

# Modern-day Abolition: Strategies to Combat Human Trafficking

Virginia Association of Federal Program Administrators

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*Founded in 2009*

*A national organization headquartered locally*

Our mission is to  
**educate, equip, and mobilize communities**  
with the **tools needed**  
to be a force in the movement  
to **end human trafficking.**

**Educate · Prevent · END Human Trafficking**



# Current Areas of Focus

- The Prevention Project<sup>®</sup> curriculum, our award-winning & signature prevention education program.
- Consulting
- Church and community mobilization
  - Speaking engagements to youth and adults on matters of awareness, human trafficking prevention, business social responsibility - locally, state-wide, and nationally.
  - In-depth trainings



# Agenda

- Human Trafficking 101
- The Issue In Virginia
- Our Programs
- Next Steps
- Q&A





# Human Trafficking

*The exploitation of vulnerability*

The trade of human beings through  
**force, fraud, or coercion**  
for the purpose of exploitation for  
**labor, sexual purposes, or organs.**

“Trafficking in Persons is the face of modern day slavery”

-U.S. Department of State



# Human Trafficking: Experts Report

- In 2016 at any given point, there were 40.6 million people enslaved worldwide.
- 2nd largest, fastest growing criminal industry in the world.
- More slaves today than during any other time during recorded history, including the trans-Atlantic slave trade.
- Human Trafficking cases have been reported in every state in the USA including Virginia.\*



(Sources: International Labor Organization, Global Slavery Index, Polaris)



# Human Trafficking

## **According to U.S. law:**

Any minor (anyone under the age of 18) who is induced to perform a commercial sex act is a victim of human trafficking, regardless of whether there is force, fraud, or coercion.



# Common Forms of Human Trafficking

- Familial Trafficking
- Survival Trafficking
- Pimp Control
- Gang Control



# Who are the traffickers?

- Both females and males have been convicted for their involvement as traffickers
- “Boyfriend/lover boy method”, girl friends of pimps, family, gangs...
- Traffickers: anyone helping in the entire process of trafficking: recruitment, transportation, harboring, exploitation



# Who are the victims?

- Trafficked persons in the U.S. can be men or women, adults or children, foreign nationals or US citizens. Some are well-educated, while others have no formal education.
- Average age of entry: 11-14 for boys and girls (U.S. Department of Justice).
- 74% of trafficking victims were trafficked between childhood and age 23 (Polaris, 2016).



# Common Victimization Risk Factors

- Dysfunctional family situation
- Low self-esteem
- Lack of monitoring, adult supervision, or caring adult in the student's life
- Childhood sexual abuse
- LGBTQ youths are at greater risk
- Mental illness, learning disabilities, developmental delay
- Substance abuse
- Uncertain legal status/loose paperwork;  
language barrier



# Who are the victims?

*Common examples of identified child trafficking industries include:*

- Commercial sex
- Stripping
- Pornography
- Forced begging
- Magazine crews
- Au pairs or nannies
- Restaurant work
- Hair and nail salons
- Agricultural work





# Myths

- Human trafficking only occurs in illegal underground industries
- Trafficked persons can only be foreign nationals or are only immigrants from other countries
- It's a crime that must involve some form of travel, transportation, or movement across state or national borders
- **It doesn't happen here**

(National Human Trafficking Resource Center)



# Myths

“No one came looking  
because I never went missing.”

-Jen Spry, Survivor



# Recruitment

- Social media/online/apps, shopping malls, parties, neighborhoods, homes, bus stops, after-school programs, clubs, group homes, and even in schools. Abduction.
- Some traffickers use students to lure and **groom** their own peers.
- *Common theme: False Promises; Preying on vulnerability*



# Reality - The Signs

## **Social:**

- Disoriented or confused?
- Showing signs of mental abuse?
- Is the person fearful, timid, or submissive?

## **Physical:**

- Signs of physical abuse (ex. bruises in various stages of healing)?
- Signs of being denied food, water, sleep, or medical care?
- Being kept in a van or trailer, unable to leave?

## **Conversational:**

- Is the person often in the company of someone to whom he or she defers? Or someone who seems to be in control of the situation, e.g., where they go or who they talk to?
- Does the person appear to be coached on what to say?
- Does the person have freedom of movement? Can the person freely leave where they live?



# Reality of Human Trafficking in Virginia

< Richmond Times-Dispatch ≡

Couple accused of sex trafficking arraigned in federal court



Aldair Hodza, 36, and Laura E. Sorensen, 31, both of Clive, Iowa, are facing charges that alleged they abducted, sexual abuse and forced a woman into a prostitution scheme.



By FRANK GREEN Richmond Times-Dispatch | Posted 11 months ago

An Iowa couple accused of abducting a woman and holding her captive on a cross-country trip in a recreational vehicle in which she was tortured and forced into prostitution



## 2 arrested for sex trafficking at Parham Rd. motel

Ashley Monfort

Sep 14, 2015 02:31 PM

< Richmond Times-Dispatch ≡

## Portsmouth man charged in Chesterfield's 1st case of commercial sex trafficking



Ahmad



BY MARK BOWES Richmond Times-Dispatch | Posted 3 months ago

A Portsmouth man has been charged with transporting a teenage girl and a young woman to a Chesterfield County hotel to have them work as prostitutes in what police describe as the county's first known case of commercial sex trafficking.

