

# Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

August 2019 Vol. 17 No. 08

This issue highlights ways that human trafficking issues are highlighted by a color marker.



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- Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange
- Sisters of the Divine Savior
- Sisters of the Good Shepherd
- Sisters of the Holy Cross
- Sisters of the Holy Family
- Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
- Sisters of the Humility of Mary
- Sisters of the Precious Blood
- Sisters of the Sacred Hearts
- Society of the Divine Savior
- Society of the Holy Child Jesus
- Society of the Sacred Heart
- U.S. Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union

## Have a Heart for Victims of Human Trafficking

### The United Nations 'Blue Heart' Campaign

The 'Blue Heart' campaign is a global awareness raising initiative to fight human trafficking and its impact on society. It seeks to encourage involvement from governments, civil society, the corporate sector and individuals alike, to inspire action and help prevent this heinous crime.

The Blue Heart represents the sadness of those who are trafficked, while reminding us of the cold-heartedness of those who buy and sell fellow human beings. The use of the blue UN color also demonstrates the commitment of the United Nations to combating this crime against human dignity. The Blue Heart is an international symbol against human trafficking. By wearing the Blue Heart, people raise awareness of human trafficking, increase the visibility of victims, and become part of the campaign to fight this crime. (<http://www.unodc.org/blueheart/>)



Donations to the Blue Heart Campaign go to the *United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons*, which provides vital assistance and protection to the victims of trafficking through specialized organizations across the globe.

<https://www.unodc.org/blueheart/en/about-us.html>  
<https://business.un.org/en/assets/8201422c-0d94-4b92-9d64-81231399ac72.pdf>  
<https://www.facebook.com/BlueHeartHT/videos/human-trafficking-a-crime-that-knows-no-borders/10155236828682331/>



Different colors highlight different aspects within human trafficking issues.



Awareness

## Don't Close Your Eyes to Human Trafficking

Ireland used the 'Blue Blindfold' Campaign to educate about human trafficking.

(<http://www.blueblindfold.gov.ie>)



**Alert:** The UN Blue Heart Campaign differs from the U.S. Blue Campaign (<https://www.ice.gov/factsheets/dhs-blue-campaign>). Given the current changes in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), it is difficult to know how the current Blue Campaign functions.

## Why Pinwheels for Prevention?

In 2008, Prevent Child Abuse America introduced the pinwheel as the new national symbol for child abuse prevention through *Pinwheels for Prevention*®.



What our research showed, and what our experiences since then have borne out, is that people respond to the pinwheel. By its very nature, the pinwheel connotes whimsy and child-like notions. In essence, it has come to serve as the physical embodiment, or reminder, of the great childhoods we want for all children.

The cost of not doing this is measured in increased costs for foster care services, hospitalization, mental health treatment and law enforcement, as well as loss of individual productivity and expenditures related to chronic health problems, special education and the justice system.

<https://preventchildabuse.org/resource/pinwheels-for-prevention/>

## 'All It Takes Is One'

View TEDxTeen: 'All It Takes Is One.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sh7XFCysTr4>

[https://www.sitwithus.io/#!/4/video/video\\_gallery/18](https://www.sitwithus.io/#!/4/video/video_gallery/18)

## 'Sit With Us' App

Designed by a former bullied teen, Natalie Hampton sought to create a way for kids to be proactive in helping others feel included.



Available in:

- Google Play Store: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=io.sitwithus.app>

- Apple Store: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/sit-with-us/id1133202101>



## Awareness

### A Lucrative Industry

Along with illegal arms and drug trafficking, human trafficking is one of the largest international crime industries in the world. A report from the International Labor Organization (ILO) says forced labor generates \$150 billion in illegal profits per year. Two-thirds of that money came from commercial sexual exploitation, while the rest is from forced economic exploitation, including domestic work, agriculture, child labor and related activities.

(<https://www.crs.org/stories/stop-human-trafficking>)



### The Role of Men

The movement to abolish modern day slavery requires help from all people, but there is one group that holds a unique and very powerful role that is instrumental to stopping human trafficking. **Men.**

The role of men in human trafficking is complex because it comes with the most baggage. Men are most often the perpetrators in human trafficking cases.

