Human Trafficking: 
A Call to Act Justly

Adult Faith Formation in 
Catholic Parishes in Wisconsin

St. Josephine Bakhita
Prepared by the

Leadership Conference of Women Religious Wisconsin
Police who staged a raid at a Fox Valley motel in April found a 17-year-old Green Bay girl and a 14-year-old Appleton girl being sold to men for sex. The 14-year-old, who police said had seen 18 men before the arrest, would tell police that she needed money to repay a suspected pimp who had threatened her.

Green Bay Press Gazette
June 6, 2015
Only 16 years old, Riley was rejected by her family and peers and forced to leave home. Having nowhere to go, she met a man who pretended to care about her, calling himself her “boyfriend.” He eventually coerced her into exchanging sex for money.

Riley wanted to escape and be someplace safe, where she could be her true self. Finally, through contact with a youth service provider, she received secure, stable shelter and was enrolled in counseling. Riley has since finished her GED program.
Contents

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• The Crime of Human Trafficking
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What Is Human Trafficking?

• A form of modern-day slavery
• The exploitation of persons for commercial sex or forced labor without victims’ ability to leave the situation
• Use of force, fraud, or coercion by traffickers to control their victims
• May involve movement across an international border; often occurs within a country
Activities For Which People Are Trafficked

- Prostitution
- Pornography
- Exotic dancing
- Agricultural work
- Landscape work
- Domestic work and child care ("domestic servitude")
- Factory work
- Massage /Day Spa
- Begging/street peddling
- Restaurant work
- Construction work
- Carnival work
- Hotel housekeeping
- Ship-building & welding
- Day labor
- Nail Salons
- Manual labor
- Nursing homes
The Crime of Human Trafficking
Modern Slavery is Illegal

• International Law
  – Universal Declaration of Human Rights
  – Palermo Protocol

• Federal Law
  – 13th Amendment (1865)
  – Mann Act (1910)

• Wisconsin Law
Wisconsin Statutes

• § 940.302. Human trafficking statute
• § 973.075 to 973.077 Asset Seizure and Forfeiture statute
• § 948.051. Trafficking of a child
• § 973.015. Vacating Convictions - Special Disposition
• § DOJ – directed to create & disseminate a poster with the national human trafficking hotline: 1.888.3737.888
A Victim-Centered Approach

- Service Providers
- Victim
- Attorneys
- Law Enforcement
Three Types of Human Trafficking Victims

1. Youth under age 18 who are involved in commercial sex acts (always victims; they cannot give consent)
2. Persons age 18 or over who perform commercial sex acts due to force, fraud, or coercion
3. Persons who labor through force, fraud or coercion in forms of servitude, peonage, or debt bondage
A “Hidden Crime”

- Victims may be undocumented and fear U.S. authorities; traffickers will exploit this fear
- Victims may be physically isolated or guarded, or held through psychological coercion
- Many victims may not speak English
- Many victims do not know where they are in the U.S. and face tremendous cultural barriers
- Many do not realize that they are victims or that they have rights under U.S. law
Smuggling Versus Human Trafficking

• **Smuggling**
  – An offense against the integrity of the U.S. borders
  – Requires illegal crossing of the U.S. border
  – Smugglers make their money once the alien has reached the U.S. border; their “business relationship” with the immigrant then terminates
  – Smuggling becomes trafficking once a person is forced to provide labor or sexual services

• **Trafficking**
  – An offense against a person
  – Involves compelled labor or sexual services
  – Traffickers may use smuggling debt as a means to control victims
  – Traffickers maintain ongoing control over victims, whether or not a border is crossed
What Our Faith Teaches
From the Bible

• Old Testament (Isaiah 61:1)

  The Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners.


  The spirit of the Lord is on me, for he has anointed me to bring the good news to the afflicted. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives, sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim a year of favor from the Lord. ...Then he (Jesus) began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even while you are listening.'
From the Catholic Church

- Vatican Council II
- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Pope John Paul II
- Pope Benedict XVI
- Pope Francis
- U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
[W]hatever insults human dignity, such as...slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed. They poison human society, but they do more harm to those who practice them than those who suffer from the injury. Moreover, they are supreme dishonor to the Creator.

