



**Howard County
Human Trafficking Task Force**

Recommendations

Howard County Council

December 1, 2014

Howard County Human Trafficking Task Force
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HOWARD COUNTY

Human Trafficking Task Force

Message from the Chair

On behalf of the Howard County Human Trafficking Task Force (HCHTTF), I am pleased to present this report for your consideration. Human Trafficking dehumanizes human beings and defines them as property. Men, women and children are sold to anyone willing to pay the price. Traffickers prey on the hopes and dreams of those seeking a better life. Our job as members of the HCHTTF is to begin the process of making real those dreams and hopes for survivors of trafficking.

The Howard County Council took a stand to end trafficking in the County by passing County Resolution (CR-82014) in February, 2014 to establish the Task Force with the mission to “study the issues associated with human trafficking in Howard County, to educate the public about human trafficking, to identify and serve victims of human trafficking and to increase prosecution of traffickers.”

The recommendations in this report reflect the spirited participation of the Task Force members and the expertise of professionals representing victim services, law enforcement, federal state and local government. Over the past seven months, the Task Force has worked diligently to carry out its duties. But this is a beginning. The Task Force recognizes that efforts to address trafficking is a continuous process and does not end with this report.

The primary focus of the recommendations is the identification of victims and the call for victim services, collaboration and partnerships, training and education, and public awareness. We believe that these areas address the most significant issues, concerns and problems associated with human trafficking.

It is the Task Force's hope and expectation that all relevant parties, agencies and organizations will embrace the recommendations and work diligently and collaboratively to implement them.

I wish to personally thank the Howard County Council for this opportunity to work on the issue of Trafficking. Also I express appreciation to the members of the Task Force for their intense interest, their helpful comments, suggestions and attendance.

Sincerely,

C. Vernon Gray
Chair, Howard County
Human Trafficking Task Force

Howard County Human Trafficking Task Force

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Howard County Human Trafficking Task Force
Task Force Recommendations

1. Increase identification rates of human trafficking victims in the County, including domestic and transnational victims of both sex and labor trafficking.

- 1.1 Conduct awareness campaigns of trafficking risk and monitor activity in targeted locations and occupations, such as hotels, motels, spas, agriculture and landscaping.
- 1.2 Distribute educational materials on human trafficking to social workers, teachers, mental health counselors, health professionals, hospital personnel, religious leaders, domestic violence workers, and others.
- 1.3 Utilize shared screening tools to assist service providers and law enforcement personnel in identifying potential victims of trafficking, e.g. increasing the ability of law enforcement to monitor the internet for solicitation and trafficking ads.
- 1.4 In cooperation with federal, state, and local law enforcement efforts, continue maintenance of the central data collection system that provides accurate information on potential and confirmed trafficking activity taking place in the County.

2. Aid in the establishment of a provider network that offers comprehensive services to victims of trafficking.

- 2.1 Promote a greater degree of coordination among victim service agencies.
- 2.2 Support the development of a Howard County drop-in Day Resource Center for trafficking survivors, modeled on the Safe House of Hope program.
- 2.3 Establish a survivor support trust fund to provide housing, counseling and other support systems for victims and their families.
- 2.4 Support existing survivor programs by expanding their capacity to offer support.
- 2.5 Maintain an accurate and comprehensive list of existing Howard County service providers, including nonprofit organizations, health service providers, schools and private organizations that currently- or potentially could- collaborate in providing services to survivors of trafficking.
- 2.6 Expand the capacity of the victim support liaison in the State's Attorney's Office by developing partnerships among existing County, State and Federal victim service advocates and identifying additional providers.

3. Facilitate more coordinated anti- trafficking efforts in the county through extensive community outreach, training efforts, intelligence sharing and forming partnerships between law enforcement and non-governmental organizations.

3.1 Develop a comprehensive public awareness campaign in partnership with the business community, hospitality industry, faith communities and community organizations to include a speaker's bureau, website, fliers, and PSA's.

3.2 Provide and support existing training programs for all victim service providers.

3.3 Establish a strong labor and sex trafficking prevention program in cooperation with community organizations, local government officials, and school systems to reduce demand and risk victimization.

4. Facilitate more coordinated anti-trafficking efforts in the county through creation of a specialized law enforcement core group, proactive investigations and increase the prosecution of traffickers, criminally, and where appropriate, civilly.

4.1 Enhance the core law enforcement group to include the Police Department, State's Attorney's Office, Sherriff's office, and others as deemed appropriate.

4.2 Increase funding for such a core group, which should be headed by the Chief of Police.

4.3 Establish communication, information and intelligence-sharing protocol for multi-jurisdictional law enforcement personnel and local prosecutor's office.

4.4 Support state, federal and local anti-trafficking legislation and regulation.

4.5 Continue the work of the Human Trafficking Task Force as an ongoing task force and fund a full or part-time coordinator.

4.6 Enhance the protocol for Howard County that ensures efficient and effective collaboration among service providers and law enforcement.

4.7 County Council should enact a law requiring that a portion of the monies and assets confiscated from traffickers be deposited into a survivor support trust fund.

“Human trafficking is, quite simply, the exploitation of human beings for profit. It is a scourge that is not defeated by barriers of wealth and influence—trafficking is an immense problem for developed and developing nations alike.”

-Anne T. Gallagher, Officer of the Order of Australia, former Advisor on Trafficking to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2013

“Human trafficking is not only an immigration issue; it is not only a criminal issue; it is not only a moral issue, or a women and children’s issue; it is a human rights issue and needs to be regarded as such.”

-Florrie Burke, Freedom Network Chair Emeritus

“14 years old, dressed the way I was, walking into a hotel with an older man? They saw me and didn’t do anything! I thought no one cared. All survivors believe no one cares.”

-Survivor of Human Trafficking

I. HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEFINED

The International Labor Organization estimates that approximately 20.9 million people around the globe are victims of forced labor at any given time. Of these individuals, roughly 4.5 million people are trafficked into the sex industry, while 16.4 million are trafficked for various other forms of labor. Human trafficking is a complex global crime affecting nearly every developed and developing country in the world. It involves the exploitation of people for monetary or personal profit, and occurs in a range of both legal and illegal industries, including hospitality services, brothels, agriculture, street prostitution, construction, strip clubs, domestic services, manufacturing, spas, and escort services. At its core, human trafficking is about abuse and cruelty toward human beings, and is a gross violation of human rights.

A. FEDERAL LAW

In the United States, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act guides federal anti-trafficking policy and establishes the legal standards by which the crime of human trafficking is defined. 22 U.S.C.A. § 7102(9) defines “severe forms of trafficking in persons” as “*sex trafficking* in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age,” or “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for *labor or services*, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.” Federal law defines any minor engaging in a commercial sex act as a victim of sex trafficking per se, whereas the trafficking of minors for other forms of labor must be induced by force, fraud or coercion to fall under the federal definition of labor trafficking.

Force, Fraud or Coercion Defined

While some traffickers use overt force in the form of physical violence, sexual assault, abduction, or confinement to establish and maintain control over their victims, most traffickers employ more subjective forms of fraud or coercion, including false or deceptive offers of romance, education, or employment, control of the victim’s immigration documents, threats of harm toward the victim or the victim’s family, or abuse of the legal or immigration systems. Control may also be achieved through creation or manipulation of a drug or alcohol dependency, or through psychological abuse designed to create dependency on the trafficker.

