

# ADVOCATE

A Publication of the Support, Advocacy & Resource Center

Fall 2017

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**Surviving prostitution:  
'Violence was my experience'  
By Alisa Bernard**

I hate maroon. Motels have some sort of preoccupation with the color maroon. The carpets are maroon, the lamps are maroon, even the shower stalls seem to have a maroon tint to them. Most of all I hate the maroon comforters, thin as the motel room sheets with big plastic threads running through them. There's always one you know is going to poke you in the ass.

When I was in prostitution, I spent a fair amount of time staring at the maroon surroundings of a cheap, popular motel off I-5 near Everett. If I was lucky, the female pimp I worked for would leave an hour or two free between johns, and I'd get the opportunity to try to ignore my surroundings, losing myself in a Law and Order Special Victims Unit episode. This all after my self-administered fourth or fifth disinfecting shower that day.

The irony of being addicted to a show like Special Victims Unit, where the majority of victims are prostituted women like I was, wasn't completely lost on me at the time. After watching a particularly gruesome episode, the fear I always felt would elicit a stronger-than-usual tension in my chest when the next buyer would knock on the door. It's not surprising: We are the most likely victims of homicide.

One study states that from 1981 to 1990, U.S. women in prostitution were 18 times more likely to be murdered than their square world counterparts. The reality is, I didn't know who was going to knock on the door next, buyers were all the same potentiality for violence. Gary Ridgeway, the Green River Killer who murdered 48 prostituted women and girls here in Seattle, was a sex buyer. So was Robert Pickton, Rurik Jutting, Joel Rifkin and countless others. There's no difference between the average, everyday sex buyer and these men. They are no less horrifying, and women in the life like I was will fear them regardless.

At the end of June, the Seattle Police Department held a sting against sex buyers. Among the 138 booked on exploitation charges were two sex offenders, one of whom was a convicted child molester. One buyer was carrying meth, and another came to the sting operation armed with a gun, knife and a pair of handcuffs. Over 80 percent of prostituted women in one study reported being

physically assaulted and/or threatened with a weapon, and nearly 70 percent reported rape. The odds don't lean in a prostituted woman's favor. I'd love to sugarcoat it all and say this violence wasn't my experience, but there's no putting lipstick on this pig. Violence was my experience, and to be honest, it is the majority of other women and girls' experiences within prostitution too.

If you are a sex buyer reading this, maybe you're thinking to yourself, "I'm nothing like those guys." But I want to let you in on a little secret: If you're buying sex, you are only contributing to the fear. You are contributing to the larger problem by fueling the sex trade and perpetuating violence against women. The only individuals benefiting from your sex buying are pimps and sex traffickers. When 90 percent of prostituted women in one study reported being controlled, it's hard to deny that it's pretty damn likely a regular sex buyer has bought a trafficking victim for sex at one point or another.

Let me be perfectly clear for those who may not have my experience as a prostituted woman: No one chooses prostitution. It's not a job like any other. Sure, there are some self-proclaimed sex workers who will tell you it is, but I've been working at the Organization for Prostitution Survivors (OPS) for nearly five years now. What I hear repeatedly from women all over the country from every walk of life, race and

## Surviving prostitution: 'Violence was my experience' continued....

orientation — are stories of rape, beatings and violence beyond what is sanitary for any printed media to publish.

The choices one faces when entering prostitution are never free or broad. There is always constraint, whether that be poverty or pimp control. The choice to enter the life is a choice that is no choice at all. If you're like me and the other 65 to 90 percent of women in the life who've experienced childhood sexual abuse, choosing prostitution is akin to having the freedom only to choose the venue of your inevitable next rape.

Women like me who have been through prostitution don't need studies and statistics to remind us that sex buyers can be dangerous. Before the end of my first day working out of that motel, my legs and arms were covered in bruises, and my scalp and neck hurt from buyers violently thrusting my head back by my hair. That was just some of the physical pain; I won't go into the dead, hollow feeling that had begun taking shape in my mind. Not a day went by that I didn't encounter at least one buyer who seemed oblivious to the obvious pain I was in — or maybe they simply enjoyed seeing that pain. Sex buyers see women in prostitution as objects, not as human beings with feelings, emotions and lives greater than the sum between their thighs. The men arrested in last month's sting are no different.

It took a mental and physical breakdown to get me out of the life, and it took the better part of a decade for me to seek out help for the nightmares, flashbacks, insomnia, depression and dissociation all linked to my post-traumatic stress disorder diagnosis. But I did get help.