Gaudium et Spes (The Church in the Modern World)
Vatican II, 1965 #27
Catechism of the Catholic Church

The seventh commandment forbids acts or enterprises that for any reason lead to the enslavement of human beings, to their being bought, sold and exchanged like merchandise, in disregard for their personal dignity. It is a sin against the dignity of persons and their fundamental rights to reduce them by violence to their productive value or to a source of profit.

- Paragraph no. 2414
Pope John Paul II

The trade in human persons constitutes a shocking offense against human dignity and grave violation of fundamental human rights…

The alarming increase in the trade in human beings is one of the pressing political, social and economic problems associated with the process of globalization…

Letter on the Occasion of the 2002 Conference:
“Twenty-First Century Slavery – The Human Rights Dimension to Trafficking in Human Beings”
Pope Benedict XVI

It becomes easy for the trafficker to offer his own 'services' to the victims, who often do not even vaguely suspect what awaits them. In some cases, there are women and girls who are destined to be exploited almost like slaves in their work, and not infrequently in the sex industry too.

“Migration: A Sign of the Times”
Message for the World Day for Refugees and Migrants in 2006
Pope Francis

It is not possible to remain indifferent before the knowledge that human beings are bought and sold like goods! I think of the adoption of children for the extraction of their organs, of women deceived and obliged to prostitute themselves, of workers exploited and denied rights or a voice, and so on. And this is human trafficking.

Message on the occasion of the annual Lenten “Fraternity Campaign” in Brazil with the theme of “Fraternity and human trafficking”
March 5, 2014
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Human trafficking will never be truly defeated without eliminating the consumerism that feeds it and prosecuting those actors in receiving countries, including our own, that benefit because of the exploitation of vulnerable human beings.

On Human Trafficking,
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), 2007
Scope of the Crime of Human Trafficking
How Many Victims?

- 21 million or more victims worldwide (International Labor Organization)
  - 5.5 million are children.
  - 14.2 million are victims of labor exploitation
- 800,000 people trafficked across international borders annually
- 250,000 American youth at risk of sexual exploitation each year, as young as 8-14 years
- More than 40% of trafficking victims are forced into commercial sex (95% are women and young girls)
Labor Trafficking

In 2016, the Department of Labor identified 139 products from 75 countries made by forced labor and/or child labor.
The “Dirty Dozen”
Products Produced with Slave Labor

- Coffee
- Chocolate
- Clothing
- Electronics
- Counterfeit handbags
- Rubber
- Diamonds
- Shrimp (and other sea foods)
- Carpet
- Palm oil
- Cannabis
- Pornography
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (C-SEC)

• The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that at least 100,000 U.S. children are victims of sex trafficking each year, some as young as 12 years.

• There are estimates that each year as many as 26,000 teens in Wisconsin run away from home. Vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation when on the streets.
Who is at Risk of Child Sexual Exploitation?

- Any ethnicity, race, or religion
- Any socioeconomic class
- Girls and boys
- Abused - physically or mentally
- Runaway or thrown-away youth
- From urban, suburban, rural communities
How and Where Youth Fall Victim

The Internet
Social Media
The Mall
The Street
School
The Park
Pornography Feeds Human Trafficking

- Viewing porn creates a DEMAND for sex trafficking within the porn industry
- Viewing porn becomes addictive – moving from soft to hard porn
- Viewers are known to imitate violent porn practices
- A vicious cycle – porn addicts become abusers who create victims who then supply the demand for the addicts
The Face of a Trafficker

Traffickers span a wide range of criminal operators, including individual pimps, small families or businesses, loose-knit decentralized criminal networks, and international organized criminal syndicates. It is an extremely multi-layered and lucrative “business”!
The enormous profit for the traffickers derives from “repeated sale” of the trafficking victim’s body or labor.
Traffickers Seek Out and Exploit Victim Vulnerabilities

- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Undocumented status
- Alcohol or drug dependency
- Teenage Runaway
  (1.6-2.8 million youth run away annually, according to the National Runaway Safeline, 2015)
- Homelessness
Does it happen here? Yes!