*"It's real easy when you start to dig into what this (sex trafficking) is and why it happens, every finger points right at men,"* said Tomas Perez, director of the Epik Project, an organization focused on engaging men in the fight to end child

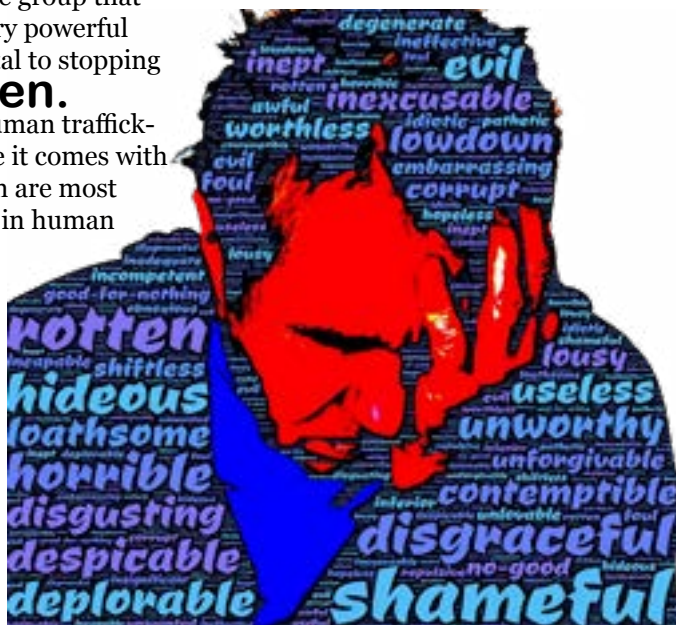


Image by John Hain from Pixabay

prostitution in America.

Sex traffickers use various avenues in the sex industry to further their exploitation including pornography, strip clubs, and prostitution. It is not uncommon for men to use pornography or frequent strip clubs without any idea that the people they are viewing could potentially be victims.

*"If you talk about supply-and-demand and porn, pretty soon men start to have a hard time because the struggle with sexual addiction and porn is epidemic,"* said Perez. *"So, men shut down because of (the) shame."*

### SHAME ON

Men are natural fighters. Their instinct is to protect and serve. This is evident based on the idolized heroes of our time. From war heroes and firefighters to Batman and Gladiator, we revel at the strength of man. Currently, that strength is being compromised.

*"The vulnerable are being oppressed by the powerful and men have the power to change that if they come together and engage others,"* said Perez.

It is easy to remain silent and complicit because of shame, but there is greater influence when men choose to stand against sexual exploitation of other men, women and children. If men have the ability to instigate a tragedy as horrific as modern day slavery, then there is even greater authority when men come together to oppose it.

*"We've all been tolerant of this exploitation; we have to fight it together,"* said Perez.

Whether male or female, all people need to be educated about human trafficking, the victims, the perpetrators, and the places it can be found. The power of influential change isn't solely in the hands of men, but rather men and women need to work together as a united force.

#### Ways to become involved:

- <http://abolitionnow.com/organizations/advocacy/item/the-epik-project>
- <http://abolitionnow.com/organizations/advocacy/item/the-defenders-usa>
- <http://abolitionnow.com/organizations/advocacy/item/polaris-project-the-national-human-trafficking-resource-center>



## Awareness

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### 'Purple Rose Campaign'



AF3IRM celebrates the campaign on 'Purple Rose Day', February 14th, as a commitment to

combat the trafficking of women and children. They offer purple roses – an image central to the campaign, with the flower, artificially bred for profit, used as a symbol of the commodification and trafficking of women's and children's bodies – to remind all to continue the struggle for change and genuine liberation.

AF3IRM women have suffered under sexual violence, sex tourism, institutionalized military brothels on military bases, and the sex trade. Despite having lived under ancestral traumas, AF3IRM members believe they can build a better future for the generations to come.

For two decades, AF3IRM chapters and membership have demonstrated the impact of the 'Purple Rose Campaign': to help pass the International Marriage Brokerage Act; to support the stories of the thousands of Philippine, Korean, Chinese, and other women from occupied countries who were sexually enslaved by the Japanese military during World War II; from launching 'Survivors Not Criminals' to hold officials accountable for not criminalizing trafficking victims;

and to speak out about who actually profits from buying and selling of sex, such as the owners of Backpage.com.

In the 20 years of the 'Purple Rose Campaign,' AF3IRM has witnessed changing rhetoric and discussions around trafficking, which are essentially masks for the decades-old protections of the oldest form of sex-based oppression. Yet today, trafficking is used to justify xenophobic policies by misogynists in government; the neoliberal conflation of 'women's liberation' with buying and selling women's bodies in the marketplace; lobbyists fighting against efforts to end trafficking in the name of worker politics.

Women's liberation will never be achieved as long as women are not free from violence and exploitation, especially from the institutionalized global access to women of color.

