

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

"LUKE 4:18-19 "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS ON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM FOR THE PRISONERS AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT FOR THE BLIND, TO SET THE OPPRESSED FREE, TO PROCLAIM THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR.

This is Katie. I realize that I have never shared with some of you why I care so much about fighting sex trafficking and educating people on what it is and what you can do. So here we go! I first heard about domestic sex trafficking 10 years ago. Theresa (16 years old) shared her story to a group of us about how she was trafficked out of her home in Detroit. She was being blackmailed and threatened and made to do what her traffickers wanted. I didn't know this was happening in the U.S. I thought it just happened overseas! I knew that day that I wanted to be a part of fighting trafficking both domestically and internationally.

"You may choose to look the other way but you can never say again that you did not know."

— William Wilberforce

What is sex trafficking?

The U.S. Department of State defines human trafficking as, *"the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion."*

This includes both sex and labor trafficking. According to the U.N. there are an estimated 40 million people in slavery around the world today. Yet most of us wouldn't even know how to identify it if we saw it happening in the United States. I want to give you some information that will help you identify who is being trafficking, where it is happening and what you can do to stop it.

Who is being trafficked and who is at risk? (Polaris Project)

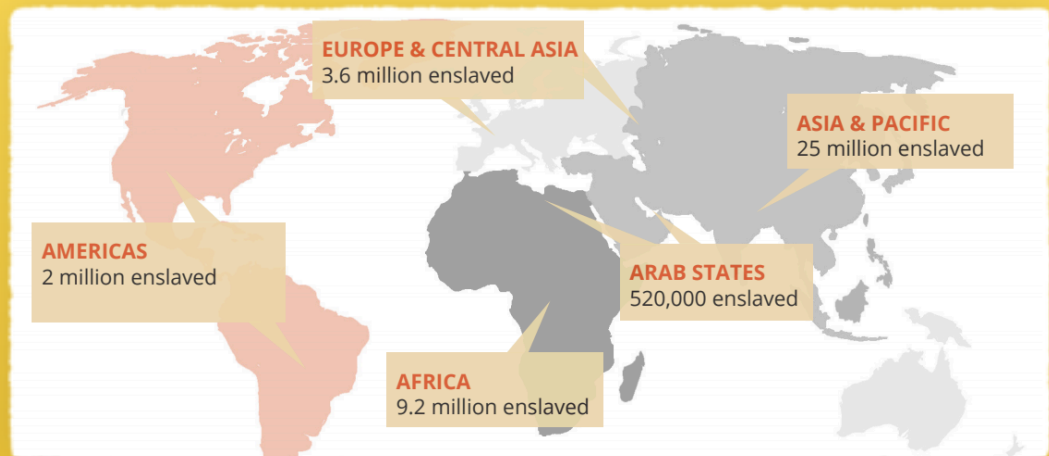
Traffickers prey on the vulnerable. What does vulnerable mean? It can mean: youth, those without solid support networks, new to a town or location, runaway and homeless youth, kids and teenagers in social services and foster care, those in poverty, victims of domestic violence, victims of sexual assault, immigrants and refugees and difficult home situations where some children are sold or prostituted by their parents, relatives, neighbors, or friends. Trafficking spans all demographics: men, women, children of all races and nationalities, U.S. citizens and foreign nationals. The average age of a girl/boy entering into the life is 12-14 years old. When a teen runs away, 1 in 6 are approached by a trafficker within 48 hours. The trafficker that approaches them exploits their vulnerability by offering shelter, food and whatever else they may need. They want to build trust.

Where is trafficking happening?

Trafficking is happening all around us but we may not see it. It is happening at truck stops, hotels, on the street, strip clubs, residential areas (both suburbs, city and rural), college campuses and almost anywhere else you can think of.

How do people end up in the sex trade?

They are recruited online though apps like Facebook, Instagram and any other social networking sites. Recruiting happens at malls, through friends, off the street, in strip clubs and within prostitution. Pimps (recruiters) know what their victims need. Sometimes it's: a father figure, a boyfriend, a friend, or money, shelter, and food. Sometimes victims are kidnapped although this is not as common as being recruited.



Challenges to getting out

It is not easy for someone to get out or get away from their trafficker. They may be: in debt to their pimp or controller, don't have anywhere else to go, they have been threatened or beaten, and they are manipulated to think their pimp cares for them. Most victims don't easily leave or testify in court against their trafficker. They have deep ties.

What can you do?

1. Educate yourself Watch documentaries: humantraffickingcenter.org/resources/media/. Know Stats and share them: Polaris Project polarisproject.org/. Have a plan: Educate yourself and know what to do if you think you see someone being trafficked. Do you know what you would do if you thought you saw someone being trafficked?
2. Give to anti trafficking organizations.
3. Stop watching porn, <https://fightthenewdrug.org/the-internet-can-be-a-very-unsexy-place-we/>
4. Have compassion. If you see something like a woman prostituting or someone working in a kitchen or field don't assume that they always want to be there. Ask questions!
5. Have the National Trafficking Hotline in your phone and call if you think you see trafficking 1-888-373-7888
6. Consider the products you buy. Do you know if they are made by someone in slavery? Check out this website to find out more information. slaveryfootprint.org
7. Internet safety: Protect the youth around you. Make sure those in your life are practicing safe internet use. Know what your kids are doing and who they are talking to!
8. Volunteer. I currently volunteer with an organization called *Love Made Claim* and we are a resource to people in the sex industry. <http://www.lovemadeclaim.com/>

Love Made Claim
www.lovemadeclaim.com/



Robert Kraft

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/robert-kraft-arrest-puts-spotlight-on-little-known-crime-of-sex-trafficking/>

You have probably heard about Robert Kraft, the owner of the Patriots, being arrested for soliciting prostitution. He visited an Asian massage parlor twice in Florida and there is video evidence that he engaged in sexually activity.

I see this as a turning point of educating people about what is happening everyday in lots of cities in America. In Denver, we have Asian massage parlors everywhere! Most people don't know that these massage parlors are venues for trafficking women from other countries. Robert Kraft may not

have known that these women were trafficked but because of his arrest it is imperative that we learn from this and realize that when you visit a massage parlor you can no longer say you didn't know that the women there are being trafficked! Don't support this!

I also am saddened by the lack of consequences for the "johns" (sex buyers). Usually it is a slap on the wrist, community service, and some education. This has to change. If soliciting sex had a higher consequence the demand would decrease. Without demand there would be no need for a supply! Currently the trafficking business both labor and sex trafficking is a \$150 billion dollar annual business! We can decrease the demand!

I would love to know your thoughts and answer any questions you may have!

Prayer Bomb

*Jesus we pray for those being exploited and trafficked.
That you would free them and help them to feel your
presence in the midst of horrifying circumstances. Lord
help us to join the fight! In Jesus name amen!*

Travel Schedule

- March 18-23 NYC Lenses
- April 3-7th Soul Care Conference
- May-August Xenia, Ohio AIA Baseball

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