



NAZARENE  
COMPASSIONATE  
MINISTRIES

# Human Trafficking & Church Engagement

(U.S. Focus)



"La Gabbia" (The Cage) by auroraMeccanica

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## Before You Begin

*This is designed to be an introduction to human trafficking and resource guide for church engagement. No church can be expected to do—or should do—everything listed here. Pray together about how your church might engage in the issue of human trafficking and modern-day slavery based on your passions and the ways your members are skilled and equipped. Take one step at a time. Engagement in this issue should be approached as a marathon, not a sprint.*

## What Is Human Trafficking?

### Definitions

In short, human trafficking is a form of modern slavery where people profit from the control and exploitation of other people. ([Polaris Project](#))

It's a criminal enterprise in which both children and adults are bought and sold into forced labor or sexual exploitation through force, fraud, or coercion. It is a global problem that affects people from many backgrounds or situations in almost every country in the world, including the United States.

We can no longer look at human trafficking as a problem that happens in "other places." It's a problem that exists in our own backyards.

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Polaris Project defines human trafficking through the A-M-P model.

ACTION	+	MEANS	=	PURPOSE
Recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, obtaining, or attempts to complete these actions		Force, fraud, coercion		Commercial sexual exploitation (prostitution, creation of pornography, and sexual performance) OR Labor/services (including involuntary servitude and debt bondage)

*\* Any minor engaged in commercial sex is considered a victim of trafficking regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion is used.*

## *Trafficking in the United States*

According to [Polaris Project](#), victims of human trafficking come from various racial, ethnic, geographic, and economic backgrounds. Victims are male and female. They come from big cities and small towns. They are foreign nationals and those who were born and raised in the U.S. They may be documented or undocumented. They are highly educated and also uneducated.

Victims are often lured by empty promises of a job, stability, or education, but they are also lured through the promise of a loving relationship. They all share one thing in common: vulnerability.

Children or youth who are homeless or have run away are extremely vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation. Children who have experienced sexual or physical abuse are also vulnerable. The average age a child enters into commercial sex is 12 to 14.

In addition, people are at risk if they are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault and if they experience social isolation or discrimination.

Foreign nationals are also at risk. Often, they have paid large sums of money to labor recruiters for job placements. Not only are they highly indebted, but their identification, documents, and even money are also confiscated, making it nearly impossible for the workers (many of whom speak little English) to leave.

## **Statistics**

Statistics related to human trafficking are highly difficult to obtain and verify; however, various expert organizations offer these numbers as a starting point:

- There are approximately 21 million victims of human trafficking globally, including 5.5 million children; 14 million are trafficked into forced labor. (ILO)
- About 4.5 million people are forced into commercial sexual exploitation globally. (ILO)
- Human trafficking generates \$150 billion in profits globally. (ILO)
- 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year; of those, 80% are female and 50% are children. (U.S. State Department)
- An estimated 100,000 children are involved commercial sex each year. (Polaris Project)
- An estimated 300,000 children in the U.S. are at risk of being trafficked for sexual exploitation. (U.S. Department of Justice)
- Approximately 40-70% of suspected child victims of trafficking come from foster care, group homes, or other shelters.
- The average cost of a modern-day slave is \$90. (Free the Slaves)

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## *Myths About Human Trafficking*

[Polaris Project](#) points out 10 common myths about human trafficking:

MYTH 1: Trafficked persons can only be foreign nationals or are only immigrants from other countries.

REALITY: The federal definition of human trafficking includes both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals. Both are protected under the federal trafficking statutes and have been since the TVPA of 2000. Human trafficking within the United States affects victims who are U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, visa holders, and undocumented workers.

MYTH 2: Human trafficking is essentially a crime that must involve some form of travel, transportation, or movement across state or national borders.

REALITY: Trafficking does not require transportation. Although transportation may be involved as a control mechanism to keep victims in unfamiliar places, it is not a required element of the trafficking definition. Human trafficking is not synonymous with forced migration or smuggling, which involve border crossing.

MYTH 3: Human trafficking is another term for human smuggling.

REALITY: Smuggling is a crime against a country's borders; human trafficking is a crime against a person. These are distinct federal crimes in the United States. While smuggling requires illegal border crossing, human trafficking involves commercial sex acts or labor or services that are induced through force, fraud, or coercion, regardless of whether or not transportation occurs.