Not all women or girls have access to that help. The Administration of Child, Youth and Family Services estimates that in cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children, about 50 to 90 percent get lucky and find services. However, even with those services, let's get real here; we don't all make it out alive.

*Alisa Bernard is the contracted Survivor Advocacy Coordinator for the Organization for Prostitution Survivors (OPS) where she created a new model 12 class mentoring series for survivors of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). She is a candidate for the Masters of Public Administration degree from the University of Washington's Evan's School. Since exiting prostitution she has advised to, developed content for, and provided training to numerous organizations and agencies across the US and sits on King County's Ending Exploitation Collaborative team. She uses her lived experiences of CSE, teen homelessness, domestic violence and childhood sexual abuse as a lens to look through and advise public and private agencies working against CSE. This article was originally published on Crosscut.com July 14, 2017.*

**Source:** <http://crosscut.com/2017/07/seattle-prostitution-survivor-violence-police-sting/>

## WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking occurs when a person uses violence, deception, or threats of force to coerce another person to provide labor or commercial sex, and to prevent that person from leaving the situation. Human trafficking also occurs when a person recruits, harbors, transports, provides or obtains another person knowing that force, fraud or coercion will be used to exploit the other person for labor or commercial sex. Trafficking is ongoing exploitation. Travel is not always involved. **Victims in the U.S. are entitled to protection and assistance, regardless of their immigration status.**

## WHAT IS LABOR TRAFFICKING?

Labor trafficking is using force, fraud or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain a person for labor or services in involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.

## WHAT IS SEX TRAFFICKING?

Sex trafficking is a commercial sex act induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act is under the age of 18.

## MEANS OF CONTROL USED BY TRAFFICKERS

**Force:** Physical assault (beating, burning, slapping, hitting assault with object or weapon, etc.), physical confinement and isolation, rape and other forms of sexual violence and/or domestic violence.

**Fraud:** False or deceptive offers of employment, marriage, or a better life, lying about work conditions, false promises, withholding wages.

**Coercion:** Threats to life, safety, family members, or other loved ones. Threats to have a victim or a victim's family member arrested or deported. Debt bondage: Use of manipulation of debt to create never-ending debt. Withholding legal documents such as identification. Psychological abuse.

**Source:** <http://www.commerce.wa.gov/serving-communities/crime-victims-public-safety/office-of-crime-victims-advocacy/human-trafficking/service-provider-resources/>

# Myths & Misconceptions about Human Trafficking

Here are some common myths and misconceptions:

**Myth:** Human trafficking does not occur in the United States. It only happens in other countries.

**Fact:** Human trafficking exists in every country, including the United States. It exists nationwide—in cities, suburbs, and rural towns—and possibly in your own community.

**Myth:** Human trafficking victims are only foreign born individuals and those who are poor.

**Fact:** Human trafficking victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. They may come from any socioeconomic group.

**Myth:** Human trafficking is only sex trafficking.

**Fact:** Sex trafficking exists, but it is not the only type of human trafficking. Forced labor is another type of human trafficking; both involve exploitation of people. Victims are found in legitimate and illegitimate labor industries, including sweatshops, massage parlors, agriculture, restaurants, hotels, and domestic service.

**Myth:** Individuals must be forced or coerced into commercial sex acts to be victims of human trafficking.

**Fact:** Under U.S. federal law, any minor under the age of 18 who is induced to perform commercial sex acts is a victim of human trafficking, regardless of whether he or she is forced or coerced.

**Myth:** Human trafficking and human smuggling are the same.

**Fact:** Human trafficking is not the same as smuggling. “Trafficking” is based on exploitation and does not require movement across borders. “Smuggling” is based on movement and involves moving a person across a country’s border with that person’s consent in violation of immigration laws. Although human smuggling is very different from human trafficking, human smuggling can turn into trafficking if the smuggler uses force, fraud, or coercion to hold people against their will for the purposes of labor or sexual exploitation. Under federal law, every minor induced to engage in commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking.

**Myth:** Human trafficking victims will attempt to seek help when in public.

**Fact:** Human trafficking is often a hidden crime. Victims may be afraid to come forward and get help; they may be forced or coerced through threats or violence; they may fear retribution from traffickers, including danger to their families; and they may not be in possession of or have control of their identification documents.

