

Stop Trafficking !

Anti Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action



March 2017 Vol. 15 No. 03

This issue looks at how ordinary citizens and computer specialists assist victims of human trafficking via the Internet.

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The Internet: Locus of Human Trafficking and Locus of Efforts to Stop It

Role of Backpage.com

For more than twenty months, the U.S. Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations has investigated the problem of online sex trafficking. The investigation led the Subcommittee to focus on Backpage.com, the leading online marketplace for commercial sex. Operating in 97 countries and 943 locations worldwide—and last valued at more than half a billion dollars—Backpage is the world's second-largest classified advertising website. Backpage is involved in 73% of all child trafficking reports that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) receives from the

general public (excluding reports by Backpage itself). The National Association of Attorneys General has aptly described Backpage as a "hub" of "human trafficking, especially the trafficking of minors." Backpage does not deny that its site is used for criminal activity, including the sale of children for sex. Instead the company has long claimed that it is a mere host of content created by others and therefore immune from liability under the Communications Decency Act (CDA). Backpage executives have also repeatedly touted their process for screening adult advertisements as an industry-leading effort to protect against criminal abuse. Since June 2015, the Sub-

Senate Report *cont. pg. 2*

Polaris Report on Extent of U.S. Trafficking

Polaris published its 2016 Report of statistics from the National Human Trafficking Hotline and BeFree Textline. The 30,000+ cases identified on these hotlines comprise the largest available data set on human trafficking in the U.S. The data do not represent the full scope of human trafficking – a lack of awareness of the crime or of these hotlines in certain geographic regions, by particular racial or ethnic groups, and by labor trafficking survivors can lead to significant underreporting. Yet the



information highlights where and how traffickers operate. Knowing this they can be put out of business. And survivors can find the services they need.

(See pg.2 for data from the Report.)



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Polaris 2016 Statistics from the National Hot Line:

Top Risk Factors:

Recent Migration/Relocation; Substance Use Concerns; Runaway/Homeless Youth; Mental Health Concerns; Unstable Housing.

Top Nationalities:

USA; Mexico; China; Philippines; Guatemala

Genders:

7 in 8 are female; 2 in 3 are adults.

Top Recruitment Tactics of

Sex Traffickers:

Intimate Partner/Marriage Proposition; Familial; Posing as a Benefactor; False Promises/Fraud; Job Offer.

Top Sex Trafficking Methods:

Escort Services; Illicit Massage Businesses; Residential

Top Recruitment Tactics of

Labor Traffickers:

Job Offer; False Promises/Fraud; Familial; Smuggling Fraud or Coercion; Posing as Benefactor

Top Labor Trafficking Methods:

Domestic Work; Agriculture; Traveling Sales Crews

Top Methods of Force, Fraud,

Coercion:

Emotional Abuse; Economic Abuse; Isolation/Confinement; Threats; Physical Abuse

Top Locations of Foreign

Victims:

Mexico; Canada; Philippines; United Kingdom; United Arab Emirates

Top Points of Potential Help:

General Social Services; Law Enforcement; Supportive Family/Friends; Health Services; Child Welfare Services (<https://polarisproject.org/resources/2016-hotline-statistics>)

Las Vegas Statistics

In a 2014 study by Las Vegas Metro's Vice and Sex Trafficking Investigations Section 247 victims of human trafficking were found. There was insufficient information on 57 victims to do further analysis. The study of the 190 remaining cases found:

- More than 60% of the victims were under the age of 18.
- Only 23% of the victims, including 16% of minors, cooperated with Metro Police. The low cooperation rate was due to victims' physical and emotional intimidation by their pimps, who often use extreme violence to demand loyalty.
- A total of 20% of victims reported being transported to Las Vegas from another state.
- Some 45% of underage victims had missing persons reports filed in their cases.
- The average age of minor victims was 16 years old, while the average adult sex trafficking victim was about 24 years old.
- The average age of Las Vegas sex traffickers convicted in 2014 was 29.
- In one out of six cases, the sex trafficker was identified as a gang member.
- The majority of convicted sex traffickers had just one victim, while some trafficked up to four victims.
- Pimps used social media to recruit victims in 30% of the cases.

