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INTRODUCTION

If you hold back from rescuing those taken away to death, those who go staggering to the slaughter; if you say, "Look, we did not know this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it? And will he not repay all according to their deeds?

Proverbs 24:11-12

While many Americans know that children are sold for sex overseas, too many believe the U.S. is immune from this crime. The commercial sexual exploitation of children is indeed a reality in the United States. It is one of the worst forms of child abuse. Children deserve to live in a safe, healthy, and loving environment free from abuse or threats of violence. Unfortunately, there are criminals – both traffickers and buyers of sex – who do not believe in or adhere to such basic values. Christians are called upon by God to challenge injustice and cherish all children. Just as Jacob acknowledged the gracious gift God had given him in his own children (Genesis 33:5), we should do the same not only for our own children but all children. They are each a gift and, as with us, God has counted each hair on their heads (Matthew 10:30). How will we answer Him when He asks if we did all we could to protect them?

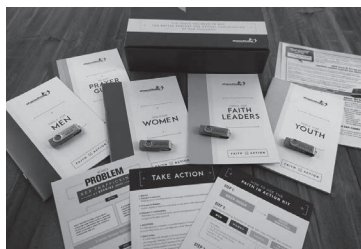
This short resource was created to provide Christians with ways to make an impact. At the end of the resource, you will find more information on research, videos, books and other resources that could be helpful in your activities and community efforts.

INVEST IN TOOLS TO EDUCATE YOUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY



Faith Initiatives

We engage individuals nationwide who are seeking a Biblical perspective and encourage them to understand what sex-trafficking in the US is and empower them with tools to train their church and community.



Faith in Action Kit

Designed to equip church leaders with the most comprehensive array of tools to raise awareness in their community. The kit prepares the user to educate men, women, youth, and faith leaders with audience-appropriate resources about the issue of sex-trafficking.



[Sharedhope.org/faithinaction/](https://sharedhope.org/faithinaction/)

Subscribe to monthly call to action emails with prayer focus and tune in to the Faith Webinar Series. Utilize the 30 Days of Prayer guide to continue praying daily.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: FOOD FOR THE MIND AND HEART

...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

Because of the love we have for our most vulnerable, people of all faiths and political persuasion feel compelled by the issue of child sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. In fact, this crossover appeal is an incredible benefit to the fight against sex trafficking of children. It helps us become more effective because we are stronger together than working apart. Although good people may disagree on some finer points of addressing this crime, we have great reason to come together to fight for victims and work for their protection.

This strength is especially important as we realize how difficult a challenge we face. The children at risk are our own. The men who buy sex from them are from our communities; they are fathers, sons, teachers, judges, taxi drivers, and local leaders. If we are to stop all forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children, we must address how demand fuels this abuse. Combating and preventing this crime requires patience, self-reflection, collaboration, and faith.

Here are just a few things to keep in mind while looking for ways to prevent abuse and make an impact for victims:

► 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.

► 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.

► 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 Defenders USA (sharedhope.org/defenders/) and the Just Men campaign (justmenaz.org) are examples of national programs that men in your community can support.

► 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 farther 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 ultimate impact of meeting a seemingly small need may not be immediately obvious.

► 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.

► 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.

JOSHUA 3:15-17

“and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), ¹⁶ the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷ Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.”

OVERVIEW: THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN THE U.S.

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute.
Speak up and judge fairly;
defend the rights of the poor and needy”

Proverbs 31: 8-9

The issue of child sex trafficking and exploitation is complex. Here is a basic overview of the issue. For further reading on the topic, please see the end of this resource for recommendations.

- When a child under 18 is induced to perform a commercial sex act, sex trafficking has taken place. It does not require movement of the child over state or national borders, although movement is common. Commercial sexual exploitation includes the use of children for prostitution, sex tourism, creation of sexual child abuse materials in pornography, and sexual performance such as stripping. Trading anything of value for a sex act makes it child sex trafficking. This includes food, shelter, transportation, protection, drugs, as well as money.
- Victims come from a variety of racial, ethnic, geographic, gender, and socio-economic backgrounds. They are recruited and sold in big cities and small towns.

► Runaway and homeless youth are especially vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation. A history of sexual or physical abuse can also put a child at high risk for sex trafficking.

► Traffickers and buyers, who are all predators, often use emotional manipulation to lure children into their sphere of control. They use violence to keep children submissive. Although some victims do not have a trafficker in their lives, all sexually exploited children experience violence at the hands of buyers/offenders.

