

## Support LGBTQ Youth

- LGBT youth are especially vulnerable to being trafficked; more than 30% of trafficked people that the Urban Justice Center's Sex Workers Project encounters experienced LGBT discrimination in their families.
- **Support shelter beds for homeless youth** and other direct services for teenagers at risk.

## Be an informed consumer

- **Learn about the supply chain.** [www.knowthechain.org](http://www.knowthechain.org) has a database of over 5,000 companies' statements about their anti-trafficking efforts, if any. Shop at and invest in businesses with clear guidelines backed by third-party, ongoing, on-the-ground monitoring.
- **Buy Fair Trade chocolate**, which has made inroads against child slavery in the cacao industry. Other industries, such as coffee, have not had documented impacts from Fair Trade — and the effectiveness in chocolate has also come under scrutiny recently. Keep in mind that organic and Fair Trade are not the same, though organic farms may be healthier environments for farmworkers. So that we can celebrate Passover in sweetness, and without the bitterness of exploitation, T'ruah offers Fair Trade, kosher for Passover chocolate through a partnership with Equal Exchange: <http://shop.equalexchange.coop/pesach>
- **Memorize the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline: 1-888-3737-888.** Text: "BeFree" (233733). Call 24/7 if you suspect you've discovered a case of trafficking. The hotline is set up to assist survivors and victims, so it cannot provide general information, but the organization Polaris, which runs the hotline, has excellent online resources.
- **Let your elected representatives know this is a priority for you.** Hearing from constituents can help representatives learn about the issue and become motivated to work on it.

## What You Can Do

**The best ways to fight trafficking are to address its root causes and to support survivors. Harsher penalties for traffickers are ineffective at best; at worst, they focus our attention narrowly and prevent effective solutions from seeing the light of day.**

### Advocate for policy fixes

- **More dedicated shelter beds and beds for single people.** Many homeless shelters won't take trafficking survivors, who understandably have different needs than other homeless people. Other shelters, operating in the domestic violence framework, are for mothers with children, but many trafficking survivors are single.
- **More and better "vacatur" laws.** These laws allow for criminal convictions to be vacated (erased) when the crime, including sex work, was performed under duress. As of 2019, 40 states and D.C. had such laws, but many are limited, dysfunctional, or only cover prostitution; only Nebraska, Wyoming, and Florida received a grade of B or C in a report by Polaris. For more information, visit [www.polarisproject.org/RecordRelief](http://www.polarisproject.org/RecordRelief)

### Call for better immigration policy

- Militarized borders make trafficking more likely, not less.
- Guestworker visa policies have built-in flaws that can trap workers.
- Fear of deportation makes undocumented immigrants more vulnerable to traffickers.

### Support survivors

- **Support the National Survivor Network**, in which survivors have banded together to advocate for the policies they believe will be effective. They have survivors who speak publicly; be prepared to pay an honorarium as you would for any other guest speaker. <https://nationalsurvivornetwork.org>
- Make sure that anti-trafficking campaigns you join are **led by survivors** and/or trusted experts in human trafficking. Be cautious of organizations using the language of abolition or targeting all people involved in sex work.

and in which nobody enters commercial sex out of economic need. At the same time, in today's world there may be people for whom commercial sex might be the best of their limited options.

Trafficking is less prevalent in the United States than in other parts of the world, but we consume many goods that have been produced abroad through forced labor. These include chocolate, sugar, fruits and vegetables, cars, coffee, clothing, and electronics. That is why supply-chain activism, which works on transparency and enforceable policies that reduce exploitation, is so important.

Eight reasons forced labor still exists today:

1. Global poverty
2. Migration
3. Turmoil that leaves children orphaned or abandoned
4. Demand for cheap goods and high profits
5. Flawed visa policies
6. Corruption in law enforcement and government
7. The low status of women
8. Discrimination against LGBTQ people, particularly children

An average slave in the American South in 1850 cost the equivalent of \$40,000 in modern dollars; today a slave costs an average, worldwide, of \$90.<sup>26</sup>

## By the Numbers

The most recent estimate of global human trafficking by the International Labor Organization (ILO), from 2017, totaled 24.9 million people.<sup>27</sup> Of these, about 16 million were in forced labor, with women slightly outnumbering men 4:3. About 4.8 million suffered sex trafficking, including 29,000 men. (The data set did not specify how trans people were counted.) The remainder were held in state-imposed forced labor. Children experience both forced labor and sex trafficking, at roughly equal rates (18 percent and 21 percent of the total, respectively).

In the United States, the Polaris Project, which operates the National Trafficking Hotline, identified almost 11,000 trafficking cases in 2018, occurring in every state and D.C.<sup>28</sup> This number has increased every year since the Hotline was established.

According to a 2014 ILO study, human trafficking produces annual profits of \$150 billion worldwide, a threefold increase from their prior estimate. Two-thirds of the profit was attributed to sex trafficking, even though numerically labor trafficking is more prevalent.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.freetheslaves.net/page.aspx?pid=301>

<sup>27</sup> [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms\\_575479.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_575479.pdf)

<sup>28</sup> <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states>

<sup>29</sup> [https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_243201/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_243201/lang--en/index.htm)

## Partner Organizations

Rely on organizations that are part of Freedom Network or ATEST, the Alliance To End Slavery and Trafficking. Follow them on social media, particularly ones near you.

### Examples include:

ATEST: @ATEST

Coalition of Immokalee Workers (based in Florida): @CIW, @Allianceforfairfood

Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (based in LA): @CASTLA

Damayan Migrants (based in NYC): @DamayanMigrants

Freedom Network: @FreedomNetUSA

Free the Slaves: @freetheslaves

Global Freedom Center: @G1blFreedomCtr

National Domestic Workers Alliance: @domesticworkers

Polaris Project: @Polaris\_Project

Urban Justice Center's Sex Workers Project: @UJCSexWorkers

## Appendix: Human Trafficking 101

Trafficking occurs when workers are exploited through force, fraud, or coercion. There does not have to be any movement across borders for an act to qualify as trafficking; trafficking is primarily a crime of control.

Trafficking is the extreme endpoint of a spectrum of labor abuses, which includes wage theft, unpredictable working hours, unsafe working conditions, and others. The system of values and policies that does not guarantee paid parental or sick leave and enables many Americans to pay domestic workers off the books, when taken to its extreme, enables trafficking.

“Human trafficking” is a human rights-based approach to this issue, with which

T'ruah aligns. It minimizes the distinction between labor and sex trafficking, viewing it as artificial, since sex-work is a form of labor and many people who are trafficked for labor also suffer sexual assault. This approach views the distinction as playing into sexist and evangelical tropes which have been used to direct funding and attention to just one sector of a broad trafficking problem. Nevertheless, the distinction is built into federal law (the Trafficking Victims Protection Act) and international research, so it cannot be fully ignored.

There are different opinions within the anti-trafficking community on whether a person might voluntarily sell their body for sex. Our religious ideals lead us to envision a world in which sexual relations are sacred,