

# Human Trafficking: What You Need to Know

Promoting Public Awareness and Community Action

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## Presenters

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- **Rebecca Lutz**, owner, Rebecca Lutz Content Strategy, LLC; STAC communications
- **Joan Leggitt**, chairman, Community Action Committee, United Church In Tallahassee

# Agenda

- Introduction
  - STAC video
- Myths vs. Realities of Human Trafficking
- 10 Things You Can Do to Help
- Learning from and Being Inspired by the United Church in Tallahassee's Example
- Q & A

## What is STAC?

<https://www.surviveandthriveadvocacy.org/>

# Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center

- A member of the National Human Trafficking Hotline.
- Assists sex *and* labor trafficking survivors of all ages in the Big Bend.
- Provides direct support to survivors *and* serves as a resource hub.
- Offering agency-specific training for professionals and for the public to teach others how to **recognize, report** and **prevent** trafficking.
- Promoting responsible consumer choices.



What is  
BBCAHT?

## Big Bend Coalition Against Human Trafficking

- Many members: law enforcement, social services, agencies, community members, faith groups, students, etc.
- Meets quarterly + in committee
- Great networking and learning!
- Join us.

# Myths of Human Trafficking

- Several common myths contribute to pervasiveness.
- Trafficking is complex.
- Understanding it!
- Use accurate language.

Myth 1:  
Trafficking  
only happens  
in big cities.

## THE TRUTH:

- Global reach, but happens locally.
- Nail salon or restaurant.
- A neighborhood home or popular hotel.
- On a city street or rural farm. *(2018 Trafficking in Persons Report, U.S. Department of State)*
- In 2018, STAC assisted 21 survivors, helping them to safety and to a better place in life.

Trafficking  
happens here.  
It happens  
everywhere.

## Regional Risk Factors:

- Proximity to Interstate 10.
- High rates of economic insecurity.
- Large agricultural sector.
- Ongoing recovery from Hurricane Michael.
- Florida ranks #3 in the nation for cases of human trafficking.

Myth 2:  
Trafficking  
always or  
often involves  
kidnapping.

## THE TRUTH:

- Most traffickers use psychological coercion.
- Tricking, defrauding, manipulating or threatening victims into providing commercial sex or exploitative labor. (Polaris - <https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking-myths-and-facts>)

# Victims' Perspective

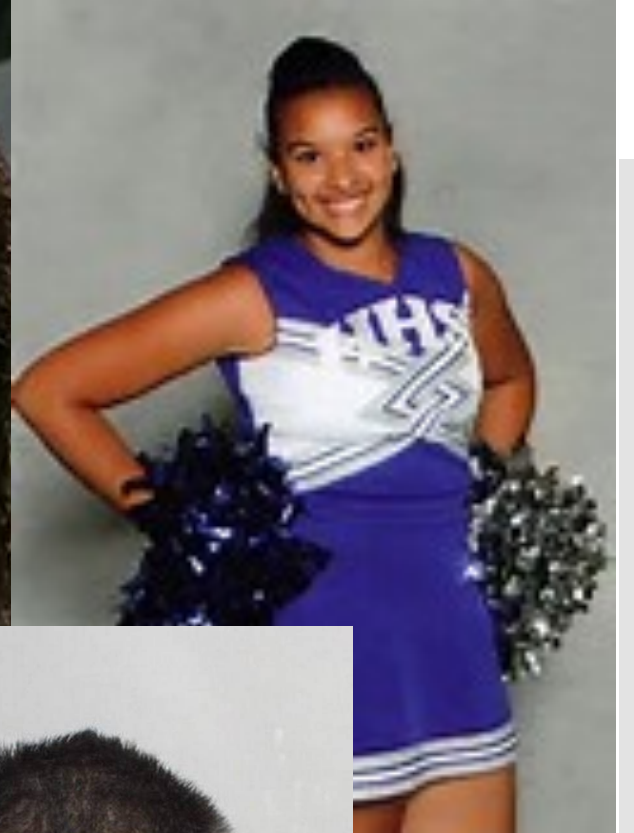
- May not disclose.
  - Fear, shame distrust authority.
  - Language barrier.
  - Brief interaction with service provider.
- May not want to be rescued.
  - Threats, retaliation, intimidation.
  - Doesn't identify as a victim.
  - Traumatic bonding.
- Use trauma-informed care.



# Who are The Traffickers?

- Organized criminals, but certainly not always
- Both men and women of varying ages
- Any ethnicity or race
- Pose as a caregiver or business entity
- A pimp
- A boyfriend
- Parents or other family members
- Coach
- Peer

# The Faces of Sex Trafficking





Myth 3:  
Trafficking  
only happens  
to foreign  
nationals.

