



St. Josephine Bakhita

Human Trafficking: A Call to Act Justly

*Adult Faith Formation in
Catholic Parishes in Wisconsin*

Prepared by the

Leadership Conference of Women Religious Wisconsin

*With information from the
U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking*

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Milwaukee pimp gets 63 years in prison for sex-trafficking

- Investigators discovered that Robinson also had kidnapped a 17-year-old girl, beat her, pointed a shotgun at her, and threatened to tie her up in a car and burn her to death by lighting the vehicle on fire, according to a Department of Justice news release.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, April 6, 2018

Only 16 years old, Riley was rejected by her family and peers and forced to leave home. Having nowhere to go, she met a man who pretended to care about her, calling himself her “boyfriend.” He eventually coerced her into exchanging sex for money.

Riley wanted to escape and be someplace safe, where she could be her true self. Finally, through contact with a youth service provider, she received secure, stable shelter and was enrolled in counseling. Riley has since finished her GED program.

Topics

- **Human Trafficking Defined**
- **The Crime of Human Trafficking**
- **Particular Aspects of Human Trafficking**
- **Scope of Human Trafficking**
- **Catholic Faith & Human Trafficking**
- **Human Trafficking in Wisconsin**
- **Resources**
- **Engaging the Catholic Community**



What Is Human Trafficking?

- A form of modern-day slavery
- The exploitation of persons for commercial sex or forced labor without victims' ability to leave the situation
- Use of *force, fraud, or coercion* by traffickers to control their victims
- May involve movement across an international border; often occurs within a country



Activities For Which People Are Trafficked

- **Prostitution**
- **Pornography**
- **Exotic dancing**
- **Agricultural work**
- **Landscape work**
- **Domestic work and child care (“domestic servitude”)**
- **Factory work**
- **Massage /Day Spa**
- **Begging/street peddling**
- **Restaurant work**
- **Construction work**
- **Carnival work**
- **Hotel housekeeping**
- **Ship-building & welding**
- **Day labor**
- **Nail Salons**
- **Manual labor**
- **Nursing homes**

A “Hidden Crime”

- **Victims may be undocumented and fear U.S. authorities; traffickers will exploit this fear**
- **Victims may be physically isolated or guarded, or held through psychological coercion**
- **Many victims may not speak English**
- **Many victims do not know where they are in the U.S. and face tremendous cultural barriers**
- **Many do not realize that they are victims or that they have rights under U.S. law**

Smuggling Versus Human Trafficking

- **Smuggling**

- An offense against the integrity of the U.S. borders
- Requires illegal crossing of the U.S. border
- Smugglers make their money once the alien has reached the U.S. border; their “business relationship” with the immigrant then terminates
- Smuggling becomes trafficking once a person is forced to provide labor or sexual services



- **Trafficking**

- An offense against a person
- Involves compelled labor or sexual services
- Traffickers may use smuggling debt as a means to control victims
- Traffickers maintain ongoing control over victims, whether or not a border is crossed