MYTH 4: There must be elements of physical restraint, physical force, or physical bondage when identifying a human trafficking situation.

REALITY: Trafficking does not require physical restraint, bodily harm, or physical force.

Psychological means of control, such as threats, fraud, or abuse of the legal process, are sufficient elements of the crime. Unlike the previous federal involuntary servitude statutes (U.S.C. 1584), the new federal crimes created by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 were intended to address “subtler” forms of coercion and to broaden previous standards that only considered bodily harm.

MYTH 5: Victims of human trafficking will immediately ask for help or assistance and will self-identify as a victim of a crime.

REALITY: Victims of human trafficking often do not immediately seek help or self-identify as victims of a crime due to a variety of factors, including lack of trust, self-blame, or specific instructions by the traffickers regarding how to behave when talking to law enforcement or social services. It is important to avoid making a snap judgment about who is or who is not a trafficking victim based on first encounters. Trust often takes time to develop. Continued trust-building and patient interviewing is often required to get to the whole story and uncover the full experience of what a victim has gone through.

MYTH 6: Human trafficking victims always come from situations of poverty or from small rural villages.

REALITY: Although poverty can be a factor in human trafficking because it is often an indicator of vulnerability, poverty alone is not a single causal factor or universal indicator of a human trafficking victim. Trafficking victims can come from a range of income levels, and many may come from families with higher socioeconomic status.

MYTH 7: Sex trafficking is the only form of human trafficking.

REALITY: The federal definition of human trafficking encompasses both trafficking and labor trafficking, and the crime can affect men and women, children and adults.

MYTH 8: Human trafficking only occurs in illegal underground industries.

REALITY: Trafficking can occur in legal and legitimate business settings as well as underground markets. Human trafficking has been reported in business markets such as restaurants, hotels, and manufacturing plants, as well as underground markets such as commercial sex in residential brothels and street based commercial sex.

MYTH 9: If the trafficked person consented to be in their initial situation or was informed about what type of labor they would be doing or that commercial sex would be involved, then it cannot be human trafficking or against their will because they “knew better.”

REALITY: Initial consent to commercial sex or a labor setting prior to acts of force, fraud, or coercion (or if the victim is a minor in a sex trafficking situation) is not relevant to the crime, nor is payment.

MYTH 10: Foreign national trafficking victims are always undocumented immigrants or here in this country illegally.

REALITY: Not all foreign national victims are undocumented. Foreign national trafficked persons can be in the United States through either legal or illegal means. Although some foreign national victims are undocumented, a significant percentage may have legitimate visas for various purposes.

(from [polarisproject.org](http://polarisproject.org))

## *A Biblical Foundation*

In Scripture, we can start at the beginning as we seek to address the problem of human trafficking. Genesis 1:27 says, “So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them” (NRSV).

We care about the issue of trafficking and modern slavery because we believe that every single person, whether child or adult, female or male, is made in God’s image and is, therefore, valuable and worthy of dignity. Human trafficking dehumanizes people, turning them into objects and commodities. Our hope is to see people restored into the fullness of who God created them to be.

We also follow in the ways of Jesus, who announced His mission as Messiah this way:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”  
(Luke 4:18-19, NRSV)

This is still Jesus’ call to us.

Scripture also issues a call for us to advocate on behalf of those whose voices are quieted through oppression: “Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy” (Proverbs 31:8-9, NRSV).

Finally, in the book of Amos, God names sins of oppression that He despises: “... They sell the innocent for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals. They trample on the heads of the poor as on the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed” (Amos 2:6-7). He calls us to engage in a different vision: “But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream” (Amos 5:24).

As a member of the Wesleyan Holiness Consortium, the Church of the Nazarene helped craft and has endorsed the consortium’s [Declaration for Freedom](#) (available in the Resources section of [ncm.org/trafficking](http://ncm.org/trafficking)). This declaration offers a deeper theological look at why the church should be actively engaged in the issue of human trafficking.



## Church Engagement

The U.S. Department of State talks about anti-trafficking engagement through the 3 P's: prevention, protection, and prosecution. As the church, we should add 2 additional P's: partnership and prayer.

