



**ALLIANCE TO END
HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Founded and Supported by U.S. Catholic Sisters

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AT SPORTING AND OTHER LARGE EVENTS

2026 Toolkit



Awareness enables us to identify the hidden mechanisms of exploitation in our neighborhoods and in digital spaces. Ultimately, the violence of human trafficking can be overcome only through a renewed vision that beholds every individual as a beloved child of God.

Vatican, Message of Pope Leo XIV for the World Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking, January 29, 2026.



WELCOME

Human trafficking remains a persistent and evolving form of exploitation affecting communities across the United States and globally. Large-scale sporting events bring visibility, economic activity, and international engagement, but they can also create conditions that increase vulnerability.

It is important to recognize that trafficking is not limited to the duration of these events. Labor and sexual exploitation can occur before, during, and continue long after events conclude, often embedded within local systems and industries.

This toolkit is designed to support organizers, partners, and communities in understanding risks and strengthening prevention efforts. By focusing on awareness, coordination, and survivor-informed responses, we can help ensure that major events reflect safety, dignity, and accountability--now and long after the event concludes.



Sincerely,
Katie Boller Gosewisch
Executive Director
Alliance to End Human Trafficking



HUMAN TRAFFICKING BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

- Human trafficking is a \$276 billion world market that impacts an estimated 50 million people worldwide. This affront to human dignity happens through force, fraud, or coercion.
- Victims of human trafficking are hidden in our neighborhoods. They are being recruited from our schools. They are growing our food, working in our nail salons, and they are there when we go on vacation and stay in hotels. They are hidden in plain sight.
- Traffickers thrive where vulnerability is high; where people are desperate and their options are limited or nonexistent, traffickers are present and waiting to take advantage.
- People on the move and recent immigrants are at particular risk of exploitation by traffickers because of their precarious social and economic circumstances. The International Organization for Migration estimates that the number of international migrants is at least 281 million. They are refugees, asylum seekers, labor migrants, and those displaced by conflict or natural disasters. They are fleeing floods, famine, war, violence, endemic poverty, organized crime, political corruption, and the effects of climate change. They are both desperate and resilient. The adverse circumstances that force people to flee their homes can lead migrants to be deceived in exploitative recruitment abroad. Migration routes too often lead migrants into the hands of organized trafficking networks, exploitative employment, or situations of extortion.
- However, immigrants are not the only ones who are forced into a life of servitude. It's happening to our youth in our communities.
- Human trafficking is the fastest-growing criminal industry in the world. It is the second most lucrative and is soon expected to surpass the illegal drug trade. Drugs can be sold once, but people can be sold multiple times, with many victims being sold 15 to 30 times a day.
- Child online sexual exploitation is rampant. Furthermore, it's hard to detect, threatens lives, especially of the most vulnerable, and if unaddressed, has daunting and irreversible impacts on families and society.

ABOUT THE WORK OF THE ALLIANCE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- The Alliance launched its National Speaker's Bureau in 2024, offering free training for those who want to become effective speakers and access to survivor-vetted presentations. To get involved or learn more, contact Christine@AllianceToEndHumanTrafficking.org.
- Education and awareness are essential to preventing and ending human trafficking. To schedule a presenter for a basic training or a customized session, use the [Speaker Request Form](#) to request a virtual presentation or check for a presenter in your area.
- The Alliance provides 2-4-page educational guides on topics such as root causes, children, women, labor, pornography, migrants and refugees, sporting events, and organ removal. These modules are ideal for individual or small-group study. View them here: [AEHT Modules](#).
- Our webinars offer accessible education throughout the year, covering current trends, prevention strategies, and practical tools for communities, educators, and advocates. Recordings of all 2025 sessions are available on our [YouTube channel](#).
- The Stop Trafficking Newsletter promotes awareness, shares advocacy best practices, and highlights actions to support survivors. Read the latest issue [here](#).

ACCESS TO SURVIVOR SERVICES

- Hear from survivors who have directly benefited from our educational scholarships, direct support, and programming by members around the country. You can be part of this positive impact by joining us or [donating today!](#) [Survivor Stories](#)
- AEHT members are connected to organizations and houses across the country that provide a variety of services to survivors of human trafficking. Learn more about these houses and the work they are doing here: [Member Run Houses](#)
- One of the ways YOU can help support survivors of human trafficking is by supporting their ongoing education directly, donating to our scholarship fund, or hiring them for a job. Learn more about these opportunities here: [Education & Employment](#)
- You can further support human trafficking survivors and prevent human trafficking through your purchasing choices. You can check out our list of [Fair-Trade and Survivor-Made Products](#) that also make great gifts!

ADVOCACY WORK

- **Advocacy Tools and Training:** The Alliance provides occasional trainings for how to best engage your representatives and we also provide helpful resources for engaging in effective advocacy, including how to plan a visit with your legislator available on our website. See our [advocacy resources](#).
- **Advocacy Priorities:** Our advocacy priorities address the root causes of trafficking and their connections to other important global issues. See our [advocacy priorities](#).
- **Legislative and Policy Principles:** We make available our priority legislative and policy objectives for the 119th Congress and the Administration. See our [advocacy objectives](#).
- **Take Action!** Take action to end human trafficking, support survivors, and protect the vulnerable! See our [current advocacy campaigns](#).

