be taken for exploitation in the sex trade. The recruiters promise the individual and the family that they will pay all the costs to take them to another country, where they can make good money which can be sent home to the family to help pay bills and living expenses.

Transporting - They take the family member, and form a small group with other similar age children and young adults. They are provided with identification papers, passports and travel documents to other countries. At the destination, they are all contained in a small housing situation. They are told they will have a better life. They will be housed, fed and clothed.

Grooming – Initially, the recruiters treat victims like girl-friends and begin to shape their behavior to adapt to their new life style as “sex slaves.” They are told how to dress, how to act, what to say and what not to say or do. They are encouraged to have sex with the traffickers. If they are unwilling, they are given alcohol and/or drugs.

Controlling - Traffickers control their victims through:

- Use of violence, threatening the victim or the victim’s family members;
- Harming or depriving the person of basic necessities, such as food, water, or sleep;
- Making false promises of: love and companionship; a good home; a job.
- Restricting contact with family or friends;
- Limiting freedom of movement;
- Controlling the person’s identification documents;
- Threatening deportation or law enforcement action;
- Garnishing the victim’s salary to pay off “alleged” debts.

INDICATIONS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Recognizing key indicators of human trafficking is the first step in identifying victims, which can potentially help save a life. Not all indicators are present in every human trafficking situation. Also, the presence or absence of any of the indicators is not necessarily proof of human trafficking.

What to look for:

- Does the person appear disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, or houses of worship?
- Has a child stopped attending school?
- Has the person had a sudden or dramatic change in behavior?
- Is a juvenile (under age 18) engaged in commercial sex acts?
- Is the person disoriented or confused or showing signs of mental distress or physical abuse?
- Does the person have bruises in various stages of healing?
- Is the person often in the company of someone to whom he or she defers? Or someone who seems to be in control of the situation (e.g., where they go or who they talk to)?
- Does the person appear to be coached on what to say?
- Is the person living in unsuitable conditions?
- Does the person lack personal possessions and appear not to have a stable living situation?
- Does the person have freedom of movement? Can the person freely leave the residence where they live?

If you observe one or more of these indicators and believe it may be a potential case of human trafficking, please report your observations to a National/State Hotline/Tip Line, or report your suspicions to local law enforcement.

The safety of the public, as well as the victim, is paramount:

- **Do not attempt to confront a suspected trafficker directly**
- **Do not ask the victim any direct questions**
- **Do not make any statements about your suspicions**

Report your observations to local law enforcement, with as much detail as possible. If your information is indicative of a possible case of human trafficking, they will investigate. Also, be aware initial investigations can take three to six months or more, to identify potential illegal activities, and to collect enough evidence to obtain a warrant to take further action.

Human smuggling is very different from human trafficking. The individual usually agrees to be taken across a border illegally, with or without legal papers to do so, and pays a sizeable sum of money for this. Human smuggling can turn into trafficking if the smuggler uses **force, fraud or coercion**, including “ransom” to hold people against their will, in an attempt to extort more money.

Another important fact is according to federal law, minors (individuals under the age of 18), who engage in commercial sex are automatically considered a victim of human trafficking. As a minor, they are too young to give their consent; therefore, prosecutors do not need to prove force, fraud or coercion when minors are involved.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN UTAH

In order to gain a better understanding of human trafficking in Utah, the LWVUT, Human Trafficking Study Committee, interviewed several individuals, small groups, and community organizations that provide support services for trafficking victims.

The interviews included meetings with:

- **Asian Association of Utah** (receives funding to provide human trafficking victim assistance), Victim Advocates, and Elizabeth Hendrix, Program Director for the Trafficking in Persons (TIP), Refugee and Immigrant Center, and Grant Administrator.
- **Fourth Street Clinic** (provides medical & dental services for victims, indigent and homeless individuals): Ed Moody, Volunteers of America, Board Member; Phil Taylor, M.D., Physician; Rep. Sandra Hollins, Utah State Legislature; Staff Mental Health Therapist.
- **Utah Trafficking in Persons (UTP) Committee, Utah Attorney General's (AG) Office** - Tammie Atkin, UTP Chair, AG Victim Advocate; Steven Gilley, Utah Department of Public Safety (DPS), Intelligence Analyst, Utah Strategic Information Analysis Center (SIAC); Greg Ferbache, AG Prosecutor; Kathy Franchek, M.D., Pediatrician, University of Utah Hospital.
- **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)** – Todd Palmer, Special Agent (areas of responsibility: Public Relations, Civil Rights, Human Trafficking)
- **Fernando Rivera**, Capt. Unified Fire Dept., Olympus Cove; Volunteer Community Educator who serves on several community and state Human Rights Boards and organizations.
- **Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault (UCASA)** - Alana Kindness, Executive Director, and Associate Professor at Westminster College.