Following are ways your congregation can begin to engage with the issue of exploitation through the 5 P's:

### PREVENTION & AWARENESS

#### AWARENESS

**Learn to [recognize the signs of trafficking](#) and identify victims.** These come from Polaris Project ([polarisproject.org](http://polarisproject.org)).

#### *Common Work and Living Conditions: The Individual(s) in Question*

- Is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- Is under 18 and is providing commercial sex acts
- Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp / manager
- Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Works excessively long and/or unusual hours
- Is not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work
- High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)

#### *Poor Mental Health or Abnormal Behavior*

- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement
- Avoids eye contact

### *Poor Physical Health*

- Lacks health care
- Appears malnourished
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture

### *Lack of Control*

- Has few or no personal possessions
- Is not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account
- Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport)
- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)

### *Other*

- Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where he/she is staying/address
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or do not know what city he/she is in
- Loss of sense of time
- Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story

This list is not exhaustive and represents only a selection of possible indicators. Also, the red flags in this list may not be present in all trafficking cases and are not cumulative. Learn more at the [Trafficking Resource Center](http://traffickingresourcecenter.org) (traffickingresourcecenter.org).

Certain groups are particularly at-risk for becoming victims of human trafficking:

- Youth who are abused or have run away
- Youth who age out of foster care
- Children involved in the juvenile justice system
- Adults who are unable to find a sufficient employment
- Individuals who are isolated and without social safety nets
- Women experiencing domestic violence or assault

**Research your local context.** Research to see if there is a human trafficking task force in your area. Task forces are typically made of law enforcement, social service providers, legal service providers, community members, nonprofits, and faith-based groups. Find out if the meetings are open to the public. If so, attending these meetings will provide information and contacts for collaboration. You can also contact your local law enforcement and ask, "How can we help?"

**Learn together about the problem of human trafficking.** These are helpful resources to begin:

- [Faith Alliance Against Slavery and Trafficking \(FAAST\)](#) offers free [toolkits](#) and curriculum for churches, communities, and schools. There are two helpful Bible studies, including one that focuses on the issue of exploitation in the Bible and one that focuses on the issue of human trafficking from a biblical perspective. FAAST also offers a very in-depth curriculum called Hands That Heal focused on care for survivors of trafficking; Nazarene churches can access that resource free by contacting [Nazarene Compassionate Ministries](#). (faastinternational.org)
- [Polaris Project](#) and their National Human Trafficking Resource Center is a go-to source for professional research about trafficking in the United States. (polarisproject.org)
- Another helpful site focused on trafficking in the U.S. is [humantraffickingusa.org](#).
- Vanguard University's Global Center for Women and Justice offers more than 100 [podcasts](#) focused on human trafficking (www.vanguard.edu/gcwj). You can also access them through [Stitcher.com](#).
- There are many documentaries and films that address the problem of human trafficking, particularly in the U.S., including [Trade of Innocents](#), [The Candy Shop](#), [Chosen](#), [In Plain Sight](#), and [Not for Sale](#). Consider hosting a showing at your church.

## PREVENTION

Prevention is a crucial area of engagement, and it's one that the church is ideally positioned to do. Traffickers prey on people who are vulnerable. Certain groups are particularly at risk for becoming victims of human trafficking, including youth who have been abused or have run away, youth who age out of foster care, children in the juvenile justice system, adults struggling to find employment, individuals who are isolated and don't have social safety nets, and women who have experienced domestic violence or assault.

The church can fill a great void by working to prevent people from becoming victims through education and by meeting needs of those who are at-risk.

**National Trafficking Hotline: (888) 373-7888.** The line is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and there are interpreters who can translate into more than 200 languages. Learn more about the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at [traffickingresourcecenter.org](http://traffickingresourcecenter.org). You can also text BeFree (233733).

Suspected incidents of trafficking can also be reported to the Department of Justice Trafficking in Persons and Worker Exploitation Task Force Complaint Line at (888) 428-7581 or by contacting your local FBI office. You can also report the production or distribution of child pornography or suspected trafficking to the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children's Child Pornography and Sexual Exploitation Tipline: 1-800-843-5678.

Consider creating small cards with the information so church members can keep it in their wallets.

**Educate your leaders and volunteers.** Educate people serving in ministries for at-risk children and youth, homeless individuals and families, people in detention centers, etc. to identify and report suspicious activities.