(<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2017/feb/13/study-ids-scores-of-human-trafficking-victims-in-1/>)

Senate Report *cont. from pg. 1*

committee has sought information from Backpage—first through a voluntary request, then by subpoena—about those screening measures. Backpage refused to comply, and the Subcommittee was forced to initiate the first civil contempt action authorized by the Senate in more than twenty years. In August 2016, the Subcommittee prevailed and secured a federal court order compelling Backpage to produce the subpoenaed documents.

The internal company documents obtained by the Subcommittee conclusively showed that Backpage's public defense was a fiction. Backpage maintained a practice of altering ads before publication by deleting words, phrases, and images indicative of criminality, including child sex trafficking. Backpage avoided revealing this information. On July 28, 2011, for example, Backpage

co-founder James Larkin cautioned Backpage CEO Carl Ferrer against publicizing Backpage's moderation practices, explaining that "[w]e need to stay away from the very idea of 'editing' the posts, as you know." Backpage had good reason to conceal its editing practices: Those practices served to sanitize the content of innumerable advertisements for illegal transactions—even as Backpage represented to the public and the courts that it

merely hosted content others had created. This report contained three principal findings.

First, Backpage knowingly concealed evidence of criminality by systematically editing its "adult" ads. As early as 2006, Backpage executives began instructing staff responsible for screening ads (known



Senate Report *cont. pg. 3*



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Senate Report *cont. from pg. 2* as “moderators”) to edit the text of adult ads to conceal the true nature of the underlying transaction. By October 2010, Backpage executives formalized a process of both manual and automated deletion of incriminating words and phrases, primarily through a feature called the “Strip Term From Ad Filter (STFA).” At the direction of CEO Carl Ferrer, the company programmed this electronic filter to “strip”—that is, delete—hundreds of words indicative of sex trafficking (including child sex trafficking) or prostitution from ads before their publication. The terms that Backpage automatically deleted from ads before publication include “lolita,” “teenage,” “rape,” “young,” “amber alert,” “little girl,” “teen,” “fresh,” “innocent,” and “school girl.” When a user submitted an adult ad containing one of these “stripped” words, Backpage’s STFA filter would immediately delete the discrete word and the remainder of the ad would be published. While the STFA filter changed nothing about the true nature of the advertised transaction or the real age of the person being sold for sex, thanks to the filter, Backpage’s adult ads looked “cleaner than ever.” Manual editing entailed the deletion of language similar to the words and phrases that the STFA filter automatically deleted—including terms indicative of criminality. By Backpage’s own internal estimate, by late-2010, the company was editing “70 to 80% of ads” in the adult section either manually or automatically. It is unclear whether and to what extent Backpage still uses the STFA filter, but internal company emails indicate that the company used the filter to some

extent as of April 25, 2014. Manual editing appears to have largely ended in late 2012.

Over time, Backpage reprogrammed its electronic filters to reject an ad in its entirety if it contained certain egregious words suggestive of sex trafficking. But the company implemented this change by coaching its customers on how to post “clean” ads for illegal transactions. When a user attempted to post an ad with a forbidden word, the user would receive an error message identifying the problematic word choice to “help” the user, as Ferrer put it. For example, in 2012, a user advertising sex with a “teen” would get the error message: “Sorry, ‘teen’ is a banned term.” Through simply redrafting the ad, the user would be permitted to post a sanitized version. Documents from as recently as 2014 confirm the continued use of these error messages. Backpage employed a similarly helpful error message in its “age verification” process for adult ads. In October 2011, Ferrer directed his technology consultant to create an error message when a user supplied an age under 18. He stated that, “An error could pop up on the page: ‘Oops! Sorry, the ad poster must be over 18 years of age.’” With a quick adjustment to the poster’s putative age, the ad would post.

