

Human Trafficking

Despite increased awareness, the modern-day slave trade is the [fastest growing crime industry in the world](#), enslaving nearly 30 million individuals. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: “After drug dealing, trafficking of humans is tied with arms dealing as the second-largest criminal industry in the world.” Slavery is wrapped up in almost every industry’s supply chain, tainting the food we eat, the clothes we buy and the electronics we love.

The International Labor Organization estimates that 20.9 million people are victims of forced labor globally. From 2003—2006, 20 percent of all detected victims were children. Between 2007 and 2010, the percentage of child victims had risen to 27 percent. Forced labor victims can be found in the world’s restaurants, fisheries, brothels, farms and homes, and among many other activities. It is estimated that the number in the US reaches into the tens of thousands.

For more information, check these online resources:

How many slaves serve you? Find out at [Slavery Footprint Survey](#).

[The Polaris Project](#) is a national organization that raises awareness and compiles data about human trafficking.

[Tiny Hands International](#) is a Christian non-profit organization dedicated to empowering the church in the developing world. It specifically works to prevent the slave trade in Nepal

Learn more at the [Quaker New Underground Railroad](#), a ministry of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM).

Read: ["Human Trafficking: We Cannot keep Silent"](#) in the March Issue of *Friends Journal*.

[More human trafficking facts:](#)

Human Trafficking Facts

- Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation accounts for 58 per cent of all trafficking cases detected globally, while trafficking for forced labor accounts for 36 per cent.
- The share of detected cases of trafficking for forced labor has doubled over the past four years.
- Twenty-seven per cent of all victims detected globally are children.
- Trafficking for the removal of organs has been detected in 16 countries in all regions of the world.
- Women account for 55-60 per cent of all trafficking victims detected globally; women and girls together account for about 75 per cent.

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One hundred and thirty-four countries and territories worldwide have criminalized trafficking by means of a specific offence in line with the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, *however . . .*

The number of convictions for trafficking in persons is in general very low. Notably, of the 132 countries covered, 16 per cent did not record a single conviction between 2007 and 2010.

In general, traffickers tend to be adult males and nationals of the country in which they operate, but more women and foreign nationals are involved in trafficking in persons than in most other crimes.

Women traffickers are often involved in the trafficking of girls and tend to be used for low-ranking activities that have a higher risk of detection.

Source: [United Nations Global Report on Human Trafficking 2012](#).

What You can do:

- **Raise the awareness** not only of your monthly, quarterly, and yearly meetings but also among other Christian churches and organizations. Learn what organizations in your community are doing to end human trafficking.
- **Lobby your legislators.** While most law enforcement agencies are well aware of the human trafficking problem, most government officials are not, or do not care -- and they will not care until you care! It is up to you to raise their awareness and keep this issue near the front of their legislative agenda. Track Federal human trafficking legislation at govtrack.us; enter "human trafficking" in search box.
- **Research the origin of the products you use.** This is easy to do with an online search, or directly ask the company. The products you purchase should be provided by companies that are members of a Fair Trade organization and honor Fair Trade Agreements.
- **Know where your finances are invested.** Your retirement fund provider should provide a statement of refusal to invest in any business that has links to forced labor.
- **Pray for the victims.** The purveyors of human trafficking are too vicious to be stopped by human intervention alone. We need Divine help. We must ask the Lord for the strength and determination to speak for the victims. .

"They shall not build and another inhabit, they shall not plant and another eat"

Isa. 65:22