**Teach children how to be safer online.** [Netsmartz](http://netsmartz.org) (netsmartz.org) offers good guidelines.

**Fight the demand.** Human trafficking is a big-money business. It ties with the global arms trade as the second-largest criminal income producer worldwide. And the U.S. culture and our actions actually drive demand for slave labor and commercial sex.

- You can learn more about the connection between pornography and sex trafficking at [pornharmresearch.com](http://pornharmresearch.com).
- [The Defenders USA](http://sharedhope.org) (sharedhope.org) and [The X3Network](http://x3pure.com) (x3pure.com) help fight the demand for commercial sex trafficking by addressing the struggle with pornography or sexual addiction.
- Learn about the connection between consumerism and labor trafficking from the [Global Slavery Index](http://globalslaveryindex.org) (globalslaveryindex.org) and [Slavery Footprint](http://productsofslavery.org) (productsofslavery.org). These sites are tools to understand the problem, responses, and contributing factors related to labor trafficking.

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- [Better World Shopper](http://betterworldshopper.com) (betterworldshopper.com) and [Free2Work](http://free2work.org) (free2work.org) encourage you to vote with your dollars. Companies are rated based on human rights (sweatshops, child labor, exploitation). There is also a mobile app version for each site.
- Become a compassionate consumer. You can find ethical shopping guides that list companies with fair labor practices at [Fair Trade USA](http://fairtradeusa.org) (fairtradeusa.org), [End Slavery Now](http://endslaverynow.org) (endslaverynow.org), and Micah Challenge USA (micahchallengeusa.org). Search for Micah Challenge's "[Ethical Shopping Guide](#)."

**Start with your youth and children.** Train your youth and children's leaders, and teach your church's own youth and children how to protect themselves against people who would seek to exploit them.

- The Faith Alliance Against Slavery and Trafficking (FAAST) offers an age-appropriate Bible study geared toward children ages 8 to 11 called "[Change Agents](#)" (faastinternational.org). There is a fee charged for this study.
- [Born2Fly](http://born2fly.org) offers an in-depth curriculum geared toward youth and children in 10 different languages (born2fly.org). These resources are free, but you will have to register in order to download them.

**Minister to children and youth in the foster care system.** Children and youth in the foster care system are targeted by traffickers because of their need for love and protection. Studies estimate that between 40% and 70% of children involved in commercial sexual exploitation are or were part of the child welfare system.

- Many states allow individuals to go through training and become a [Court Appointed Special Advocate](#) for children in the foster care system.
- Contact a foster care agency in your area and ask what your church can do to help foster youth, particularly those who are aging out of the system.
- Consider becoming a [Safe Families for Children](http://safe-families.org) church (safe-families.org).

**Engage in ministry to at-risk groups.** Traffickers prey on and exploit those who are most vulnerable, including youth who have run away or have aged out of foster care, children in the juvenile justice system, adults who are economically vulnerable, and women experience domestic violence or assault. They also prey on children and youth who feel lonely and unloved. Ideas for ministry that helps to lessen vulnerability include these:

- Create after-school ministries that become safe places for children.
- Do job skills training to increase opportunities for people who are unemployed or underemployed.
- Commit as a church to engage in mentoring programs that work to support youth in your area.
- Encourage people in your church to serve as a Guardian Ad Litem or Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for vulnerable children (if your state allows for these programs).
- Partner with or encourage church members to volunteer with organizations in your community that minister to other at-risk children, youth, or adults, such as shelters for battered women, pregnancy resource centers, homeless shelters, etc.
- Build relationships with local law enforcement to understand your local context and talk about how your church can support their efforts to fight trafficking.
- Consider designating a church member or team to oversee and coordinate all anti-trafficking volunteer opportunities.

**Understand trauma.** Becoming a trauma-informed congregation will help your church know how to minister to anyone who has experienced significant trauma, including survivors of trafficking as well as children and youth whose trauma may put them at increased risk for being trafficked. Seek training in your community from a mental health professional or social worker with expertise.

- Helpful resources include [ACEs Too High](http://acestoohigh.com) (acestoohigh.com) and [ACEs Connection](http://acesconnection.com) (acesconnection.com), both focused on trauma cause by adverse childhood experience.

## **PROTECTION**

Partner with reputable direct-care services, such as emergency shelters or residential homes for rehabilitation and restoration, in your area.