**Source:** <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/myths-and-misconceptions>

## **SARC Resources Available for Survivors of Human Sex Trafficking**

**Personnel - Sex Trafficking Team:** Human Trafficking Advocate, Assistant, Executive Director, Clinical Director, General Crimes Advocate, Sexual Assault Advocates, Volunteers, Prevention Specialists. (509) 374-5391 is the front line which is the access point for any needed service 24 hrs/day.

**Crisis Line:** The crisis line is available 24 hours/day 7 days/week. When needs of a caller (especially if a survivor of trafficking) are beyond the expertise of the after hours volunteer, the answering service and/or volunteers can contact the Executive Director (ED). If ED is unavailable, the Clinical Director is available.

### **Specific Resources**

#### **Food:**

- Immediate connection for emergency food and pantry needs
- Gift cards to grocery stores such as Target, Wal-Mart, and Albertsons and fast food places such as Taco Bell, Subway, and Domino's
- Funds to purchase snacks and meals

#### **Hospital Advocate - Medical Advocacy includes:**

- Explaining client rights regarding medical exam, providing support during exam, assisting with connecting survivor to aftercare such as pregnancy and/or STD concerns, helping survivor complete Crime Victims Compensation (CVC) form, follow up with CVC and advocate on clients behalf, connect client to other medical resources as needed for client e.g. dental care, past unhealed injuries

#### **Assistance in Filing Police Report if Desired:**

- Guidance through the process

#### **Immediate Shelter (hotel or shelter):**

- Contract with local hotel to pay for short term stay for immediate safety concerns

#### **Cab Fare:**

- Contract with local cab company to transport clients as needed

#### **Clothing:**

- Gift cards to stores such as Target and Wal-Mart, funds to purchase basic needed clothing
- "Clothes Closet" of gently used donated items

#### **Mental Health (Psych evaluation, counseling):**

- Psychosocial Mental Health Assessment
- Mental Health Counseling - trauma-informed, best practice treatment, free of charge - no insurance barriers, and can meet at a location outside of office when necessary and appropriate

#### **On Going Advocacy:**

- Maintain a relationship with the client to provide support, answer questions, ensure needs are being met

#### **Connecting with Restoration Homes/Long Term Shelter/Housing:**

- Human Trafficking Advocate, Executive Director, Assistant

#### **Relocation Services:**

- Human Trafficking Advocate, Spanish Speaking General Crimes Advocate, or Executive Director to attend relocation transportation
- Funds available to assist with relocation transportation costs (gas, hotel, bus, plane, etc)

#### **Legal Assistance:**

- Legal Advocacy includes: informing clients of legal rights, explaining legal system, informing client of possible pros and cons of reporting, assisting with reporting, case tracking, attending law enforcement/prosecution/defense interviews, attending court proceedings with client, requesting/facilitating/participating in case reviews, providing referrals for civil attorneys, assisting with protection orders, advocating with legal system on behalf of client
- Human Trafficking Advocate and Spanish Speaking General Crimes Advocate will provide the majority of these services. All SARC staff are trained to do so and will as back up

#### **Obtain ID:**

- Human Trafficking Advocate is the primary individual providing this service

#### **Drug Rehab or Detox Resources:**

- Advocates provide assistance in identifying appropriate resources and connecting client to resources

#### **Survivor Support Groups:**

- SARC can facilitate Survivor Support Groups when there is interest

#### **Emotional Support for Family Members:**

- Ongoing Advocacy is provided by Human Trafficking Advocate, Spanish Speaking General Crimes Advocate and Executive Director available during regular working hours
- Executive Director and Clinical Director available when office is closed
- Sexual Assault Advocates (staff and volunteer) available as back up 24 hrs/day
- Counseling for non-offending family members and/or caregivers is available through Clinical Director

# What Happens When One Person Decides to “Roll with It”

## An Advocate’s Perspective

Working in social services means you don’t always get to see the best of society. You hear and see things you wish no one had to be exposed to. But, the flip side of that is, you get to see the immense good that goes on in the community as well. People doing their small part to try to help the bigger issues. This story is a great example of that. Someone close to me saw a SARC posting asking for specific items for Sex-trafficking Survivors. This person contacted me and said she liked the idea of collecting some extra flip-flops and wondered if it was ok if she just rolled with it. I said of course, thinking she would look for some sales and pick up a couple pairs herself to donate. She did that, but then she also took a few extra minutes to post about donating on her personal Facebook page, a Facebook page for her women’s group at church, and a local want not, waste not site. Within a handful of hours, a few pairs had shown up on her doorstep that she placed in a bag by her front door. A couple of days went by and that bag needed to be replaced with a box. Then that box needed to be replaced with a bigger box, which eventually turned into two large boxes with over 100 pairs. She began to look forward to leaving the house, just so she could see what would be awaiting her when she got home. Different colors, sizes, and patterns, unique like the clients they would be going to help.