## THE TRUTH:

- Trafficking happens to U.S. citizens *and* foreign nationals.
- Foreign nationals who are trafficked often come to the U.S. legally with visas.

Anyone can be trafficked, but certain conditions increase vulnerability.

## Who Is At Risk for Being Trafficked?

- Recent migration or relocation
- Substance abuse
- Foster care
- Runaway or homeless youth
- Mental health concerns
- Unstable housing
- LGBTQ (esp. youth)
- Abuse as a child
- Poverty



**ANY Vulnerable Person!**

## Myth 4: Smuggling and trafficking are the same.

### THE TRUTH:

- Trafficking does NOT require movement of a person across an international border.
- Smuggling can happen with or without force, fraud or coercion and is not necessarily a form of human trafficking. Smuggling is a crime against the border.
- Human trafficking = modern-day slavery.

Source: <http://www.nolatrafficking.org/myths-and-misconceptions>

# Definition of Trafficking

## The Elements of Trafficking

### 1. Process

RECRUITING,  
HARBORING,  
MOVING  
or  
OBTAINING  
a person



### 2. Means

by  
FORCE,  
FRAUD  
or  
COERCION  
for



### 3. End

INVOLUNTARY  
SERVITUDE,  
DEBT BONDAGE,  
SLAVERY  
or  
SEX TRADE.



Freedom Network Training Institute



Myth 5: Sex trafficking is the only form of trafficking.

## THE TRUTH:

- About 80 percent of trafficking worldwide involves labor trafficking.
- The disconnect: The majority of anti-trafficking dialogue and media coverage focus on sex trafficking.

Source: <http://www.nolatrafficking.org/myths-and-misconceptions>

## Myth 6: Trafficking and prostitution are the same.

### The Truth:

- Adults who consent to participate in the commercial sex industry are **not** sex trafficking victims.
- However, by federal law **any person under the age of 18 who participates in a commercial sex act is automatically considered a victim of human trafficking** regardless of the presence of force, fraud, or coercion.

Source: <http://www.nolatrafficking.org/myths-and-misconceptions>

# 10 Things You Can Do

- As an individual.
- Or with your civic/service or faith-based group.

# 1. Follow and SHARE.

Facebook:

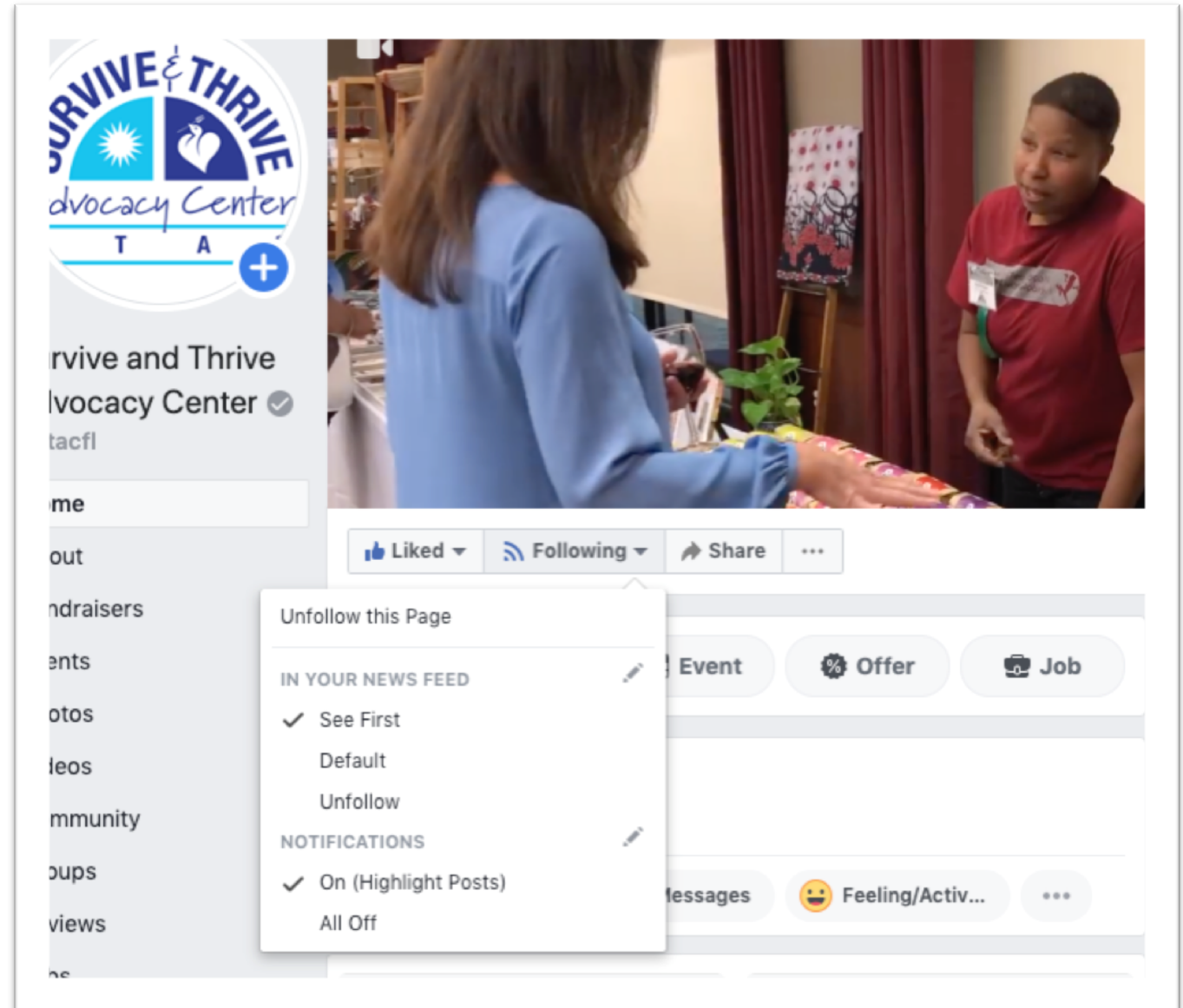
<https://www.facebook.com/stacfl/>. Choose "See First."