The Crime of Human Trafficking

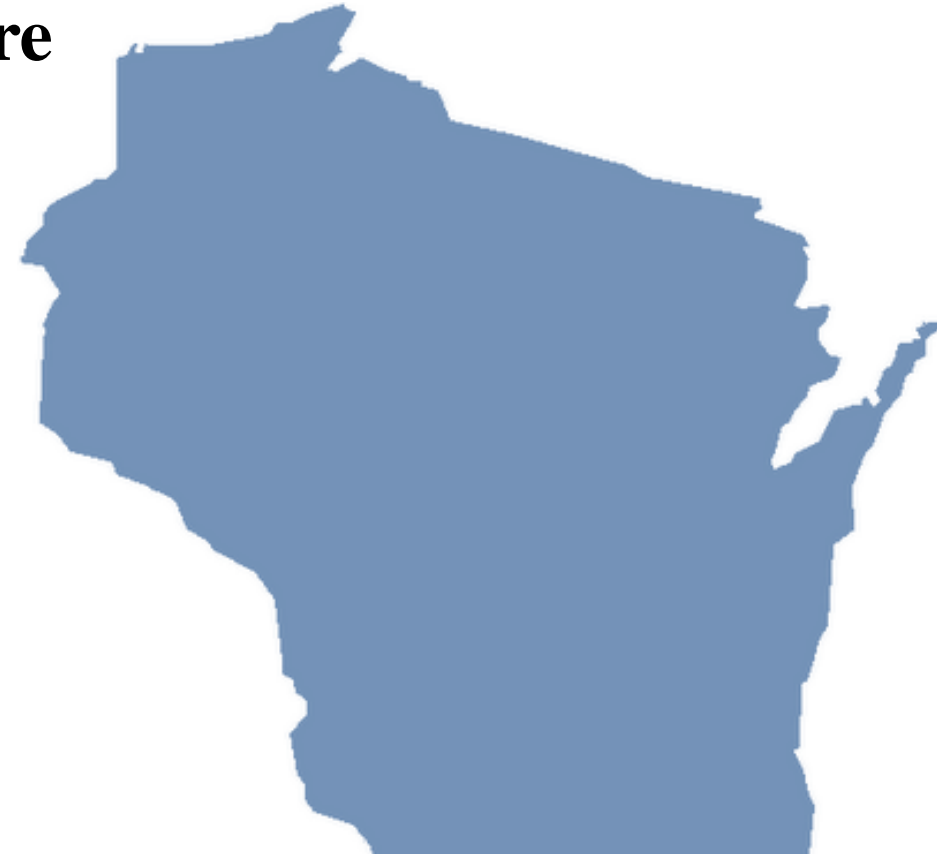


Modern Slavery is Illegal

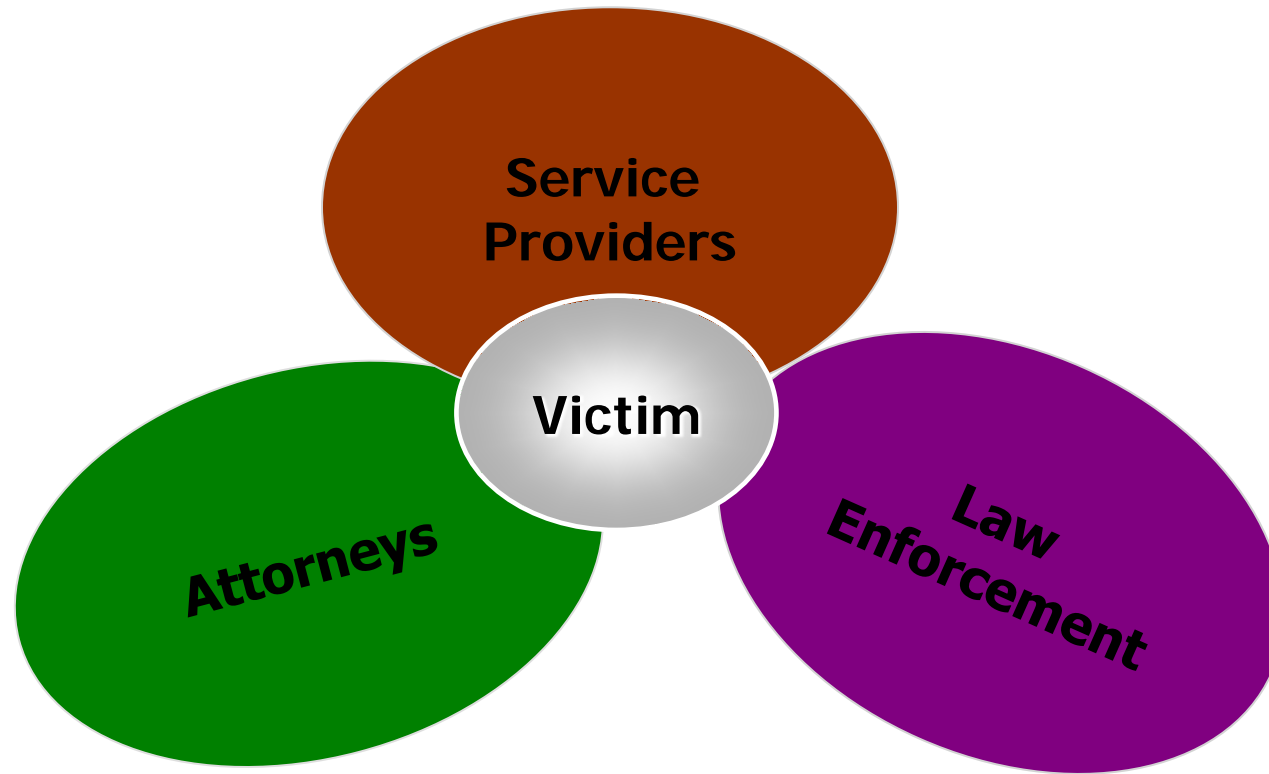
- **International Law**
 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights
 - Palermo Protocol
- **Federal Law**
 - 13th Amendment (1865)
 - Mann Act (1910)
 - Traffic Victims Protection Act (2000)
- **Wisconsin Law**

Wisconsin Statutes

- **940.302. Human trafficking statute**
- **973.075 to 973.077 Asset Seizure and Forfeiture statute**
- **948.051. Trafficking of a child**
- **973.015. Vacating Convictions - Special Disposition**
- **948.081. Patronizing a child**
- **944,31. Patronizing prostitutes**
- **165.505. Internet crimes against children and human trafficking; administrative subpoena**
- **Federal Human Trafficking Law and Regulation**



A Victim-Centered Approach



Particular Aspects of Human Trafficking

Three Types of Human Trafficking Victims

1. **Youth under age 18 who are involved in commercial sex acts (always victims; they cannot give consent)**
2. **Persons age 18 or over who perform commercial sex acts *due to force, fraud, or coercion***
3. **Persons who labor through *force, fraud or coercion* in forms of servitude, peonage, or debt bondage**

How Do They Become Victims

SEX TRAFFICKING RECRUITMENT:

- Schools, malls, parks, on the street, and online: they seek out the most **vulnerable**



LABOR TRAFFICKING RECRUITMENT:

- Offer jobs online, low-income communities, immigrants; they seek out the **poor**



SEX TRAFFICKING:

When a trafficker is **recruiting** a person, some of the typical “grooming” tactics they use:

- Befriending the person to slowly gain trust
- Building a relationship by showering the person with attention and affection
- Giving gifts, money, treats, dates, favors
- Communicating with the person excessively: texting, emailing, calling