As a result of the interviews, the study committee found the majority of medical and victim advocacy services in the Salt Lake City area are provided for local domestic sex workers and homeless individuals.

The Utah office, in cooperation with other local, city, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies, has taken the lead in studying, investigating and prosecuting human trafficking and illegal immigration violations, through two main inter-agency groups they lead and sponsor:

1. **UTP** which includes: attorneys, investigators, prosecutors, medical staff, victim assistance organizations, victim advocates, legislators, statisticians, community educators, etc. This group has also formed sub-committees to improve the identification of needs, community education, financing, and delivery of services.
2. **Statewide Enforcement of Crimes by Undocumented Residents (SECURE) Strike Force**, was established and funded by the Utah State Legislature in 2009, with the goal to find, arrest and prosecute those who were committing felony crimes in Utah's immigrant community.

On September 10, 2015, the Human Trafficking Study Committee presented a panel discussion on human trafficking in Utah. The discussion was open to the public and approximately 60 people attended. The panel presenters included:

- Tammie Atkin - UTP Chair and the Attorney General's Victim Advocate
- Elizabeth Hendrix – Asian Association, Director UTP Grant Administration
- Representative Sandra Hollins – Utah State Legislature interested in Human Trafficking Laws
- Fernando Rivera – Captain United Fire Department, Volunteer Human Trafficking Community Educator

UTAH STATISTICS

Utah State report data for 2014 from The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) reports the following data for Utah:

- 121 Phone Calls
 - (35 from Citizens, 23 human trafficking victims, 19 labor victims = 77 of the 121 calls)
 - The number of phone calls (121) constitutes the 33rd highest call volume of all 50 states and Washington, D.C. in 2014
- 3 Emails
- 4 Online tip reports

Maps indicate potential trafficking cases were located mainly in the areas of Salt Lake City, Park City and St. George.

In Utah, two main highways, I – 15 North/South and I- 80 East/West, are recognized as “major corridors” for the movement of:

- drugs
- labor & sex human trafficking
- smuggling of illegal immigrants

Human trafficking is present and does occur in Utah, mainly in the form of sex and labor trafficking.

There are several alleged cases of human trafficking in Utah related to: turkey farms, high-end hotel industry, sheep herding, agricultural, as well as sex trafficking.

Cases are difficult to identify because of the secretive nature of the crime, and the fact that traffickers wish to avoid law enforcement at all costs. Traffickers prefer to bear the expense of moving the operation rather than risk getting caught.

Another equally frustrating aspect, it is a crime that is very difficult to prosecute, because:

- victims are fearful and unwilling to testify against traffickers;
- organized crime will pick up and move an operation out of state to avoid prosecution;
- Utah laws are limited and often prosecutors are unable to meet the required standards to get a case prosecuted as human trafficking;
- Prosecutors must get creative, e.g. one case was prosecuted as “tax evasion” because they couldn’t meet the standards required for human trafficking
- Under current Utah law a minor (under 18) is considered a victim on the first offense; however, if it is a second offense, they are automatically referred to Juvenile authorities.

HOW DOES UTAH COMPARE TO OTHER STATES

A national organization, The Polaris Project, annually tracks and reports statistics on human trafficking that occurs in the United States. The following information is based on Polaris Project 2014 State Ratings. This information and more can be found at:

www.polarisproject.org/2014state.

Polaris rates all 50 states and the District of Columbia based on 10 categories of laws critical to a basic legal framework that combats human trafficking, punishes traffickers, and supports survivors. These ratings are based on statutes enacted by July 31, 2014.

