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**Office of Representative
Teresa Fedor, 47th District**

**Human
Trafficking
Awareness Day**


Amy S. Allen, Victim/Witness
Specialist
Homeland Security Investigations
SAC Detroit

 U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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“There’s a special evil in the abuse and exploitation of the most innocent and vulnerable. The victims of sex trade see little of life before they see the very worst of life – an underground of brutality and lonely fear. Those who create these victims and profit from their suffering must be severely punished.”

President Bush, U.N. General Assembly, Sept 2003

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Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Detroit Area of Operations



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What Does Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Investigate?

HSI investigates a wide range of national security, financial and smuggling violations including drug smuggling, human trafficking, illegal arms exports, financial crimes, commercial fraud, human smuggling, document fraud, money laundering, child pornography/exploitation and immigration fraud.



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**Smuggling
vs.
Trafficking**

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**Human Smuggling
Definition**

The importation of people into the United States involving deliberate evasion of immigration laws. This offense includes bringing illegal aliens into the United States, as well as the unlawful transportation, and harboring of aliens already in the U.S.

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Human Trafficking Definition

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person (regardless of citizenship), by means of threat or use of force, fraud, or coercion, subjecting victims to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery for the purpose of **sexual exploitation or forced labor.**



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Trafficking in your Community?

Anywhere a service is provided for a fee there is the potential for identifying Human Trafficking Victims

- Housekeepers?
- Salon Services
- Nannies?
- Escort Service?
- Gentleman's Clubs?
- Sweat Shops?
- Restaurant and Custodial Work



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The Reality for Victims

Victims often find themselves in a foreign country and cannot speak the language.

Traffickers often take away the victims' travel documents and tell victims that if they attempt to escape, the victims or their families back home will be harmed, killed or even that they will assume the debt.

We recognize that men, women and children that are encountered may have been forced or coerced into those situations and potentially are trafficking victims.



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Victim Issues

- May be reluctant to identify self as a victim
- Likely to lie or use rehearsed stories initially
- Cultural/religious background may deter victim from telling the full story
- May be reluctant to speak with someone wearing gun, badge, or uniform



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Victim Issues continued

- May be reluctant to speak with male investigators
- May not want family to know circumstances
- “Stockholm Syndrome” and victim empathy for traffickers
- May be culturally conditioned to fear law enforcement



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Gaining the trust of a victim of human trafficking is an important first step in providing any type of assistance



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Victim Centered Approach

- HSI recognizes that in order to successfully investigate and prosecute traffickers, victims must be stable and free from fear and intimidation to be effective witnesses.
- **Equal value** is placed on the identification and rescue of victims and the prosecution of traffickers.
- HSI has more than 300 collateral duty victim/witness coordinators who work with NGOs to assist in the provision of victim services.
- Short-term immigration relief is provided to certified victims of trafficking in the form of continued presence (CP).

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Understanding Victim Needs

- Victims often suffer from serious physical and/or psychological trauma
- Meeting their needs requires law enforcement and service providers to be:
 - Aware of their culture
 - Comprehend the traumatized state of victims
 - Able to communicate in their language

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Questions that first responders can ask:

- Are you currently being paid for your work?
- What type of work is happening here?
- Can you leave this job if you want to?
- Are you allowed to come and go as you please?
- Have you been threatened? Your family?
- Has your identification or documentation been taken from you?



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- What are your living conditions like?
- What are your working conditions like?
- Where do you eat and sleep?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep or use the phone?
- Are there any locks on your doors or windows so you cannot get out?
- How come you came to the US?
- Did you expect it to be like this?
- Are you scared to stay here?



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- Do you have any of your ID papers?—who has them?
- Are you in school? Are you working? Can you leave if you want to?
- Where do you live? Who else lives there with you? Are you scared to leave?
- Has anyone ever threatened you if you run away?
- Has anyone ever told you what to say if you were asked questions like this?



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Indicators

Look for the following clues:

- Evidence of being controlled
- Evidence of inability to make decisions
- Bruises or chronic STD's
- Back pain or other signs of physical abuse
- Apparent fear or depression
- Not speaking on own behalf
- No passport or other forms of identification or documentation
- Have tattoos or other marks indicating 'ownership' by their exploiters
- Have clothes that are mostly the kind typically worn for doing sex work



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But...it's a free country, right?

Why don't victims just walk away?

- Most victims have been abused or threatened
- Most victims have had threats to other family members
- Some victims have a sense of shame-for what they are forced to do
- Some have a sense of obligation-to pay off their "debt"
- Loyalty to the abuser-brainwashing or traumatic bonding
- Language of social barriers-limited outside world contact/don't speak the language or understand
- Fear of police or immigration



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What to Do

If you **SUSPECT** that you have encountered a victim of trafficking-please call HSI at

1-866-DHS-2ICE

or the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at

1-888-373-7888




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QUESTIONS?

Contact Information

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