

# INTERNATIONAL SEX TRAFFICKING

## THE ISSUE

Each year, there are approximately 600,000 to 800,000 victims trafficked across international borders throughout the world. The U.S. government estimates that between 14,500 and 17,500 of those victims are trafficked into the United States.<sup>3</sup> Millions more are subject to American inter-state trafficking. Traffickers are often violent individuals who use force, fraud or coercion to enslave their victims. The grooming process for victims often includes rape, physical abuse, starvation, confinement, beatings, forced drug use, and threats to both the victim and the victim's family. Sex trafficking is a form of slavery.

## DEMAND CHANGE

### Everyday Actions

1. Stay updated on international sex trafficking in the news by reading traditional media sources, such as newspapers, as well as accessing new mediums such as blogs and listserves (for example "Call and Response" and "Not For Sale" ([www.callandresponse.com](http://www.callandresponse.com), [www.notforsalecampaign.org](http://www.notforsalecampaign.org)))
2. Lawyers can make a big difference in advocating for legal investigation and prosecuting perpetrators. Encourage your lawyer friends to contact the National Immigrant Justice Center ([www.immigrantjustice.org](http://www.immigrantjustice.org)) for training and Pro Bono opportunities. They can also download the training manual on civil litigation and trafficking from the American Bar Association website ([www.abanet.org/domviol/tip](http://www.abanet.org/domviol/tip)).

### Raise Awareness

3. Join in local awareness-raising initiatives such as the "Rescue and Restore" campaign. (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking>)
4. Use your skills to raise funds and awareness about international human trafficking. For example, host an art show, facilitate a benefit concert, or organize a 5K to engage community members.

## Volunteer

5. Go on an international volunteer trip through an organization like "Not for Sale" or "Cross-Cultural Solutions" to learn more about the issue globally and to provide direct service to victims. Even when traveling for pleasure, try to connect with a local anti-trafficking organization to learn more about its important work.
6. Identify anti-trafficking organizations in different countries and donate money or supplies based on their needs.
7. Help collect and pack medical supplies and equipment to be sent to shelters for survivors. Contact the National Immigrant Justice Center for places to donate: [www.immigrantjustice.org](http://www.immigrantjustice.org).
8. Volunteer to help local organizations that address international trafficking, such as the STOP-IT Initiative through the Salvation Army ([stop-it@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:stop-it@usc.salvationarmy.org)).

## Advocate for Change

9. Lobby for international airline carriers to provide training manuals to all their flight attendants on how to identify trafficking victims (manual at [www.innocentsatrisk.org](http://www.innocentsatrisk.org)).

## Keep Learning

10. Keep learning about the issue and ways to get involved:
  - Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition: [www.bsccoalition.org/](http://www.bsccoalition.org/)
  - Call and Response: [www.callandresponse.com](http://www.callandresponse.com)
  - Coalition Against Trafficking in Women: [www.catwinternational.org](http://www.catwinternational.org)
  - Gabrielle Network: [www.gabnet.org](http://www.gabnet.org)
  - I stop Traffic: [www.istoptraffic.com/](http://www.istoptraffic.com/)
  - Initiative Against Sexual Trafficking: [www.iast.net](http://www.iast.net)
  - Not for Sale: [www.notforsalecampaign.org](http://www.notforsalecampaign.org)
  - Soroptimist: [www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org)

3. US Department of Health and Human Services  
4. National Immigrant Justice Center