► Regardless of gender, home situation, trafficker involvement, or other risk factors, all commercially sexually exploited children experience violence and danger

at the hands of buyers/offenders. This violence and the act of selling sex itself have physical and mental health consequences for the child. These include substance abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, suicidal ideation, and self-mutilation.

PRAYING FOR HELP AND HEALING

Many Psalms seem to fit the distress experienced by a person trapped in sexual exploitation. These Psalms can be used for prayer with a victim of trafficking. Note especially Psalms 10, 140 and 142.

Read the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) and substitute the imagery of the traveler for the image of a beaten and raped child.

Mercy includes concern and care for those that are traffickers and buyers. Many of them learned to abuse from being abused themselves. Justice is appropriate but we should not withhold our compassion and prayers.

FOURTEEN WAYS CHRISTIANS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when
it is in your power to do it.

Proverbs 3:27

Whether you have an hour, a day, or a week to dedicate, there is something for everyone. Here are 14 ways you can help:

1. Become well educated on this issue. Make sure you understand the issue and learn as much as possible about what life is really like for sex trafficking victims. Then educate others.
2. Learn how to identify a victim of human trafficking or child sex trafficking and where to report it. Links to information on signs of trafficking are included at the end of this resource. Put the National Human Trafficking Hotline in your cell phone today: 1-888-373-7888. 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 or 1-800-THELOST. Report anonymously to cybertipline.org.
3. 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 them. Go through the appropriate and proper channels to assist victims.
4. Volunteer and mentor. Look for opportunities to serve

in homeless shelters, soup kitchens, pregnancy resource centers, etc. All of these services are serving trafficking victims sometimes without realizing it.

5. Develop a relationship with a service provider so they can get to know and trust you. For example, let them know if a child expresses spiritual interest, you are available to mentor, do a Bible study, etc. But as a first step, invest time and attention needed to complete the volunteer training they offer or recommend. This is how you can be prepared to assist in whatever ways the organization feels best fits their needs.

6. Educate your fellow church members at community events and fairs. Download the materials listed at the end of this document and share information about federal or state legislation and the issue in general. Use Shared Hope's youth sex trafficking prevention tools such as Chosen and Internet Safety resources to educate youth to protect themselves.

7. Encourage your congregation to use the Shared Hope Faith-In-Action kit. There are many resources in the kit for bible study groups, book clubs and movie nights. A list of films and books on human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation are listed in the next chapter.

8. Donate professional assistance. Shelters and outreach organizations may need doctors, therapists or dentists to provide pro bono services for victims of sex trafficking. The organization may need a lawyer, accountant, or marketing expert to assist them on a project. Reach out to your local human trafficking coalition, shelters and/or organizations to see how you can provide your expertise. Business professionals are invaluable board members.

9. Donate to your local trafficking or runaway shelter. Runaway and homeless children are highly vulnerable to

exploitation. Providing shoes, warm clothes, and other items to the shelter will give children some of the necessities of life. Call your local runaway program to find out what they need.

10. Schedule a speaker to visit your congregation. There are many experts on the issue of sex trafficking of children and survivors who wish to share their expertise and to raise awareness. Ask local organizations for recommendations; Shared Hope also accepts online requests for speakers.

11. Donate to Shared Hope or call local organizations to find out what they need and help raise the necessary funds. Organizations that assist victims and prevent abuse have little funding available to them. Do not feel your church has to raise \$500K for a new shelter in order to help. A small infusion of funds could help an organization do things it has wanted to do, like conduct research, fix a leaky roof, or buy a van to reach children in crisis who call for help. Some traffickers engage in the horrific practice of tattooing their victims, “branding” them like property. Raising funds for tattoo removal is also a way to bring healing.

12. Support state and federal legislation. Political

THE POWER OF SMALL THINGS

“We cannot do great things on this Earth, only small things with great love.”

-Mother Teresa

“My personal life may be crowded with small, petty incidents, altogether unnoticeable and mean, but if I obey Jesus Christ in the haphazard circumstances, they become pinholes through which I see the face of God, and when I stand face to face with God I shall discover that through my obedience thousands were blessed.”

-Oswald Chambers

My Utmost for his Highest,
P.313

advocacy at the national, state and local levels is an effective way to respond to the Gospel call to protect the poor and oppressed. Visit sharedhope.org/actioncenter/ for state and federal legislation aimed at addressing the issue of human trafficking, child sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, child welfare and similar issues.

13. Write about it. If you write a personal blog, take part in your church newsletter publication, or develop other forms of media, consider addressing the topic of child sex trafficking and exploitation in your writing.

