



FAITH-BASED & COMMUNITY

— T O O L K I T —

Who We Are

The **Blue Campaign** is the unified voice for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) efforts to combat human trafficking. Working with federal, state, and local governments – including law enforcement and non-governmental and other private organizations, the Blue Campaign strives to protect the fundamental right to freedom and bring those who exploit human lives to justice.

What's Inside?

This toolkit offers public awareness messaging and resources to engage your religious community on human trafficking.

It also includes content that can be displayed in houses of worship, during community events, and in public places.

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain labor or commercial sex. Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked in countries around the world. This serious crime is not just a problem in other countries – it is also happening in the United States in urban, suburban, and rural areas.

Human trafficking is a hidden crime as victims rarely come forward to seek help because of language barriers, fear of the traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement. The need to increase public understanding and awareness about the prevalence of human trafficking is another factor contributing to its hidden nature.

There are different types of human trafficking:

- **Sex Trafficking**
Victims of sex trafficking are manipulated or forced to engage in sex acts for someone else's commercial gain. Sex trafficking is not prostitution. Anyone under the age of 18 engaging in commercial sex is considered to be a victim of human trafficking. **No exceptions.**
- **Forced Labor**
Victims of forced labor are compelled to work for little or no pay, often manufacturing or harvesting the products we use and consume every day.
- **Domestic Servitude**
Victims of domestic servitude are forced to work in isolation and are hidden in plain sight as nannies, housekeepers, or other domestic help.

How Can I Help?

As a faith leader, you are in a unique position to help stop human trafficking. As a moral authority and trusted messenger, your efforts to educate and engage your congregation and community will resonate. With your help, we can save lives.

Use the resources and tips in this toolkit to spread awareness of this heinous crime and help bring it out of the shadows.

Don't let it happen to you, your congregants, or your community.

What is the Difference Between Sexual Assault and Sex Trafficking?

- Sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the consent of the recipient. It includes sexual acts against people who are unable to consent either due to age or lack of capacity.
- Sex trafficking means recruiting, harboring, transporting, patronizing, soliciting, obtaining, or providing a person to engage in a sex act in exchange for money or something of value. A victim of sex trafficking may also be a victim of sexual assault.

SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Everyone has a role to play in combating human trafficking. Recognizing the signs of human trafficking is the first step to identifying a victim. Victims can be U.S. citizens or foreign nationals of any age, race, or gender.

Each indicator alone may not necessarily mean a person is being trafficked. For more details on the indicators of human trafficking, see our [website](#).



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

-  Do not at any time attempt to confront a suspected trafficker directly or alert a victim to your suspicions.
-  Call 911 for emergency situations – threats of violence, physical assault, emergency medical needs, etc.
-  Call 1-866-DHS-2-ICE (1-866-347-2423) to report suspicious criminal activity to federal law enforcement. Highly trained specialists take reports from both the public and law enforcement agencies.
-  If you are a victim and need help or if you want to find support for a victim, contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Call 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733).

TRAUMA-INFORMED RESPONSES

Trauma may be the result of a single event (an intense one-time event, where there is serious threat of harm or death) or a series of events or situations that are long term (witnessing or experiencing neglect, abuse, or other forms of violence).

As a leader in a house of worship, it is possible that your congregants or community members could come to you or refer someone to discuss traumatic experiences which could include human trafficking. You may be in a position to support them in seeking the necessary help they need to recover from their experiences. It is also important that you use trauma-informed responses during your own interactions. Below is information about trauma-informed approaches when interacting with victims and recommendations on how to build a local network of support services for referrals.

A trauma-informed response begins with understanding the physical, social, and emotional impact of trauma on the individual.

TRAUMA-INFORMED PRINCIPLES THAT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED IN HOUSES OF WORSHIP INCLUDE:



Safety – Create a trusted space and welcoming environment. In a house of worship or religious facility, the physical and psychological safety is important to the health and well-being of those adversely affected. The physical setting must be private and safe, and interactions should promote a sense of safety and set a positive tone with those seeking help.



Trustworthiness and Transparency – Build trusted and transparent relationships without judgement. This provides meaningful opportunities for physical and emotional healing.



Peer Support – Seek other individuals who can serve as key partners in recovery from traumatic events.



Empowerment, Voice, and Choice – Allow individual strengths to be recognized, built upon, and validated while developing new skills as needed.



Cultural, Historical, and Gender Issues – Key considerations should be made for those experiencing historical and cultural trauma and gender-based violence. Be responsive to the racial, ethnic, gender, and cultural needs of individuals served.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND TRAUMA

Some of the most significant injuries suffered by human trafficking victims are often the least visible. Traffickers can use a victim’s pre-existing relationships, immigration status, built-in trust, alcohol or drug use, or engagement in criminal activity to create vulnerabilities. These vulnerabilities and the trauma associated with the experience coupled with feelings of guilt, self-blame, embarrassment, fear, and/or shame may have long-lasting psychological wounds. These emotions can have a significant impact on the ability to assist victims in their own personal healing process. Emotional distress may cause victims to return back to their trafficker numerous times while receiving services or assistance in their recovery.