Second, Backpage knew that it facilitated prostitution and child sex trafficking. In addition to the evidence of systematic editing described above, additional evidence showed that Backpage was aware that its website facilitated prostitution and child sex trafficking. Backpage moderators told the Subcommittee that everyone at the company knew the adult-section ads were for prostitution and that their job was to “put lipstick on a pig” by sanitizing them. Backpage also knew that advertisers used its site extensively for

child sex trafficking, but the company often refused to act swiftly in response to complaints about particular underage users—preferring in some cases to interpret these complaints as the tactics of a competing escort. Backpage may also have tried to manipulate the number of child-exploitation reports it forwards to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Third, despite the reported sale of Backpage to an undisclosed foreign company in 2014, the true beneficial owners of the company are James Larkin, Michael Lacey, and Carl Ferrer. Acting through a complex chain of domestic and international shell companies, Lacey and Larkin lent Ferrer over \$600 million to purchase Backpage from them. But as a result of this deal, Lacey and Larkin retain significant financial and operational control, hold almost complete debt equity in the company, and still receive large distributions of company profits. According to the consultant that structured the deal, moreover, this transaction appeared to provide no tax benefits. Instead, it served only to obscure Ferrer’s U.S.-based ownership and conceal Lacey and Larkin’s continued beneficial ownership.

(<https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/investigations/hearings/backpagecoms-knowing-facilitation-of-online-sex-trafficking>)

Sold on Backpage.com in Exchange for Transportation

Two men, who met a 25-year-old woman at a halfway house in Bowling Green were charged with human trafficking after demanding the woman perform sex acts for money in exchange for a ride out of state. One man, age 27, had a CA driver’s license; the other, age 21, had a KY license. The woman told police the two men told her that if she wanted a ride to Oklahoma, she would have to perform sex acts. An anonymous caller had tipped off police..

Sold on Backpage *cont. pg. 4*



Awareness

Sold on Backpage

cont. from pg. 3

The men used Backpage.com to advertise the woman's services. Backpage.com is frequently associated with police investigations involving its advertisements for "escort" services. Backpage advertises a wide range of services, but more than 90% of its revenue — amounting to millions of dollars each month — comes from adult escort ads that use coded language and nearly nude photos to offer sex for money.

In the Bowling Green incident, the woman told police that during the previous week she had performed about 10 sex acts for money and both men told her to accept cash only, which they kept, according to their arrest citations. She said the men arranged for the sex acts online. She also told police she feared if she did not perform the sex acts there would be some type of confrontation or she would be kicked out the hotel and she had nowhere to go. (<http://www.bgdailynews.com/news/two-men-charged-with-human-trafficking-of-woman-they-met/>)

Law Enforcement Confronting Sex Trafficking

Lt. Commander, Travis Rakestraw, of the Wichita Police Dept. Exploited and Missing Child Unit, spoke on the dangers of human trafficking happening in the shadows of local communities. The talk was sponsored by the Hutchinson Community Foundation in Hutchinson, KS.

Some points from the presentation:

1. Types of sex exploitation crimes differ from location to location. Wichita mainly has a problem with sex traf-

ficking occurring in hotels or motels. While Wichita has had a history of street walking, girls are also advertised on the internet. However, those 'women' who advertise themselves as 18, 19 or 20 on places such as Backpage or Craigslist are likely to be 16 years old, or 14, even as young as 12.

2. Children are not primarily being snatched off the street and sold into sex slavery. Rather they are being exploited on the pure basis that they are vulnerable.

3. An overwhelming number of sex trafficking victims have been victims of sexual abuse at a young age. Victims typically have had an unstructured childhood, been involved in substance abuse, have a destructive self-image, are runaways, homeless, are in foster care, have impulsive, behavioral or mental health issues, or are truant.

When law enforcement or community partners identify someone as a victim of human trafficking, efforts are focused around their immediate safety concerns — safe placement or health needs.

4. Society is also at fault. Communities are in denial that something like this happens where they live. Movies and music glamorize pimp culture. There is a real demand for women's sexual services, which must be addressed and curbed. *"We need to do a better job educating the community, educating our kids, our males in our society on how to treat women, and basically how to be good men,"* Rakestraw said.

5. 1 in 5 of the 11,800 runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in 2015 were likely sex trafficking victims.