Common Misconceptions

Although transportation of the victim is commonly used as a means of control, it is not a necessary element of the crime. U.S anti-trafficking law centers instead on the exploitation of one individual by another for labor or other services, rather than the movement of the victim. Additionally, initial consent by the victim to perform a particular form of labor is irrelevant if that person is compelled by force, fraud or coercion to continue the work against their will. For instance, individuals who initially consent to involvement in commercial sex work can become victims of sex trafficking if their involvement in sex work is maintained against their will. Attempts to find fault with the actions of the victim ignores the reality of the trafficker's criminal acts and is a common form of victim blaming.

B. WHO IS AT RISK?

While the characteristics of labor and sex trafficking victims can vary significantly, what unites them is a particular vulnerability that is exploited by a trafficker in order to gain and maintain control over them. While anyone can be a target regardless of race, sex, gender identity, nationality, ethnic origin or age, traffickers do more frequently target marginalized populations as well as individuals with particular vulnerabilities.

Youth

Minors are at higher risk for victimization simply because of their age. With fewer life skills, poorer coping mechanisms, and less developed judgment, minors are more susceptible to the manipulation and coercion that is the primary means of recruitment by traffickers. Although young people are indeed able to make thoughtful, reasoned decisions

about their lives and their safety, this ability is intimately linked to the presence of a supportive, caring adult in the young person's life. Therefore, minors who are in foster care, have histories of abuse and neglect, or who come from unstable homes are at even higher risk of exploitation. Youth who have run away from home or who have been rejected by their parents are especially vulnerable, as it is common for these youth to trade sex for survival needs like housing, money, and basic care. The risk of exploitation these young people face increases when their episodes of homelessness are longer and more frequent. Because lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth are disproportionately represented among populations of runaway and homeless youth due to higher incidences of fractured relationships with their families, they are also at heightened risk.

Women

Traffickers often target women and girls in an effort to exploit the high levels of poverty, unequal access to education and employment, and gender-based violence and discrimination that disproportionately affect them. It is common for male traffickers to manipulate gender-based norms to gain control over their female victims, and the relationship dynamics between the two often mirror those of intimate partner violence. As is the case with many other forms of gender-based violence, women may be hesitant to report their exploitation, especially if the perpetrator is a loved one or someone providing necessary care and support to them or their families. This often leads to misperceptions about a woman's consent to victimization, which impacts her ability to seek justice for what was done to her.

Immigrants

Both documented and undocumented immigrants are at high risk for being trafficked. Traffickers will typically exploit their victims' immigration status by threatening to have them deported, or may confiscate or destroy their immigration or identification documents. Exploitation of personal and familial debts, known as debt bondage, is common as well, as is the manipulation of cultural norms in an effort to gain control over the victim. Undocumented immigrants are especially vulnerable due to their limited employment options and the isolation that typically results from this, as well as the lack of legal protections available to them. Immigrants are trafficked for forced physical labor far more frequently than domestic victims.

Histories of Abuse

Numerous studies cite the high incidence of physical and sexual abuse, neglect, and sexual assault among both adult and minor survivors of human trafficking. It is common for individuals with histories of abuse and neglect to experience low self-esteem, guilt and shame. Traffickers routinely exploit these vulnerabilities by tailoring their recruitment strategies to meet their victims' emotional and physical needs, oftentimes filling the role of protector or rescuer while simultaneously re-victimizing them. Exploitation of this type typically results in trauma bonding, which is a pattern of coercive control where the perpetrator instills fear in the victim, along with appreciation for being allowed to live. Trauma bonding is a strong survival instinct that is difficult to break, and is made more severe if it stems from an adverse, highly significant relationship in childhood. Individuals with histories of sexual abuse, incest, and sexual assault may be at additional risk for sexual

exploitation, as it is likely they are already desensitized or conditioned to sexual violence.

However, these types of vulnerabilities do not exist in a vacuum. A victim's vulnerability to being trafficked is not the cause of human trafficking; rather, it is the combination of a trafficker's willingness and ability to profit on that victim's vulnerability combined with the larger global factors that operate to keep certain groups marginalized and at-risk. Trafficking thrives at the intersection between logistical availability, the demand for easily exploitable labor and transactional sex, and inequalities based on gender, race and class.

Criminal activity often flourishes because of the lack of awareness or misperceptions of both the public and the systems that exist to combat it. Human trafficking has for so long been dismissed as something that "doesn't happen here," or that affects only those who are judged as somehow more deserving of abuse. Misinformation like this allows traffickers to operate with very little personal, legal or financial risk, and impacts a victim's ability to obtain justice for their victimization. Understanding the complex legal, social and policy issues surrounding the crime of human trafficking and learning more about who it impacts can help lessen its continued proliferation and reduce the re-victimization of the individuals and families affected.

II. HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN MARYLAND

A. LOGISTICAL FACTORS

In the 2012 Governor's Report on combatting trafficking within the state, Maryland was described as a "goldmine" for human trafficking. A good deal of this is logistical, as

Maryland sits at the heart of what is referred to as the “East Coast Circuit,” a string of cities along the East Coast through which traffickers routinely travel. Interstate 95 is the key transportation element along the corridor, linking major cities like Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington D.C., with the southern states.

Along I-95 and throughout the state, Maryland has numerous rest stops, truck stops, bus, and railway stations, all of which are considered prime recruitment and point of sale locations for traffickers. In fact, a snapshot of the information received from six years of National Human Trafficking Resource Center (“NHTRC”) data revealed that truck stops were one of the primary venues where allegations of sex trafficking were reported. In recognition of this risk, Maryland passed legislation in 2012 requiring all truck stops, rest areas, and bus stations in Maryland to post information on the availability of the NHTRC hotline.

Along with high-volume highways and rest stops, Maryland has an international airport and international waterway ports, both of which serve as convenient entry points for domestic and international victims. The area around Thurgood Marshall Baltimore-Washington International Airport has been the site of numerous human trafficking arrests, due to the proliferation of hotels and the revolving cast of visitors to the area seeking to purchase commercial sex acts. Maryland is also in close proximity to Washington D.C., where a large portion of the allegations of labor trafficking by foreign diplomats are centered. In fact, all of the 550 cases of potential forced labor reported to the NHTRC hotline involving domestic workers from 2007-2011 were centered in the Northeast United States, primarily within the DC metropolitan area. Finally, Maryland is home to numerous

casinos, tourist attractions, convention centers, and large-scale sporting events, all of which draw the need for supplying cheap labor and commercialized sex.

B. STRUCTURAL FACTORS

Despite the logistical appeal of the area, human trafficking is not simply the result of Maryland's landscape or proximity to trafficking hotspots. While no socioeconomic class is immune, conditions of poverty, unemployment, economic disparities, and lack of socioeconomic opportunity are consistently recognized as some of the root causes of human trafficking. The link between these factors and vulnerability to trafficking have been well documented by social service providers, law enforcement, and others working within the anti-trafficking movement. In addition to putting individuals at higher risk for recruitment by a trafficker, these structural factors may also make it harder for individuals to exit exploitive situations, or to reintegrate once they have exited.