SEX TRAFFICKING:

When a trafficker is **recruiting** a person, some of the typical “grooming” tactics they use:

- Making the person feel “grown up” by sharing inappropriate language, dirty jokes
- Playing contact games like tickling, back rubs and/or wrestling to get the person used to being touched
- Taking pictures and video of the person
- Making alcohol and drugs available





SEX TRAFFICKING:

*When a trafficker is **manipulating** a person to soon be sexually exploited, they will:*

- Constantly monitor the person
- Isolate them, keeping them away from other people
- Support them financially
- Often convince them to come live with them and discontinue any communications with family or friends



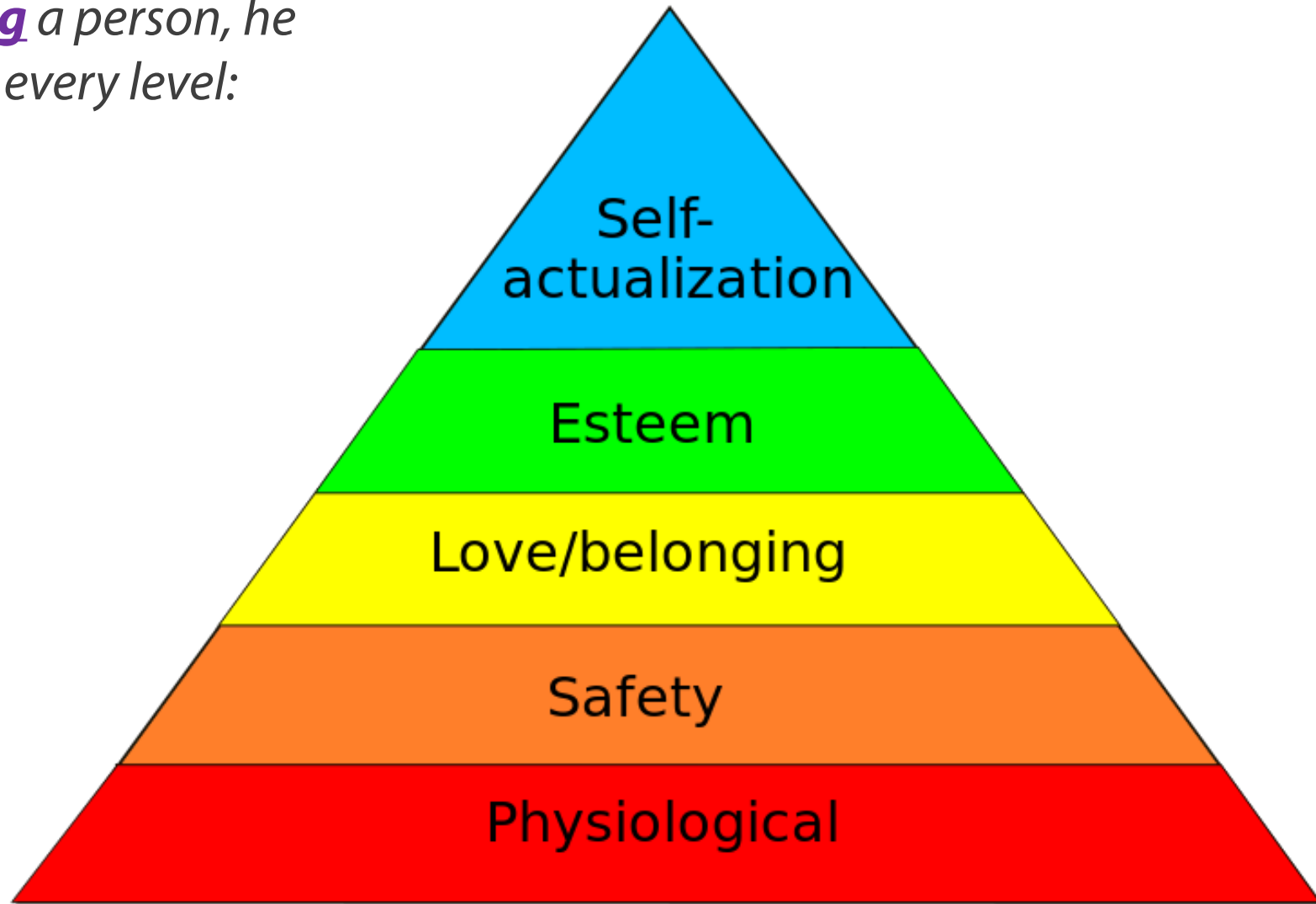
SEX TRAFFICKING:

When a trafficker is **manipulating** a person to soon be sexually exploited, they will:

- Play the role of family and protector
- Tell them they love them and the person would not be able to survive without them
- Introduce pornography to initiate sexual interest and normalize the behavior
- Desensitize child through physical contact

When a trafficker is **manipulating** a person, he fulfills her psychological needs at every level:

- Promises fulfilled dreams – marriage, family
- Gives compliments, flattery, gifts
- Spend time with them, offer love
- Offer protection against abusive family/peers; offer financial security
- Provide food, shelter, clothing, basic needs



SEX TRAFFICKING:

