



**TRI-COUNTY HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE**

**PUBLIC MEETING #1 - MARCH 10, 2023**

# **HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR THE PRESS**

**WEBSITE: [TRICOUNTYHTTF.ORG](https://TRICOUNTYHTTF.ORG)**





## ABOUT THE TRI-CO HTTF

Established in 2018, the Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force uses prevention, prosecution, protection, and partnerships to implement a coordinated community response against sex and labor trafficking.

The Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force is named by the S.C. Attorney General as the official regional task force in our area.

**Our Mission:** Implementing a trauma informed coordinated community response to end human trafficking in the Tri-County area



@tricountyhttf



Tri-County Human Trafficking  
Task Force

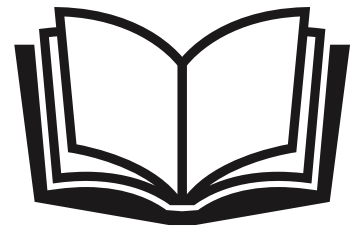
[tricountyhttf.org](http://tricountyhttf.org) – [info@tricountyhttf.org](mailto:info@tricountyhttf.org)



# ABOUT THE TRI-CO HTTF

2 Chairs; Survivor Advisory

## Prevention



Prevention  
& Education  
Research & Data

## Prosecution



Law Enforcement  
Legal Innovations

## Protection



Healthcare  
Child Services  
Adult Services

## Partnerships



Faith-Based  
Refugee/  
Foreign National



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Tri-County Human Trafficking  
Task Force

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# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

## **S591 - CHILDREN'S DEFAULT TO SAFETY ACT**

Referred to Family & Veterans Services Committee with 12 cosponsors;

TO REQUIRE MANUFACTURERS OF SMART PHONES AND TABLETS TO AUTOMATICALLY ENABLE AND PASSCODE PROTECT THE FILTERS BLOCKING MATERIAL HARMFUL TO MINORS ON DEVICES ACTIVATED IN THIS STATE

## **H3058 - CYBER SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Referred to Judiciary Committee with 2 cosponsors;

Create the offense of cyber harassment (person discloses the image without affirmative consent of the depicted perso)

## **S145 - PROSTITUTION/SOLICITATION (IE, "COMMERCIAL SEX")**

Referred to Judiciary Committee with 7 cosponsors;

TO INCREASE THE PENALTIES FOR SOLICITATION OF PROSTITUTION, ESTABLISHING OR KEEPING A BROTHEL OR HOUSE OF PROSTITUTION, OR CAUSING OR INDUCING ANOTHER TO PARTICIPATE IN PROSTITUTION, TO ESTABLISH THE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE OF BEING A VICTIM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, AND TO INCREASE THE PENALTIES FOR SOLICITING, CAUSING, OR INDUCING ANOTHER FOR OR INTO PROSTITUTION IF THE PROSTITUTE HAS A MENTAL DISABILITY





## SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

- Legal Innovations
- Healthcare
- Adult
- Child
- Prevention/Education
- Research/Data
- Faith-Based
- Law Enforcement
- Refugee / Foreign National
- Survivor Advisory



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# WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

22 USC §7102(11)

## LABOR TRAFFICKING

Labor Trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

## SEX TRAFFICKING

Sex Trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the victim induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.

Action + Means + Purpose = Human Trafficking

## The A-M-P Model

Action	Means*	Purpose
Induce Recruits Harbors Transports Provides or Obtains	Force Fraud or Coercion	Commercial Sex (Sex Trafficking)  or  Labor/Services (Labor Trafficking)

\***Minors** induced into commercial sex are human trafficking victims - regardless if force, fraud, or coercion is present.