6. While more than 90% of trafficking victims are female, there are also male victims.

7. In the last 10 years, federal and local law enforcement have changed their focus from the female being part of the problem — a prostitute, a criminal — to the female being the victim.

8. Human trafficking is a public health issue. Victims have chronic health issues, sexually transmitted diseases, post traumatic stress disorder, an increased risk of suicide and depression, and are more likely to be dependent on drugs and alcohol.

9. Offenders (pimps), who profit from selling a minor to a buyer, are master manipulators. They are motivated by greed, and can be family members, foster parents, gang members, friends, trusted adults, or 'boyfriends' showing victims affection and promising a better life. Females are often manipulated by a false sense of having someone love or care about them, or help them get out of their home life.

10. Law enforcement is starting to see pimps showing the girls as their property by branding them. These brands or tattoos are a constant reminder of the abuse and control.

11. Offenders use the internet to seek out girls. They use social media, chat rooms, online gaming, and online advertising like Backpage or Craigslist.

12. Parents must monitor their children's internet use and electronic media.

13. Residents are the eyes and ears of their local community. If something seems wrong, suspicious, or just doesn't add up, call the authorities. A trained official can determine if something is wrong. A phone call can save a person's life.

14. *"This is not just a law enforcement issue. We need strong early childhood programs that can help identify these children and families that are at risk for the vulnerabilities that will make this child predisposed to become a future victim of human trafficking,"* said an assistant director of clinical service operations at the Reno County Health Department. *"We need to invest not only in that child, but that family."*

(http://www.hutchnews.com/news/local_state_news/event-puts-focus-on-victims-causes-of-human-trafficking/)



Advocacy

Hackers Help to Find Traffickers

Nearly 100 volunteers participated in a 2016 two-day Hackathon. It was organized by Demand Abolition and ThomsonReuters Lab. The problem being tackled was to eliminate sex trafficking by finding improved ways to go after the suppliers (traffickers and pimps) and the buyers (johns) of sex. Law enforcement knows that these crimes operate primarily online. Whether meeting girls online or offering them online for sale against their will, traffickers' actions are more covert in the digital world. Yet the police and other authorities don't necessarily have the tools or expertise to patrol this new online marketplace.

Speakers at the Hackathon highlighted why better tools for finding trouble online pays off. A King County, WA deputy prosecuting attorney showed how the online approach yielded results. His office used data from a local online "john board" (on which buyers review prostitutes) to shut down several brothels and prosecute 13 individuals, including the brothel owners, who had been bringing women from South Korea and forcing them into prostitution, sometimes in order to pay off family debts. The women were shuttled among various cities in the Pacific Northwest to avoid detection and prevent escape. Other presenters included representatives from agencies working with survivors, government officials and Brad Myles, the CEO of Polaris. He described the networked structure of Asian massage parlors and the horrific conditions and abuse that trafficked women in that industry undergo.

Hackathon participants organized into multiple teams based on projects that had been suggested with consultation from Thomson Reuters Labs representatives. These projects were intended to help authorities understand the market, disrupt it, and help trafficked persons who had been rescued. Specific projects included:

- Analyzing changes in demand for paid sex, based on keyword search volume for various cities over time.
- Mapping the social networks of johns on the 'john boards' and doing analyses of the resulting graphs.
- Developing a smartphone-based app that different police jurisdictions could customize to suit their own needs but that would populate a central repository of arrest data that could be analyzed and shared across jurisdictions.

Government leaders and officials at the Hackathon were pleased with results of this collaborative effort. Follow-up incorporation of projects into actual operations continue. Thus the impact of #HackTrafficking4Good proved the powerful potential of technology assisting social justice in ending the sex trade.