*When a trafficker is commercially sexually **exploiting** a person, they will:*

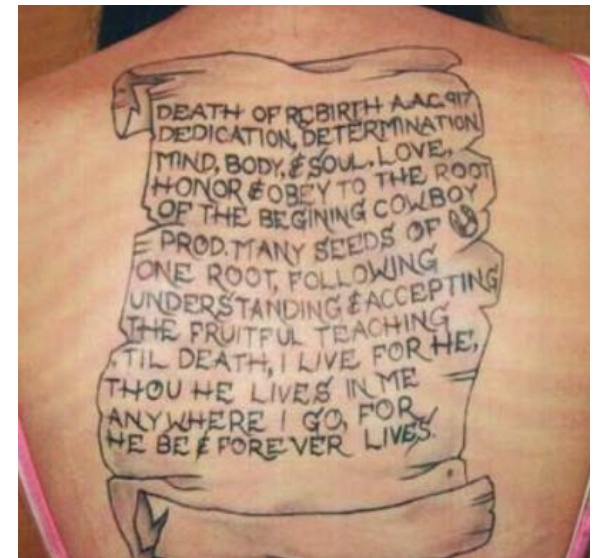
- Control the person with fear
- Physically/verbally abuse the person
- Get the person addicted to alcohol and/or drugs
- Alienate the person and act as her only human contact (or limit to contact with other “wives in law”)



SEX TRAFFICKING:

When a trafficker is commercially sexually **exploiting** a person, they will:

- Treat the person as property
- Tattoo the victim with his “mark”
- Convince the person that the police and authorities are bad guys
- Threaten violence against the person’s family to keep them put



What is Life Like For Them

- Work long hours being sold for sex
- Often beaten & raped by johns
- Sold 10-30 times a day
- Need to meet quota or beaten
- Trafficker takes all the money
- 95% experience physical or sexual violence
- 71% of trafficked children show suicidal tendencies



Why Can't They Leave



It's extremely hard to leave "the life."

Victims of sex trafficking are typically:

- Trapped by fear and shame
- Addicted to drugs
- Under the psychological spell of their trafficker, crippled by Stockholm Syndrome aka "trauma bond"



It's extremely hard to leave "the life."

Victims of sex trafficking typically:

- Feel their situation is their fault
- Do not feel they are a victim
- Have no self worth & no reason for hope
- Have attitudes & core beliefs that are so distorted it's as if they're living in a cult – need to reprogram their minds

Signs of a Victim






Red flags that a person is a victim of sex trafficking:

- Shows signs of physical/sexual abuse, restraint, confinement or torture
- Not free to come and go as she wishes
- Has a much older "boyfriend"
- Carries multiple hotel key cards, IDs
- Sudden increase of expensive "stuff"
- Carries multiple phones
- Constantly late or absent from school





Red flags that a person is a victim of sex trafficking:

- Appears disconnected with family, friends
- Has a sudden change in behavior, attire, material possessions
- Inappropriately dressed
- Appears to be coached on what to say
- Lacks control over her schedule
- Has inconsistencies in stories
- Exhibits signs of exhaustion, fear, anxiety, depression; avoids eye contact





Red flags that a person is a victim of labor trafficking:

- Appears malnourished
- Avoids eye contact, seems afraid, shy
- Extremely nervous, anxious, paranoid
- Doesn't speak much if at all
- Can't identify place of residence
- Lack of identification, money
- Accompanied by a third party
- Has unmet medical needs/conditions
- Is living in a home with multiple people

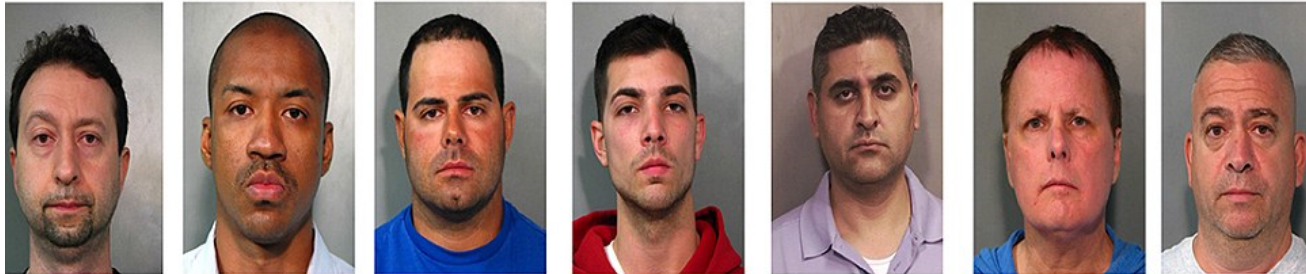


Where is the Demand Coming From?



Little research on demographics

83% say they are addicted to sex



Where do they buy sex?