Perfect Score (All categories passed)

Delaware

New Jersey

Washington State

Most Improved Since 2013

Delaware (+8)

New Hampshire (+4.5)

Colorado (+4)

Pennsylvania (+4)

Utah (+4)

Worst States in Fight Against Human Trafficking 2013

Arizona

Colorado

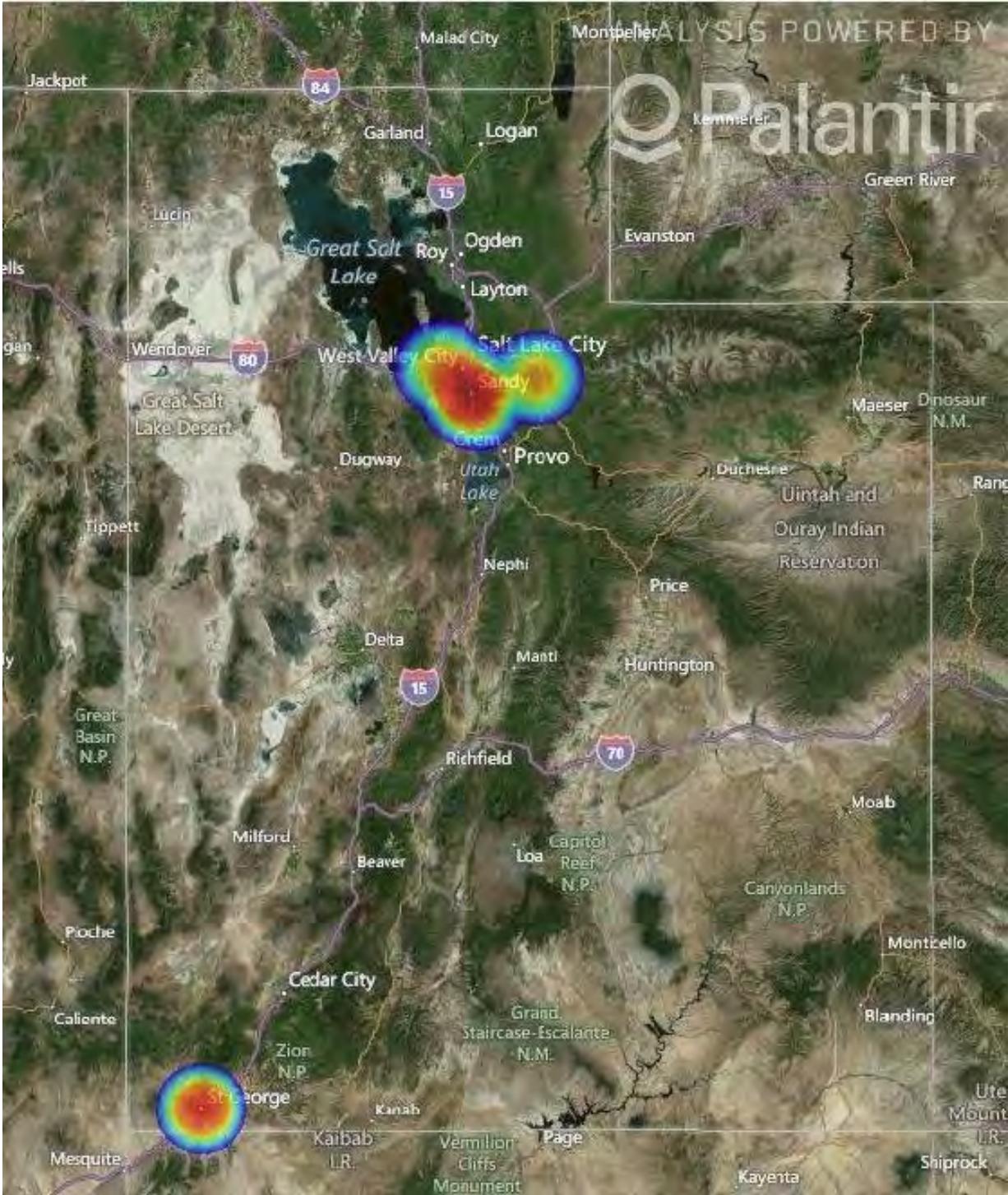
Delaware

New Hampshire

North Dakota

South Dakota

Utah



This map only reflects cases in which the location of the potential trafficking was known. Some cases may involve more than one location and is not depicted on this map.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