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/STACAdvocacy>

Web:

<https://www.surviveandthriveadvocacy.org/>





## 2. Sign up for emails.

Website:

<https://www.surviveandthriveadvocacy.org/>



National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1 (888) 373-7888

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# TAKE A STAND AGAINST MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

TRAINING AND EVENTS

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

### 3. Know the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

- 1-888-3737-888; Text "Help" or "Info" to 233733.
- Sticky notes available from STAC.
- Live chat: <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/>.



A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a person's hand holding a black pen, writing on a white document. The document has some text and a red circular sticker. The background is dark and out of focus.

## 4. Attend training and bring someone with you.

### Topics include:

Recognizing the warning signs.

Civil/legal needs of survivors.

Trafficking and youth.

What businesses can do.

Labor trafficking.

Consumer choices and labor trafficking.

## 5. Request training for your workplace, group, school, etc.

- STAC trained over 2,000 people in 2018.
- Law enforcement, health care, schools, mental health, social service agencies.
- Training request form at [surviveandthriveadvocacy.org](https://surviveandthriveadvocacy.org).

## 6. Mobilize your place of worship, civic group.

- Host a fundraiser.
- Make STAC a beneficiary of auction, raffle, etc.
- Recruit volunteers for STAC events.
- Label Chapsticks.
- Distribute outreach materials.
- Host educational event/training.
- January = National Human Trafficking Awareness Month.



## 7. Buy and demand fair trade/slavery-free goods.

- Visit [www.slaveryfootprint.org](http://www.slaveryfootprint.org).
- Support farms, restaurants and retailers that are slavery-free.
- Support Imagining Freedom: March 26, 2020.



## 8. Use accurate language.

- Language that honors survivors and their experiences.
- ~~Underage woman~~ = child, minor.
- ~~Sex with a minor~~ = rape.
- ~~Child prostitute~~ = rape survivor/sexual assault survivor/victim.
- ~~Non-consensual sex~~ = rape.
- Survivor is preferable vs. victim.

## 9. Join BBCAHT.

- No single organization can meet all survivor needs.
- STAC promotes a model of partnership/cooperation.
- To learn more about joining, contact: Big Bend Coalition Against Human Trafficking: Kellianne “Kelli” Dougherty.
- [Kellianne.Dougherty@usdoj.gov](mailto:Kellianne.Dougherty@usdoj.gov)



## 10. Make a donation.

- [Surviveandthriveadvocacy.org](https://surviveandthriveadvocacy.org). Recurring donation available.
- Event sponsorships.
- Survivor Support Fund.
- Training and education.
- Bus ticket.
- Obtain new identification documents.
- Assistance with rent and utilities.
- Basic needs – clothing, food, shelter.

# UCT Leading the Way!

Financial support and Chapstick labeling.  
Joan Leggitt.





# Q&A

Your Ideas

Let's Brainstorm!