The Action-Means-Purpose (AMP) Model is a device used to illustrate and articulate the federal definition of a "victim of severe forms of trafficking in persons," contained in 22 USC §7102(11). For the corresponding criminal offenses, see 18 USC Chapter 77

Source: Polaris Project | National Human Trafficking Resource Center





# MISCONCEPTIONS IN THE NEWS & WHY THEY MATTER.

Brooke Burris - Tri-Co. HTTF Co-Chair  
& Lincoln Tubman Foundation,  
Founder and Executive Director

Lauren Knapp - Tri-Co. HTTF Co-Chair  
& Charleston County Public Safety,  
Counter Threat Manager

## **Dominant Narrative:**

Some variation of a young white girl, lured or kidnapped by a nefarious strange man, forced to engage in sex work. She cannot leave, and endures the assault of client after client. All she needs is for someone to catch the bad guys and rescue her, and return her to the loving home from which she was taken. (1)

## **Stats & Facts:**

Of the **27.6 million** people in forced labour, 21.2 million are exploited in forced labour;  
**6.3 million in forced commercial sexual exploitation** (2)

**72%** of trafficking situations reported to the National Hotline in 2021 were Sex Trafficking. (3)

## **Top 3 Recruiter Types:**

1. Family Member; 2. Intimate Partner; 3. Employer (3)

## **Complexities of Getting Out:**

Fear, isolation, guilt, shame, misplaced loyalty and expert manipulation (3)

1. Albright, E., D'Adamo, K. (2017). The Media and Human Trafficking: A Discussion and Critique of the Dominant Narrative. In: Chisolm-Straker, M., Stoklosa, H. (eds) Human Trafficking Is a Public Health Issue. Springer, Cham.
2. International Labour Organization, September 2022
3. Polaris, *Analysis of 2021 from the Human Trafficking Hotline*



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Counter Threat Manager

## Dominant Narrative #2

Some variation of a large number of foreign nationals coming to the country without any documentation, to all be sold for sex.

### Stat:

**60% of labor trafficking** foreign national victims shared their **visa status** at the moment they called the Trafficking Hotline.

*(Polaris, LABOR TRAFFICKING ON SPECIFIC TEMPORARY WORK VISAS REPORT - data from 2018-2020 Hotline Reports)*

### Why Media Matters - Priorities & Knowledge

Media is the primary way most people learn about an issue like human trafficking. Not many will read a statute, a law review, or an academic journal article, but most will watch a crime drama, or read a blog or a news article.

When a story ends with the trafficked person being saved or returned to their family, viewers give little thought to the complex service and resource needs of survivors.

When the story involves kidnapping and clear forms of violence, we predicate services on cooperation with law enforcement without consideration to what that means for most survivors.



# WHAT IS COERCION?

18 USC 1591(e)(2)

## UNDERSTANDING COERCION IS KEY.

(1) THREATS OF SERIOUS HARM TO OR PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AGAINST ANY PERSON

(2) ANY SCHEME, PLAN, OR PATTERN INTENDED TO CAUSE A PERSON TO BELIEVE THAT FAILURE TO PERFORM AN ACT WOULD RESULT IN SERIOUS HARM TO OR PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AGAINST ANY PERSON

(3) ABUSE OR THREATENED ABUSE OF LAW OR LEGAL PROCESS

Carra Henderson - U.S. Attorney's Office, Special Assistant U.S. Attorney

Katie Orville - U.S. Attorney's Office, Assistant U.S. Attorney

## REAL EXAMPLES OF COERCION

DRUG ADDICTION	IMMIGRATION CONSEQUENCES	WITHHOLDING OF LEGAL PAPERS	FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS	RELEASE OF EXPLICIT MATERIALS	HARM TO A FAMILY MEMBER
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# MOST TRAFFICKING CASES INVOLVE PSYCHOLOGICAL COERCION.

Anne Ross - Charleston Pro Bono  
Legal Services, Victims' Rights  
Attorney

**Myth:** Most trafficking cases involve force.

**Stat:** The most pervasive myth about human trafficking is that it involves physically forcing someone into a situation.

<https://polarisproject.org/myths-facts-and-statistics/>

**Fact:** Most traffickers use psychological coercion to trick, defraud, manipulate, or threaten their victims into commercial sex or exploitative labor.