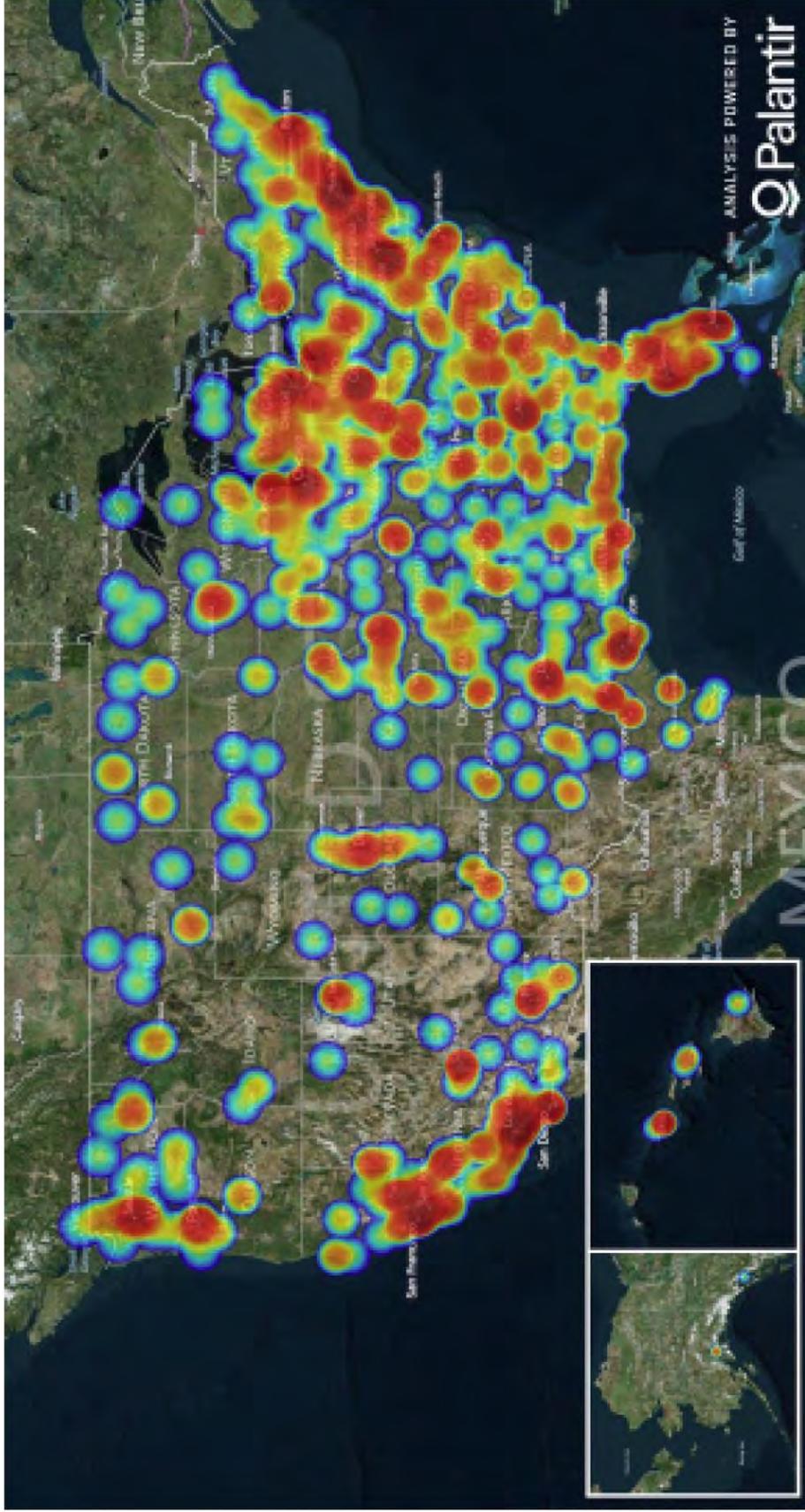
THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE CENTER,
<https://www.polarisproject.org/take-Action/365-DAYS>

Human trafficking is a multi-billion dollar industry where perpetrators profit from the control and exploitation of men, women, boys and girls forced into commercial sex. There have been rumors of sex exploitation at the Super Bowl, motor cycle rally in South Dakota, the fields of Florida, gangs in California, and in brothels in Washington, D.C. It is “modern day slavery” and it affects every corner of the country 365 days of the year.

