



# Texas Sex Trafficking Obliteration Project

<http://tstop.cwfa.org>

Our Mission

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*It is our mission to rescue and restore the victims of sex trafficking in the state of Texas by ending the demand for commercial sex. Victims are the results of supply and demand. If you can eliminate the demand, traffickers have no need to create a supply.*

**NO DEMAND - NO VICTIM**

## Statistics

### Global

- **600,000 – 800,000 men, women and children are trafficked across international borders each year.** (U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, June 3, 2005. <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/46606.htm>.)
- **80% of the 600,000-800,000 individuals trafficked across international borders are women and girls and up to 50% are minors.** (U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report. <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/46606.htm>)
- **1 in 5 Pornographic images is of a minor.** (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Internet Sex Crimes Against Minors: The Response of Law Enforcement) Defenders fact sheet at [http://www.thedefendersusa.org/common/defenders\\_stat\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.thedefendersusa.org/common/defenders_stat_sheet.pdf))
- **1 in 5 youth who regularly uses the Internet has been sexually solicited or approached** (Center for Crimes Research, University of New Hampshire) Quote found on Defenders fact sheet at [http://www.thedefendersusa.org/common/defenders\\_stat\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.thedefendersusa.org/common/defenders_stat_sheet.pdf)
- **“The average age of entry into prostitution is between 11-14 years old.”** (Demand by shared hope international. Pg 86)
- **“The vast majority of women in prostitution do not want to be there. Few seek it out or choose it, and most are desperate to leave it. A 2003 study in the scientific Journal of Trauma Practice found that 89 percent of women in prostitution want to escape prostitution. Children are also trapped in prostitution—despite the fact that a number of international covenants and protocols impose upon state parties an obligation to criminalize the commercial sexual exploitation of children.”** (U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, June 3, 2005. <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/46606.htm>.)
- **“Few activities are as brutal and damaging to people as prostitution. Field research in nine countries concluded that 60 to 75 percent of women in prostitution were raped, 70 to 95 percent were physically assaulted, and 68 percent met the criteria for posttraumatic stress disorder in the same range as treatment-seeking combat veterans and victims of state-organized torture.”** (U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, June 3, 2005. <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/46606.htm>.)
- **Human Trafficking is now recognized as the second largest criminal industry in the world.”**
- **27 million people worldwide are in some form of slavery.** (Houston Rescue and Restore coalition website – [www.houstonrr.org](http://www.houstonrr.org))
- **Human trafficking is a 32 billion dollar industry** (Houston Rescue and Restore Coalition website – [www.houstonrr.org](http://www.houstonrr.org))
- **18,000 people are brought to the U.S per year in some form of human trafficking and an additional 30,000 are trafficked thru the United States on their way to other countries An additional 244,000 American minors are trafficked within the United States into some form of sexual exploitation.** (Houston Rescue and Restore Coalition website – [www.houstonrr.org](http://www.houstonrr.org))



## Texas

- ***“Recently the I-10 corridor between El Paso and Houston was identified as the main human trafficking route, and Houston is recognized as one of the main hubs and destinations for traffickers.”***  
<http://www.childrenatrisk.org/childrenatrisk.cfm?a=cms,c,412>
- ***“The I-10 corridor is a hotspot for transportation of trafficking victims.”***  
[http://www.cahthouston.org/news\\_and\\_resources](http://www.cahthouston.org/news_and_resources)
- ***“Houston is well known as a set up for ‘training brothels’”.*** [http://www.cahthouston.org/news\\_and\\_resources](http://www.cahthouston.org/news_and_resources)
- ***25% of all human trafficking victims are in Texas (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.)***
- ***30% of all human trafficking tips to the National Rescue Hotline came from Texas (Polaris Project)***
- ***Texas and the Southwest border continue to serve as the biggest point of illegal entry into the U.S., largely because traffickers are able to get aliens across without documents.***

## Facts

(DDH/HRRC Fact Sheet)

Victims of sex trafficking can be women or men, girls or boys, but the majority are women and girls. There are a number of common patterns for luring victims into situations of sex trafficking, including:

- A promise of a good job in another country
- A false marriage proposal turned into a bondage situation
- Being sold into the sex trade by parents, husbands, boyfriends
- Being kidnapped by traffickers

Sex traffickers use a variety of methods to “condition” their victims including starvation, confinement, beatings, physical abuse, rape, gang rape, threats of violence to the victims and the victims’ families, forced drug use and the threat of shaming their victims by revealing their activities to their family and their families’ friends.

Victims face numerous health risks. Physical risks include drug and alcohol addiction; physical injuries (broken bones, concussions, burns, vaginal/anal tearing); traumatic brain injury (TBI) resulting in memory loss, dizziness, headaches, numbness; sexually transmitted diseases (e.g., HIV/AIDS, gonorrhea, syphilis, UTIs, pubic lice); sterility, miscarriages, menstrual problems; other diseases (e.g., TB, hepatitis, malaria, pneumonia); and forced or coerced abortions.

Psychological harms include mind/body separation/disassociated ego states, shame, grief, fear, distrust, hatred of men, self-hatred, suicide, and suicidal thoughts. Victims are at risk for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) – acute anxiety, depression, insomnia, physical hyper-alertness, self-loathing that is long-lasting and resistant to change (complex-PTSD).

Victims may also suffer from traumatic bonding – a form of coercive control in which the perpetrator instills in the victim fear as well as gratitude for being allowed to live.

Victims of trafficking are forced into various forms of commercial sexual exploitation including prostitution, pornography, stripping, live-sex shows, mail-order brides, military prostitution and sex tourism.

Victims trafficked into prostitution and pornography are usually involved in the most exploitive forms of commercial sex operations. Sex trafficking operations can be found in highly-visible venues such as street prostitution, as well as more underground systems such as closed-brothels that operate out of residential homes. Sex trafficking also takes place in a variety of public and private locations such as massage parlors, spas, strip clubs and other fronts for prostitution. Victims may start off dancing or stripping in clubs and then be coerced into situations of prostitution and pornography.