14. Talk about it; lead by example. Be a safe adult. Listen non-judgementally. Care. If you are a church or community leader, engage your community in a dialogue about the sex trafficking of children and the broader topic of commercial sex and the sexualization of children. You don't have to be a public official or expert. Every parent, older brother or sister, or aunt or uncle is a model for the children in their lives.

Invest in tools to educate your church and community.

RESOURCES

PREVENTION RESOURCES

School education materials include the Chosen Plus package on USB with additional tools to further discussion, learning, and more!

Available in Spanish and English.



Chosen

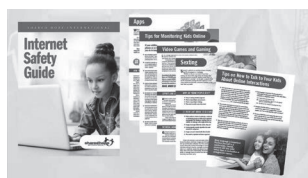
The Chosen film series teaches youth the warning signs of grooming through the true stories of two teenage girls who were manipulated by traffickers. Audiences learn how pimps and gangs lure teens and others. The resources package includes additional educational tools to help further discussion, learning, and action!



YouthOnline.sharedhope.org

Social Media Safety 101: Recognizing and Fighting Online Sex Trafficking, a website created by youth for teens and tweens.

A step-by-step resource on how to stop predators and protect others.

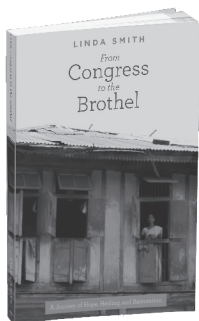


Online Safety: Parent Guide

Shared Hope's plan is to put these tools into the hands of as many adults as possible by providing free downloads of comprehensive tools for parents, teachers, and anyone who works with youth, to protect children from

the traps predators lay. With our years of research and our experience in the field, we developed a comprehensive Internet Safety Toolkit - made with parents in mind. This critical information will help you keep the children in your life safe from internet-based danger. Tools help you raise awareness of grooming tactics, equip adults with knowledge of technology dangers, and provide tangible "how-to" safety steps. Visit sharedhope.org/internetsafety/ to download.

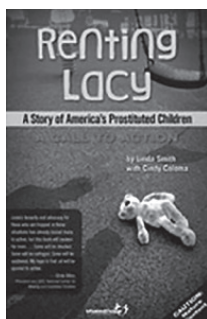
BOOKS



From Congress to the Brothel: A Journey of Hope, Healing, and Restoration (2007)

– By Linda Smith

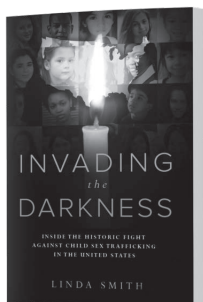
Walk with Linda as she relives her life-altering journey that began in one of the worst brothel districts in India. Hear her extraordinary encounter of child sex slavery around the globe.



Renting Lacy: A Story of America's Prostituted Children (2009)

– By Linda Smith

Based on actual encounters, Linda exposes the underworld of child sex trafficking in America by telling the stories of those who live there, the traffickers, the buyers and the victims who struggle to survive each night.

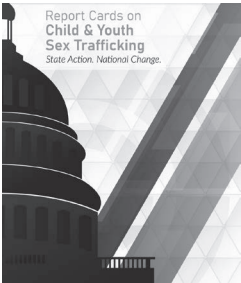


Invading the Darkness: Inside the Historic Fight Against Child Sex Trafficking in the USA (2019)

– By Linda Smith

Linda takes you inside the historic fight against child sex trafficking in the United States. Hear from movement leaders within the book's 296 pages of compelling insight, information, and inspiration. Join us as a light in the darkness - help us change the culture and transform lives!

TRAFFICKING RESEARCH

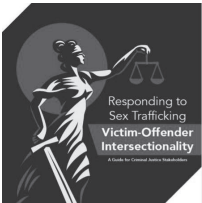


Report Cards Toolkit

The Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking grades every state and D.C. based on six key issue areas related to ending child and youth sex trafficking and protecting victims. You can view your state's grade at reportcards.sharedhope.org/ to learn more about how we analyze states' laws, identify legislative gaps and review recommendations to raise your state's grade.

To identify the important issues for your state, review your state's Analysis Report, which includes recommendations for addressing legislative gaps under the advanced legislative framework.

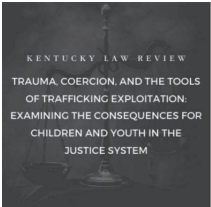
Reports



Sex Trafficking
Victim Offender
Intersectionality: A
Guide for Criminal
Justice Stateholders
(2020)



JuST Response Council
Protective Response
Model (2016)



Collaborative Report
in the Kentucky Law
Journal (2021)

Take Action

Visit our Advocacy Action Center at act.sharedhope.org/actioncenter to see how you can help change legislation at the state and federal level and share important resources with your elected officials. We've made it easy for you to take action in just a few clicks!

