



♦ **Myth:** Human trafficking victims are only foreign born individuals and those who are poor.

**Fact:** Human trafficking victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. They may come from any socioeconomic group.

♦ **Myth:** Human trafficking is only sex trafficking.

**Fact:** Sex trafficking exists, but it is not the only type of human trafficking. Forced labor is another type of human trafficking; both involve exploitation of people. Victims are found in legitimate and illegitimate labor industries, including sweatshops, massage parlors, agriculture, restaurants, hotels, and domestic service.

♦ **Myth:** Human trafficking and human smuggling are the same.

**Fact:** Human trafficking is not the same as smuggling. “Trafficking” is based on exploitation and does not require movement across borders. “Smuggling” is based on movement and involves moving a person across a country’s border with that person’s consent in violation of immigration laws. Although human smuggling is very different from human trafficking, human smuggling can turn into trafficking if the smuggler uses force, fraud, or coercion to hold people against their will for the purposes of labor or sexual exploitation. Under federal law, every minor induced to engage in commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking, including danger to their families; and they may not be in possession of or have control of their identification documents.

## “LARGE” Community Action

- ♦ **Learn.** Research what fuels human trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- ♦ **Alert.** Be alert to the red flags that indicate human trafficking. Be aware of potential victims.
- ♦ **Report.** Report it to the Houston Police Department Vice Division (713) 308-8600.
- ♦ **Give.** Whether volunteering your time, resources, or funds; give to the victim assistance programs and non-profit agencies engaged in this cause.
- ♦ **Educate.**
  - ♦ Talk to your schools and churches about integrating human trafficking into their lessons.
  - ♦ Influence businesses to provide Human Trafficking & Sexual Exploitation training.
  - ♦ Engage the mass and social media.
  - ♦ Distribute public awareness material.
  - ♦ Talk to your family, friends, and colleagues.

### Human Trafficking/Victim Assistance Agencies

Organization	Phone	Website
Polaris-National Human Trafficking Resource Center (Advocacy, Referrals & Research)	Tip: 888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733)	<a href="http://www.polarisproject.org">www.polarisproject.org</a>
United Against Human Trafficking (Advocacy/Education)	713-874-0290	<a href="https://uaht.org/">https://uaht.org/</a>
YMCA International-Houston (Victim Assistance)	832-808-3909 (Hotline) (24/7)	<a href="https://ymcahouston.org/locations/ymca-international-services">https://ymcahouston.org/locations/ymca-international-services</a>
BCFS-Common Thread (Victim Assistance & Advocacy)	888-884-7323 (Hotline) (24/7)	<a href="https://bcfstrafficking.org/programs_posts/common-thread/">https://bcfstrafficking.org/programs_posts/common-thread/</a>
The Landing (Victim Assistance/Advocacy)	713-766-1111 (Hotline) (24/7)	<a href="https://thelanding.org/">https://thelanding.org/</a>
Rescue America/Houston (Victim Assistance)	713-322-8000 (Hotline) (24/7)	<a href="https://www.launchhouston.org/impact-partners/rescue-america">https://www.launchhouston.org/impact-partners/rescue-america</a>
Unbound Now-Houston (Victim Assistance/Advocacy)	346-313-7664 (Office) 346-202-4299 (Hotline) (24/7)	<a href="https://unboundnow.org/houston/">https://unboundnow.org/houston/</a>
Office of the Attorney General Crime Victim Services (Law Enforcement Victim Services)	800-983-9933	<a href="https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/crime-victims">https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/crime-victims</a>
Harris County District Attorney’s Office-Victim Services Division	713-274-0250	<a href="https://www.harriscountydca.com/victim_services_division">https://www.harriscountydca.com/victim_services_division</a>
Houston Police Department- Victim Services (Law Enforcement Victim Services)	713-308-0080	<a href="https://www.houstontx.gov/police/victim_services/index.htm">https://www.houstontx.gov/police/victim_services/index.htm</a>