- Human trafficking is a growing problem in WI
- Milwaukee is considered a “Mecca” for pimps
- Trafficking in WI includes:
  - Sex trafficking of immigrants and U.S. citizens
  - Forced labor in Wisconsin’s fields, restaurants & tourist industry
  - Domestic minor sex trafficking of teens & runaways
  - House slavery (“domestic servitude”)
WI Statistics (since 2007)

- **1,268** – Signals to National Hotline; **221** – Victims identified
- **268** – Cases; **429** – Total number of victims in the 268 cases
- **7/8** cases are sex trafficking
- Human trafficking cases reported in every county in WI (WI Department of Justice, 2013)

Cited from Polaris | National Human Trafficking Resource Center | 1-888-3737-888 | NHTRC@PolarisProject.org

Please note that the data displayed in this report was generated based on limited criteria from calls received by the NHTRC hotline. This is not a comprehensive report on the scale or scope of human trafficking on a state or national level. These statistics may be subject to change.
Human Trafficking in WI News


Trafficking victims found in rural counties

Human trafficking spreading through Wisconsin 6.6.’15

Local girl caught up in human trafficking 7.15.’16

Survivor of Sex Trafficking determined to help victims Milwaukee, 6.30.’15

Sex-trafficking cases hard to crack in Wisconsin Wausau, 3.26.’14

6 arrested in northwest Wisconsin human trafficking sting 8.27.’14


Additional 20 years probation for Verona man who sought to buy 8-year-old girl for sex 1.4. ’12

Wisconsin couple who kept modern-day slave for 19 years deported to the Philippines 6.15.’12

Human trafficking in Milwaukee: Lifting the Veil 9.12.’16
Resources
Movies/DVDs

- The Girl Next Door
- Nefarious
- Food Chains
- In Plain Sight
- Black Gold
- Half the Sky
- Kids for Sale
Books

Girls Like Us

GOD in a BROTHEL

NOT IN MY TOWN

THE SLAVE NEXT DOOR

A CRIME SO MONSTROUS

HALF THE SKY

DISPOSABLE PEOPLE

The Slave Across the Street

Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy

Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide

Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

Half the Sky

Half the Sky

Nice Girls Don’t Get the Corner Office

Daniel Walker

E. Benjamin Skinner

Rachel Lloyd

Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

Kevin Gates

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Some Internet Resources

- The USCCB Office of Migration and Refugee Services Anti-Human Trafficking Program
- Wisconsin Anti-Human Trafficking Website
- End Modern Slavery Polaris
- Shared Hope International – Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking
- End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT USA)
- Faith Alliance Against Slavery and Trafficking
- The Salvation Army
- Covenant Eyes (Internet Safety for the family)
- Brushfires Foundation (Harms of Pornography)
Engaging the Catholic Community

*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.* Micah 6:8
What You Can Do

• Continue educating yourself…watch DVDs or films about human trafficking, read a book, visit anti-human trafficking websites, pay attention to the news, attend a training on the topic, learn about the harm caused by pornography

• Keep your eyes open for signs of force, fraud, or coercion & report what you see

• End the demand for cheaper foods, clothing, & other goods

• Pray for victims and for the conversion of traffickers
What Your Church Can Do

• Create a human trafficking committee
• Raise awareness by educating church members
• Create a resource center with current materials
• Assist community service providers who are serving victims
• Help provide a safe haven for those who are vulnerable
• Hold fundraisers for worthy anti-trafficking organizations
• Incorporate the issue into worship services
• Advocate for improved legislation (such as Safe Harbor)
• Help to reduce poverty at home and abroad
• Support Fair Trade establishments/companies
Can Your Parish Provide for Victims:

- Pro bono legal, medical, or dental care?
- Donations of food, clothing, and furniture?
- Emergency housing?
- Temporary or permanent jobs?
- Assistance with learning English?
- Direct companionship & mentoring?
- Bilingual assistance?
- Used car/transportation help?
CONTACT

If you observe a potential human trafficking incident please contact:

1. The National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-3737-888 to locate services in your area.

2. Call 911 in an emergency situation
Credits

Thank you for educating yourself about Human Trafficking

Through education you can bring awareness. Through awareness you can provide help. Through help you can provide hope.

Our Catholic faith calls us to action!