- Do a gift card drive, based on the needs of a specific organization.
- Put together care packages (again, based on needs of an organization)
- Offer to sponsor an event for residents of a restoration home.
- Encourage members to donate professional services, such as medical or dental care, legal assistance, accounting, marketing, or grant writing as needed.
- Homes may also need skills including transportation, tutoring, life skills, job skills, teaching Bible studies, gardening, etc. that your members can provide.
- Encourage members of your congregation to offer jobs or internships to graduates of restoration homes.

## **PROSECUTION**

The laws related to human trafficking determine how law enforcement engages with the issue and how well equipped they are to arrest suspected traffickers.

- Your church can become educated about laws related to trafficking at the local, state, and national level.
- Engage with elected officials at the local, state, and national level to let them know you care about the problem of human trafficking and to encourage them to help prevent it through policies and laws. Write letters, make phone calls, or arrange in-person meetings.
- Visit [sharedhope.org/policy](https://sharedhope.org/policy) to learn about state and federal legislation aimed at addressing the problems of human trafficking, child sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, child welfare, and similar issues.

## PARTNERSHIP

The best way to engage in anti-trafficking efforts is to learn from and partner with others. Learn from those who have experience and expertise. Partner with like-minded organizations. A lone-wolf approach to anti-trafficking is never in the best interest of trafficking victims and can even wind up doing more unintentional harm than good.

- [Engage Together](http://engagetogether.com) (engagetogether.com) offers a [church toolkit](#) that is a free download, with an upcoming video training curriculum series focused on helping churches create action plans (fall 2015). The website also serves as a virtual community of advocates where you can engage with other individuals and organizations focused on anti-trafficking efforts.
- Freedom Collaborative ([freedomcollaborative.org](http://freedomcollaborative.org)) is a registry of vetted anti-trafficking organizations, grouped by location, which allows you to search for and connect with like-minded organizations in your area. The site also includes a library of resources.

*Note: As a church, our first step should never be to start a new nonprofit. Seek first to partner with like-minded organizations in need of your resources, gifts, and talents. If God has given you clear direction to start something new, seek wisdom from others with experience and expertise.*

## PRAYER

This “P” should come first and be a part of every activity your church engages in. Human trafficking is an evil that we can never fight on our own, and those engaged in the issue need God’s presence, peace, and purpose to avoid burnout.

Ultimately, human trafficking is just a symptom of the bigger issue of broken relationships—with God, others, self, and systems.

You can find many downloadable prayer guides online:

- [ncm.org/trafficking](http://ncm.org/trafficking) ([Freedom Sunday resources](#))
- [aHeartforJustice.com](http://aHeartforJustice.com) (resources / [prayer guides](#))

*The ideas in this section were drawn in part from the [Engage Together Church Toolkit](#) (engagetogether.com) and Shared Hope International’s [“Slaying the Dragon”](#) (sharedhope.org).*

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## What Can Our Church Support?

The Church of the Nazarene is present in many countries where children and adults are vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking. In these areas, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries partners with local churches in [anti-trafficking efforts](#) that range from prevention and education to protection and rehabilitation.

Internationally, the church's strongest engagement with the problem of human trafficking is through prevention, including education aimed at at-risk children and youth through child development centers and providing economic and educational opportunities to lower the risk of poverty-induced trafficking.

The work of churches and compassionate ministries centers to improve economic self-sufficiency, social inclusion, gender equality, community cooperation, positive character and values, self-efficacy, family relationships, and youth resilience can help to reduce vulnerability of their targeted communities to human trafficking.

Economic and Child Development Centers help children succeed in school and learn how precious they are to God, which in turn helps them see themselves as valued.

Women's self-help groups and skills training programs empower members to improve their household finances, which lessens their children's risk of being trafficked.

Programs that focus on orphaned children bring children into families and keep them off the streets where they are vulnerable to abuse and "too good to be true" offers of employment elsewhere. The church, through Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, also partners in ministries that help survivors of trafficking by offering rehabilitative services and skills development.

### Nazarene-Affiliated Projects You Can Support:

[NCM Global Anti-Trafficking Fund](#). The Church of the Nazarene has a presence in many countries, including the U.S., where children and adults are vulnerable to trafficking. In these areas, NCM partners with local churches in anti-trafficking efforts that range from prevention and education to protection and rehabilitation. [ncm.org/trafficking](http://ncm.org/trafficking).

