



# Did You Know?

November 2015

Human trafficking is not a topic commonly discussed, but is said to be one of the fastest-growing activities “of trans-national organizations.” Human trafficking is the modern-day version of slavery. Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to obtain and/or control others for the use of sexual or labor purposes. Human trafficking happens within, and between nations. The United States is not exempt from this horrible act. In fact, in 2013, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline received calls about human trafficking cases in all 50 states and D.C. Western New York is highly susceptible to trafficking due to its close proximity to New York City and the Canadian border.

## Facts about Human Trafficking:

- Victims are lured in under false pretenses. Traffickers also often use deception, debt bondage, and other manipulative tactics to trap their victims.
- Sex trafficking is quite popular in the U.S. Victims often work on online escort websites, in residential brothels, brothels disguised as massage and spa parlors, and some even work as street prostitutes.
- Human trafficking for the purpose of free labor is also very common. Victims have been found working as servants in people’s homes, on large farms, as sales crews, and even in restaurants and carnivals.
- It is estimated that there are about 20.9 million trafficking victims globally.
  - About 5.5 million of these victims are children
  - Fifty-five percent of the victims are women and girls
- Those who are particularly vulnerable to becoming trafficked victims include: youth who are runaway or homeless, individuals who are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault, those who identify as LGBTQ, or those who suffer from social discrimination.
- Human trafficking and drug trafficking often go hand-in-hand. Human trafficking victims are oftentimes exploited to transport drugs across borders.

## What Can You Do?

- REPORT IT! If you are aware of a human trafficking incident (or possible human trafficking incident), report it to local law enforcement or to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at **1-888-373-7888**.
- LEARN MORE! Attend our training on November 18<sup>th</sup>

## November 18th - Cyber Safety & A Look into the World of Human Trafficking

By: *Renee DeLuke, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Tara Hughes, LCSW-R, International Institute of Buffalo*

**Renee DeLuke** from the *National Center for Missing & Exploited Children* will discuss basic internet safety concepts, cyberbullying, sexting, and how to stay safe against online predators.

**Tara Hughes** from the *International Institute of Buffalo* will join us for the second half of the training to continue the discussion of predators and lead the conversation to talk about human trafficking. Her training will focus on all forms of human trafficking. The role of alcohol and other drugs into human trafficking will also be discussed.

Please contact **Cassandra Haylett** to [register](#) call 716.831.2298 or email [chaylett@eccpasa.org](mailto:chaylett@eccpasa.org)

Class cost: \$20



Sources: [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org), [www.traffickingresourcecenter.org](http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org),

USE for PRESS RELEASE More info: Megan Dumpleton 716-831-2298 [megan@eccpasa.org](mailto:megan@eccpasa.org)

The Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Inc., publishes Did You Know, a regular update about alcohol & other drugs - - America’s #1 public health problem. ECCPASA • 1625 Hertel Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216 • 716-831-2298 • [www.eccpasa.org](http://www.eccpasa.org)