WHY SPORTING & LARGE EVENTS MATTER

Large events increase:

- Demand for labor and services
- Temporary housing and informal economies
- Population density and anonymity

Traffickers may exploit:

- Workers in hospitality, construction, cleaning, and event services
- Migrant and temporary laborers
- Women, girls, men, and boys, particularly those in vulnerable or unstable situations

Evidence shows events can heighten risk factors, even if not the sole cause of trafficking



LABOR EXPLOITATION RISKS

High-risk sectors:

- Construction (stadiums, infrastructure)
- Hospitality (hotels, food services)
- Cleaning and maintenance
- Transportation and logistics

Common indicators:

- Wage theft or withheld pay
- Excessive working hours
- Unsafe conditions
- Confiscated documents
- Employer-controlled housing



SEX TRAFFICKING

How it happens

- Manipulation, deception, grooming, and coercive relationships
- Economic pressure and unmet basic needs
- Use of online platforms to recruit and control

Who is most at risk

- Women and girls, disproportionately affected
- Boys and young men, often under-identified
- Individuals facing instability, poverty, or lack of support



INDICATORS OF TRAFFICKING

INDIVIDUAL INDICATORS

- Appears fearful, anxious, or controlled
- Unable to speak freely or alone
- Inconsistent or scripted responses
- Lacks control of personal documents

WORK & LIVING CONDITIONS

- Works excessive hours with little/no pay
- Lives at workplace or employer-controlled housing
- Restricted movement or monitored communication
- Owes large or unclear debts

SEX TRAFFICKING INDICATORS

- Evidence of commercial sex involvement
- Signs of physical abuse or coercion
- Multiple individuals controlling movement or income
- Tattoos or markings that may indicate ownership or control

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS



POST 1

Human trafficking doesn't start or end with major sporting events. Both labor and sexual exploitation can occur before, during, and long after. Prevention requires sustained attention.



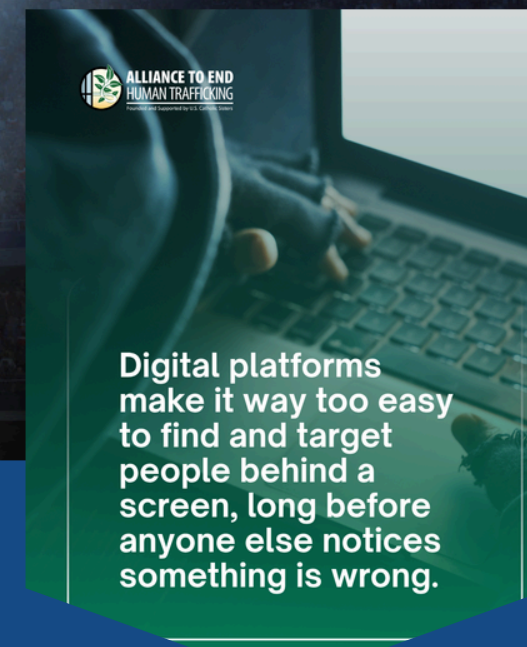
POST 2

Labor trafficking is often overlooked. From construction to hospitality, exploitation can occur across event-related industries. Strong labor protections are essential.



POST 3

Temporary populations and high mobility during large events can reduce visibility and oversight, which prepares conditions traffickers may exploit if protections are weak.



POST 4

Online platforms are often used to recruit and exploit individuals before and during major events. Prevention must include digital awareness and safeguarding measures.

[Download Graphics here.](#)

Take Action To End Human Trafficking

01

Raise awareness during sporting events by sharing information on recognizing signs of trafficking and how to report concerns.

Check out our [May 2026 Stop Trafficking Newsletter!](#) on the role of sports in human trafficking.

02

Engage your community by partnering with event organizers, local groups, and venues to promote prevention efforts and education.

You can [schedule a presentation](#) virtually or in-person with the Alliance to further support these efforts.

03

Be a conscientious consumer at events. Support vendors and services that follow fair labor practices and ethical sourcing.

Use the LaborShield app and the Bureau of International Affairs to identify products linked to forced or child labor, and encourage others to [consider the sources of what they buy](#). You can also start by purchasing [fair-trade](#) and [survivor-made](#) goods!

04

Contact your Governor to promote the National Human Trafficking Hotline (888-373-7888 / text INFO to 233-733) and support policies that strengthen protections for survivors.

05

Use social media during major events to share accurate information and resources on human trafficking prevention.

06

Support awareness campaigns and educational initiatives connected to large sporting events in your community.

07

Volunteer: Become A Member Today! and join one of our working groups.


08


Check out our [Take Action flyer](#) for more ideas. Share it with your network, community or social media accounts.

09

Donate to support the work of the Alliance.

THANK YOU

 Alliance to End Human Trafficking

 @AlliancetoEndHumanTrafficking

 Alliance to End Human Trafficking (AEHT)

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