[Rest Stop Ministries](http://reststopministries.org) (reststopministries.org). Birthed out of Hermitage (Tennessee) Church of the Nazarene, Rest Stop is a 2-year residential program, following a "housing-first" model for survivors of sex trafficking.

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[Scholarships for Trafficking Survivors.](#) For young people who have escaped trafficking to find freedom, the road to restoration is not an easy one. Education can play a crucial role in an individual's movement toward a new life.

Point Loma Nazarene University has established the [Beauty for Ashes scholarship](#) to support the education of trafficking survivors as well as launch passionate young people into careers that address the problem of human trafficking. Learn more at [pointloma.edu/cjr](http://pointloma.edu/cjr).

[CIS Child Development Program.](#) In the CIS region (former Soviet Union), child development ministries in Ukraine and Armenia are doing targeted prevention education for at-risk children and youth to prevent trafficking before it starts. Learn more through [ncm.org/trafficking](http://ncm.org/trafficking), where you can search for Nazarene-affiliated anti-trafficking programs.

[Child Sponsorship](#) ([ncm.org/cs](http://ncm.org/cs)). NCM's monthly Child Sponsorship program lessens the vulnerabilities of disadvantaged children through education, spiritual development, and more. There is also an opportunity to support the Un-sponsored Children Fund through one-time gifts that enable church-led child development centers to minister to children who are still waiting for sponsors. Learn more at [ncm.org/children](http://ncm.org/children).

*Learn more about the Nazarene church's anti-trafficking efforts: [ncm.org/trafficking](http://ncm.org/trafficking).*

## APPENDIX: A Few Things to Consider

Shared Hope International offers 7 things to keep in mind when engaging in anti-trafficking efforts:

1. Working with trafficking victims can be challenging. The abuse they have suffered is a source of trauma and healing takes time; it requires patience from those who help them. Understandably, it also takes time to build their trust. When Christians serve them and their needs, they serve Jesus.
2. Many survivors have been wounded by people and clergy in their churches. Effective services provided by agencies/ organizations include a variety of approaches that must be respected by caregivers and volunteers. These services must respect trafficking survivors' choices and self-determination; attempting to control their choices, even if well intentioned, can be harmful. We best demonstrate God's healing love through actions rather than words.
3. Men are not the enemy. Although demand for sex, both actual and virtual (pornography) is the root of the problem and buyers/users are overwhelmingly male, honorable men are key to changing the culture of tolerance. Engage the men in your community and call upon them to be role models for male youth. The Man Up Campaign ([www.manupcampaign.org](http://www.manupcampaign.org)) and The Defenders USA ([www.sharedhope.org/defenders](http://www.sharedhope.org/defenders)) are examples of programs that men in your community can support.
4. Overwhelmed with a need to make a big difference, good people may gravitate only toward the grandest of actions (i.e., opening a shelter or saving a child from the streets) and feel that anything else is small and won't make an impact. This cannot be further from the truth and may come from a place of pride (Phil. 2:3). There is a broad spectrum of needs, both great and small, in the anti-trafficking movement. Let experts explain what their needs are and respond accordingly. The impact of meeting a seemingly small need may not be immediately obvious.
5. Perhaps the most common pitfall is discouragement, abandoning the cause and the call because it is just too overwhelming. Always keep in mind that it is about one life at a time. Think of the parable of The Lost Sheep (Matthew 18:12-14) in which a shepherd leaves his flock in order to find the one sheep that is lost.
6. When the children of Israel finally went into the Promised Land, the Jordan River parted to allow them to pass but only after they first stepped into it (Joshua 3:15-17). This is good symbolism for us as we work to fight trafficking. We may not see where our struggle is leading, but we need to step out in faith. We must do the things we feel called to do without being able to see the endpoint. Moses led his people on an incredible journey of faith but he never entered the Promised Land.
7. Act responsibly. Matthew 10:16 warns us to "be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." You should not attempt direct street outreach without training from someone who knows the streets. Without proper training you can put the child at increased risk of violence, not to mention the matter of your own safety. Never pay a child for time to talk in the hopes of rescuing her. Go through the appropriate and proper channels to assist victims.