Although Maryland consistently ranks among the wealthiest states in the nation, more than 1 in every 10 Marylanders lives below the national poverty level, a rate which doubles for African Americans and families with a sole female head of household, or where the head of household has not completed high school. Throughout the state, there are large pockets of regional poverty where vulnerable residents routinely struggle with a lack of access to affordable housing and emergency shelter, low education levels, high energy rates, homelessness, unemployment, poor access to healthcare, and the collateral consequences of disparate patterns of criminalization. Economic disparities along racial lines persist throughout Maryland as well, with the 2012 median hourly wage for White, non-Hispanics at \$21/hour, compared with \$17/hour for African-Americans and \$14/hour

for Hispanics. While there is no singular “cause” of human trafficking within the state, the combination of logistical, economic, and social factors make Maryland uniquely situated to play host to the crime.

C. MARYLAND HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAW

In 2007, Maryland passed Senate Bill 606 (“SB 606”), the first in a series of laws designed to criminalize and prosecute the crime of human trafficking. SB 606, introduced by Senator Jennie Forehand of Montgomery County, was the first legal acknowledgment of child sex trafficking within the state, adding several prostitution offenses to the crimes prohibited under “Sexual Solicitation of a Minor” (MD. Crim. Code § 3-324), and making the trafficking of a minor for purposes of commercial sex a felony (MD. Crim. Code §11-303(c)(2)). It also added the prohibition against obtaining the “labor or services” of another through force, fraud or coercion to the definition of extortion (MD. Crim. Code §3-701), as well as recognized the destruction/withholding of an individual’s immigration or identification documents with the intent to harm their immigration status of as a method of coercion for purposes of committing the crime of extortion. Three years later, Senate Bill 261 (“SB 261”) made the trafficking of an adult by force, fraud or coercion a felony offense (MD Crim. Law §11-303(b)(2), (c)(2)). SB 261 also recognized the destruction and/or withholding of an individual’s immigration or identification documents as a method of coercion used by traffickers to gain control over the victim (MD. Crim. Law §11-303(a)(1)(vi)).

Since 2010, Maryland has enacted several other progressive pieces of legislation focused on addressing the crime of human trafficking, including allowing survivors of sex

trafficking to vacate, or set aside, any prostitution convictions they obtained during the time they were being trafficked (MD. Crim. Proc. §8-302), prohibiting a mistake of age defense for a person charged with a human trafficking offense involving a minor (MD. Crim. Law §11-303(f)), permitting local law enforcement to require a lodging establishment where human trafficking-related arrests have been made to post a sign advertising the NHTRC hotline in each of its guest rooms (MD. Bus. Reg. § 15-207(b)(1)), and an asset forfeiture law authorizing the seizure of property, vehicles, and cash used or intended to be used in a human trafficking crime (MD. Crim. Proc. §§13-501-36). Despite these gains, however, inconsistent application of the laws that are in place coupled with the lower criminal penalties attaching to human trafficking versus drug trafficking offenses, Maryland remains as safe a place as any for human traffickers to profit off the exploitation of human beings.

D. FEDERAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROSECUTIONS

In just the last two years, the United States Attorney's Office in the District of Maryland has prosecuted over 20 cases of human trafficking within the state featuring multiple criminal defendants. In November of 2012, Melvin Douglas of Washington, D.C. and Dennis Smith, a/k/a Domo, of Capitol Heights, MD, pleaded guilty to the sex trafficking of a minor. Douglas trafficked a 15 year-old to hotels throughout Maryland, and was eventually apprehended at a hotel in Prince George's County. Smith pled guilty to trafficking a 17 year-old, a 16 year-old, and a 15 year-old, and was also apprehended in Prince George's County.

In January of 2014, Daniel Burton, a/k/a "Snoop," of Capitol Heights, MD, was sentenced to nearly 22 years of federal prison time after pleading guilty to trafficking a 13 year-old girl, who he controlled by providing her with alcohol, marijuana, and ecstasy. Burton was picked up in Charleston, SC during a routine patrol and identified as being wanted in Maryland on prostitution and human trafficking charges and was extradited for the warrant against him. Upon his release from prison, Burton will be subject to lifetime supervised release, and must register as a sex offender.

In April of 2014, Thomas Sean Tinsley, a registered sex offender living in Glen Burnie, MD, pleaded guilty to the sex trafficking of a minor. According to his plea agreement, Tinsley recruited his victim, a 15 year-old runaway, from the Galleria Mall in downtown Baltimore City, and trafficked her from a hotel room on Caton Avenue. At the time of his arrest, Tinsley was found in possession of his sex offender registry paperwork, which listed the hotel room as his primary residence.

In September of 2014, Baltimore County resident Travis Lamont Foote, a/k/a "Cash," was sentenced to 12 years in prison after pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit sex trafficking by force, fraud and coercion. According to Foote's plea agreement, he used social media to lure women from as far away as Florida to engage in prostitution for his financial benefit. He was arrested in Baltimore County in May of 2013 after a traffic stop revealed that the 18 year-old female in the car with Foote was listed in police records as a possible runaway.

III. HOWARD COUNTY RESPONDS

Howard County is frequently cited for its excellent quality of life, superb educational systems, and high rates of employment. Despite its relative prosperity compared with other counties within the State of Maryland, Howard County remains uniquely vulnerable to the crime of human trafficking.

A. LOGISTICAL AND STRUCTURAL RISK FACTORS

Like the State of Maryland, Howard County contains both the logistical and structural risk factors that make it a prime location for human trafficking offenses. Interstate 95 runs through the Southwest portion of County, linking Howard County with the key transportation component of the East Coast trafficking circuit. Also running through the County is Interstate 70, which runs East-West across the northern portion of the County, as well as Route 1, which runs parallel with I-95 through the Southwestern part of the County.

Although not a major state highway, Route 1 and its surrounding neighborhoods are home to a host of hotels and motels, many of which have been the site of human trafficking investigations originating in Howard County. While there is little street-based prostitution taking place, the hospitality businesses in this area are prime locations within the County for commercialized sex. According to law enforcement, traffickers are eager to take advantage of the safer environment that Howard County has to offer. With fewer ancillary crimes to consider, traffickers can operate their sex trafficking businesses with considerably less secondary risk. Additionally, the County's wealth allows traffickers to charge higher prices than neighboring counties for commercial sex acts with victims.

While there are no major bus or rail lines in the County, there is a 24-hour truck stop located in Jessup, Maryland just off of Route 1. The truck stop is in close proximity to the Maryland Correctional Institution, also located in Jessup, which is one of just a few pockets of poverty throughout the County where residents routinely struggle to meet their basic needs. While the relative wealth of Howard County bodes well for the majority of residents, the higher cost of living takes a toll on County's more vulnerable residents, despite the influx of services financed by the County's more wealthy occupants. A 2011 study commissioned by the Association of Community Services of Howard County showed that a working family with two adults and one child needed to earn more than \$45,000 above the federal poverty level to no longer be considered among the County's working poor, while a single person had to earn more than \$31,517 to escape this classification. Despite being an area that is, for many, insulated by wealth and opportunity, conditions of poverty and lack of socioeconomic opportunity are still present in Howard County, and are two of the root causes fueling human trafficking.