- View a 4-minute video about the Hackathon: <https://blogs.thomsonreuters.com/answeron/sex-trafficking-mapped-app-hackathon/>
- View a 6-minute video on ThomsonReuters' efforts in anti-trafficking: <https://blogs.thomsonreuters.com/answeron/data-science-stamp-modern-slavery-roots/>

In a prior such Hackathon one research group extracted and produced a visualization of the communications social network of the discussants extracted from part of a "john board" (escort review site). The connected components showed sub-communities, with some discussants closely tied together geographi-

cally among others. Presumably these discussants share or frequently visit the same geographic location as the escorts being discussed, which could be useful in inferring a location for an unidentified user. Network analysis algorithms can identify the most influential participants. Sting operations are dangerous, expensive, and seldom yield the most frequent purchasers. So being able to visualize the locations of communication may help law enforcement find perpetrators.

Another ThomsonReuters-led team produced a visualization of the geographic distribution of provider phone numbers and buyer phone numbers. Interacting with the map, the user can click on any geographic area to reveal which phone numbers are located there. Clicking on a phone number in the list pulls in any further available personal information from a reverse-lookup database, such as name, address, carrier, prepaid plan and more. The team discovered that buyer calls came from all over the country and were not strictly local to the seller. (<https://opendatascience.com/blog/science-against-slavery-hackathon-follow-up/>)

'Spotlight'

Spotlight, an app offered free of charge to law enforcement, is a tool for dealing with the over 100,000 new escort ads, posted online every day.

Spotlight archives this information and lets police quickly search and categorize it, whether it involves flagging up ads which may involve children or searching for a specific phone number of a vulnerable or missing person.

The developers of Spotlight report that the app can cut the time it takes for police to investigate trafficking by up to 44%, leaving them with more time to investigate more cases.

- 8,302+ Spotlight-assisted investigations;
- 780 Agencies using Spotlight;
- 6,625+ Trafficking victims identified. (<https://www.htspotlight.com/>) (<https://www.wearethorn.org/spotlight/>) (<http://www.thememo.com/2016/10/18/4-technologies-to-fight-human-trafficking-on-anti-slavery-day/>)



Advocacy

'TraffickCam'

Traffickers regularly post photographs of their victims posed in hotel rooms for online ads. These photographs are evidence that can be used to find and prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes. In order to use these photos, however, investigators must be able to determine where the photos were taken.

The purpose of 'TraffickCam' is to create a database of hotel room images that an investigator can efficiently search, in order to find other images that were taken in the same location and are part of an investigation.

TraffickCam was created in 2015 by the Exchange Initiative (EI). EI is committed to combating commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). Their mission is to provide resources, information and networking solutions to combat sex trafficking in the U.S. EI reported that in testing the app they found 85% accuracy in identifying the correct hotels.

EI was founded in 2013 by Nix Conference & Meeting Management (<http://www.exchangeinitiative.com/>). Nix first learned about sex trafficking from a client in 2011. Nix then realized that its travel industry expertise and connections could make a real difference for victims, so they began addressing sex trafficking with every hotel where they did business as part of its corporate responsibility program. Nix encouraged hotel managers to educate employees on human trafficking and to consider signing the ECPAT Code of Conduct.

In 2012 Nix led the charge among meeting planners worldwide by initiating and signing the first-ever ECPAT-USA Meeting Planners Code of Conduct. Nix is one of just 13 U.S. companies and 43 worldwide honored as a 2014 Top Member by the internationally recognized Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct (TheCode.org) for their exceptional work to integrate child protection practices into their business.

In the first six weeks of TraffickCam's launch in 2016, more than 35 million people learned about the sex trafficking issue and 75,000 downloaded the app. Today over 1.5 million photos from 145,000 hotels across every major U.S. city have been uploaded and made available to police in easily searchable databases. Features like carpet patterns, furniture, room fittings, and window views can be matched against those photos shared online by the traffickers.

On the app, one fills in the details of the hotel one is at and uploads four photos of the room, with no people in any of the pictures:

- two pictures of the entire room from different locations,
- one picture of the bed from the foot of the bed, and
- one picture of the bathroom from the doorway. (<https://traffickcam.com/about>)

The TraffickCam app can be downloaded directly from the TraffickCam website:

<https://traffickcam.com/download>



'Memex'

Much of the 'business' of sex trafficking does not take place on the open Internet, but in the dark web, where sites are not accessible via regular search engines like Google.

This makes it hard, if not impossible, for the police to monitor the millions of websites that exist in the dark web.

