WHO WE ARE

The Palm Beach County Human Trafficking Task Force was established in 2017, in part through funding provided by the Department of Justice. The Task Force was established to combat human trafficking in Palm Beach County through a collaborative, victim centered, trauma informed framework. Task Force partners include local, state, and federal law enforcement and prosecution agencies, local, state, federal, non-governmental, and faith-based victim service provider agencies, community stakeholders, and other invested partners. Collaborative efforts are directed toward identifying, rescuing, and restoring victims; investigating and prosecuting trafficking crimes; and building awareness about trafficking in and around our community.

FAST FACTS

• $150 Billion Dollar Industry World Wide
• Estimated 20.9 million victims of Human Trafficking World Wide
  • 68% trapped in Forced Labor
  • 26% are Children
  • 55% are Female
• Estimated 400,000 - 650,000 Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States
  • Majority of Victims are U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents
  • 13 is the Average Age of U.S. Children Forced into Sex Trafficking
  • 1 in 5 Runaways Report Being Forced into Sex Trafficking
• FLORIDA Ranks #3 in the Nation for Suspected Cases of Human Trafficking
• PALM BEACH COUNTY Ranks #3 in Florida for Suspected Cases of Human Trafficking

*Data obtained from: International Labor Organization Global Estimate of Forced Labor, Polaris, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, United States Department of State, and United States Trafficking in Persons Reports.

WHERE TO REPORT?

To report a suspected case of Human Trafficking please contact:

National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)
1-888-373-7888
or
Text “BeFree” 233733

In the event of an emergency situation which requires immediate attention, Contact 911

TASK FORCE INFORMATION

To request information or training please contact the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office Human Trafficking Unit at 561-687-6838 or email us at HumanTrafficking@pbso.org

VICTIM SERVICES INFORMATION

For more information regarding Task Force victim services or to make a victim services referral, directly, please contact:

Catholic Charities of the Diocese Of Palm Beach, Inc. Anti-Trafficking Program Program
Email: AHT@ccdpb.org
Contact Phone: (561) 701-4360
Catholic Charities’ Local Hotline (561) 598-9848 (for immediate referral only)

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If you cannot read the material, please contact PBSO at 561-688-3080 to request an alternate format.

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THE LAW

Florida Statute § 787.06 defines Human Trafficking as the transporting, soliciting, recruiting, harboring, providing, enticing, maintaining, or obtaining another person for the purpose of exploitation of that person.

Sex Trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age, for the purposes of a commercial sex act, which is any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person. (22 USC § 7102)

Labor Trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. (22 USC § 7102)

TRAFFICKING CAN INCLUDE VARIOUS FORMS OF EXPLOITATION

Sex Trafficking
- Prostitution • Pornography • Escort Services • Brothels
- Bridge Trafficking • Massage Parlors • “Strip Clubs”
- Truck Stops • Major Sporting Events • Casinos

Labor Trafficking
- Domestic Servitude • Construction • Restaurant Work
- Agricultural Work • Landscape Work • Nail Salons
- Hotel Housekeeping • Factories/Sweatshops

BREAKING THROUGH: QUESTIONS TO ASK
- Do you have your personal identification?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Where do you sleep? And Eat?
- Do you live with your employer or anyone else?
- Can you leave your job if you wanted to?
- Have you been hurt or threatened for trying to leave?
- Has your family been hurt or threatened?
- Are you in debt to your employer?
- Do your family/friends know where you are?

*Minors involved in commercial sex do not need to prove MEANS to be considered a crime of human trafficking. Under Florida State Statute, any prostitution or solicitation of a minor is considered Sex Trafficking.

Elements of Human Trafficking

ACTS
Any or all of the following:
Transporting
Soliciting
Recruiting
Harboring
Providing
Enticing
Maintaining
Obtaining

MEANS
Any or all of the following:
Force (Actual/Threat)
Threat to harm family members
Restraint/Isolation (or threat)
Withholding/destroying documents
Financial harm (or threat)
Debt
Fraud
Deceit

PURPOSE
Exploitation for:
Commercial sex
Labor
Services

POTENTIAL INDICATORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING: RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS

Is the person free to leave, come and go as they wish?
Is the person unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips?
Does the person work excessively long and/or unusual hours?
Is the person not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work?
Does the person owe a large debt and is unable to pay it off?
Was the person recruited under false promises concerning the nature and conditions of their work?
Does the person live at their place of employment?
Does the person live with multiple people in a cramped space?
Is the person in the commercial sex industry and do they have a pimp/manager?
Is the person under the age of 18 and providing commercial sex acts?
Does the person appear overly anxious, fearful, paranoid?
Does the person avoid eye contact?
Does the person appear depressed, hopeless, exhibit self-destructive behaviors?
Does the person appear to suffer from substance abuse disorders or post-traumatic stress?
Is the person malnourished, exhibit untreated wounds, have older broken bones?
Does the person have burn marks, bite marks, or branding tattoos?
Is the person in control or possession of their personal identification, travel documents, money, financial records, bank account?
Does the person have few or no personal possessions?
If a minor, is the person enrolled in school?