HENRICO, VA (WWBT) - Police are aggressively targeting suspects who are forcing teenagers into prostitution, as evidenced by several arrests this summer.

The most recent arrests came just a couple of weeks ago, when police say Sabrina Glover and Terry Nichols trafficked a minor for sex in Henrico. The investigation

< Richmond Times-Dispatch ≡

## Two arrested in prostitution sting in Henrico



Sabrina Jo Ritt and Wayne Burnett Marshall.



BY BRYAN DEVASHER Richmond Times-Dispatch | Posted 1 week ago

Two people are facing charges after a prostitution sting at a Henrico County hotel.

On Tuesday, Henrico police found an advertisement for sexual services in exchange for money in an online forum.



# Kids Are Not For Sale in Virginia



- **February 2015:** Virginia General Assembly Votes Unanimously to Pass Landmark Legislation to Establish Virginia's First Standalone Sex Trafficking Law.

*The first arrest under the new law occurred within the first week of its signing into law.*



- **2010-2015:** RJI coordinated and advocated the introduction and passing of **17** pieces of anti-human trafficking legislation in the General Assembly.





PREVENTION PROJECT®

The Prevention Project™ curriculum is  
our award-winning,  
signature prevention education program.



“I had no idea that this guy that I met at the mall was using a common lure, a lure that is commonly used today [by traffickers]. So, had I gotten that prevention or awareness in school I might have known what was going on.”

– Holly Austen Smith, Survivor





# About the Program

**Developed and produced by:** 1) Teen human trafficking survivors 2) Educators 3) Experts from leading anti-trafficking organizations 4) Law Enforcement

The 2 or 6 lesson academic curriculum is delivered to middle/high school students in their classrooms.

*We believe that in order to prevent teen human trafficking before it happens, we must educate our teens, so that they will not become victims of this crime affecting their generation and instead become informed and responsible world citizens.*



# The Prevention Project™ program

- Started in 2012-2013 School Year: Piloted at Hermitage HS in Henrico, Virginia.
- 200+ classrooms reached, in 8 states, over 16,000 students.
- Schools, programs, youth groups, counties
- Creating 21<sup>st</sup> Century Abolitionists
- Middle school edition now available



*Ripple effect*



“I am extraordinarily impressed with the Prevention Project curriculum and overall support and follow through from RJI staff. Our group expected the program to be top notch, and it **exceeded our own expectations.**”

–Prevention Project Teacher, Oregon

“It's the most adult type of content they have experienced in the classroom. We are speaking to them frankly and they feel **taken seriously, seen as people**, because they see **we care about their safety**. Adults haven't stepped into this conversation with them about this-that's important for them, it's really important content. **There's no way I can go back to not having this type of content in my health class.**”

–Prevention Project Teacher, California



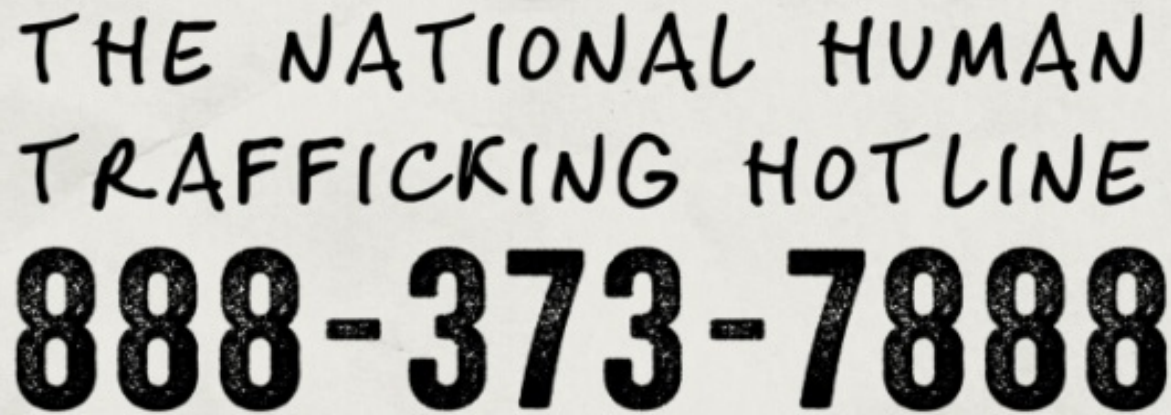
# Student Impact

"Now that **I've learned** about how traffickers and pimps target us as teens, **I am aware** and will tell my friends and family about this, **so that everyone I love will know what to look for and not be trafficked.**"

-Prevention Project student



# Next Steps



THE NATIONAL HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING HOTLINE  
**888-373-7888**

**I AM THE  
KEY TO  
ENDING  
SLAVERY**





# How to partner with us

- Get the Prevention Project™ program
- Sign up for our newsletters + follow on social media
- Donate
- Volunteer
- Become a Prevention Project Ambassador
- Become a Church Champion
- Pray



# Together we can prevent and end human trafficking

All **quotes** are from Prevention Project students



# Questions?



## *Connect with us!*

**Web:** [www.RVAJI.com](http://www.RVAJI.com)

**Facebook:** [/justiceRVA](https://www.facebook.com/justiceRVA)

**Twitter:** [@JusticeRVA](https://twitter.com/JusticeRVA)

**Instagram:** [@Prevproj](https://www.instagram.com/Prevproj)

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