Though far less attention is paid throughout the state to labor trafficking as opposed to sex trafficking, Howard County is ripe for this type of abuse as well. In Columbia and Ellicott City, there are numerous spa, massage parlor, and nail salon businesses that frequently draw the attention of County law enforcement as possible sites of both labor and sex trafficking. Agricultural businesses throughout the county are also plentiful, with 39 registered farms of varying sizes in Howard County alone. Additionally, there are growing populations of foreign-born residents, including large Asian populations from Korea, India, and the Philippines, African populations from Nigeria and Ghana, and Hispanic populations

from Mexico and El Salvador. While immigrants may be drawn to Howard County because of its perceived safety, economic opportunities, and strong school systems, these populations are at higher risk for exploitation due to the limited economic opportunities, isolation, lack of access to affordable housing, and lack of culturally sensitive health and social services that are common in immigrant communities.

B. HOWARD COUNTY HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROSECUTIONS

In the past year and a half, Howard County has been the site of numerous human trafficking prosecutions, at both the state and federal level. In August of 2013, Rowland Duffey was sentenced to 10 years in prison by a Howard County Circuit Court Judge, the maximum allowable sentence for a misdemeanor trafficking charge in Maryland. He was accused of transporting a 22 year-old victim from Maine for purposes of forced prostitution. Duffey's conviction was the first human trafficking conviction in Howard County.

Since then, numerous other traffickers have been brought to justice in Howard County, with seven other state-based indictments being issued by the Howard County State's Attorney's office. In January of 2014, Howard Draper, Jr. pleaded guilty to human trafficking and prostitution charges in Howard County Circuit Court. According to charging documents, Draper transported a woman from Ohio to Maryland, where he forced her to engage in prostitution out of the Extended Stay America and Comfort Inn hotels in Jessup, Maryland. Draper was sentenced to 12 years in prison by a Howard County Circuit Judge.

In April of 2014, Gary Eugene Maddox was found guilty of two counts of human trafficking by a jury in Howard County. Police reported that Maddox met the victim in

Rhode Island and transported her across state lines under false pretenses. Upon their arrival in Connecticut, Maddox threatened to kill her if she did not engage in commercial sex acts for his benefit. After trafficking the victim through multiple states, Maddox eventually transported her to Maryland where she was forced to prostitute at the White Elk Motel in Elkridge. Maddox was eventually apprehended, tried, and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

In August of 2014, Craig Okeido Anderson pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm in connection with promotion of a prostitution enterprise. According to Anderson's plea agreement, Anderson trafficked four women through multiple states from early 2012 through late 2013, using illegal substances and overt violence to maintain his control. In October of 2013, one of Anderson's victims, a 24 year-old female, sought out assistance from law enforcement at a fire station in Sykesville where she presented with visible injuries resulting from a beating by Anderson. Although charges were initially filed against Mr. Anderson in Howard County Circuit Court, the federal government eventually took the lead on prosecuting him. He has yet to be sentenced.

Most recently, 19 members of the Bloods street gang operating in and around Howard County pleaded guilty for their roles in various federal racketeering and drug conspiracies. One of the defendants, Michael Dominique Johnson, a/k/a "Ace" and "Bloody Mike" of Columbia, was recently sentenced to 205 months in prison for trafficking several female victims through forced prostitution, one of whom was a minor. Several other Howard County cases are pending, including that of a Baltimore City man indicted on 6

counts of human trafficking following accusations that he trafficked multiple victims out of two Columbia-based spas.

C. HOWARD COUNTY HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

The Howard County Human Trafficking Task Force was created by Howard County Council Resolution 8-2014. Its purpose is to “study the issues associated with trafficking in Howard County, to educate the public about human trafficking, to identify and serve victims of human trafficking and to increase prosecution of traffickers.” Members include the Howard County State’s Attorney’s Office, the Chief of Police and the Sheriff, as well as representatives from Howard County’s Department of Social Services, Public Schools, General Hospital, Commission for Women, Department of Technology and Communication Services, Department of Citizen Services, and Health Department. Individuals from the Governor’s Office of Crime Control & Prevention, as well as local faith-based groups, social service agencies, and anti-trafficking organizations are also members of the Task Force.

D. TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

On January 6th, 2014, the Howard County Council introduced County Council Resolution 8-2014, which established the Howard County Task Force on Human Trafficking. The Task Force was directed to research the development of protocols, community outreach efforts, training efforts, and partnerships to help increase the identification of human trafficking victims in the County and aide in the establishment of a provider network for comprehensive services for victims of trafficking. Task Force members met at least monthly to hear from federal, state, and local experts on the complexities of human trafficking and how it is manifested in Howard County. What

follows is a list of recommendations on how to address human trafficking in Howard County, which were created following months of research, education, and consideration by the Task Force.

1. Increase identification rates of human trafficking victims in the County, including domestic and transnational victims of both sex and labor trafficking.

1.1 Conduct awareness campaigns of trafficking risk and monitor activity in targeted locations and occupations, such as hotels, motels, spas, agriculture and landscaping.

Common locations for both **the identification and recruitment of human trafficking victims** include hospitality service locations, retail and service sites, as well as agricultural and labor settings. In an effort to increase identification rates of human trafficking victims at these locations within Howard County, it is essential that **awareness campaigns** target both the public, who may not know where to look for signs that trafficking is occurring, what to look for, or how to report what they see, as well as individuals who frequent or are employed at these locations, so that they are better informed of their legal rights and of the warning signs of human trafficking.

1.2 Distribute educational materials on human trafficking to social workers, teachers, mental health counselors, health professionals, hospital personnel, religious leaders, domestic violence workers, and others.

Professionals who work with and are trusted by individuals at risk for being trafficked are Howard County's front line source for identification of potential victims. Because vulnerability to recruitment by a trafficker typically stems from histories of abuse and neglect, violent partners, substance abuse, mental illness, and homelessness, the **distribution of materials** to the professionals who are most likely to encounter these individuals within the County will enable these professionals to better identify and provide support to victims of trafficking. Materials already developed by the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force can be adopted for local use.

1.3 Utilize shared screening tools to assist service providers and law enforcement personnel in identifying potential victims of trafficking, e.g. increasing the ability of law enforcement to monitor the internet for solicitation and trafficking ads.

It is not enough to simply distribute awareness materials on the crime of human trafficking; instead, service providers and law enforcement personnel working with people at risk must have the tools they need to screen clients for trafficking so that they can more accurately plan for their care. Several **screening tools** specific to runaway youth, emergency medical providers, youth in the juvenile justice system, and school children are already in use throughout the state and can be modified for localized use in Howard County.

1.4 In cooperation with federal, state, and local law enforcement efforts, continue maintenance of the central data collection system that provides accurate information on potential and confirmed trafficking activity taking place in the County.

The need for **accurate, reliable data** on human trafficking activity within Howard County is essential in providing support to federal, state and local prosecution efforts as well as in the ongoing identification and location of victims by law enforcement. Data collection may also be useful when partnering with local organizations or agencies on grant requests and other funding opportunities.