Here are some facts:

- Vulnerable people are trafficked in the commercial sex trade and labor industry every day in America.
- In 2014, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline received multiple reports of human trafficking cases in each of the 50 states and D.C.
- More than 18,000 total cases of human trafficking have been reported to the NHTRC hotline in the last eight years.
- The International Labour Organization estimates that there are 20.9 million victims of human trafficking worldwide; 5.5 million of those are children; 14.2 million of those are victims of labor exploitation.
- In 2014, the International Labour Organization estimated that forced labor generates \$150 billion in profits a year, worldwide.
- In 2014, an estimated 1 out of 6 endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) were likely child sex trafficking victims. Of those, 68 percent were in the care of social services or foster care when they ran.

LOCATION OF POTENTIAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE U.S.



This map only reflects cases in which the location of the potential trafficking was known. Some cases may involve more than one location and is not depicted on this map.

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS

(UNODC, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2014* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.V.10. *This publication may be reproduced in whole or part and in any form for educational or non-profit purposes without special permission from the copyright holder, provided acknowledgement of the source is made.*)

UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING (UN.GIFT) was launched on March 26, 2007, (the date marked 200 years since the abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.) More information on this organization can be found at: <http://www.ungift.org>.

The organization held its first Forum in 2008 to fight human trafficking, raise awareness, facilitate cooperation and foster new and innovative partnerships. The Forum gathered over 1,600 participants from over 130 countries around the world. In 2009, it published the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, containing data collected from 155 countries and territories. The report offers an unprecedented view of the scope of human trafficking and what is being done to fight it.

All areas of UN.GIFT's work seek to promote greater international cooperation, coordination, effectiveness and efficiency in the common fight against trafficking in persons. There are four main goals of its mission:

1. Promote global and collective advocacy efforts to raise awareness of human trafficking and to support prevention efforts;
2. Advance evidence-based knowledge, to support the development of a sustainable monitoring capacity on trafficking in persons, develop further indicators, and provide ongoing, updated analysis on human trafficking;
3. Promote cooperation and partnership building through strategic and innovative alliances with other international and regional organizations, governments, the private sector and civil society organizations;
4. Step up the response to human trafficking through joint programs aimed at developing the capacity to carry out effective anti-trafficking strategies and support victims of trafficking.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) published the **2014 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons**, with data coverage from 2010-2012, or more recent. The core results were:

- Victims of 152 different citizenships have been identified in 124 countries across the world.
- At least 510 trafficking flows (where victims are trafficked to and from) have been detected and virtually every country is affected. Identifying and monitoring activity helps to prioritize anti-trafficking efforts.
- 64% of convicted traffickers are citizens of the convicting country.

- 72% of convicted traffickers are men, and 28% are women.
- 49% of detected victims are adult women.
- 33% of detected victims are children, (which is a 5% increase compared to the 2007-2010 period).

Detected victims of trafficking in persons by age and gender, 2011:

49% are women
 18% are men
 12% are boys
 21% are girls

Forms of exploitation among detected trafficking victims, by region of detection:

Area/Region	Sexual	Labor	Organ
Africa/Middle East	53%	37%	10%
Americas	48%	47%	4%
East/South Asia/Pacific	26%	64%	10%
Europe/Central Asia	66%	26%	8%

