



# HEARTLAND ALLIANCE

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is exploitation. A victim of human trafficking is someone compelled or lured through force, fraud and/or coercion to perform acts of labor, including commercial sex. It is a form of slavery.

### DEFINITIONS

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines **Trafficking in Persons** as:

- The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons.
- By means of the threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, the abuse of power and /or use of a position of vulnerability.
- For the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation can include prostitution or other forms of sexual acts, forced labor or services, slavery or the removal of organs.

In the U.S., the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act criminalizes human trafficking and authorizes law enforcement and social services to serve and protect survivors.

### NUMBERS



The International Labour Organization estimates that there are 21 million victims of human trafficking globally.



71% of Trafficking victims are female (51% adults, 20% girls), 29% male

Human trafficking is big business; trafficking earns roughly \$150 billion a year for traffickers, according to the International Labour Organization. Estimated profits, by sector:

**\$99 BILLION //**  
from commercial sexual exploitation

**\$9 BILLION //**  
in agriculture, including forestry and fishing

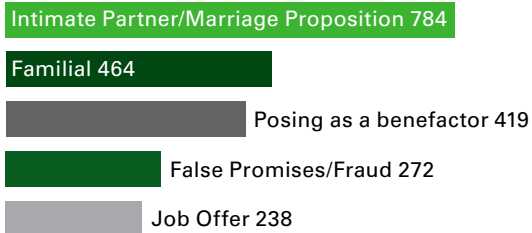
**\$34 BILLION //**  
in construction, manufacturing, mining and utilities

**\$8 BILLION //**  
is saved annually by private households that employ domestic workers under conditions of forced labor

## HOW ARE PEOPLE “RECRUITED”?

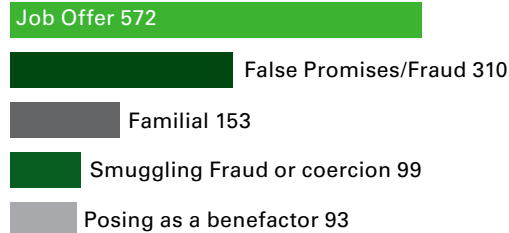
Victims of human trafficking are frequently lured by false promises of a lucrative job, stability, education, or a loving relationship.

### Top Recruitment Tactics by Sex Traffickers\*



\*Recruitment information specified for 2,123 victims of sex trafficking victims. Based on PolarisProject.org survey of more than 8,000 calls to their hotline.

### Top Recruitment Tactics by Labor Traffickers\*\*



\*\*Recruitment information specified for 923 labor trafficking victims.

## THE VICTIMS

Traffickers look for people who are vulnerable, including psychological or emotional vulnerability, economic hardship, lack of a social safety net, or displaced due to natural disasters, political instability, or war. The trauma caused by the traffickers can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help, even in highly public settings.

While human trafficking spans all demographics, there are some circumstances or vulnerabilities that lead to a higher susceptibility to victimization. Runaway and homeless youth, as well as victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, war or conflict, or social discrimination are frequently targeted by traffickers. Foreign nationals who have paid significant travel fees often become highly indebted to traffickers. Traffickers control and manipulate these individuals by leveraging work visas as well as the victims' lack of familiarity with their new surroundings, laws and rights, language fluency, and cultural understanding.

Victims face many challenges in getting help. Their traffickers may confiscate their identification documents and money. They may not speak English. They may not know where they are, because they have been moved frequently. They are often not allowed to communicate with family or friends. And they may have trouble trusting others, due to their traffickers' manipulation and control tactics. In some cases, victims refuse to come forward for fear of retribution, deportation, or worse. The trauma caused by the traffickers can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help, even in highly public settings. Upon escape, the story of the victim does not end and their safety and health does not instantly improve. Reunification and reintegration with family can also cause additional trauma. Survivors need support and tangible resources (like housing, healthcare, and jobs) to ensure the cycle of violence and exploitation is broken.

## ABOUT HEARTLAND ALLIANCE

**We believe** that everyone in society benefits when people who experience disparities in safety, health, housing, education, economic opportunity, and justice are able to exit poverty, heal from trauma, and achieve stability; secure their rights; and shape policies that respond to their needs.

**Building** on decades of experience, Heartland Alliance's goal is to meet the unique needs of vulnerable populations. This includes helping them secure their rights and providing services to meet their immediate needs and to promote long-term self-sufficiency.

To learn more about human trafficking and how to recognize it, please visit [heartlandalliance.org/what-is-human-trafficking/](http://heartlandalliance.org/what-is-human-trafficking/)

SOURCES: Department of Homeland Security, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Polaris Project, International Labor Organization

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**HEARTLAND  
ALLIANCE**

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