Memex, developed by U.S. military research, DARPA, can collect content ignored by regular search engines, analyze it for hidden patterns, and build models to predict behavior.

For example, Memex has been used to scan 100 million escort ads and uncover the pricing patterns that indicate an organized trafficking ring, as opposed to prostituted women working solo. Solo operators will adjust prices based on risk, while organized rings will set prices without regard for the real safety situation.

(<http://www.darpa.mil/program/memex>)

'PhotoDNA'

Microsoft's PhotoDNA aids in identifying images of children sexually exploited online. Five-hundred images of sexually abused children are traded online every 60 seconds; 1.8 billion images are uploaded and shared online every day. Finding one child is like finding a needle in a haystack.

User-generated content (UGC) is growing exponentially as are the opportunities and risks of hosting it. Now qualified organizations, approved by third-party vetting services, can use the PhotoDNA Cloud Service to automatically detect and report the distribution of child exploitation images.

Microsoft began sharing the first release of PhotoDNA in 2009. Since then, this technology has helped curb the exploitation of children around the world by detecting millions of illegal images for reporting to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). The PhotoDNA Cloud Service has made monitoring illicit online ads more manageable for law enforcement. (<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/photodna>)



Action

7

'GraceCity'™ App

GraceCity™ is a centralized, user-friendly mobile resource app allowing first-responders immediate access to short- and long-term services for exploited and high-risk individuals.

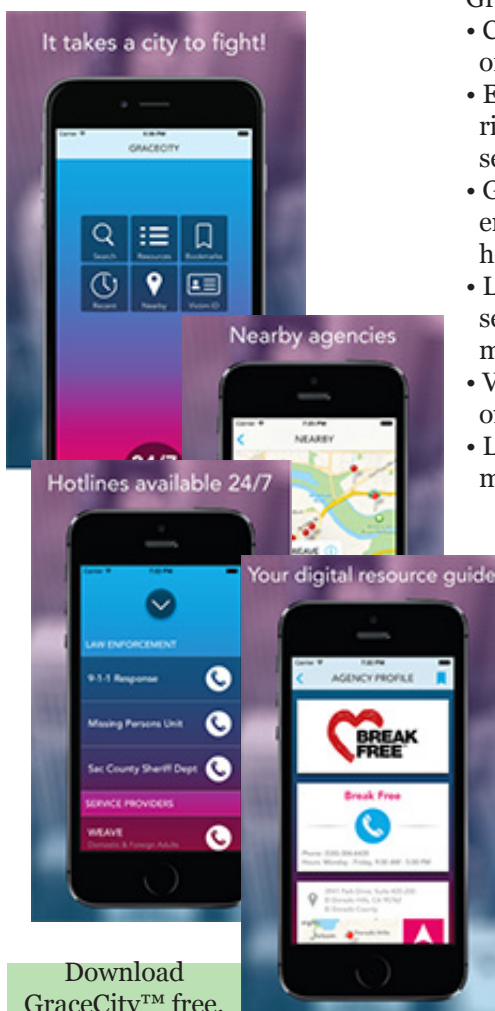
Now, with a simple finger swipe, advocates, case managers, chaplains, law enforcement, medical professionals, pastors, social workers, teachers, therapists, and others can easily view every resource in their region to help those in need.

Each agency within GraceCity™ has been vetted to ensure viability as a safe and effective community resource. Routine maintenance is performed every six months to monitor service accuracy and accessibility.

GraceCity™ Features:

- Custom search all resources in one's county to meet a need;
- Explore 18 resource categories to assist those one is serving;
- Get instantly connected to emergency shelters and safe houses;
- Locate food, clothing, counseling, education, employment & more;
- View a map for an overview of all one's county resources;
- Learn whether or not one may be working with a victim.