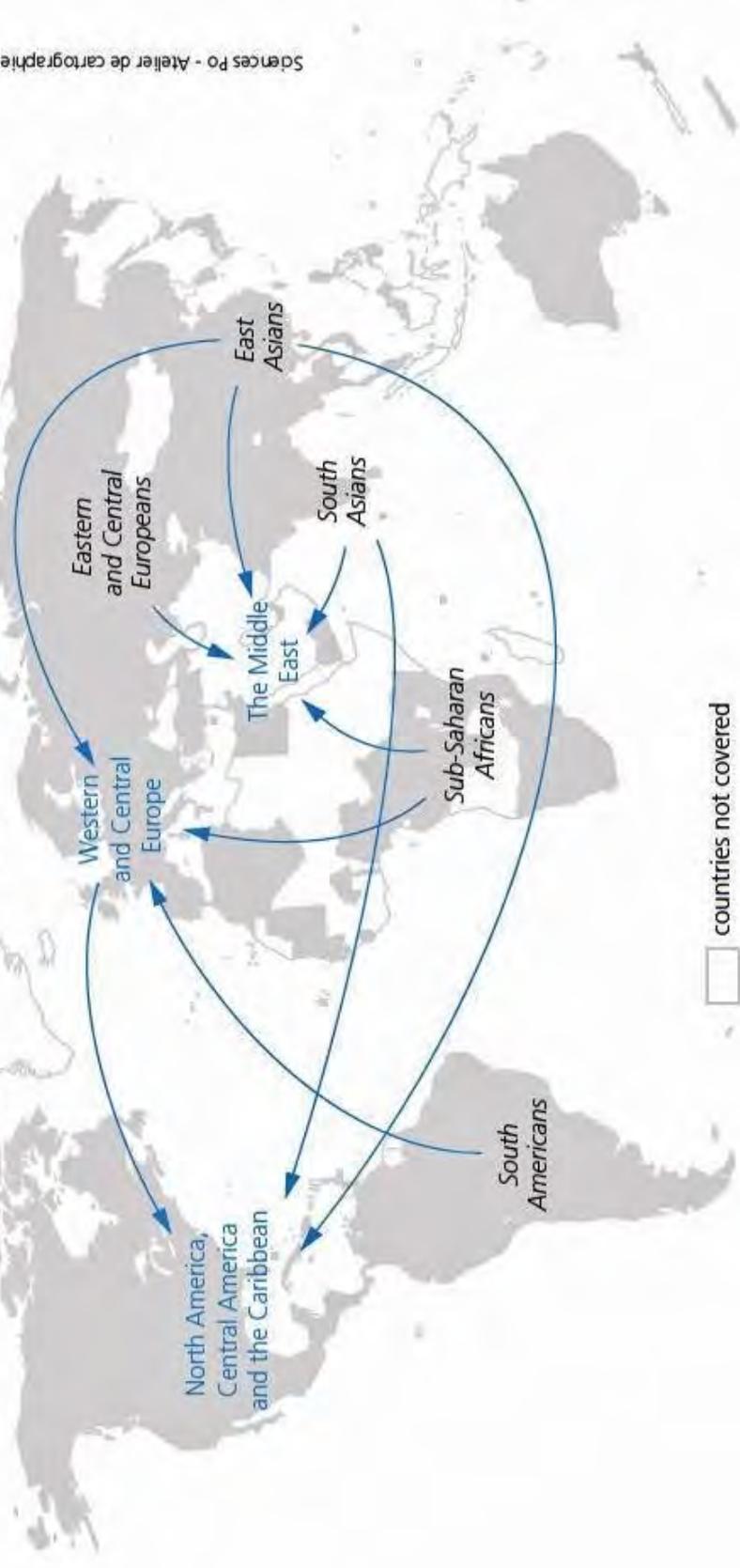
Other observations: more than 90% of countries have legislation that criminalizes human trafficking, but they don't always comply with law enforcement protocol, as a result the number of convictions remains extremely low. There is an increase in the number of child victims, particularly girls under 18. Most victims are subjected to sexual exploitation, but there is an increase in forced labor.

Internationally three forms of organized trafficking are recognized:

1. Small Local Organization - Criminals committing trafficking in person's offenses can act alone, with a partner or in different types of groups and networks, particularly if there are only a few victims.
2. Medium Sub-regional Operations - Trafficking operations can also involve a small group of traffickers and one or more victims, which may include border crossings.
3. Large Transregional Operations - are larger, more complex organizations that usually involve many offenders, many victims and may involve transregional trafficking flows.

The larger the organization and increased movement also increases costs and risk of law enforcement detection. Cross-border trafficking flows (subregional and transregional) are more often connected to organized crime.

The arrows show the flows that represent 5% and above of the total victims detected in destination subregions



Source: UNODC.

Main destination areas of transregional trafficking flows (in blue) and their significant origins, 2010-2012

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

International laws provide some guidelines for worldwide action in the areas of:

Policy and cooperation – for national, regional and cross-border policies and guidelines to strengthen law enforcement plans and standard operating procedures.

Prevention – focusing on the supply side in rural areas to reduce vulnerability of target communities and raise awareness, through education and vocational training for children, focusing on the prevention of exploitation, to include destination-side migrants.

Prosecution – development and implementation of specific anti-trafficking laws, training of law enforcement, attorneys and judges to effectively respond to trafficking. Establish specialized anti-trafficking police units in high human trafficking areas. More attention is needed in the areas of appropriate court action and punishment, using criminal, civil and labor laws, as appropriate.

Protection, Recovery and Reintegration – offering a wide range of services for trafficking victims to include: safety, shelter, medical and psychological services, legal assistance, victim advocacy, support for safe return and reintegration. Major hurdles are victims who are never identified, or those who are, decline to testify or accept assistance due to a variety of real or imagined fears they have. Many victims, who leave alone, without services, will frequently end up back in the only life they know for survival.

