

## WHO WE ARE

The Palm Beach County Human Trafficking Task Force was established in 2017, in part through funding provided by the Department of Justice. The Task Force was established to combat human trafficking in Palm Beach County through a collaborative, victim centered, trauma informed framework. Task Force partners include local, state, and federal law enforcement and prosecution agencies, local, state, federal, non-governmental, and faith-based victim service provider agencies, community stakeholders, and other invested partners. Collaborative efforts are directed toward identifying, rescuing, and restoring victims; investigating and prosecuting trafficking crimes; and building awareness about trafficking in and around our community.

## FAST FACTS

- \$150 Billion Dollar Industry World Wide
- Estimated 20.9 million victims of Human Trafficking World Wide
  - 68% trapped in Forced Labor
  - 26% are Children
  - 55% are Female
- Estimated 400,000 - 650,000 Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States
  - Majority of Victims are U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents
  - 13 is the Average Age of U.S. Children Forced into Sex Trafficking
  - 1 in 5 Runaways Report Being Forced into Sex Trafficking
- FLORIDA Ranks #3 in the Nation for Suspected Cases of Human Trafficking
- PALM BEACH COUNTY Ranks #3 in Florida for Suspected Cases of Human Trafficking

*\*Data obtained from: International Labor Organization Global Estimate of Forced Labor, Polaris, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, United States Department of State, and United States Trafficking in Persons Reports.*

**For More Information Visit:**  
[www.pbso.org/human-trafficking](http://www.pbso.org/human-trafficking)

## WHERE TO REPORT?

*To report a suspected case of Human Trafficking please contact:*

**National Human Trafficking  
Resource Center (NHTRC)**

**1-888-373-7888**

or

**Text "BeFree" 233733**

**In the event of an emergency  
situation which requires  
immediate attention,  
Contact 911**

## TASK FORCE INFORMATION

To request information or training please contact the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Human Trafficking Unit at 561-687-6838 or email us at [HumanTrafficking@pbso.org](mailto:HumanTrafficking@pbso.org)

## VICTIM SERVICES INFORMATION

For more information regarding **Task Force victim services** or to make a victim services referral, directly, please contact:

Catholic Charities of the Diocese Of Palm Beach, Inc. Anti-Trafficking Program Program  
Email: [AHT@ccdpb.org](mailto:AHT@ccdpb.org)  
Contact Phone: (561) 701-4360

Catholic Charities' Local Hotline  
(561) 598-9848 (for immediate referral only)

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# Human Trafficking

## MISSION STATEMENT

*"The Palm Beach County Human Trafficking Task Force was established to combat all forms of human trafficking through a collaborative, victim centered, trauma informed framework by identifying, rescuing, and restoring victims; by investigating and prosecuting trafficking crimes; and by building awareness about trafficking in and around our community."*



## THE LAW

**Florida Statute § 787.06** defines Human Trafficking as the transporting, soliciting, recruiting, harboring, providing, enticing, maintaining, or obtaining another person for the purpose of exploitation of that person.

**Sex Trafficking** is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age, for the purposes of a commercial sex act, which is any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person. (22 USC § 7102)

**Labor Trafficking** is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. (22 USC § 7102)

## TRAFFICKING CAN INCLUDE VARIOUS FORMS OF EXPLOITATION

### Sex Trafficking

- Prostitution • Pornography • Escort Services • Brothels
- Bride Trafficking • Massage Parlors • “Strip Clubs”
  - Truck Stops • Major Sporting Events • Casinos

### Labor Trafficking

- Domestic Servitude • Construction • Restaurant Work
- Agricultural Work • Landscape Work • Nail Salons
- Hotel Housekeeping • Factories/Sweatshops

## BREAKING THROUGH: QUESTIONS TO ASK

- Do you have your personal identification?
  - Can you come and go as you please?
    - Where do you sleep? And Eat?
- Do you live with your employer or anyone else?
  - Can you leave your job if you wanted to?
- Have you been hurt or threatened for trying to leave?
  - Has your family been hurt or threatened?
    - Are you in debt to your employer?
- Do your family/friends know where you are?

## Elements of Human Trafficking

### ACTS

Any or all of the following:

Transporting  
Soliciting  
Recruiting  
Harboring  
Providing  
Enticing  
Maintaining  
Obtaining



### MEANS

Any or all of the following:

Force (Actual/Threat)  
Threat to harm family members  
Restraint/Isolation (or threat)  
Withholding/destroying documents  
Financial harm (or threat)  
Debt  
Fraud  
Deceit



### PURPOSE

Exploitation for:  
Commercial sex  
Labor  
Services

*\*Minors involved in commercial sex do not need to prove MEANS to be considered a crime of human trafficking. Under Florida State Statute, any prostitution or solicitation of a minor is considered Sex Trafficking.*

## POTENTIAL INDICATORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING: RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS

Is the person free to leave, come and go as they wish?

Is the person unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips?

Does the person work excessively long and/or unusual hours?

Is the person not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work?

Does the person owe a large debt and is unable to pay it off?

Was the person recruited under false promises concerning the nature and conditions of their work?

Does the person live at their place of employment?

Does the person live with multiple people in a cramped space?

Is the person in the commercial sex industry and do they have a pimp/manager?

Is the person under the age of 18 and providing commercial sex acts?

Does the person appear overly anxious, fearful, paranoid?

Does the person avoid eye contact?

Does the person appear depressed, hopeless, exhibit self-destructive behaviors?

Does the person appear to suffer from substance abuse disorders or post-traumatic stress?

Is the person malnourished, exhibit untreated wounds, have older broken bones?

Does the person have burn marks, bite marks, or branding tattoos?

Is the person in control or possession of their personal identification, travel documents, money, financial records, bank account?

Does the person have few or no personal possessions?

If a minor, is the person enrolled in school?