Backpage.com, Craigslist, other online outlets, apps

Arrests & prosecution of Johns rare

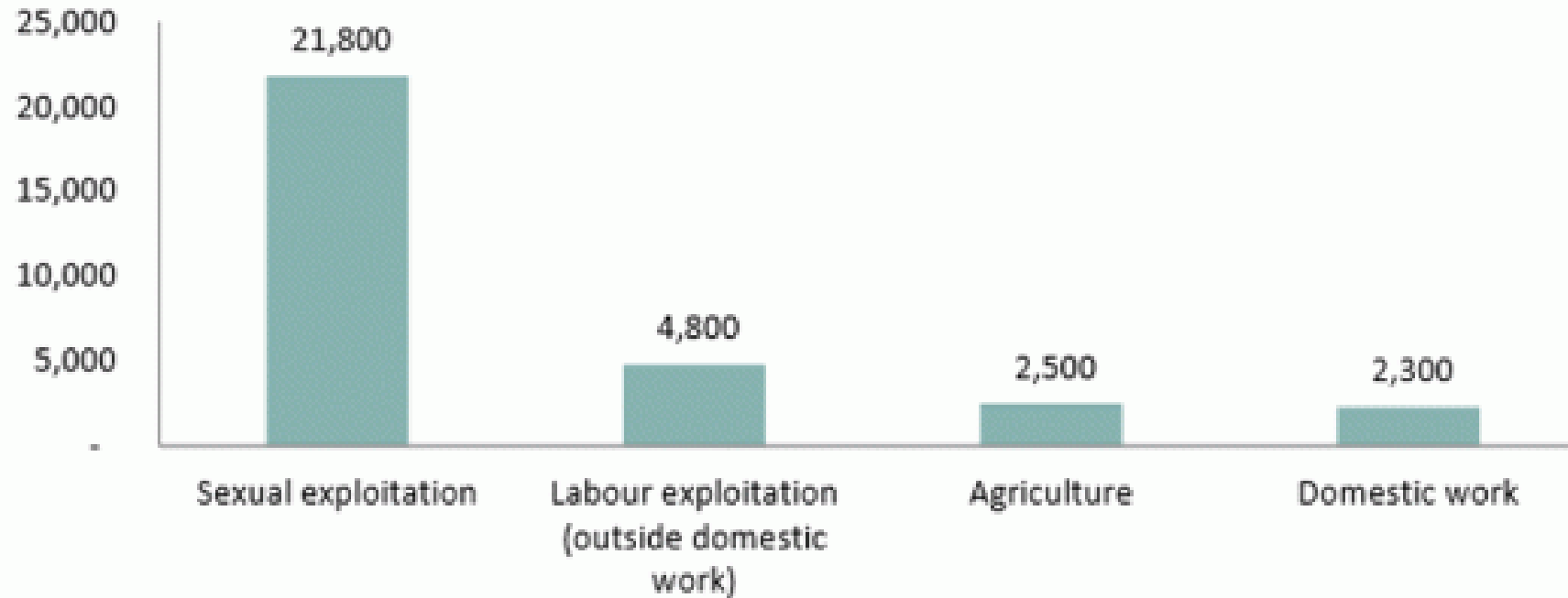
Punishment varies by municipality



The Face of a **Trafficker**

Traffickers span a wide range of criminal operators, including individual pimps, small families or businesses, loose-knit decentralized criminal networks, and international organized criminal syndicates. It is an extremely multi-layered and lucrative “business”!

Annual profits per victim per sector of exploitation (US \$)



Source: ILO

The enormous profit for the traffickers derives from “repeated sale” of the trafficking victim’s body or labor.

Pornography Feeds Human Trafficking

- **Viewing porn creates a DEMAND for sex trafficking within the porn industry**
- **Viewing porn becomes addictive – moving from soft to hard porn**
- **Viewers are known to imitate violent porn practices**
- **A vicious cycle – porn addicts become abusers who create victims who then supply the demand for the addicts**

How Victims Get Out of The Life

Victims identified in a number of ways;
but do not identify themselves as victims

Come into contact with the service system at
different points, e.g., law enforcement, medical

Need immediate crisis counseling to prevent
retraumatization, severe anxiety & stress

Need to make them feel safe



SAFE HOUSE

**Protected from
their traffickers**

**Individualized, trauma-
informed, culturally
sensitive, age-appropriate
range of services**

Option to stay long-term

SAFE HOUSE

- Basic needs
- Medical services for abuse, STDs, pregnancies
- Counseling for full range of mental health issues
 - Mentoring: social/emotional support
- Legal counsel/advocacy
- AODA rehabilitation
- Spiritual guidance
 - Child care
 - Skills training

*Staffed by trained
professionals*

Scope of the Crime of Human Trafficking

How Many Victims?

- **At any given time in 2016, 40.3 million or more victims are in modern slavery worldwide (International Labor Organization 2016)**
 - **10 million are children.**
 - **24.9 million are victims of labor exploitation**
- **800,000 people trafficked across international borders annually**
- **Women and girls represent 99% of victims of forced labour in the commercial sex industry, 58% in other sectors.**

Labor Trafficking

*In 2017, the
U.S. Department of Labor
identified 139 products
from 75 countries
made by forced labor and/or
child labor*

The “Dirty Dozen”

Products Produced with Slave Labor

- **Coffee**
- **Chocolate**
- **Clothing**
- **Electronics**
- **Counterfeit handbags**
- **Rubber**
- **Diamonds**
- **Shrimp (and other sea foods)**
- **Carpet**
- **Palm oil**
- **Cannabis**
- **Pornography**

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (C-SEC)

- **The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that at least 100,000 U.S. children are victims of sex trafficking each year, some as young as 12 years**
- **There are estimates that each year as many as 26,000 teens in Wisconsin run away from home. Vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation when on the streets**

Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services



What Our Faith Teaches



From the Bible

- **Old Testament (Isaiah 61:1)**

The Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners.