**Coercion:** Threats of physical harm, debt manipulation, reputational harm, threats to other people, use of addictive substances, withholding identity documents, threats to report someone to law enforcement.

# AGE OF CONSENT LAWS DO NOT AFFECT HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAWS.

Anna Smalling - Dee Norton Child  
Advocacy Center, IMPACT Program  
Coordinator

Millicent Walker - Dorchester Child  
Advocacy Center,  
Director of Clinical Services

**Stat:** "Sex trafficking" means the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for one of the following when it is induced by force, fraud, or coercion or the person performing the act is under the age of eighteen years and anything of value is given, promised to, or received, directly or indirectly, by any person. (SC Code 16-3-2010)

**Reality:** No one under the age of 18 can consent to commercial sex. Someone that buys sex from a child is, by law, trafficking that child. There is no such thing as a child prostitute- even if something "appears" consensual, because the child themselves is receiving something of value or benefits in some way. As long as we have the misconception that a child can actively participate in their abuse, we perpetuate this consent myth and thousands of children remain unidentified as victims.



# TRAFFICKING BOTH IN THE U.S. & IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Mattie Critchfield Dodds - The  
Formation Project, Program Director

**Fact:** Trafficking occurs in every state in our country  
(trafficking occurs in the Tri-county)

What drives the myth? Media, news, tv, movies, misunderstanding  
of what human trafficking is (movement, kidnapping, smuggling)

## What is the reality?

- (Trafficking in Persons Report 2022, Department of State) "Human trafficking cases have been reported in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories."
- (2022 SC Attorney General's Report on HT) total 416 cases involving human trafficking in South Carolina for the year 2022. Of the total, 399 cases involved minors, while 17 involved adults.
- 8 counties had reports to hotline in 2022 (Charleston County was second highest reporting county)
- Human trafficking is a lucrative business for traffickers in every community, although their structure may look different, the general principles remain the same (recruitment, exploiting vulnerabilities, selling to buyers, making a profit, coercive control to maintain the "product.")
- TFP serves adult survivors of human trafficking, the majority of whom were born and raised in the Tricounty area (share non-identifying anecdotes)





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# SMUGGLING REQUIRES TRAVEL; TRAFFICKING DOESN'T.

Julia Poppell - Subcommittee Chair for Refugees and Foreign Nationals, TCHTTF & Committee Chair for Human Trafficking, Charleston Latin Exchange

**Stat:** According to Polaris Project 2021 Data, nine percent of known labor trafficking victims and one percent of known sex trafficking victims had experienced smuggling-related recruitment tactics.

**Reality:** Human trafficking is a situation where someone is exploited through sex or labor for profit. This may be a situation where an employer is keeping someone in a work situation with force, fraud, or coercion, but also could be a situation where someone is sexually exploited for profit. Human trafficking can occur anywhere and does not require travel, though it is possible it could include travel. It can occur in someone's current employment situation or in their home.

Human smuggling is the business of transporting people across an international border and is agreed upon. An example of this is arranging for a coyote to bring them across an international border. However, it is important to know that smuggling may turn into trafficking at any point throughout the journey.



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Julia Poppell - Subcommittee Chair for Refugees and Foreign Nationals, TCHTTF & Committee Chair for Human Trafficking, Charleston Latin Exchange

## CASE EXAMPLE:

In the case of migrants, there are many, though not all, that agree to be smuggled into the country and later experience sex or labor trafficking. The following NBC News article details the experiences of one woman: "They kill you, they kidnap you, they rape you": Trafficking victims speak of the dangers they face"

(<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/-kill-kidnap-rape-trafficking-victims-speak-dangers-face-rcna40952>).