Originally launched in Sacramento County, CA, GraceCity™ is expanding to additional counties throughout California. For county and regional expansion inquiries, please contact: apps@thegracenetwork.org. Added ability to handle all U.S. states. Requires iOS 7.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



Download GraceCity™ free. <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/gracecity/id895315841?mt=8>

'BAN Human Trafficking' App

This mobile application was produced with the aim to educate the users about the issue of human trafficking and help prevent this type of crime. By playing this interactive game (<http://banhumantrafficking.com/en/play-the-game>), the users will become acquainted with different types and stages of human trafficking, from recruitment, exploitation and escape, to recovery, social reintegration, and struggle to exercise the rights belonging to human trafficking survivors.

Having been acquainted with potential dangers, the users will be able to recognize similar situations in everyday life, and thus protect themselves and the people they know.

Available for iPhone and Android.

<http://banhumantrafficking.com/en/about-the-application>



Freedom! App

This app is globally available and is a human trafficking mobile resource that allows one to anonymously (and safely) report cases of human trafficking in 10 languages. The reports are divided into three main levels: Victims, Traffickers and Suspicious Activity.

Information contributed on the app is received by Orphan Secure and the Anti-Human Trafficking Intelligence Cell (AHTIC) where the information is processed, analyzed and distributed for action.

Available for Apple products (free). <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/freedom!/id740980922?mt=8>





Action

'SafeNight' App



The app offers trafficking victims access to support such as hotel placements for those in need of urgent shelter, access to social services and economic empowerment advice to those in need of help. Users of the app can donate a room for victims. Trained staff at domestic violence organizations will contact the donor so as to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

Other International Apps: <http://www.uhrsn.org/2015/11/combating-human-trafficking-with-mobile-phones/>

The 'STOP' App

The STOP app is a data collection app that calls on everyone to submit videos and photos of any behavior that they believe may be related to human trafficking. It is part of a Global-Grassroots movement to equip and empower local communities to report through a secure app.

Launched in 2016 by 'Stop the Traf-fik,' a charity seeking to raise awareness about human trafficking, and with backers including the *Financial Times* as part of their 2016 MBA Challenge. (<http://www.stopthetraffik.org/uk/>)



Download from:

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/stop-app-end-human-trafficking/id1100550852>
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.fivestones.fivestones>

'TIP Line' App

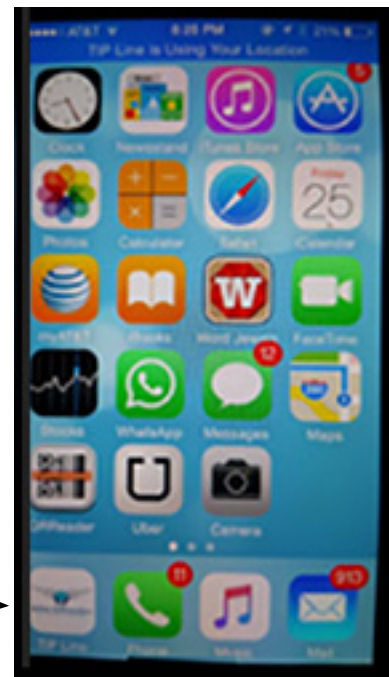
Law enforcement is encouraging citizens to report possible human trafficking. Airline Ambassadors International (AAI) developed an app that acts as a *'Threat Intelligence Platform'* enabling people to share vital information that can save lives.

AAI, as the only relief and development charity of the airline industry, has initiated an educational program to instruct airline and airport employees on how to identify human trafficking. With support from the U. S. Congress and in consultation with the Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), INTERPOL and local law enforcement, AAI conducted over 40 trainings as of January 2016 through requests from airport and airline management.

The 'TIP Line' app supplements the training and enables reporting of suspicious persons who might be involved in this growing crime. The U. S. Department of State identifies the crime as "Trafficking in Persons" or "TIP". Air transport companies are encouraged to train their employees about federal laws and international agreements. AAI's 'TIP Line' app helps airlines demonstrate compliance with these laws. The Association of Professional Flight Attendants and the Association of Flight Attendants also support these efforts.

Many local law enforcement agencies now use informational apps to encourage citizens to report crime. The Airline Ambassadors' app includes 'TIP Tools' that allow mapping of one's location, taking a picture, video, and recording or sending a text so that you may store information to report a TIP. One then uploads this information to a designated reporting authority. One can also call DHS, the National Human Trafficking Hotline, 911 or 'Crime Stoppers' for international use. The app works on all operating platforms – Androids, iPhones, & more.