The project brought up opportunities for public awareness. Conversations people didn’t even know needed to be had before seeing her request. One of her friends is a Community Corrections Officer that helps inmates transition back to society. This CCO used it as an opportunity to engage in victim empathy training. The project turned into something the organizer wasn’t even prepared for. So much education and hope was spread by a simple request.



I am a firm believer that everyone has their distinct talents and something to give. Big or small, you never know the impact you will have. One can quickly become some. Some can become many. And many can change the world. I appreciate getting to witness everyone striving for positive change in this community. It’s one of the things that makes hard jobs worth the heartache.

## Opportunities to Help Trafficking Program Needs

When a trafficking victim comes in, often times the only possessions they own are what is on their person. We are always in need of donations of the following items:

Shirts, pants, shoes, underwear, nylons and trouser socks, make up, skin care products such as body and facial wipes, feminine hygiene products, gift cards for food, gift certificates for haircuts or nails, and any other items a teen or adult survivor might need or want to help with the transition.



Any new or gently used business attire would also be helpful. Many of our victims need something professional to wear to court hearings, while others are working towards getting a job so having new attire for job interviews is crucial in this process. We have seen firsthand that having new clothes has given our clients confidence and made them feel better about themselves and their situation.

The trafficking program is in need of dry cleaning services or certificates. In the process of collecting donations of clothing, it would be beneficial to have them pressed and cleaned before giving them to clients.

We are also looking for donations of adult blankets. When we respond to a call with an adult individual, we would like to provide them with something comforting that humanizes them as well.

If you have any of the items listed above and are willing to provide them to our program, please call or stop in the office Monday thru Friday, 8am-5pm.

We greatly appreciate how our community supports these important programs!

[Donate](#)

# Building A Legacy - One Brick At A Time!

## Brick Prices

### Individual/Family

4x8 = \$50

8x8 = \$150

### Business/ Organization

4x8 = \$150

8x8 = \$500

Select pictures  
can be added  
online.

Order your brick today!!

<http://thatsmybrick.com/sarc>

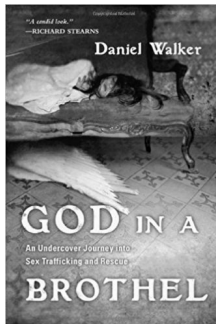


SUPPORT, ADVOCACY and RESOURCE CENTER

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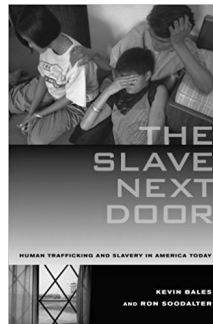
Library Resources



God in a Brothel  
An Undercover Journey into Sex  
Trafficking and Rescue

By: Daniel Walker

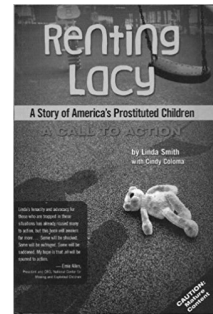
This is the true story of an undercover investigator's experiences infiltrating the multi-billion-dollar global sex industry. It is a story of triumph for the children and young teens released from a life of slavery and the rescuer who freed many hundreds of victims leading to the prosecution of dozens of perpetrators. And it is a story of haunting despair for those left behind in corrupt systems of law enforcement. It is the personal story of Daniel Walker, one man who followed a path of costly discipleship, agonizing failure and unlikely redemption. And it is a challenge to God's people to join in the battle that all might be freed.



The Slave Next Door  
Human Trafficking and Slavery in Amer-  
ican Today

By: Kevin Bales & Ron Soodalter

In The Slave Next Door we find that slaves are all around us, hidden in plain sight: the dishwasher in the kitchen of the neighborhood restaurant, the kids on the corner selling cheap trinkets, the man sweeping the floor of the local department store. In these pages we also meet some unexpected slaveholders, such as a 27-year old middle-class Texas housewife who is currently serving a life sentence for offences including slavery. Weaving together a wealth of voices, this book is also a call to action, telling what we, as private citizens, can do to finally bring an end to this horrific crime.