2. Aid in the establishment of a provider network that offers comprehensive services to victims of trafficking.

2.1 Promote a greater degree of coordination among victim service agencies.

A holistic interdisciplinary focus helps improve client engagement and access to services and aids in the setting of consistent goals for overall client health. Victims of human trafficking have a diverse range of needs and require resources that must often be delivered in coordination with prosecutorial efforts at the local, state and federal levels. As a result, **prioritizing the coordination of care** among existing victim services agencies is an essential step of building the County's anti-trafficking response.

2.2 Support the development of a Howard County drop-in Day Resource Center for trafficking survivors, modeled on the Safe House of Hope program.

Although survivors of human trafficking in Howard County have been faithfully served and supported by several organizations within the county, including Hopeworks and the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, they require far more resources than are currently available to them. Of great importance is the availability of a **drop-in Day Resource Center** where survivors can access services including basic needs, counseling, and peer support.

2.3 Establish a survivor support trust fund to provide housing, counseling and other support systems for victims and their families.

At present, all victim expenses are paid for through the State budget via the fund used to collect court costs. With the average cost of providing for basic needs like food, clothing, and housing, along with transportation, counseling and medical care exceeding \$10,000 per victim, it is essential that Howard County establish a **survivor support trust fund** to assist survivors and their families with these costs. The needs of survivors are plentiful, and increased funding is necessary for comprehensive care.

2.4 Support existing survivor programs by expanding their capacity to offer support.

No single agency is able to provide survivors with all their support and care needs. In order to allow the non-profits operating within Howard County to do their work effectively, the County needs to **support the expansion of these organizations** through funding, grant partnership efforts, and promotion of services. Specific attention should be paid to the development of low-barrier services, emergency housing, and specialized housing for minor and foreign national victims.

2.5 Maintain an accurate and comprehensive list of existing Howard County service providers, including nonprofit organizations, health service providers, schools and private organizations that currently- or potentially could- collaborate in providing services to survivors of trafficking.

Human service professionals increasingly require knowledge from other disciplines to develop and implement comprehensive intervention strategies for their clients. **Maintaining a list of Howard County service providers** is vital to this effort, so that service providers can easily and accurately find information and referrals for their clients. Regular updating of these lists is also crucial, as these lists can go out of date from year to year.

2.6 Expand the capacity of the victim support liaison in the State’s Attorney’s Office by developing partnerships among existing County, State and Federal victim service advocates and identifying additional providers.

Victim service advocates are an invaluable part of a victim-centered prosecutorial response to trafficking. These advocates serve as liaisons between the victims and the courts, and are often the key support figure for the victim throughout the prosecution of their trafficker. This support is integral, as the victim’s trial may not go to trial for several months following the arrest of a trafficker. The Howard County State’s Attorney’s Office can build upon its victim-centered approach by **increasing the capacity of the current victim support liaison**, and identifying additional service providers.

3. Facilitate more coordinated anti- trafficking efforts in the county through extensive community outreach, training efforts, intelligence sharing and forming partnerships between law enforcement and non-governmental organizations.

3.1 Develop a comprehensive public awareness campaign in partnership with the business community, hospitality industry, faith communities and community organizations to include a speaker’s bureau, website, fliers, and PSA’s.

Law enforcement’s ability to fight trafficking is improved when the public is trained to recognize the indicators of human trafficking. There are several **public awareness models** available on the local, state and federal levels that can be adjusted to suit the needs of Howard County, so that the citizenry is

equipped and prepared to speak up on behalf of the community by reporting what they see to law enforcement.

3.2 Provide and support existing training programs for all victim service providers.

Human trafficking is a hidden crime that is easily overlooked and misunderstood, even by service providers who are trained in victim service work. Because the crime commonly intersects with other victim service issues such as homelessness, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, and substance abuse, **supporting training for victim services providers** working with varied populations is necessary for effective victim identification and support.

3.3 Establish a strong labor and sex trafficking prevention program in cooperation with community organizations, local government officials, and school systems to reduce demand and risk victimization.

Prevention is another essential element in the fight against human trafficking. This is especially true when it comes to youth and young adults who are more vulnerable to manipulation by traffickers simply because of their less developed judgment and impulsivity. **Prevention programs instituted in schools and community programs** can provide youth with the language they need to identify risk and to question issues around sexuality, consent, violence, and fair treatment. This serves as an empowerment tool for youth, and promotes social justice awareness.

4. Facilitate more coordinated anti-trafficking efforts in the county through creation of a specialized law enforcement core group, proactive investigations and increase the prosecution of traffickers, criminally, and where appropriate, civilly.

4.1 Enhance the core law enforcement group to include the Police Department, State's Attorney's Office, Sherriff's office, and others as deemed appropriate.

Once victims of human trafficking are identified within the community, law enforcement must work collaboratively to ensure that the victim's immediate needs are met, victim services are contacted, and the trafficker is prosecuted in either federal or state court. **Coordination across multiple law enforcement groups** ensures that this is done in a more effective manner, and creates an

increased law enforcement presence within the community which can function as a deterrent to traffickers operating in the area.

4.2 Increase funding for such a core group, which should be headed by the Chief of Police.

Local police are often the first responders in potential trafficking cases. Funding that allows for an **increase in the number of law enforcement personnel** involved in the work and that provides them with the training they need to communicate effectively with victims and detect potential perpetrators will help fight human trafficking in Howard County.

4.3 Establish communication, information and intelligence-sharing protocol between multi-jurisdictional law enforcement personnel and local prosecutor's office.

Coordination between multi-jurisdictional law enforcement personnel and the local prosecutor's office is crucial in building a case against a trafficker. From identification and recovery of a victim through to the prosecution of the trafficker, coordinated **communication and information sharing** allows these two law enforcement bodies to proceed in a more focused, organized manner, leading to better outcomes for victims.

4.4 Support state, federal and local anti-trafficking legislation and regulation.

In partnering with the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force's Legislative subcommittee, Howard County Task Force members can work to **improve Maryland's human trafficking laws** by lobbying on behalf of important initiatives and increasing the involvement of Howard County residents by encouraging them to contact their representatives on trafficking-related legislation. On a local level, the Howard County Council may consider **independent, county-based regulations** to address legislative needs identified by the Task Force as being unique to Howard County.

4.5 Continue the work of the Human Trafficking Task Force as an ongoing task force and fund a full or part-time coordinator.

The work of the Howard County Human Trafficking Task Force does not end with the issuance of a report to the County Council; instead, an **ongoing effort** is

needed to ensure that the resolutions contained in the report are implemented and that the coordinated, victim-centered response to human trafficking within the County is maintained. **Human trafficking is not a temporary problem,** and requires far more than a temporary effort.

4.6 Enhance the protocol for Howard County that ensures efficient and effective collaboration among service providers and law enforcement.

The Howard County Task Force has completed work on a **model information sharing and collaboration protocol** for service providers and law enforcement. The document attempts to balance the need for information sharing with client confidentiality, as both are integral to the overall goal of providing a comprehensive, specialized response to survivors of human trafficking. See Appendix B for the language of the model protocol.

