

ISSUES, PROTECTIONS, AND SOLUTIONS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

No one wants to believe that human trafficking could happen in their community. And yet, a San Diego study of 20 unnamed high schools found that 90% had a confirmed trafficking case on campus. While seeking ways to better serve our girls through advocacy, we developed the following hypotheses:

- A. The communities our girls come from could be at risk for trafficking and grooming
- B. Trafficking must be addressed through law enforcement, prevention, and survivor care

Firstly, field surveys, including personal interviews and group discussions, were conducted at programming sites. These confirmed that not only did girls come from typically targeted communities – low income, “latchkey kids,” often living in high crime areas – they were already experiencing some of the pre-cursors to grooming. Secondly, community leaders and resources were consulted to create a clear overview of which victim protections were already in place at the Federal, State and County level. Finally, the Girls Inc. of San Diego (GISD) team congregated to decide where we could contribute best – at the prevention stage, and specifically through education. In addition, we knew that the saliency of trafficking on a national, state and local level would ensure project we initiated would benefit from being embedded in an existing multilateral cooperation framework – thus providing capacity for growth and effectiveness. As a result, GISD decided to integrate human trafficking education efforts throughout the organization: from training staff as Mandated Reporters, to integrating the PROTECT curriculum in Strong and Bold programming, to educating our supporters on the matter.

The final step of ensuring the San Diego community is informed, is achieved by this brief. This brief aims to provide a fact-based, non-partisan overview of human trafficking statistics, legislation related to trafficking, and prevention efforts undertaken by GISD. It is structured as follows:

- 1 Scope of the Issue:** Statistics and Media Coverage
- 2 Existing Protections:** Federal, State and County Responses
- 3 Solutions:** Best Practices for Communities and Schools

HOW BIG IS THIS ISSUE?

Scope of the issue: Definition and Statistics

The U.S. Government defines human trafficking 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.
- 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.

Nationally, between **14,500** and **17,500** people are trafficked annually, and a DOJ report extrapolating from a San Diego county survey estimates the potential number of unauthorized immigration labor trafficking victims at **2.47 million**. Of those, an estimated **100,000 – 300,000** are prostituted children, often runaways and unaccompanied minors.

California's cities make up 3 of the FBI's 13 highest child sex trafficking areas: San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. From mid-2010 to mid-2012, human trafficking task forces identified **1,277** victims in California, the highest number of any state. American citizens made up **72%** of all victims. Of the 705 cases of human trafficking in California reported during 2017, 226 involved minors.

In San Diego alone, there are an estimated **8,000** victims of human trafficking. Sex trafficking is San Diego's second largest underground economy, generating around \$810 million in revenue each year. There are at least **100** gangs involved in commercial exploitation of people, and typically a prostituted child enters at **15** years old. Trans-border criminal networks are often involved, and in many cases survivors fail to cooperate with law enforcement out of fright, thus foregoing immigration relief.

Media Coverage

More than 500 arrested, dozens saved in statewide crackdown on human trafficking

Statewide operation out of Los Angeles arrested 510 people involved in trafficking, finding 101 survivors, most around ages 15-16.

Two men arrested in San Bernardino on suspicion of trafficking teen girl

"San Bernardino police officers found a 17-year-old girl Monday night near 6th and G streets who they determined to be involved in prostitution and a probable victim of human trafficking, according to a San Bernardino County sheriff's news release. The girl had been transported from Oakland to San Francisco to Los Angeles and then to San Bernardino."

Feds: Gang lured schoolgirls to sex trade

About 100 victims, some as young as 12, were identified, and mostly recruited through social media and parties. Some victims were trafficked as far away as Michigan, Kansas, Arizona, Nevada and Texas.

Sex Trafficking Overtakes Drugs As San Diego County Gang's Top Cash Source

A federal indictment against 24 North Park gang members and associates revealed a powerful and sophisticated sex trafficking network across 46 cities and 23 states. Sixty girls were rescued, 11 were under 18.

WHAT EXISTING PROTECTIONS ARE IN PLACE?

Federal Response

In 2000, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), the cornerstone of the federal response to trafficking, was passed establishing the 3 P's framework for legal protection of victims:

- 1) **Protection:** the TVPA created immigration protections for victims of trafficking (T visa) and victims of certain crimes (U visa), and provided other forms of immigration relief so that undocumented victims could come forward.
- 2) **Prosecution:** the TVPA created a comprehensive framework which federal prosecutors could use to prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking by adding new criminal provision and strengthening penalties for trafficking-related crimes.
- 3) **Prevention:** the TVPA established the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons which publishes an annual Trafficking in Persons report ranking countries' efforts to combat trafficking.