Renting Lacy- A Story of America's  
Prostituted Children

By: Linda Smith with Cindy Coloma

The average age of entry into prostitution in America is 13 years old. Forced into a life they never chose, manipulated, abused and tortured at the hands of the pimps who control them, our country's children are sold on the streets, on the internet and at truck stops across America every night. Author Linda Smith brings to life characters based on real stories and interviews with teen survivors. Get to know the men who sell them, and the ones who buy them. Let Renting Lacy draw you into the lives of these young girls as they struggle to survive each night, watching their childhood hopes and dreams slip away in the darkness. Let it compel you to action.



# THE VIGILANT

**Fall  
2017**

## Crime Types

- Sexual Assault
- Human Trafficking
- Attempted Homicide
- Assault
- Burglary
- Child Physical Abuse or Neglect
- DUI/DWI Crashes
- Elder Abuse
- Fraud
- Identity Theft
- Hate Crimes
- Property Crimes
- Homicide Survivors
- Kidnapping
- Property Crimes

## Inside this issue:

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Dear Readers,

As an advocate for crime victims, I would like to inform the community about Labor Trafficking. After reading The Vigilant, I hope you have a better understanding of Labor Trafficking.

Alejandra Cardoso  
Crime Victim Advocate

## Victim Story

A Global Journey to Help Her Family:

Lynette\* grew up in a very impoverished country. From a young age, she was expected to work in the house while taking care of her younger siblings. Once she finished school, she began looking for work abroad so that she could better support her family. She secured a job in Qatar which promised a salary and housing.

But after a few days in the country, Lynette was offered a new opportunity, this time to come to the United States for a childcare position with a wealthy family. Excited and eager to help her family, she jumped at the chance. But when Lynette arrived in the U.S., her dreams were crushed. Her employers forced her to take care of their medically ill child day and night. And while she had been promised free room and board, Lynette and others working for the family were denied access to proper clothing, food, and medical care. The workers were subjected to emotional and physical threats, and their identification was confiscated so they couldn't leave.

One day, Lynette and another housemate managed to escape, eventually managing to get all of her coworkers out. Local law enforcement connected Lynette to National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) and a crisis response team to help her find shelter and immediate medical care. Once her health and safety was ensured, she was matched with a case manager for legal counseling and emotional support.

She began working at an early education school as a substitute teacher and was eventually offered a permanent teaching position. She started taking classes at community college to receive her certification in child development and plans to continue working towards a degree in teaching, as she loves working and spending time with children. NHTRC continues to support her as she adjusts to life in the United States and works to become a permanent resident.

\*Name changed and model used to protect the identity of our clients

Source: <https://polarisproject.org/blog/2015/11/30/survivor-story-global-journey-help-her-family>



# Definition of Labor Trafficking

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) defines labor trafficking as: “The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.” A modern-day form of slavery, labor trafficking is a fundamental violation of human rights.

Source: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/resource/fact-sheet-labor-trafficking-english>

# Forms of Labor Trafficking

There are several forms of labor trafficking:

- Bonded labor or debt bondage is probably the least known form of labor trafficking today. Yet, it is the most widely used method of enslaving people. Victims become bonded laborers when their labor is demanded as a means of repayment for a loan or service in which terms and conditions have not been defined or the value of the victims’ services as reasonably assessed is not applied toward the liquidation of the debt. The value of their work is greater than the original sum of money “borrowed.”
- Forced labor is a situation in which victims are forced to work against their own will, under the threat of violence or some other form of punishment. Their freedom is restricted and a degree of ownership is exerted. Forms of forced labor can include domestic servitude, agricultural labor, sweatshop factory labor, janitorial, food service, and other service industry labor and begging.
- Child labor is a form of work that is likely to be hazardous to the health and/or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development of children and can interfere with their education. The International Labor Organization estimates worldwide that there are 246 million exploited children aged between 5 and 17 involved in debt bondage, forced recruitment for armed conflict, prostitution, pornography, the illegal drug trade, the illegal arms trade and other illicit activities around the world.

Source: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/resource/fact-sheet-labor-trafficking-english>

# The Causes of Labor Trafficking

Most forced labor occurs as dishonest employers take advantage of gaps in law enforcement to exploit vulnerable workers. These workers are vulnerable because of unemployment, poverty, crime, discrimination, corruption, political conflict, and cultural acceptance. Immigrants are particularly vulnerable. However, individuals are forced into labor trafficking in their own countries too.