4.7 County Council should enact a law requiring that a portion of the monies and assets confiscated from traffickers be deposited into a survivor support trust fund.

In 2013, Maryland passed an **asset forfeiture law** authorizing the seizure of property, vehicles, and cash used or intended to be used in a human trafficking crime (MD. Crim. Proc. §§13-501-36). Although introductory versions of the bill included the requirement that the proceeds from any assets seized be deposited into a fund for human trafficking victims, the law as it was enacted requires that proceeds be directed to “the political subdivision in which the money was seized; or the State, if the money was seized by State authorities.” (MD. Crim. Proc. §13-517). Howard County should consider enacting legislation on a local level that directs **a portion of the proceeds from assets seized** in human trafficking crimes to be deposited into a **survivor support trust fund** to assist with survivor needs (See resolution 2.3).

Howard County Human Trafficking Task Force

Resources Persons
Advisors and Presenters

We express sincere appreciation to the following persons who enlightened the Task Force on the many issues, complexities and challenges of Human Trafficking.

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Safe House of Hope

*A special thanks to Jessica Emerson, LMSW, Esq. for her consultation and writing of this report.



HOWARD COUNTY

Human Trafficking Task Force

Core Values of Model Protocol

Collaboration

Multidisciplinary teams and appropriate information sharing among County governmental officials, non-profit organizations, the business and school communities and other professional organizations establish a framework of victim-centered response that allows for comprehensive response, providing better services to victims, increased victim safety, offender accountability and pursuit of justice for those exploited in human trafficking. The Howard County response recognizes that human trafficking is often a multi-jurisdictional crime and requires the fostering of regional collaborations and relationships—building within and across systems. Relationships among partners are crucial to promoting constructive communication and conflict resolution. A collaborative response to human trafficking balances the needs of victims with the expectation of the criminal justice system.

Victim Centered Response

Survivors of human trafficking are victims of crime and should be viewed and treated with dignity, respect and sensitivity. Individually and collectively the primary objective of the HCHTFF is victim and community safety. The Task Force members recognize that a victim-centered response is imperative in building rapport with victims that can increase their access to services and obtain their participation in the criminal justice process against their offenders. In addition, the HCHTFF recognizes that victims have rights and should be informed of these rights in all phases of the process.

Trauma-Informed Response

The HCHTFF and victim providers shall be trained and informed on the myriad of psychological, physical and emotional and spiritual abuses traffickers use to exploit their victims. The HCHTFF and victim services provided by its members shall be trained and informed about the effects of trauma on survivors of human trafficking. Trauma-informed response requires that all members and victim services providers are trained in techniques and best practices specific to interacting with victims, reducing the potential for repeated victimization after recovery as well as throughout the investigative and criminal justice process.

Offender Accountability

The HCHTFF is committed to pursuing justice on behalf of those victimized by human traffickers. Offenders will be pursued in the county, state and federal courts, depending on which venue is most appropriate to the individual case. The Model Protocol recognizes the centrality of victim safety and recovery to offender

accountability and the important role that offender accountability plays in advancing victim safety and recovery.

The Howard County Human Trafficking Task Force (HCHTTF) is committed to meeting on a regular monthly basis to discuss successes as well as to address gaps and challenges of victim identification and response. Member agencies are encouraged to send task force members of the highest possible rank to meetings.

The model of protocol for HCHTTF is to foster collaboration and coordination among law enforcement and service providers to improve the capacity to identify and respond to human trafficking. This multi-disciplinary team model recognizes that the crime of human trafficking is complex and aims to leverage the strength of all team members. Operating in a streamlined yet coordinated way, the HCHTTF seeks to develop and provide the highest level of trauma-informed response to survivors and employ the most aggressive law enforcement approach to combat human trafficking in Maryland. HCHTTF members engaged in this effort will use best and promising practices and will rely on date and ongoing training to drive system, procedural and policy improvement.

Members

County departments and community organizations, including Office of Human Rights, State's Attorney Office, Howard County Police, Howard County Department of Social Services, Howard County Health Department, Howard County Sheriff's Office; Governor's Task Force on Human Trafficking, Howard County Public School System, Howard County Citizen Services, Howard County Department of Technology, Communication Services and others as deemed appropriate.

Community organizations, including The Johns Hopkins Medicine, Howard General Hospital, HoCo AGAST, HopeWorks Howard County, Howard County Commission for Women, Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Bethany United Methodist Church and Howard County General Hospital: A Member of Johns Hopkins Medicine.

Standards

The outlined standards are applicable to the activities of all HCHTTF members in providing identification, services and response to survivors of human trafficking. The standards serve as the road map that reflects the mission and core values of the HCHTTF. This road map ensures that HCHTTF members are setting the highest standard for identification and response and establishes a framework for replication.

1. Survivors of human trafficking will have access to immediate and appropriate services and safety, including medical, basic needs, advocacy, appropriate housing and law enforcement.
2. Advocacy and victim services will be routinely initiated by law enforcement. Where appropriate and if available, victim advocates or services will be given a brief opportunity to address safety and basic needs before a lengthy law enforcement interview begins. Survivors always have the right to decline services.

3. HCHTTF service providers will provide information to an adult survivor that informs and fosters access to law enforcement to report victimization as well as throughout the recovery process.
4. HCHTTF members will comply with Maryland Child Abuse Laws that obligate mandatory reporting to Child Protective Services, CPS, and/ or to law enforcement for child trafficking victims. In accordance with state law, HCHTTF service provider members will report incidents to CPS and notify the jurisdictionally appropriate HCHTTF law enforcement agency to coordinate response.
5. **Martin Brooks asked that the Task Force revisit the following original language and revise, but no language was suggested.** The County Council, through...? department of Healthy ? commits to providing training to employees that informs them of HCHTTF.
6. In accordance with Maryland Child Abuse Law, HCHTTF members recognize child sex trafficking as child abuse. Maryland Department of Human(?) Resources provides instructions for local Departments of Social Service staff in the identification and service delivery to child victims of sex trafficking in Policy SSA-CW#14-15.
7. All HCHTTF members will work as a continuum to build and bridge trust in each other's efforts and effectiveness.
8. The State's Attorney's Office will advise victim services members of court dates and other key developments in cases. Prioritized updates include any change in the status of the case or alleged offender that may impact the safety of the victim.
9. HCHTTF victim services members will inform law enforcement of significant change in status of victims involved in ongoing, active investigations and/or prosecution. HCHTTF victim service members will routinely conduct intake procedures that include informed consent, safety assessment, and obtain release of information that fosters the sharing of information with law enforcement regarding status changes that affect victim safety. Disclosure of information (i.e. release of information) requires written authorization unless mandated by law. Significant status updates include, but are not limited to, when a victim goes missing, or when a victim makes contact or returns from a missing episode.
10. Conflicts of issues between HCHTTF members will be addressed directly and respectfully. Conflict resolution and addressing systemic or individual barriers will be viewed as an opportunity for improvement and not a reason for reducing collaborative engagement.
11. Response to a survivor of human trafficking will be coordinated to and increase the collection and sharing of information and reduce victimization through repeated questioning by multiple individuals. In the instance of interviewing minors exploited through sex trafficking, every effort will be made to utilize age appropriate and informed interviewing in a facility, such as Child Advocacy Center will be employed.
12. Law enforcement will provide service providers with necessary information that may assist with developing a victim safety plan and obtaining appropriate housing. Necessary information is defined, but is not limited to, drug/alcohol usage, gang involvement, and violent criminal history, length of

time with pimp/or exploitation exploited through sex trafficking, if known, and arrest status of known alleged offenders.