The Human Trafficking movement has been around quite a while, starting in 2000, when the Palermo Convention established as the first International Law, and the United States enacted the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. There have been many commendable activities and efforts since.

There is a need for more effective ways to work together, internationally and nationally to standardize methodologies, perform statistical analysis to identify the most effective procedures. Sharing of cutting edge empirical data, successful and unsuccessful practices, lessons learned – globally – so we can be more effective at disrupting criminal operations, assisting victims, and preventing harm.

Currently, 61 countries have passed national laws on anti-trafficking. Almost 90% have been enacted in the last five years, demonstrating an acknowledgement of the dangers of human trafficking and increased commitment to address it as a world-wide issue.

UTAH AND LOCAL PERSPECTIVES

Utah has formed a multi-agency organization (UTP) to police trafficking activities, educate the public, treat and provide services for the victims, and look at better ways prosecute offenders.

This is a crime against humanity. It is a Human Rights violation issue. No one should be subjected to being a sex slave. The victims are truly “victims” in every sense of the term and should not be prosecuted as criminals. They should receive services to help rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society. Too few make the transition and are able to ever live normal lives.

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National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC, also see the Polaris Project) collects United States data on Human Trafficking and generates annual reports.

Operation Underground Railroad (OUR), Tim Ballard is the Founder and CEO of O.U.R. A former CIA agent and Homeland Security Investigator, he leads undercover sting operations, in conjunction with local law enforcement, in foreign countries to arrest operators of child sex trafficking operations and to rescue the child victims.

Polaris Project, www.polarisproject.org, includes: Take-Action 365-DAYS, National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC), State Ratings. Polaris is a leader in the U.S. to help eradicate modern slavery. It is named after the North Star that guided slaves to freedom in the U.S. It works to disrupt human trafficking networks, save victims and help survivors readjust to freedom.

Sex trafficking of Americans: The Girls Next Door, an excellent article by Amy Fine Collins describing human trafficking as much closer to home than you think; victims who are younger than ever, are just as likely to be the homegrown American girl next door, as illegally imported. The article follows a case from initial investigation through prosecution, demonstrating clearly why it is so difficult to prosecute these cases, www.vanityfair.com/2011/05/sex-trafficking-201105

Shared Hope International, savelives@sharedhope.org “Just Response Policy Paper Eliminating the Third Party Control Barrier to Identifying Juvenile Sex Trafficking Victims” explains why definitions matter for sex trafficking victims.

United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) at www.ungift.org.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), publishes the Annual “Global Report Trafficking in Persons.”

U.S. Department of State, <http://m.state.gov/imc63156.htm>, “2014 Trafficking in Persons Report.”

Wikipedia, www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_trafficking, the free online encyclopedia gives definitions and a general overview of Human Trafficking.

Newspaper Articles

“An Important step to reduce child sex tourism,” by Chris Smith, The Washington Post, Opinions, February 7, 2016.

“Catching awful lot of them”: Feds nab sex traffickers in South Dakota, Crime & Courts, Fox News, AP, November 15, 2015.

“Dozens of states pass laws to fight human trafficking” Polaris Project, Jerry Mosemak, USA TODAY, August 15, 2013.

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“In Historic Trial, Mayan Women Accuse Military Officers of Sex Slavery” NPR Staff, Published February 13, 2016.

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“Tech startup Operation Underground Railroad is saving kids from human traffickers” Richard Byrne Reilly, April 26, 2014. Tim Ballard and Elizabeth Smart meet with Imperial County Sheriff’s Sgt. Jimmy Duran.

“They aren’t child prostitutes; they are victims and sex slaves” Op-Ed by Fernando Rivero, Salt Lake Tribune, February 20, 2016.

“Utah attorney general completes sex trafficking investigation” by Jennifer Dobner, the Salt Lake Tribune, June 9, 2015.

“Utah has high rates of child abuse, sex abuse of children” KUTV

“UPDATE: Super Bowl sex trafficking sting nets over 500 sex buyers, 30 pimps” Press Release Courtesy Cook County Sheriff’s Office, February 10, 2016.

“Woman charged with prostituting 13-yr-old” Argus Leader, February 19, 2016.

I am only one, but still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
but still I can do something,
and because I cannot do everything,
I will not refuse to do something that I can do.

- Helen Keller -