Source: <https://2001-2009.state.gov/g/tip/rls/fs/08/108287.htm>

# Identifying Victims of Labor Trafficking

Victims of labor trafficking are not a homogenous group of people. Victims are young children, teenagers, men and women. Some of them enter the country legally on worker visas for domestic, “entertainment”, computer and agricultural work, while others enter illegally. Some work in legal occupations such as domestic, factory or construction work, while others work in illegal industries, such as the drug and arms trade or panhandling. Although there is no single way to identify victims of labor trafficking, some common patterns include:

- Victims are often kept isolated to prevent them from getting help. Their activities are restricted and are typically watched, escorted or guarded by associates of traffickers. Traffickers may “coach” them to answer questions with a cover story about being a student or tourist.
- Traffickers blackmail their victims by using the victims’ status as an undocumented alien or their participation in an “illegal” industry. Traffickers threaten victims by telling them they will report them to law enforcement or immigration officials, to keep them compliant.
- People who are trafficked often come from unstable and economically devastated places as traffickers frequently identify vulnerable populations characterized by oppression, high rates of illiteracy, little social mobility and few economic opportunities.
- Women and children are overwhelmingly trafficked in labor arenas because of their relative lack of power, social marginalization, and their overall status as compared to men.

Source: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/resource/fact-sheet-labor-trafficking-english>

# Health Impacts of Labor Trafficking

In addition to the human rights abuses that define their involuntary servitude, victims of labor trafficking suffer from a variety of physical and mental health problems:

- Various methods of forced labor expose victims of labor trafficking to physical abuse such as scars, headaches, hearing loss, cardiovascular/respiratory problems, and limb amputation. Victims of labor trafficking may also develop chronic back, visual and respiratory problems from working in agriculture, construction or manufacturing under dangerous conditions.
- The psychological effects of torture are helplessness, shame and humiliation, shock, denial and disbelief, disorientation and confusion, and anxiety disorders including posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), phobias, panic attacks, and depression.
- Many victims also develop Traumatic Bonding or “Stockholm Syndrome,” which is characterized by cognitive distortions where reciprocal positive feelings develop between captors and their trafficker. This bond is a type of human survival instinct and helps the victim cope with the captivity.
- Child victims of labor trafficking are often malnourished to the extent that they may never reach their full height, they may have poorly formed or rotting teeth, and later they may experience reproductive problems.

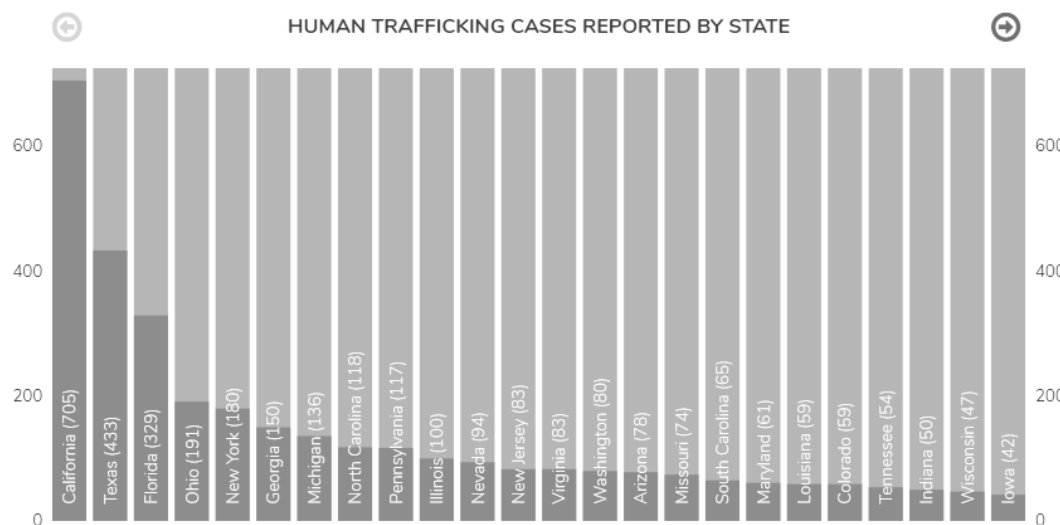
Source: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/resource/fact-sheet-labor-trafficking-english>