- 13.HCHTTF members will not ask victims of human trafficking involved in ongoing investigations or prosecution to speak or participate in private or public events by until after the culmination of the prosecution, if any. Law enforcement officer and/or prosecutors will be consulted before engaging victims in any such event.
- 14.Additionally, HCHTTF members recognize that victims of human trafficking have a right to privacy and confidentiality as outlined by state and federal law.
- 15.HCHTTF members will engage in ongoing training to make them aware and comply with all mandatory reporting requirements and will accordingly.
- 16.HCHTTF members will participate in small, confidential quarterly case reviews, with sensitivity to the privacy of the individual, and to improve procedures and outcomes.
- 17.HCHTTF members will be trained on protocols and HCHTTF standards and response rules prior to participating in HCHTTF.
- 18.HCHTTF members must review Model Protocol and agree to enter into a collaborative agreement. By signing the agreement, HCHTTF law enforcement and service members acknowledge their understanding and commitment to the outlined core values and principles.

Printed Name HCHTTF member

Date

Signature HCHTTF member

Date

Signature HCHTTF Coordinator

Date



HOWARD COUNTY

Human Trafficking Task Force Information Sheet*

(1) PEOPLE LIKELY TO BECOME VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

- Vulnerability to trafficking is far reaching and spans across a wide range of the population
- Women are most likely to be trafficked into sex slavery
- Men are more susceptible to labor trafficking
- Traffickers prey on vulnerable populations
 - People hoping for better lives
 - People with lack of employment opportunities
 - People with an unstable home life
 - People who have a history of sexual abuse
- Target age for recruitment in the US: 11-13
- Run-aways and foster children especially targeted by traffickers
- Children who lack or have drifted from a protective social network
- Vulnerable populations are often victimized by human trafficking
- People with immigrant statuses
- Undocumented or smuggled across the border for trafficking purposes
- Individuals provided false visas or documents by the network
- Individuals whose documents have been confiscated by the trafficker
- Threat of deportation for illegal immigrants
- People living in poverty or experiencing economic hardship
- Financially insecure individuals who need to take care of themselves/their family
- People with a lot of debt or who accrue debt through traveling
- People who are unfamiliar with the area

(2) INDICATION or SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Signs that appear when commercial establishments are holding people against their will:

- Establishments that exploit victims of sex trafficking often operate under the guise of:
 - o Brothels, strip clubs, and pornography production houses
 - o Massage spas
 - o Adult bookstores
 - o Modeling studios
 - o Bars and strip clubs
- Heavy security at the establishment
 - o Guarded worksite or compound
 - o Barred windows
 - o Locked doors
 - o Electronic surveillance
- Establishment is in a relatively isolated location
- Women are never seen leaving the premises without an escort
- Victims live at the same premises or work site
- Victims prohibited from ever leaving the worksite
- Victims are kept under surveillance in public; i.e., at the doctor
- High foot traffic at the establishment, involving a stream of men arriving or leaving the premises
- Establishment features poor or dangerous working conditions
- Establishment features forced tasks or clients
- Victims lured to job under false pretenses
 - o Promise of paid work
 - o Promise of shelter
 - o Promise of love, marriage, and a "better life" from a boyfriend or caretaker

(3) DIFFERENT FORMS of HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Sex trafficking
 - o Sex trafficking involves individuals profiting from the sexual exploitation of others and has severe physical and psychological consequences for its victims¹
 - o Victims are forced,
 - o Street prostitution – most commonly U.S. citizens
 - Pimp-controlled trafficking through force, fraud, and/or coercion
 - Victims forced to engage in sexual activity to work toward some earning some nightly quota for pimp
 - o Stripping, exotic dancing and hostessing
 - Becomes trafficking when employer uses force, fraud and/or coercion to force victim to perform commercial sex acts
 - Often feature women recruited from Eastern Europe/Asia
 - o Escort services
 - o
- Labor trafficking
 - o Labor traffickers use violence, threats, lies, and other forms of coercion to force people to work against their will in exploitative conditions for little or no pay
 - o Employers use force, fraud and/or coercion to control the worker make him or her believe there is no choice other than to continue working
 - o Individuals forced to work in homes as servants
 - Most often foreign women, both legal and illegal immigrants
 - Often live in household of employer
 - o Individuals forced to work in agriculture and on farms
 - Victims often amongst migrant or seasonal farmworkers
 - Can include men, women, and children
 - o Individuals forced to work in factories

¹ *The Advocates for Human Rights, 2013*

- Garment industries and food processing plants
- Immigrant workers are often recruited
- Can feature physical entrapment in locked work sites
- Occurs in the restaurant industry
 - Individuals forced to work as bussers, waiters, kitchen staff or cooks with little to no pay
 - Made easier due to low standards of wages and safety in industry
 - Traffickers require extreme work hours, minimal wages, and
- Individuals forced to work on sales teams or peddling and begging rings
 - Soliciting money, selling products or cleaning products without pay
 - Manager confiscates any profit or earning of victim
 - Typical recruits are US citizen youth
- Situations can look similar to sex trafficking when they involve individuals being forced to hostess, serve drinks, dance or strip
- Victims of labor trafficking can be found in any industry with a demand for cheap labor and a lack of monitoring

(4) PROFILE OF A TRAFFICKED PERSON

Characteristics, signs, and indicators that often point to a person held in a slavery condition:

- Hesitation or unwillingness to volunteer information about their status
- Reluctance to come forward with information
 - Exhibits unusual fear or anxiety toward law enforcement
 - Sense of hopelessness and feeling that there are no viable options to escape their situation
- Claims to be “just visiting”, unfamiliar with area and unable to provide an address or identify where he/she is staying
- Is not allowed to speak for themselves

- There is a third party who insists on being present, speaks on his or her behalf, or acts as a translator
- A variety of health problems, often including but not limited to:
 - Malnutrition, dehydration, poor personal hygiene
 - Sexually transmitted diseases (STDS/STIS)
 - Bruising, broken bones, cuts, burns, multiple scars
 - Post-traumatic stress disorder
 - Psychological disorders
 - Frequent pregnancies
- Medical problems are often untreated; lack of health care
- Show signs of rape or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement or torture
- Suffers from verbal abuse designed to intimidate, degrade, and frighten individual
- Has a drug and/or alcohol addiction
- Demonstrates “hyper-vigilant” behavior
 - Paranoia, fear, anxiety, depression, submission, tension and/or nervousness
- Avoids making eye contact
- Has no or very few personal possessions
- Does not have any legal documentation – license, birth certificate, green card, etc.
- Does not hold onto his or her own identification or important travel documents
- Has a trafficker/pimp/manager who controls all the money
- Is unpaid, paid very little, or earns only through tips
- Works excessively long hours
- Is not allowed breaks, or works under unusual restrictions
- Lives at the worksite and is unable to leave
- Can only leave worksite accompanied by an escort
- Has many inconsistencies in his or her story

