

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



## END HUMAN TRAFFICKING SUPPORT SURVIVORS

[HumanTraffickingHotLine.org](https://www.humantraffickinghotline.org)  
(888) 373-7888

Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office  
Alameda County District Attorney's Office, H.E.A.T. Watch



**GEORGE GASCÓN**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

## What Is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is the illegal trade of people for exploitation or commercial gain. Every year, numerous men, women and children are trafficked in countries around the world, including the United States.

Human trafficking is among the most profitable transnational crimes, next to drug and weapons trafficking. Victims of human trafficking rarely come forward to seek help because of language barriers, fear of the traffickers and/or fear of law enforcement.

Traffickers use force, fraud or coercion to lure their victims into labor or commercial sexual exploitation. The trauma caused by the traffickers can be so great that most victims may not identify themselves as victims, or ask for help.

**Sex Trafficking** is the exploitation of an adult or a child who engages in commercial sexual activity for financial gain. Sex trafficking charges may be brought in cases in which adult victims are deprived of their liberty and commercially sexually exploited. Any sexually exploited child may be a sex trafficking victim even if there is no force or coercion. Any minor who is induced, caused or persuaded to engage in commercial sexual activity is a victim of human sex trafficking.

**Labor Trafficking** is the exploitation of a person for labor or for services through force, fraud or coercion. Labor trafficking victims often are forced into domestic servitude, agricultural, restaurant or sweatshop factory work.

## Facts About Human Trafficking

- It is estimated that 80 percent of trafficking involves sexual exploitation and 20 percent involves labor exploitation.
- According to the United States Department of State, 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year, of which 80 percent are female and half are children.
- The average age of a child entering the sex trade in the U.S. is 12 to 14 years old. Many victims are runaway girls who were sexually abused as children.

## Human Trafficking Victim Assistance Program

The Human Trafficking Victim Assistance Program is comprised of specially trained victim services representatives who assist minor and adult victims of trafficking. The victim services representatives work collaboratively with prosecutors, law enforcement, social workers and other service providers in a victim-centered, trauma-informed approach to:

- Arrange for coordination of services to transition victims into survivors
- Provide victims with crisis intervention and emergency shelter, food, counseling and clothing
- Make mental health counseling referrals to lessen trauma
- Provide criminal justice orientation, notification of proceedings and court support
- Stop further abuse, identify suspects and hold them accountable



## Helping Crime Victims Become Survivors

For Counseling Referrals



For Crisis Intervention



For Case Status Notification



For Emergency Assistance



For Restitution Assistance



For Court Escort



## Victim Assistance

The District Attorney's Bureau of Victim Services is available in courthouses and police stations to assist victims and their families. Victim services representatives assist with emergency needs; counseling resources and referrals; restitution orders and return of personal property; orientation to the criminal justice system; court escort and support; and information on the status of filed cases.

Representatives assist victims of violence or the threat of violence in applying for compensation for crime-related losses from the California Victim Compensation Board. The representatives are specially trained to help sex trade and labor trafficking victims, child and adult victims, and victims with disabilities.

Representatives are available to assist victims in all major languages. All services are free and there is no legal residency requirement.

## Report a Crime

It is impossible for law enforcement officials to be aware of every trafficking case in their area without support and tips from the community. It is up to you to take action when you suspect people are being held against their will. If you suspect a case of human trafficking, here are some of the questions to ask:

- Can you safely and directly contact the victim?
- Do you suspect the victim is being abused?
- Does the victim want to leave their situation?
- What language does the victim speak?
- What type of work does the victim do?
- At what address is the victim being held?
- Who are the victim's employers?
- What makes you think this person is a victim of trafficking?

## Who To Call For Help

If you believe you have information about a potential trafficking situation: **Call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) toll-free hotline at (888) 373-7888.** Hotline specialists are available around the clock to take reports of potential human trafficking. All reports are confidential and you may remain anonymous.

**Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
Special Victims Bureau** ..... (323) 526-5156

**Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Los Angeles** ..... (310) 477-6565

**Los Angeles Police Department**..... (877) 275-5273

**Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Human  
Trafficking (CAST) Hotline** ..... (888) 539-2373

**Los Angeles County  
Probation** ..... (562) 445-6413

**Journey Out** ..... (818) 988-4970

**Zoe International** ..... (661) 255-7963

**Saving Innocence**..... (332) 379-4233

**Crime Stoppers, L.A. Regional** ..... (800) 222-8477

**U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Homeland Security Investigations** . (866) 347-2423

**Los Angeles County District Attorney  
Human Trafficking Victim Assistance  
Program – Central**..... (213) 257-2076  
210 W. Temple St., Rm. 12-514  
Los Angeles, CA 90012



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Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office  
Bureau of Victim Services

[da.lacounty.gov/victims](http://da.lacounty.gov/victims)

**(800) 380-3811**