# Assistance for Victims of Labor Trafficking

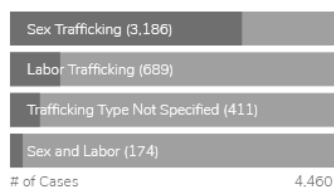
When victims of trafficking are identified, the U.S. government can help them stabilize their immigration status, and obtain support and assistance in rebuilding their lives in the United States through various programs. By certifying victims of trafficking, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) enables trafficking victims who are non-U.S. citizens to receive federally funded benefits and services to the same extent as a refugee. Victims of trafficking who are U.S. citizens do not need to be certified to receive benefits. As U.S. citizens, they may already be eligible for many benefits.

As a result, of the certification or eligibility letters issued by HHS, victims can access benefits and services including food, health care and employment assistance. Certified victims of trafficking can obtain access to services that provide English language instruction and skills training for job placement. Since many victims are reluctant to come forward for fear of being deported, one of HHS' most important roles is to connect victims with non-profit organizations, like the Support, Advocacy & Resource Center (SARC) to assist them and address their specific needs.

If you think you have come in contact with a victim of human trafficking, call SARC at (509) 374-5391 or the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888. Both hotlines will help you determine if you have encountered victims of human trafficking, will identify local resources available in your community to help these victims, and will help you coordinate with local social service organizations to help protect and serve victims so they can begin the process of restoring their lives.



## TYPE OF TRAFFICKING



# of Cases 4,460

## TOP VENUES/INDUSTRIES FOR LABOR TRAFFICKING



# of Cases

## TOP VENUES/INDUSTRIES FOR SEX TRAFFICKING



# of Cases

3,186

Source: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/resource/fact-sheet-labor-trafficking-english>

# SARC Program Reports



## SARC Crisis Program

During the 2016-2017 fiscal year, SARC served **334** new sexual assault victims, **15** new human trafficking victims and **196** new general crime victims.

### Types of Sexual Assault

Family Molestation:	30%
Acquaintance Molestation:	21%
Acquaintance Rape:	20%
Other/unknown:	11%
Family Rape:	7%
Stranger Rape:	3%
Date Rape:	2%
Adult Survivor:	3%
Marital Rape:	1%
Stranger Molestation:	1%
Sexual Harassment:	1%

SARC's Sexual Assault Advocates invested over **1,900 hours** providing advocacy for their clients. They also provided a total of **6,311 follow up services** and made **1,729 contacts** on behalf of their clients.

SARC's General Crimes Advocate and Human Trafficking Advocate invested **811 hours** into providing services for clients. They provided **3,968 follow up services** and made **702 contacts** on behalf of their clients.

### Crime Type

Harassment:	35%
Assault:	28%
Child Abuse:	10%
Trafficking:	7%
Robbery:	6%
Homicide:	5%
Kidnapping:	3%
Property Crimes:	3%
Identity Theft:	1%
Hate Crimes:	1%
Fraud/Forgery:	1%

### Age of Victim Sexual Assault

0 thru 5:	11%
6 thru 11:	28%
12 thru 18:	37%
19 thru 59:	22%
60+:	1%
Unknown:	1%

### Age of Victim General Crimes

0 thru 5:	5%
6 thru 11:	10%
12 thru 18:	15%
19 thru 59:	64%
60+:	5%
Unknown:	1%

*"The people I met and worked with were very kind and easy to talk to and it was a very safe, comfortable, and enjoyable location." - crime victim*

## Kids Haven Program

During the last half of the 2016-2017 fiscal year, **256 interviews** were conducted at Kids Haven.

### Crime Type

Sexual Abuse:	87%
Physical Abuse:	6%
Witness to Violence:	6%
Other:	1%

### Age of Victim

0-5:	19%
6-11:	53%
12-18:	28%
Over 19:	0%

### Gender

Female:	76%
Male:	24%

*"The person who spoke with our son was very open and personable!" - parent of a child interviewed*

## Prevention Program

SARC's Prevention Program provided **1,130 presentations** during the 2016-2017 fiscal year, reaching **29,721 individuals**. Additionally, through outreach efforts such as community fairs and media, **555,694 individuals** were reached.

