

**What is Human Trafficking?**

“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, or for the purpose of exploitation.” United Nations

Trafficking takes on many forms: forced labor, sex trafficking, bonded labor, debt bondage among migrant laborers, involuntary domestic servitude, forced child labor and child soldiers.

*“Modern slaves are rarely held by chains, but instead slaveholders use violent force, fraud and/or psychological coercion.”* The Free Project

**Modern Day Slavery Statistics**

27 million people are victims of human trafficking. (Polaris Project)

Trafficking is a $32 billion a year industry. (Polaris Project)

70% of all slaves are women and up to 50% are children. (The Free Project)

Between 600,000 and 800,000 children, women and men are trafficked across international borders annually. (Us Department of State)

**The Face of Human Sex Trafficking in the Lehigh Valley**

 lehighvalleylive.com: An Allentown man, Corderro Cody, admitted that he forced 12 women into a sex trafficking ring was sentenced Friday to 30 years in federal prison. Cody was 28 when he [pleaded guilty](http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/allentown/index.ssf/2015/10/allentown_man_admits_to_runnin.html) to 15 sex trafficking charges on Oct. 30, 2015.

* The brutal prostitution ring he called "the program" ran from 2009 to 2014 in Allentown, Reading, Scranton, New York City and Maryland. Cody enticed women to join his group through online ads, then after a grooming period forced them to have sex for money.

**** *The Morning Call*: Isaac Pearson, 34, was convicted of human trafficking on February 3, 2016 in Lehigh County– making him the first person to be convicted by a jury under Pennsylvania’s reformed, comprehensive human trafficking statute, Act 105 (2014). On March 7, Lehigh County Common Pleas Court Judge Maria Dantos sent a message to traffickers when she sentenced Pearson to 17 to 34 years in prison – the maximum sentence allowed for human trafficking.

*The Morning Call*: “**Two admit role in Allentown prostitution ring: Daniel Blount and Deshawn King used drugs to keep women in sex trade in the Allentown area.”** January 13, 2014

Two Allentown men facing trial on sex-trafficking charges admitted they trapped heroin-addicted women in a prostitution ring that federal prosecutors described as “a horrific form of modern day slavery."

 [www.phillyburbs.com](http://www.phillyburbs.com): “A 16-year-old girl who ran away from home and became the victim of a Philadelphia pimp urged other children involved in prostitution to seek help.” June 12, 2013

**What Can YOU Do?**

1. Educate Yourself and Others

“Upon the subject of education...I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in.” Abraham Lincoln

1. Learn more online:
* VAST – The Valley Against Sex Trafficking: www.thevast.org
* Truth for Women – www.truthforwomencenter.org
* International Justice Mission – www.ijm.org
* Polaris Project – www.polarisproject.org
* Not For Sale: End Human Trafficking and Slavery - www.notforsalecampaign.org
* Free the Slaves – www.freetheslaves.net
* The Free Project – www.thefreeproject.org
* Call + Response – www.callandresponse.org
* 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report by the US Department of State - [www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2012/](http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2012/)
* Slavery Footprint – [www.slaveryfootprint.org](http://www.slaveryfootprint.org)
* Renaissance Male Project - [www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/renaissancemaletenthings4fin.pdf](http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/renaissancemaletenthings4fin.pdf)
1. In person: VAST bimonthly meetings ([www.thevast.org](http://www.thevast.org))
2. Educate Yourself and Others
3. Tell others (through events, movies, blogging, newspaper articles etc...)
4. Host movie screenings: *Nefarious*, *Sex and Money*, etc.
5. Invite VAST speakers ([www.thevast.org](http://www.thevast.org))
6. Advocate
7. Support organizations fighting human trafficking (see list above)
8. Email/speak to companies, hold them accountable and demand fair labor practices
(www.chainstorereaction.com)
9. Find ways to support your local law enforcement
10. Volunteer at VAST or Truth for Women
11. Map it - tell others where trafficking is happening in your area and help law enforcement investigate (slaverymap.org)
12. Advocate at the government level (write, call, or meet with your elected representatives)
13. Support, join, or use as an example businesses that are taking a stand against trafficking (check out thecode.org or Truckers Against Trafficking)
14. Help VAST with poster blitzes, meeting with government and law enforcement officials
15. Be creative: use your gifts, talents, and passions to creatively support this cause (i.e. like running -- host a 5K; like art -- create an art project to raise awareness)
16. Challenge yourself and others to think and act from a counter-cultural perspective
17. Change your language: “traffickers” instead of pimps; “victims of human sex trafficking” instead of prostitutes, sex workers
18. Speak out against myths that work to excuse using women and youth for sexual purposes,

about behaviors that support marginalizing people from other countries

1. Consider how your spending supports slavery:
2. Buy ethically
	* 1. Download free2work app and use it when shopping
		2. Visit [www.dontbuyfakes.com](http://www.dontbuyfakes.com) to learn how buying counterfeit goods supports slavery and organized crime
		3. Search for fair trade coffee, chocolate, and other items
		4. Buy from organizations that support victims or sell gifts made by survivors (www.madebysurvivors.com)
3. Shop at thrift shops
4. Buy local
5. Buy less

6. Support victims

A. Do not use victims for cheap labor or for sexual purposes

B. Do not support traffickers

C. Notice victims: become aware of possible signs of trafficking, ask questions

D. Report suspicions: **If you see something, say something (call the Human Trafficking Hotline,**

 **888-3737-888)**

 E.Pray - don't underestimate the power of prayer

7. Donate your time and money to organizations, such as VAST (www.thevast.org ) and Truth for Women (www.truthforwomencenter.org)