The TVPA was reauthorized in 2003, 2005, 2008 and 2013, each time expanding inter-agency cooperation on a federal level. The Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking suggests that improvements in policy and budget could be made to several crucial acts and programs to include: the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, the McKinney-Vento Act for homeless shelters, the National Human Trafficking Hotline etc.

The current administration has made human trafficking prevention a priority by:

- Continuing to proclaim January National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month
- Signing Executive Order 13773 in February 2017 which directs the US government to dismantle transnational criminal organizations that engage in human trafficking
- Signing the FOSTA-SESTA legislation package which excludes website that knowingly allow their users to engage in sex trafficking from the legal protections of the Communications Decency Act

State Response

In 2005, the California Human Trafficking Victims Protection Act first established human trafficking as a felony in the state, and was co-sponsored by then State Attorney General Kamala Harris. Since then, a number of bills have been passed to address human and sex trafficking in California:

- AB- 2498 conceals victims' names, images, and family information until the related investigation and prosecution is complete.
- AB- 1276 authorizes minors of 15 years or younger to testify in a human trafficking case.
- SB- 1322 makes the provision that engaging in prostitution, or loitering in public space with intention to engage in prostitution a crime, inapplicable to minors.
- SB-1064 indefinitely extends the life of a pilot program intended to provide a comprehensive, replicative, multidisciplinary model to address the needs and effective treatment of commercially sexually exploited minors.
- AB-1227 extends the California Healthy Youth Act to require public schools to offer education and training on human trafficking identification and prevention.

In addition, as of 2018, two Assembly Bills related to trafficking are pending at the state level:

- AB-1495: Sex trafficking as a criminal business – gives state and local government the ability to sue sex traffickers in civil court, as part of a larger criminal enterprise.
- AB-2124: Human Trafficking: Funding Vertical Prosecution. Contingent upon funding, this bill would require OES to award funds to up to 11 DA offices that employ vertical prosecution programs for the prosecution of human trafficking crimes.

County Response

San Diego District Attorney Summer Stephan is known to have extensively focused on and worked toward eradicating human trafficking in the area, to include poster and billboard campaigns. San Diego County has addressed the issue of sex trafficking on two fronts: a) by furthering horizontal cooperation between law enforcement agencies incl. various police and sheriff's departments, FBI, NCIS, ICE, CBP, San Diego Unified School District Police Department etc. and b) charitable organizations have been providing support for survivors e.g. Project LIFE, the Center for Community Solutions, GenerateHope, Survivor Leader Network of San Diego, etc.

Prevention efforts for at-risk youth however, have been scarce – until now. The City of San Diego runs the Out of the Shadows public awareness campaign out of public libraries. The San Diego Trafficking Prevention Collective offers the PROTECT, Girls Only/Boys Only, and kNOw More curricula. Considering, though, the scale of the industry – estimated at \$810 million each year in San Diego alone – there is much more to be done on the prevention front.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Solutions: Best Practices for Communities and Schools

Georgetown Law School's Center on Poverty and Inequality sets out the following best practices to encourage both prevention and after-care in communities:

- 1) **Shifting the perspective:** understanding that victims of sex trafficking are not perpetrators, recognizing that they have experienced trauma, and building strong relationships with survivors and/or at-risk youth.
- 2) **Improving public service identification:** to include school officials and other students
- 3) **Creating and supporting** multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) which include child welfare, schools, law enforcement etc.

Additionally, the National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environment, supported by a Department of Education grant, indicates that schools can create optimal anti-trafficking environments by adopting best practices such as:

- Develop, adopt, enforce, and implement a policy to address child trafficking;
- Make sure all school personnel are properly trained on the policy;
- Make certain campus security is in place so that all visitors are screened;
- Provide programs and roles for parents and guardians to make them part of their children's safety and security, both at school and while going to and from school;
- Assess the environmental structure and take every possible step to help make it safe;
- Partner with local law enforcement experts to provide a parent awareness program on the

dangers and warning signs of child sex trafficking; and

- Partner with local law enforcement agencies to protect the routes that students use to travel to and from schools.

Girls Inc. of San Diego County is contributing to the creation of a safer environment for girls in accordance with best practices by educating, training and informing the San Diego community.

Education

GISD is integrating the PROTECT curriculum into all of our Strong and Bold programs. The PROTECT curriculum is fully compliant with the Human Trafficking Prevention Education and Training Act (AB-1227). It is designed to raise awareness among girls about the threats, signs and risks of human trafficking. The learning is transmitted through age-appropriate methods, by the girls' trusted Program Coordinator. In the 5th grade participants learn about safe spaces, in the 7th grade they learn through artwork, in the 9th grade they receive specific information about signs of trafficking, and in the 11th grade they learn through historical presentation.