In the same way that sexual abusers and assaulters are denounced and held accountable, we must do more than just "say" that trafficking is wrong, that sexual abuse and assault must end. AF3IRM stands with the most vulnerable – women of color, girls of color, and queer and trans people of color, who are the most impacted by transactional sex. While 20.9 million are bought and sold worldwide, while women and girls comprise over 90% of those trafficked for sexual exploitation, there is no freedom. The links between how porn preys on and normalizes non-consensual sex, sexual violence, and power inequalities must be exposed. The decriminalization and exit of those bought and sold must be supported, while holding accountable those who buy and profit off of those sold. AF3IRM seeks to expose how

the "justice" system leaves women and girls of color vulnerable to being trafficked and repeatedly criminalized. Too often the justice system ignores the disappeared Native, Black, and immigrant women and girls at our borders, in 'man' camps, in our communities. AF3IRM strives for the day when all women have the right to live free of sexploitation and violence in all its forms.

On 'Purple Rose Day' AF3IRM members from across the country bring purple roses out into their local communities, raise awareness of the urgency of this work to end the trafficking of women and children and gender-based violence. Its commitment to the 'Purple Rose Campaign' continues throughout the year, through major events, activities, and campaigns, including those planned for International Women's Day.

Learn more about AF3IRM at:  
<http://www.af3irm.org>

The lavender rose is often a sign of enchantment and love at first sight. Those who have been enraptured by feelings of love and adoration have used lavender roses to express their



romantic feelings and intentions. The color purple also has a traditional association with royalty.

## Awareness



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### Red Flags That Help Spot Potential Human Trafficking Victims

#### General Indicators from People You Know

- Multiple reports of running away. Disconnection from family or other caregivers.
- Loss of interest in age-appropriate activities.
- Sexual activity/history of STDs and pregnancies.
- Large amounts of money, clothes or accessories with no explanation as to how obtained.

#### General Indicators from People You Do Not Know

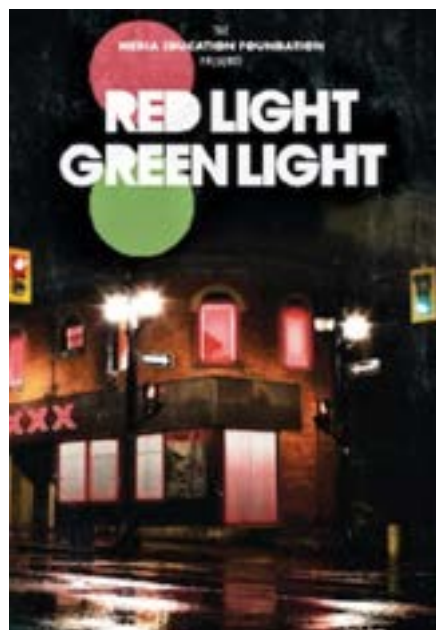
- Appears malnourished and lacks medical care.
- Branded with barcode or number tattoos by pimps to show his/her ownership.
- Is not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account.
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off.
- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid and avoids eye contact.

(<https://thevoiceofblackcincinnati.com/african-american-human-trafficking/>)



### Red Flags that Alert Hospital Staff to Potential Human Trafficking Victims

- Clinical presentation and oral history do not match up.
- Oral history is scripted, memorized or mechanical.
- Someone with the patient exerts an unusual amount of control over the visit.
- Patient appears fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, hyper-vigilant or paranoid.
- Patient is concerned about being arrested or jailed.
- Patient is concerned for his/her family's safety.
- Evidence that care has been lacking for prior or existing conditions.
- Tattoos or insignia's indicative of ownership.
- Occupational-type injuries or physical ailments linked to their work.
- Sexually transmitted infections.



<https://www.aha.org/infographics/10-red-flags-your-patient-could-be-victim-human>

### 'Red Light, Green Light'

Many governments respond to human trafficking by prosecuting traffickers, providing aftercare to victims, and legislating against prostitution. But few, if any, address the accelerating demand for sex slaves and prostituted women. In the documentary film, 'Red Light, Green Light,' filmmakers Jared and Michelle Brock travelled to ten countries to explore that part of the equation, asking how sexual exploitation can be prevented before it happens.

Along the way, 'Red Light, Green Light' delves into the complications law enforcement and anti-trafficking organizations face in addressing exploitation; raises fundamental questions about the gender politics that shape approaches to sex trafficking; and examines the social factors that make some women more vulnerable to victimization than others.

(<https://redlightgreenlightfilm.com>)



## Advocacy

### The 'Black Dress Campaign'

The *LBD.Project*, formerly known as the 'Little Black Dress Project,' is a 31-day challenge to wear the same black item of clothing each day in March to raise awareness and bring freedom to those affected by human trafficking.