- **New Testament (Luke 4: 18-19, 21)**

The spirit of the Lord is on me, for he has anointed me to bring the good news to the afflicted. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives, sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim a year of favor from the Lord. ...Then he (Jesus) began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even while you are listening.'

Vatican Council II

[W]hatever insults human dignity, such as...slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed. They poison human society, but they do more harm to those who practice them than those who suffer from the injury. Moreover, they are supreme dishonor to the Creator.

Gaudium et Spes (*The Church in the Modern World*)

Vatican II, 1965 #27

Catechism of the Catholic Church

The seventh commandment forbids acts or enterprises that for any reason lead to the enslavement of human beings, to their being bought, sold and exchanged like merchandise, in disregard for their personal dignity. It is a sin against the dignity of persons and their fundamental rights to reduce them by violence to their productive value or to a source of profit.

- Paragraph no. 2414

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Human trafficking will never be truly defeated without eliminating the consumerism that feeds it and prosecuting those actors in receiving countries, including our own, that benefit because of the exploitation of vulnerable human beings.

On Human Trafficking,
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
(USCCB), 2007



Pope Francis

It is not possible to remain indifferent before the knowledge that human beings are bought and sold like goods! I think of the adoption of children for the extraction of their organs, of women deceived and obliged to prostitute themselves, of workers exploited and denied rights or a voice, and so on. And this is human trafficking.

Message on the occasion of the annual Lenten
“Fraternity Campaign” in Brazil with the theme
of “Fraternity and human trafficking”
March 5, 2014



Does it happen here? Yes!

- **Human trafficking is a growing problem in WI**
- **Milwaukee is considered a “Mecca” for pimps**
- **Trafficking in WI includes:**
 - **Sex trafficking of immigrants and U.S. citizens**
 - **Forced labor in Wisconsin’s fields, restaurants & tourist industry**
 - **Domestic minor sex trafficking of teens & runaways**
 - **House slavery (“domestic servitude”)**



WI Statistics (since 2007)

- **1,523** Calls to National Hotline; **131** – Victims identified
- **362** – Cases; **512** – Total number of victims in 362 cases
- **261** calls as of Dec. 31, 2017 – **91** Human trafficking cases...**72** Sex Trafficking
- **Human trafficking discovered in more than half of WI's 72 counties (WI Department of Justice)**

Cited from Polaris | National Human Trafficking Resource Center | 1-888-3737-888 | NHTRC@PolarisProject.org
www.PolarisProject.org © Copyright Polaris 2015. All Rights Reserved. <http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/state/wisconsin>

Please note that the data displayed in this report was generated based on limited criteria from calls received by the NHTRC hotline. This is not a comprehensive report on the scale or scope of human trafficking on a state or national level. These statistics may be subject to change.

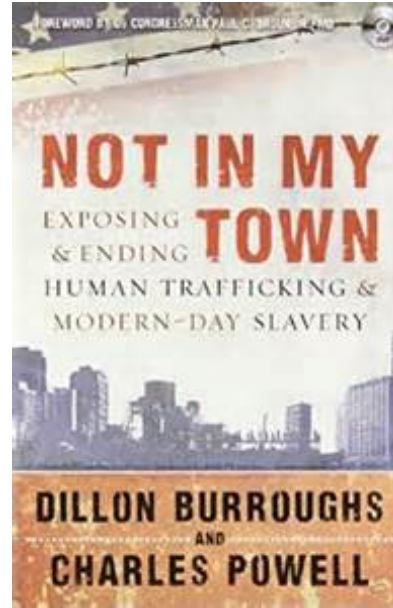
Human Trafficking in WI News

[Milwaukee as a 'mecca for sex trafficking': New report sheds light on scope of problem](#)

Trafficking victims found in rural counties

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/crime/2018/04/06/milwaukee-pimp-gets-63-years-prison-sex-trafficking-17-year-old-girl-and-others/493064002/>

[\\$500 bail for pimp suspect now \\$150,000 after prosecutors object](#)



Women in Appleton forced to work as prostitutes for massage parlor or escort services

[A report](#), which sought to establish the scope of the problem, estimated 340 young adults and children have been victims of sex trafficking in Milwaukee in a four-year period.