### Programs

Body and Boundary Safety:	21
Harassment and Bullying Prevention:	274
Safe Bodies, Healthy Minds:	152
Creating Healthy Relationships:	127
Personal Body Safety:	136
SARC Services:	13
Technology Safety:	316
Other:	83
Parent Education:	7

*"I liked that there is always someone to help and options for the victim."*

*"This program can help others and help them stop suffering."*

*- student comments*

### Age of Audience

Preschool	275
K-2nd	4,875
3rd-5th	4,553
6th-8th	14,586
9th-12th	3,253
Adults	2,178

### Gender of Audience Members:

Female:	15,220
Male:	14,503

Due to our accreditation as a Children's Advocacy Center, we recently secured additional funding through a competitive grant process through the National Children's Alliance. This funding made it possible to send a talented group of people to the Crimes Against Children Conference in Dallas, Texas. We are so proud of this team! Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce, Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Pasco Police Department, Benton County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and SARC!



## New SARC Employee



SARC has hired a new employee!  
**Gabriela Navarro** is our new Sexual Assault Advocate. Gaby comes to us from Chiawana High School where she worked as a Student Intervention Supervisor for nearly 2 years. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Human Development from WSU Pullman and is bilingual (Spanish).  
**WELCOME TO THE SARC TEAM!**

## Volunteer Advocates

SARC volunteer advocates provided a total of **20,600 hours** for our after hours crisis and hospital lines.  
Thank you for your compassion and dedication for victims of crime in our community!

**Congratulations to the following individuals who recently completed our 32-hour Advocate Training in September:**

Evelyn Rios, Karen Browning, Heather Bair, Ruth Savage, Anna Olson, Kristy Kirby, Maya Ansong, and Anita Rodriguez



# SARC NEWS



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars

Nov 20	SARC Board Meeting
Nov 23-24	SARC Office Closed Thanksgiving
Dec 25-29	SARC Office Closed Holidays
Jan 25	SARC Office Closed
Feb 19	SARC Office Closed
March 19	SARC Board Meeting



### SARC Staff Members

JoDee Garretson <i>Executive Director</i>	Desiree Reynolds <i>Human Trafficking Advocate</i>
Mitzi Veng <i>Office Administrator</i>	Denise Martin <i>Prevention Specialist</i>
Jessica Ramirez <i>Program Administrator</i>	Andrea Garcia <i>Prevention Specialist</i>
Rosanna Herrera <i>Sexual Assault Advocate</i>	Anna Olson <i>Crisis Program Assistant</i>
Gabriela Navarro <i>Sexual Assault Advocate</i>	Andrea Aldous <i>Prevention Assistant</i>
Alejandra Cardoso <i>Crime Victim Advocate</i>	Anna Hahn <i>Clinical Director</i>

### Where Shopping & Giving Unite

Support SARC just by shopping at Fred Meyer with your Rewards Card. All you have to do is link your Rewards Card and scan it every time you shop at Fred Meyer. You can link your card and/or sign up for a rewards card in just 2 simple steps:

1. Sign into your account at:

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(you can obtain a rewards card on this same link if you do not have one)

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Please join and share—we appreciate your help!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support SARC every time you shop, at no cost to you.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate **0.5%** of the purchase price.

#### How do I shop at Amazon Smile?

To shop at Amazon Smile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device.

#### Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and Amazon Smile.

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On your first visit to Amazon Smile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)), select SARC. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation.

**Happy Shopping!!**

### SARC Board of Directors

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Kevin Hartze

**Vice President**  
Monica Cisneros

**Secretary**  
Marilyn Heasley

**Treasurer**  
Craig Littrell

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Adam Austin  
Jeff Escalera  
Jim Raymond  
Leslie Sievers  
Kari Skinner  
Tobaski Snipes



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*Striving for a "Community without Victims"*



## about the program

The Support, Advocacy & Resource Center serves Benton and Franklin Counties with sexual assault crisis and education services. We provide free and confidential assistance for victims of all crimes.

SARC also provides prevention education for our schools, day cares and community groups on sexual abuse and safety issues. Our services are available to all people regardless of age, gender, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or physical and mental ability.

The Washington State Office of Crime Victims Advocacy accredits SARC as a Community Sexual Assault Program. SARC is a member of the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs.

Services are provided through grants from the state and federal government, local and regional foundations, and through donations from our generous community.

The opinions expressed in the "Point of View" section of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of staff, board of directors, volunteers and sponsors of SARC.

The SARC Advocate is designed to educate, inform and promote community awareness regarding crime issues. Reader feedback and submissions are always welcome. Mail to: 1458 Fowler St, Richland, WA 99352 or contact us via e-mail.

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