Inspired by the 'Uniform Project,' wearing a little black dress challenges popular culture's standards and people's apathy. Participants choose to wear black dresses, shirts, suits, skirts and/or fishnet leggings as a way to raise awareness and funds for those who are begging for help, while becoming a little more free from consumerism.

*Why this Project?* It is a personal challenge, limiting one's freedom in a small way. As a by-product, it shows that clothing, appearance, and having "more stuff" does not define the person. Using less is an act of determination--a 'fast' of sorts--to focus on those who have been forced, used, mistreated, and abandoned. These are the modern slaves of our world -- victims of human trafficking.

Those wearing the same thing experience what it is like in one small way to have limited choices. One's freedom is only slightly limited, whereas the freedom of the trafficking victims remembered has been unjustly stolen from them.

One's purposeful limiting of one's own freedom can ignite a greater awareness of human trafficking among family, friends and colleagues. The *LBD.Project* encourages participants in the campaign to use the internet to share about the *LBD.Project*, using pictures of oneself or with facts and

stories about trafficking. This helps shed light on this crime, inviting others to join the effort to promote justice and bring compassion.

The *LBD.Project* works towards a common goal, fundraising for various anti-trafficking organizations.

Learn more at:

- <https://www.thelbdproject.org>
- <https://thelbdproject.org/the-lbd-story>
- <https://thelbdproject.org/human-trafficking>



The 'Uniform Project' (UP) began in May 2009, when one girl pledged to wear a 'Little Black Dress' for 365 days as an exercise in sustainable fashion. Designed to also be a fundraiser for the education of underprivileged children in India, the project acquired millions of visitors worldwide and raised over \$100k for the cause. UP then continued into Year 2 with a monthly series of select Pilots taking on the 1-Dress challenge for causes of their choice. Today, women around the world continue to take on the 1 Dress challenge and wear UP LBDs as an expression of socially conscious fashion.

(<http://theuniformproject.com/upweb/#!about>)

### Five Weeks of Inspiration: Mobilize / Maximize / Minimize / Missionize / Mesmerize

<https://thelbdproject.org/lbdprojectweeks>

### How to Participate in a LBD.Project:

- Register for the *LBD.Project* to gain support and guidance through the month of March.
- Commit to wearing the same black item of clothing during March.
- Select an anti-trafficking organization among the *LBD.Project*'s featured organizations or partner organizations. Then set up a fundraising page.
- Lead the way by making the first donation. Then invite those you know to donate \$10 (or more) too.
- Share a picture of yourself in that item and/or tell a story or fact about human trafficking (ideally, daily) using the hashtag #LBDProject2020 or #LBDProject to let those around you know why you are wearing the same thing all the time.

(<https://thelbdproject.org/how-to-participate>)

### Human Trafficking: Not All Black or White

The link between domestic sex trafficking and racial discrimination—while undeniable, is not immediately clear. What is clear, however, is that the demographics of domestic sex trafficking is very different from the racial make up of the U.S. In a report by the Office of Victims of Crime, of the confirmed sex trafficking victims, 40.4% of victims were African-American. This is almost four times higher than the percentage of African Americans living in the U.S., which the 2015 U.S. Census Bureau listed as 13% of the total population. The FBI claims an even more surpris-

**Black or White** *cont. on pg. 7*



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## Advocacy

**Black or White** *cont. from pg. 6*  
ing statistic for arrests under the age of 18, black children make up 55 % of all prostitution-related arrests in the U.S.

Caucasian women and girls represent the second highest number of sex trafficking victims at 25.6%. This number is drastically lower than the current number of Caucasian women in the U.S., which is 61.7% of the country's total female population. According to the report by the Office of Victims of Crime, women and girls who are African American or Caucasian are more likely to become victims of sex trafficking than any other ethnic group in the U.S.

Why are African American victims over-represented while Caucasian victims are under-represented in sex trafficking?

Some argue that it is simple economics that causes racial disparities in trafficking—the demand for one race is higher than the demand for another. That could possibly explain why the percent of Asian American sex trafficking victims matches within 1% the racial makeup in the U.S. (4% and 5% respectfully). Many traffickers are savvy businessmen who use people that are marketable. In an Urban Institute study that looked at the economics of human trafficking, of the traffickers interviewed, the majority overwhelming believed that trafficking white women would make them more money but trafficking black women would result in less jail time, if caught. Most of the traffickers interviewed had

trafficked women and girls of different races since ethnic diversity was good for business.

Without a comprehensive survey of victims of domestic sex trafficking, the gross racial disparity of sex trafficking victims will remain unknown—or worse, ignored.