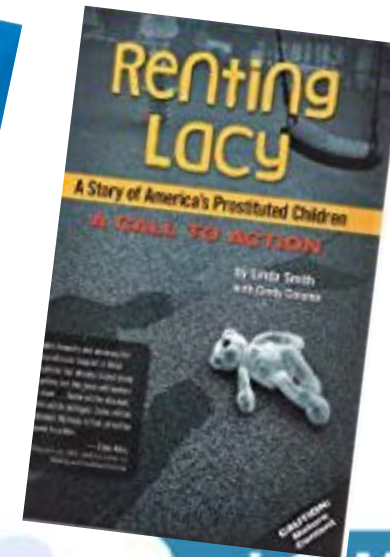
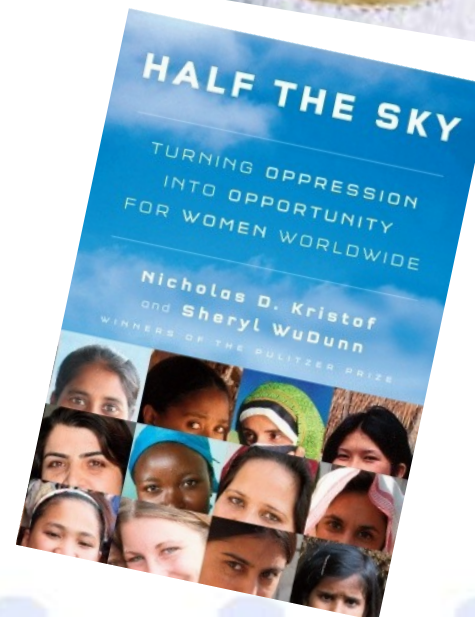
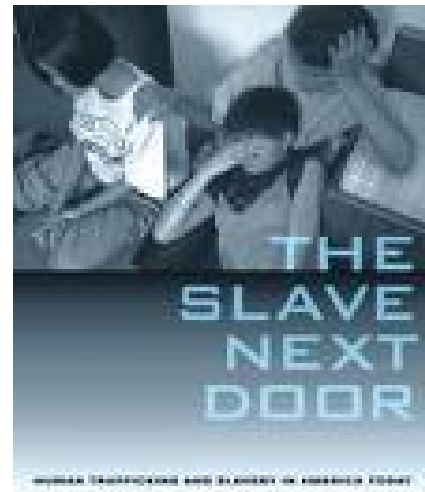
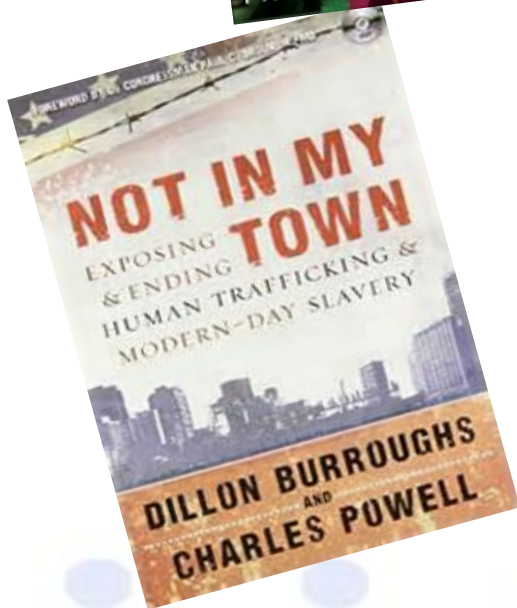
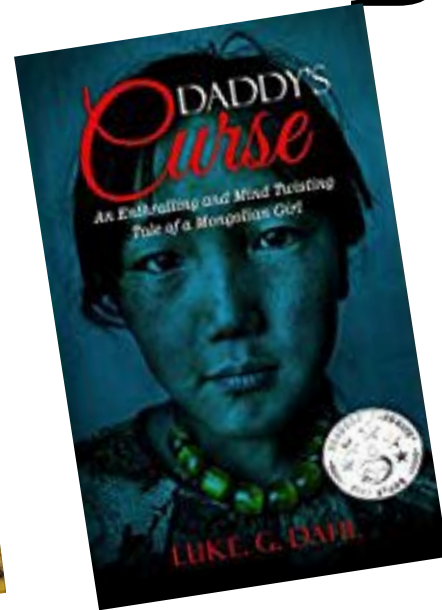
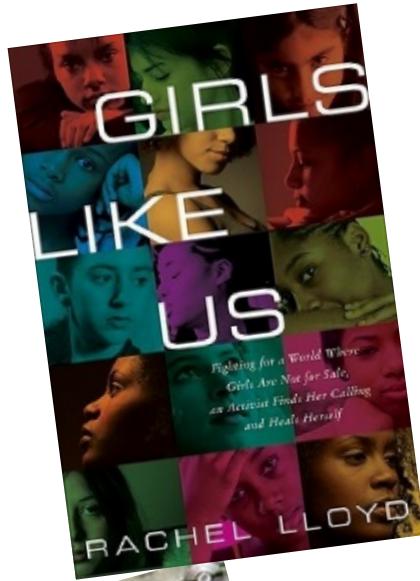
The report, released last month, expands upon a 2013 study that found at least 77 children had been sexually exploited in Milwaukee in a two-year period — a number experts said was likely a gross underestimate, as it only tracked the number who had made contact with police.

Resources

Movies/DVDs



Books



Some Internet Resources

- [The USCCB Office of Migration and Refugee Services Anti-Human Trafficking Program](#)
- [Wisconsin Human Trafficking Protocol and Resource Manual](#)
- End Modern Slavery [Polaris](#)
- [Shared Hope International](#) – Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking
- [End Child Prostitution and Trafficking](#) (ECPAT USA)
- [Faith Alliance Against Slavery and Trafficking](#)
- [The Salvation Army](#)
- [Covenant Eyes](#) (Internet Safety for the family)
- [Brushfires Foundation](#) (Harms of Pornography)

Engaging the Catholic Community

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

What You Can Do

Educate

- Watch videos online, read news articles, read books
- Sign up for e-newsletters from anti-trafficking efforts (U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Trafficking, Polaris, task forces, etc.)
- Follow anti-trafficking organizations on Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- Attend more presentations & events; schedule a seminar
- Share information in your community

Teachers: Add human trafficking curricula (available online)