ONLINE TRAINING COURSES

Each online training package includes instruction and videos, and a PDF Guide download upon completion of the course.

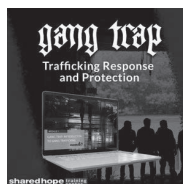
Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

This course offers understanding of the issue of sex trafficking of minors in the USA including the law, victim vulnerabilities, trafficker tactics, and effective responses for agencies and organizations. (40 min video)



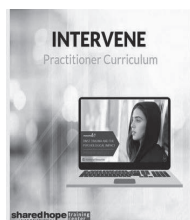
Gang TRAP Training

To address the growing trend of sex trafficking and criminal street gangs, this course targets law enforcement, service providers and prosecutors. They receive instruction on gang dynamics, recruitment and control tactics, common professional challenges with these cases, as well as therapeutic response and collaboration, (60 min video)



Intervene: Identifying and Responding to America's Prostituted Youth

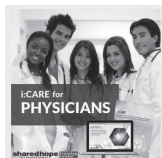
Designed for service providers and clinicians to improve identification and response to victims of sex trafficking through a tiered set of intake questions. The practitioner guide offers first-hand guidance how to interact with, and provide trauma-informed care for survivors. (86 min video)

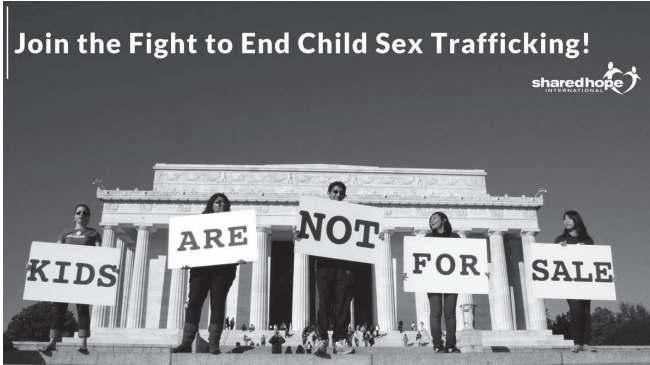


i:Care

Comprehensive understanding of sex trafficking to inform health care providers

to recognize and respond in the urgent care setting. Three courses address the effects of both psychological and physical trauma, featuring survivor vignettes and perspectives for EMS, RN, and MDs. (20 min video)





IF YOU SEE...REPORT!

Pimps/traffickers often exhibit the following behaviors or characteristics:

- ▶ Jealous, controlling and violent
- ▶ Significantly older than young male or female companions
- ▶ Promise things that seem too good to be true
- ▶ Encourage victims to engage in illegal activities to achieve their goals and dreams
- ▶ Buys expensive gifts or owns expensive items
- ▶ Is vague about his/her profession
- ▶ Pushy or demanding about sex
- ▶ Encourages inappropriate sexual behavior
- ▶ Makes the victim feel responsible for the pimp's financial stability
- ▶ Very open about financial matters

Warning signs that an individual is being trafficked:

- ▶ Signs of physical abuse such as burn marks, bruises or cuts
- ▶ Unexplained absences from class
- ▶ Less appropriately dressed than before
- ▶ Sexualized behavior
- ▶ Overly tired in class
- ▶ Withdrawn, depressed, distracted or checked out
- ▶ Brags about making or having lots of money
- ▶ Displays expensive clothes, accessories or shoes
- ▶ New tattoo (tattoos are often used by pimps as a way to brand victims. Tattoos of a name, symbol of money or barcode could indicate trafficking)
- ▶ Older boyfriend or new friends with a different lifestyle
- ▶ Talks about wild parties or invites other students to attend parties
- ▶ Shows signs of gang affiliation (i.e.) a preference for specific colors, notebook doodles of gang symbols, etc.)

You can be the difference!



The gift you give today will support and empower victims and survivors of sex trafficking and provide justice to those survivors through our policy initiatives. Your gift will prevent the crime of sex trafficking from ever happening to our more vulnerable.

You are providing hope one life at a time, and we greatly appreciate your partnership.

Your gift today will prevent, restore and bring justice to survivors of sex trafficking around the world.

☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250
☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$2,500 ☐ other amount

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Mail check to: Shared Hope International, PO Box 1907

Vancouver, WA 98668-1907

Go to sharedhope.org/donate/ to make a recurring or electronic monthly donation.