(<http://humantraffickingsearch.org/humantrafficking-not-all-black-or-white/>)

## 'Eye Heart World'

The non-profit, 'Eye Heart World', began in



2010 when the Russos of Wisconsin decided to take action against human trafficking in an innovative way. For their first awareness event they created 30 bags, hoping to raise funds for a safe home in their community. Supporting the cause in a tangible way proved to be contagious - every single bag was sold that day. To this day, their product line continues to fund a small part of the operating budget. (<https://eyeheartworld.org/pages/initiatives>)

## What Is the Orange Rose?

When the first 'Eye Heart World' handbags were created,



they set out to make a statement that would shine a light on the plight of millions around the world by placing a symbolic orange rose on each of its handbags. That logo represents the delicate and unique individual lives of those who are exploited. Each life deserves freedom - so when you carry it in your hand or on your shoulder, you do not just carry a bag, you 'Carry the Cause.' (<https://eyeheartworld.org/pages/about>)

## Survivors At Work

Survivors of sex trafficking experience unspeakable trauma. As a result, they require a highly specialized level of care that's rooted in best and promising practices. The *Rose Home*, managed by the 'Eye Heart World' non-profit and based in Green Bay, WI, is a residential aftercare program that serves survivors ages 18-25 through a holistic, strength-based approach. Treatment includes group and individual therapy, life skills courses, and workforce preparation. The Rose Home is a place for survivors to gain confidence and become empowered to live life to the fullest.

Workforce preparation is very important to us because a good job is essential to an independent life. It is why the Rose Home helps survivors build the skills they need in order to earn a living and follow their dreams. In its blog, the staff shared about two survivors who are employed. One survivor recently got a job and started training in the end of May. She said they just threw her into the job, but because she had prior experience at a similar job, she felt like it was second nature. She is very excited to be employed, and she enjoys the work.

One of the other participants has been working for a while now. She has been doing so well that she is now being trained in multiple areas at her job. Thanks to workforce preparation at the Rose Home, these women are building the skills and experience they need to find and pursue their dream jobs.

What started out as an awareness and fundraising effort has exploded into a full scope of services. Through our work in Northeast Wisconsin and South Alabama, we provide after-care resources for trafficking victims, prevention for at-risk youth, and training for professionals and community members. (<https://eyeheartworld.org/blogs/articles/may-newsletter-from-wisconsin>)



Action

Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline  
National Human Trafficking  
Resource Center  
1.888.3737.888  
Text "BeFree" (233733)



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

**Color-Based Campaigns**  
<https://www.supportstore.com/cause-awareness-by-color.html>

**Child Abuse Blue Pinwheels**  
<https://preventchildabuse.org/resource/pinwheels-for-prevention/>

## 'On Her Shoulders'

In the 2018 documentary, 'On Her Shoulders,' Nadia Murad -- a 23-year-old Yazidi genocide and ISIS sexual slavery survivor, told her story. As her journey leads further down paths of advocacy and fame, she is the voice for her people and is their best hope to spur the world to action.

Nadia responded to interviewers' questions, "What would you say to the men who raped you? What do you want to have happen to them?"

Her reply, "These kinds of questions are not the ones to ask."

- 'What must be done so Yazidis can have their rights?'
- 'What must be done so a woman will not be a victim of war?'

These are the kinds of questions I want to be asked more often."

(<http://www.onhershouldersfilm.com>)



## 'Me Facing Life: Cyntoia's Story'

Cyntoia Brown, now 31, was an African American girl convicted for killing her



captor in 2004. At age 16, Cyntoia was prostituted by a pimp and later sold to a 43-year-old Caucasian male. In fear of her life, she shot and killed him. Her story was captured in the 2011 documentary 'Me Facing Life: Cyntoia's Story' and brought to light by celebrities Rihanna and Kim Kardashian, who advocated for her release. On January 8, 2019, CNN announced that Cyntoia Brown has been granted clemency and will be released to parole supervision on August 7, 2019. She served a total of 15 years in prison. The second installment of her documentary is slated to be released later this year.

The documentary can be found at:

<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/films/me-facing-life/>

## The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) needs you!

Help Me To Get  
Back Home



Call 1-800-THE-LOST

It takes everyone working together to help recover missing children and prevent sexual exploitation. The public is needed to successfully advocate for children.

- You can share a poster of a missing child.
- You can disseminate safety tips for kids and families.
- Share the NCMEC 'Missing Children Banner' on social media. The banner shows active cases of missing children.

Read more about the ways you can get involved.

Go to: <http://www.missingkids.com/home>

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

To access back issues, go to:  
<http://www.stopenslavement.org/past-issues-chronological.html>

To contribute information, please contact:  
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