(5) EFFECTS of HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Short Term effects
 - o Drug abuse, alcohol abuse, and other higher risk behaviors
 - o Impaired judgment
 - o Emotional exhaustion
 - o Depersonalization
 - o Hyper-vigilance – paranoia, fear, anxiety, depression, submission, tension, nervousness
 - o Shame and distrust
 - o Muscle Tension
 - o Self-blame
 - o Feelings of hopelessness and helplessness
 - o Broken bones, concussions, burns
 - o Head trauma, dizziness, numbness
 - o Sexually transmitted infections (STI's)
 - o Vaginal bleeding
 - o Pregnancies, miscarriages and/or abortions
- Long Term effects
 - o Post-traumatic stress disorder
 - o Trauma bonding – emotional attachment created by cycles of abuse, punishment, reward and reinforcement
 - o Stockholm syndrome
 - o Severe depression
 - o Self-hatred, suicide, and suicidal thoughts
 - o Hyper-vigilance – paranoia, fear, anxiety, depression, submission, tension, nervousness
 - o Sexual dysfunction
 - o Symptoms resulting from untreated STI's

- Difficulty establishing and maintaining healthy relationships
- Loss of trust in others
- Prolonged drug and alcohol abuse
- Brain or liver damage as a result of substance abuse
- Difficulty sleeping
- Negative impact on physical, cognitive, emotional, and social growth
- Susceptibility to further abuse
- Memory loss, memory defect, or dissociation

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Note: this wheel was adapted from the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project's Duluth Model Power and Control Wheel, available at www.theduluthmodel.org

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**Bring Maryland's Human Trafficking Problem out of the Shadows:
Please print and share this fact sheet with friends and colleagues.**

RESOURCE: National Human Trafficking Resource Center: **1.888.3737.888**

Myths:

1. "Human Trafficking doesn't happen in Maryland."

FACT: Maryland has been described as a "goldmine" for human trafficking because of its close proximity to several large East Coast cities, as well as its major highways, airports and waterways. Along with such easily accessible transportation come rest stops, bus terminals, and numerous hotels, all of which are primary locations for traffickers to exploit their victims.

2. "Sex trafficking is the only form of human trafficking."

FACT: Trafficking in persons includes both sex trafficking AND labor trafficking. Labor trafficking is the exploitation of persons for labor or services through force, fraud or coercion. Victims may be exploited through the need to repay a debt, or forced to work against their will. Undocumented immigrants are especially vulnerable to victimization due to language barriers, lack of legal protections, and limited employment options. Victims of labor trafficking are most commonly exploited through domestic servitude, sweatshop work or agricultural labor.

3. "She doesn't look forced."

FACT: While some traffickers do indeed keep their victims locked up, it is more common for traffickers to use a combination of psychological abuse, violence or threats of violence, isolation, shame and manipulation as methods of control.

4. "Only certain types of people are victims of human trafficking."

FACT: People from all walks of life can be victims of human trafficking. They are U.S. citizens and foreign nationals. They are men and women, adults and children. They come from big cities and rural communities. They are varied in terms of race, class, nationality, sexual orientation and gender identity. The common link among them is some form of vulnerability that is exploited by a trafficker who seeks to gain control over them.

5. "Some girls are just like that."

FACT: Misinformation like this is often linked to race, class and gender-based stereotypes. It ignores the reality of the trafficker's criminal acts, and is a form of victim blaming. Victims of trafficking are not to blame for what was done to them, and stereotypes should never be used as the reason a person is seen as "less" of a victim.

6. "Human trafficking happens when victims are brought in from other countries."

FACT: Both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals can be victims of human trafficking, and the law protects them both. Limiting human trafficking only to those brought in from other countries ignores the plight of U.S. citizens being trafficked within our country's borders.

7. "They have to be transported across state lines, right?"

FACT: Human trafficking is not the same thing as human smuggling, which is the transportation of persons across an international border. Although it is common for victims to be transported as a means of control, movement of the victim across state lines is not required.

8. “But he didn’t ask for help.”

FACT: It is very rare that a victim of trafficking will self-identify or seek the assistance of others. Some victims of trafficking may simply not understand they are being exploited. Others may resist this label due to shame, guilt, feelings of affection or loyalty toward their trafficker, fear of actual or threatened violence, or distrust of law enforcement.

9. “She must have known what she was getting into.”

FACT: Initial consent to a commercial sex act or labor activity does not mean victims consent to any future acts that result from force, fraud, or coercion. No one can consent to being trafficked.

10. “Only women can be victims of human trafficking.”

FACT: Men, boys, and transpeople can be victims of both sex and labor trafficking. While the identification of victims is difficult, the belief that only women can be victims may lead authorities to miss male and transgender victims altogether, subjecting them to further abuse and exploitation.

11. “Adults can’t be victims of sex trafficking.”

FACT: Adults can be victims of sex trafficking despite their ability to consent to commercial sex acts. Not every adult involved in commercial sex work is being trafficked. However, when an adult engages in a commercial sex act that results from force, fraud or coercion, the adult is a victim of sex trafficking. Because victims of trafficking rarely self-identify, it is difficult to know for sure whether the adult has indeed consented to the sex act, or if their participation is the result of having been trafficked.

12. “Child sex trafficking only happens in poorer, less developed countries.”

FACT: Child sex trafficking is happening in the United States. Child sex trafficking refers to sexual activity involving a child under the age of 18 in exchange for money or something of value. There is no requirement that the act result from force, fraud or coercion as there is with adult victims. Any child involved in a commercial sex act is a victim of child sex trafficking. Although definitive numbers are hard to establish due to the underground nature of the crime, experts estimate up to 300,000 U.S. children are at high risk for being trafficked each year, and that traffickers target children as young as 12 years old for recruitment into prostitution and pornography.

13. “Teenagers involved in prostitution are just bad kids.”

FACT: No teenager chooses to engage in prostitution. Although the characteristics of teenage sex trafficking victims vary, teens with histories of neglect, sexual abuse or assault, or who come from unstable homes are typically more vulnerable to trafficking. Homeless youth or those in foster care are particularly prone to this type of abuse. Traffickers target at-risk youth through promises of love, caretaking or a better life. Exploitation of this vulnerability often leads to an especially complicated relationship between the trafficker and the victim built on coercion, control and manipulation.

14. “There’s nothing I can do about it.”

FACT: Everyone is capable of learning the signs of human trafficking. Learn about the work being done in your community to assist survivors of trafficking. Become familiar with the resources in your area. Spread this awareness with others by printing and sharing this extended version of our fact sheet with your friends and family. You can learn more using the resources below.

Learn More

[Howard County Human Trafficking Task Force](#)
[Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force](#)
[National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#)
[Polaris Project](#)
[Shared Hope, International](#)
[Safe House of Hope](#)
[TurnAround- Anti-Trafficking Program](#)
[The Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc.](#)
[Tahirih Justice Center](#)