The article details the following: The young woman, 15, left Tegucigalpa, Honduras in early March to live with her aunt in a third country. Her aunt had paid a "coyote" \$4,000 to help her leave the country. But after journeying several weeks, the smuggler left her lying on a street in the Mexican state of Puebla. There, what she thought was an offer from a man to work at a restaurant as a waitress turned out to be a ruse from a human trafficking network. "They put me as a sex worker. There were several people who controlled me a lot, the clients even hit me. It was horrible," she said of her ordeal, which lasted several weeks. She managed to run away one day she was being taken to a hotel room.

This example describes a young Honduran woman who initially willingly left her home country and entered into a smuggling agreement with a coyote so that she could reunite with family in another country. Experiencing force, fraud, coercion, and sexual exploitation of a minor, she was later recruited into a labor and sex trafficking situation by another individual. This example demonstrates the difference between smuggling and trafficking. While the young girl interviewed was not in her home country, it also shows that human trafficking can follow smuggling and that the minor was trafficked where she was currently located rather than the trafficking including travel.

# MANY VICTIMS DO NOT KNOW THEY ARE VICTIMS.

Kat Wehunt - The Formation Project,  
Founder & Executive Director

## Stereotypes & Myths

Victims of human trafficking will always ask for help or self-identify as a victim.

Every trafficking situation is unique and self-identification as a trafficking victim or survivor happens along a continuum. Fear, isolation, guilt, shame, misplaced loyalty and expert manipulation are among the many factors that may keep a person from seeking help or identifying as a victim even if they are, in fact, being actively trafficked.



# HUMAN TRAFFICKING CAN OCCUR EVEN IF THE VICTIM INITIALLY GIVES CONSENT.

Erin Hart - Medical University of South  
Carolina, Advanced Practice Provider

**Stat:** Even if consent is obtained at some point, it is rendered meaningless by actions of the trafficker such as force, fraud, or coercion or abuse of power (HHS, 2022; United Nations, 2014). Concept of consent is integral given it is a commonly used defense in trafficking.

**Reality:** Consent is irrelevant when there is the threat of or use of force, deception, coercion, abuse of power or position is used. In the case of children, consent is irrelevant regardless of whether any means were used or not. (UN, 2014.)

There are three elements that constitute human trafficking:  
Actions–Means–Purpose (Image on next slide)

Consent centers around the “Means” (Department of State, 2023). Even if consent is given initially, it is meaningless once one of these means takes place. (HHS, 2017)

What affects Consent?

Socio-economic, cultural, and psychological factors, prior consent (UNOC, 2019).



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Source: Polaris Project | National Human Trafficking Resource Center

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS CAN BE MALES; INCLUDES MULTIPLES TYPES OF EXPLOITATION.

Leslie Hill - The Citadel,  
Associate Professor

**Reality:** Males can be victims of sex trafficking (roughly 6%) (UNDOC, 2019)

**Reality:** Human trafficking involves a broad range of exploitative practices (TIP Report, 2021)

## **Labor trafficking**

- The use of force, fraud or coercion to make someone perform a labor or service
- Large number of possible work environments

## **Organ trafficking**

- Exploitation of an individual for organ removal = human rights violation

## **Forced and child marriage**

- Individuals are forced to marry against their will or forced to stay in their marriage against their will

## **Child soldiers**

- Anyone under the age of 18:
- Forced or volunteered to play any role in a government armed forces
- Direct role in the fighting or cooks, messengers, spies, etc
- Or used in hostilities in armed forces distinct from the state/government

# EXPLOITATION OFTENTIMES OCCURS BY PEOPLE VICTIMS KNOW.

Leslie Hill - The Citadel,  
Associate Professor

**Myth:** All human trafficking victims are always kidnapped by strangers.

**Reality:** Usually they are exploited by someone they know (including family)

## 2019 National Human Trafficking Hotline Data

### Top 5 Recruitment tactics for Sex Trafficking

- Intimate partner/marriage proposition
- Familial
- Job offer/advertisement
- Posing as a benefactor
- False promises/fraud

**Reality:** Kidnapping is the most common method of recruitment for child soldiers





**THANK YOU!**  
**QUESTIONS?**