Google Play: <http://apps.appypie.com/media/appfile/a6a678f66a5c.apk>
 iTunes: <http://apps.appypie.com/app/download-plist/appId/a6a678f66a5c>
 (<http://airlineamb.org/2015/09/19/aa-is-new-tip-line-app/#.WI-dMhAfldY>)





Action

'Redlight Traffic'

Redlight Traffic is a non-profit under the Seattle Kiwanis Memorial Fund.

How It Works:

Recognize:

Trafficking is everywhere and might even be next door without anyone knowing. With the app, one learns the signs. Next time, you will be able to recognize red flags.

Report:

Victims may be unable to speak up and get the help they need. The Redlight Traffic app is a discreet, anonymous way to make a difference.

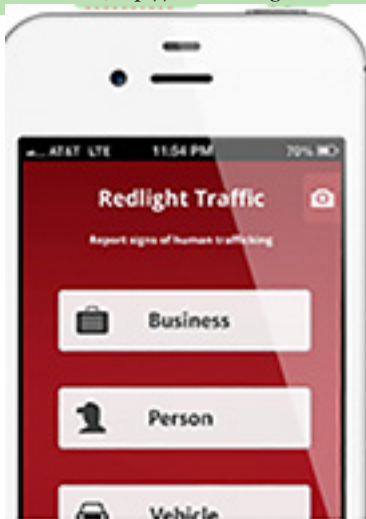
Recover:

Reports are shared with local authorities. When you speak up about what you see, you enable police and trained responders to catch traffickers and help victims.

Release:

Free the world from slavery, one community at a time. Share the app with friends and family, then start a local coalition to get your neighborhood involved.

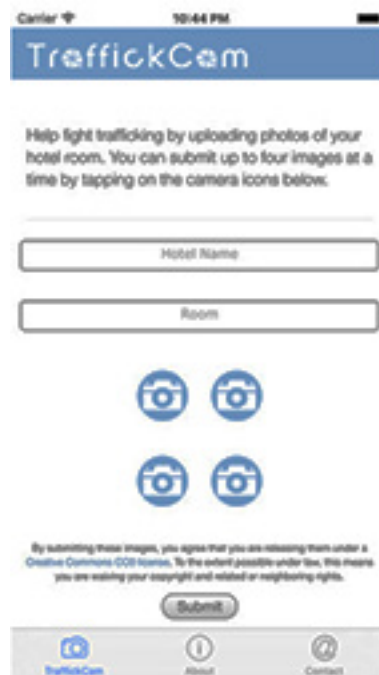
(<http://www.redlighttraffic.org/app/>)



Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
National Human Trafficking
Resource Center
1.888.3737.888
Text 'Help' at: BeFree
(233733)

Learn About the 'TraffickCam' App

Watch a video on how to empower yourself to do something by using TraffickCam: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zhfHOR6yc98>



Public Service Announcements

Anti-human trafficking public service announcements (PSAs) developed by governmental and nongovernmental entities that can be easily accessed and circulated online. One campaign is MTV's Exit.

Watch four minutes:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-UX_EwQcy8&feature=youtu.be

Informative Web Sites: (Each contains information related to human trafficking)

Backpage.com Charges

Jan. 24, 2017

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/backpage-com-prostitution-child-sex-trafficking/>
Dec. 23, 2016

<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/calif-files-new-charges-against-backpage-com-ceo-after-case-n699706>

EI Media Sources:

<http://www.exchangeinitiative.com/media>



"I Am Jane Doe," a film about human trafficking that opened in theaters in February 2017, shines a light on Backpage as "the Walmart of human trafficking." (<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/12/opinion/when-backpagecom-peddles-schoolgirls-for-sex.html>)

Stop Trafficking! is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among USCSAHT members and organizations, collaborating to eliminate all forms of human trafficking.

To access back issues of *Stop Trafficking!*, go to: <http://www.stopenslavement.org/>

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