Girls learn:

- what trafficking is
- why predators target girls, what factors may make them vulnerable
- how to recognize the signs that you are being targeted
- who to talk to if you feel you are being targeted

Girls receive Girls Inc. Strong and Bold programming wrapped around the trafficking prevention education to empower them to advocate for their well-beings.

Through Girls Inc.'s Leadership and Action programming, girls cultivate leadership qualities, and are given project planning resources. Using these resources, and with support from Volunteer Mentors, they develop their community action campaigns around trafficking prevention, which can include:

- Meeting with relevant school and community leaders
- Creating information flyers or art work to raise awareness
- Creating petitions to sign around the community or at school
- Creating a short public service announcement that can be aired in school TV circuit
- Talking to vulnerable family members or friends who are not participants of Girls Inc.
- And more.

Training

Girls Inc. of San Diego County maintains a highly trained staff. Our Program Coordinators are Mandated Reporters in accordance with California law and are trained as such. In addition, Program Coordinators and facilitators complete the PROTECT teacher training. This three-part training (Human Trafficking 101, 102, and 103) familiarizes them with human trafficking, the trauma that accompanies it, and the red flags that indicate it. All Program Volunteers receive detailed information in the Volunteer Handbook on plans of action in suspected endangered child cases.

Informing and Advocating

In addition to educating girls and training educators, GISD is committed to informing members, supporters and affiliates on issues that matter to girls by providing resources.

Take Action

Through the Girls Inc. of San Diego County Volunteer Mentor program members of the community can help educate girls about trafficking prevention and help them build the skills to advocate for themselves. To find out more about how to become a volunteer mentor visit www.girlsincsd.org/volunteer.

LOCAL RESOURCES

PROTECT program

3Strands Global Foundation

kNOw More

Girls Only!

University of San Diego/Point Loma Nazarene University Sex Trafficking Study

Center for Community Solutions

San Diego County District Attorney

GenerateHope

National Resources

Polaris Project

Missing Kids

Project Concern International

Children of the Night

¹ <http://www.sandiego.edu/peace/faculty-and-research/research/human-trafficking-study.php>

² <https://www.nij.gov/topics/crime/human-trafficking/pages/welcome.aspx>

³ <http://www.htcourts.org/wp-content/uploads/CA-HT-Fact-Sheet-2.27.13.pdf?Factsheet=HT-CA>

⁴ The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Efforts to Combat Crimes Against Children

⁵ <http://www.htcourts.org/wp-content/uploads/CA-HT-Fact-Sheet-2.27.13.pdf?Factsheet=HT-CA>

⁶ <http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title22/chapter78&edition=prelim>

⁷ <http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/opinion/commentary/sd-utbg-human-trafficking-san-diego-20171110-story.html>

⁸ <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/249857.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/249857.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://www.htcourts.org/wp-content/uploads/CA-HT-Fact-Sheet-2.27.13.pdf?Factsheet=HT-CA>

¹¹ <https://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking/key-legislation>

¹² <https://endslaveryandtrafficking.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/FY19-ATEST-LaborHHSEd-web-180525.pdf>

¹³ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/president-donald-j-trump-proclaims-january-2018-national-slavery-human-trafficking-prevention-month/>

¹⁴ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-working-end-human-trafficking/>

¹⁵ <https://www.cnn.com/2018/04/11/politics/sex-trafficking-donald-trump/index.html>

¹⁶ http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB2498v

¹⁷ http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB1276

¹⁸ http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB1322

¹⁹ http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB1064

²⁰ <http://protectnow.org/ab1227/>

²¹ https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB1495

²² https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB2124

²³ <https://www.sdca.org/preventing/human-trafficking/index.html>

²⁴ <https://oag.ca.gov/bi/hhtf>

²⁵ <http://www.sandiego.edu/peace/faculty-and-research/research/human-trafficking-study.php>

²⁶ <https://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/services/sex-trafficking-awareness>

²⁷ <https://protectnow.org/>

²⁸ <https://girlsonlytoolkit.org/>

²⁹ <https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/center-justice-reconciliation/know-more-human-trafficking-awareness-prevention>

³⁰ <http://www.sandiego.edu/peace/faculty-and-research/research/human-trafficking-study.php>

³¹ <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/sites/default/files/Blueprint%20-%20GL.pdf>

³² <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/sites/default/files/HumanTraffickinginAmericasSchools.pdf>