Medical professionals: Get training on how to identify victims; familiarize yourself with the SANE process; see if your facility can offer low-cost services

Attorneys: Offer pro bono legal counsel/advocacy

Journalists: Help spread awareness

What You Can Do

PRAY

Pray for victims, potential victims, and for the conversion of traffickers:

- Search online for “prayers for human trafficking victims”
- U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking has many prayer and reflection resources
- Every victim is someone’s daughter, son, sister, brother, friend or loved one; please pray daily for these victims
- Hold a prayer vigil at your church or in your community



What You Can Do

VOLUNTEER/DONATE

- Choose a local or regional anti-trafficking organization to support with your time, talents and funding
- There are also other nonprofit organizations who help sexual abuse/assault victims; or youth who are vulnerable & could become victims, such as homeless youth shelters
- Organize a fundraiser to help the organization raise needed funding or hold supply drives for basic needs items such as hygiene kits, clothing

What You Can Do

ADVOCACY

Advocacy: Legislation brings systemic change

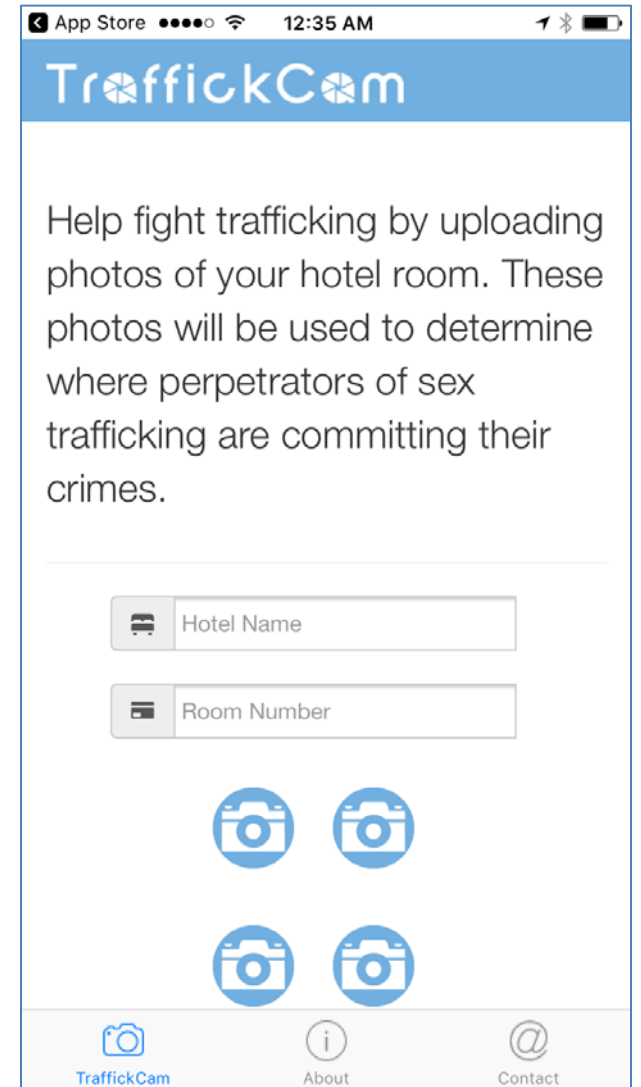
- **Contact your elected officials** and let them know you are concerned about human trafficking and ask what they are doing about it. Key points to discuss:
 - 1) Lack of safe housing for victims;
 - 2) Lack of convictions in WI for traffickers;
 - 3) Lack of arrests & prosecution for Johns
- Sign up for **action alerts** or participate in the advocacy efforts of nonprofits such as Polaris or USCSAHT

What You Can Do

REPORT

Report Suspicious Activity: Do NOT approach victims or traffickers as this can be very dangerous

- Call **non-emergency local police** line or use their text tip line to report any suspicious activity
- Call the **National Human Trafficking Hotline** at **1-888-3737-888** or Text "INFO" to "BeFree" (TTY: 711)
- **Use APPs** to report tips: Redlight Traffic, TraffickCam
Airline Ambassadors TIP Line



What Your Parish Can Do

- **Create a human trafficking committee**
- **Raise awareness by educating church members**
- **Create a resource center with current materials**
- **Assist community service providers who are serving victims**
- **Support a safe haven in your community for those who are vulnerable**
- **Hold fundraisers for worthy anti-trafficking organizations**
- **Incorporate the issue into worship services**
- **Advocate for improved legislation (such as Safe Harbor)**
- **Help to reduce poverty at home and abroad**
- **Support Fair Trade establishments/companies**

Can Your Parish Provide for Victims:

- **Pro bono legal, medical, or dental care?**
- **Donations of food, clothing, and furniture?**
- **Emergency housing?**
- **Temporary or permanent jobs?**
- **Assistance with learning English?**
- **Direct companionship & mentoring?**
- **Bilingual assistance?**
- **Used car/transportation help?**

**NATIONAL
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
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200+ languages*



CALL

1-888-373-7888



TEXT

“BeFree” (233733)



LIVE CHAT

humantraffickinghotline.org

GET HELP



REPORT TRAFFICKING

Thank you for educating yourself about Human Trafficking

Through education you can bring awareness.

Through awareness you can provide help.

Through help you can provide hope.

Our Catholic faith calls us to action!