The majority of trafficking situations are the culmination of many traumatic experiences, most of which are untreated. **Trauma affects how victims see themselves** ("I am helpless," "worthless"), their worldview ("the world is dangerous," "no one can protect me"), and relationships ("I cannot trust anyone"). **A trauma-informed approach is mindful of how to create a situation in which the victim is safe, makes his or her own choices, and feels understood.**

Key components of trauma-informed approaches:

- Realize (acknowledge) how trauma affects people
- Recognize the signs of trauma (fear, sadness, anger, mistrust, anxiety, self-harm, etc.)
- Respond by changing or improving tone, delivery, and language ("What’s wrong?" becomes "What happened?")
- Resist re-traumatization by addressing trauma and toxic stress in the lives of both family/friends and people served



Professional training on trauma & trauma-informed approaches is essential and strongly encouraged.

VICTIM SERVICES

Knowing the services within your community before a victim comes forward can prepare you to offer immediate assistance and help reduce re-traumatization for the victim. Collaborate with organizations and agencies ahead of time to be aware of the services offered within your community. Some of the services that victims of trafficking may need include:



Emergency Services

- Crisis Intervention and Counseling
- Emergency Shelter and Referrals
- Urgent Medical Care
- Safety Planning
- Food and Clothing



Social Services

- Case Management
- Interpretation
- Housing
- Job Training and Education
- Court Accompaniment
- Employment Assistance
- Transportation
- Healthcare



Legal Services

- Immigration Status
- Criminal Case Services
- Civil Case Services
- Witness Protection
- Family Court Services
- Legal Representation
- Vacate Convictions

For more information about the services available to victims of human trafficking, including comprehensive service referrals in the U.S., visit the [National Human Trafficking Referral Directory](https://www.dhs.gov/nhrtd).

SPREAD THE WORD

Anyone can join in the fight against human trafficking. Here are a few ideas to help you get started in your house of worship and within your local community.



Host an Event

Host an educational session, such as a panel or workshop, at your house of worship. Educate, promote, discuss, and empower participants to recognize the [signs](#) of human trafficking and take action to report this heinous crime.



Share Our Video

Play Blue Campaign's "[What is Human Trafficking](#)" video at community events or on video screens at your house of worship or religious facility.



Share a Message

Share a message or sermon to encourage your community and congregants to learn more about [human trafficking](#).



Team Up

Identify law enforcement and social service organizations working to address human trafficking and consider ways to help spread the word. Seek available [training](#) in your area and encourage congregants to participate. Consider hosting your own training for congregants and your community. For more information visit the [National Human Trafficking Referral Directory](#).



Be a Conscientious Consumer

Encourage members of the congregation to speak up and insist that the clothes they wear, the food they eat, and the products they buy do not come from those in forced labor situations. To find out who is making the items you purchase, visit [Made in a Free World's Slavery Footprint](#) and download the [Sweat and Toil App](#).



Promote Responsible Procurement

Talk to your religious organization's governing bodies about the organization's procurement practices and contract clauses since these may have an impact on forced labor.



Share on Social Media

Follow the Blue Campaign on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Share our content with others. Use the following hashtags: [#EndTrafficking](#) and [#BlueCampaign](#).



Get the Word Out

Share [information](#) about recognizing and reporting human trafficking in articles, blogs, or newsletters to reach your community and congregants.



Encourage Facility Managers or Security Staff Training

Require your facility managers or security staff to take a human trafficking awareness training. Awareness training videos are available on our [website](#).



Connect with Other Faith or Community Leaders

Help spread information about how to recognize and report human trafficking by sharing Blue Campaign's [free resources](#) with other faith and community leaders.

OBSERVE HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

Raise public awareness of human trafficking on January 11, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day as recognized in the United States. There are many ways to show your community's support to assist victims of human trafficking and to combat it in all its forms. Take the lead in your faith community during the month of January by:



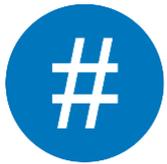
Wearing Blue

The color blue is internationally symbolic of human trafficking awareness. Show your commitment to fighting human trafficking by wearing a blue outfit, accessory, and/or makeup. Share a photo of yourself and others wearing blue on social media and use the hashtag *#WearBlueDay*.



Sponsor an Event

Talk to your congregation about dedicating an event, such as a walk, panel, workshop, or presentation to raise awareness of human trafficking. Promote the event in advance and encourage attendees to show their solidarity by wearing blue. Display and distribute human trafficking [awareness materials](#) at the event.



Promoting with Hashtags

Let others know that your faith community has taken a stand against human trafficking. Take photos at awareness events and share them on social media. During January, in connection with Human Trafficking Awareness Day, add your community to the cause by using *#EndHumanTrafficking* or *#BlueCampaign*.

Volunteer

Local anti-human trafficking organizations have a wide variety of volunteer opportunities available. Contact a local organization to learn how you can serve or visit the [National Human Trafficking Referral Directory](#) for a list of service providers in your area.

The Blue Campaign has a variety of print and digital materials available for you to use as part of your local awareness campaigns. Go to our [website](#) to view a list and request our materials at no cost.