

End Human Sex Trafficking

Rotary District 5710 Conference

District 5710 Anti-Human Trafficking Committee (and Friends)

13 October 2023

**In 2017 RI announced their fight
to End Human Trafficking**

A bold, audacious goal!

Background

- **International “Business”**
\$150 Billion annually, over 28 million victims - female and male
- **Human Trafficking (HT) reported in all 50 US states**
- **In KS - Labor and Sex trafficking reported in urban, rural and suburban areas**
“Originating State” - hub for victimization and transportation
- **HT occurs when something of value is traded for sex with vulnerable adult or child**
- **Exploits person’s vulnerabilities**
Victims stay due to manipulation, threats, fraud

Background

- **All commercial sex is NOT always trafficking, BUT**
 - **under 18 - ALWAYS is**
 - **18 and over - IF it is a result of force, fraud, coercion**
- **Traffickers are not always strangers: include romantic partners, parents, other family members, groomers, pimps, etc.**
- **Love Trap: Build her up; Control her life; Start putting her down; Everything her fault; Now she is completely dependent**
- **HT is not human smuggling**

Victims/survivors Represent Every Race, Ethnicity, Sex, and Gender

•Youths

- Average age is 13**
- Most at-risk: Foster kids, runaways, those who experienced abuse, neglect, and other forms of trauma**
- Can be straight A students from stable, good homes**
- Children with special needs - don't understand being trafficked**
- Children who are having sex anyway**
- Pregnant teens**
- Kids that are bullied**
 - Kids that didn't get asked to be on the team – any team!**
- People who need money**
- Those without legal immigration status**

Why They Stay

- **Shame - e.g., revealing nude pictures to family**
- **Threatened with violence to their children or someone else that love**
- **They have no access to money; no home to go to**
- **They are forced to do crime:**
 - **shoplifting, drugs, recruitment of others, bad credit**
- **Their groomer got them pregnant**
- **Convinced their groomer loves them (Love Trap)**
 - **can take up to 6 rescues to leave**
- **Low self-esteem**
- **Symptoms are similar for domestic violence**

Crux of the Issue - Addressing Demand

- **20% of men pay for sex**
- **70% white; 50% married**
- **2% of buyers account for 75% of transactions**
- **Buyers (aka Johns) can be anyone, including**
 - **professionals**
 - **students**
 - **tourists**
 - **military personnel**
 - **family member**

How Do We Address It? Need For

- **Creating greater understanding how demand is driven:**
 - **porn - normalization of sexual objectification and violence; self-gratification at expense of others**
 - **pimp culture - “successful” businessperson in the “hood”**
 - **sexually oriented businesses - massage parlors, escort services, hourly hotels**
- **Expanding education programs for first-time offenders on realities of HT**
 - **Stopping Sexual Exploitation (SSE) - non-traditional “John” school**
 - **2 initial interviews; 8 weekly sessions**
 - **64% report wanting to stop buying**
 - **90% of those completing the program have different view of prostitution**
- **Engaging all of community awareness to decrease demand**

Reforms Needed in Kansas -

- **Education of all lawmakers on HT and its impact**
 - **Help new legislators and policy makers understand history of anti-HT efforts**
 - **Help to build on past progress - target areas still in need**
 - **Focus on reforms for both sex and labor trafficking ***
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- *** Labor Trafficking**
 - **used in supply chains on imported goods**
 - **forced labor and services of adults, children, and foreign nationals residing in KS**

How Can We Support Survivors?

- **Accurate reporting - using appropriate terminology**
 - **Prostitute vs. Victim**
 - ***Victims are not criminals (KS one of first states to make distinction)***
- **Respecting victims' rights to tell their own story**
- **Encouraging and supporting survivors and those working to help them**
- **Increasing resources and solutions for**
 - **affordable housing**
 - **meaningful employment**
 - **every day needs - food, transportation, healthcare**
 - **mentoring justice - involved youth**
- **Providing trauma training for community leaders and organizations**
- **Sponsoring meaningful activities for youth**
- **Creating a safe place for victims which provide needed services in one location**

What Local Rotarians Are Doing

- HT awareness sessions for SMSD - teachers, social workers, administration
- Anti-HT Awareness and Action Conference - open to public
- Hosted a *virtual* Social Justice Party
- Topeka Day Center - Topeka, India partner
 - Day Center for Victims of Human Trafficking
 - *YWCA NE KS Center for Safety and Empowerment* - provide showers, laundry, nap space, lockers, counseling
- Community Action Against Human Trafficking eCause Club (CAAHT)
 - Victim Reintegration Training Center (Rended Heart and Rotary Club in S. Africa)

What Are Rotarians Doing?

- **2021-22 Global SWARM initiative - Leawood & Lenexa as pilot/Taiwan partner**
 - **collaborated with local service providers, law enforcement, corrections, other community leaders and Rotarians to educate and develop on techniques to counter HT systems**
- **2022-23 District grant for 114 Rotary Cares Kits (clothing and hygiene items in duffle bags) - Rotary Clubs of CAAHT eClub, Lawrence, Leawood, Lenexa, Manhattan, Topeka South**
- **2023-24 District Grant - Winter Rotary Cares Kits - winter clothing, blankets, lip balm, protein snacks in duffle bags - Rotary Clubs of CAAHT eClub, Leawood, Lenexa, Manhattan, Overland Park South, Shawnee Mission**

What Can You Do?

- **Open a dialogue with your child or grandchild -**
 - **Know what your kids and grandkids are doing on the internet**
 - **Predators “troll” social media: Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, etc.**
 - **Blue Campaign brochure - “How to Talk to Youth about Human Trafficking”**
 - **Listen to them and show forgiveness and grace as necessary**
- **See something - Say something – call 911**
 - **National hotline 1-888-3737-888**
 - **Text “Be Free” 233733**
 - **BUT - Do NOT intervene for your safety and that of the victim**
- **Watch videos on Blue Campaign, e.g.**

Part 1 Mia’s Story

<https://www.dhs.gov/medialibrary/assets/video/27904>

Part 2 Teacher

<https://www.dhs.gov/medialibrary/assets/video/36086>

Part 3 Parent

<https://www.dhs.gov/medialibrary/assets/video/36282>

Part 4 Friends

<https://www.dhs.gov/medialibrary/assets/videos/37163>

- **What Else Can You Do?**

- **Shop products that help survivors**

- Veronica's Voice - <https://www.veronicasvoice.org/>
- Made for Freedom - <https://madeforfreedom.com/>
- Thistle Farms - <https://thistlefarms.org/>
- Rended Heart **Victim Reintegration Training Center**
<https://rendedheart.org/>

- **Search KC volunteer**
- **Lykins Square Park – Independence, MO off Hwy 24 – memorialize victims and help survivors tell their story.**
- **Read Seduced, the Grooming of America's Teenagers by Opal Singleton**
- **Consider watching *Sound of Freedom* movie**

Resources

CAAHT Club <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/16195/>

<https://www.ag.ks.gov/public-safety/human-trafficking>

<https://www.kbi.ks.gov/sar>

<https://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/School%20Finance/Safe%20Schools/SAR%20Letter.pdf>

<https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>

<https://www.worldwithoutexploitation.org/>

<https://nhtta.acf.hhs.gov/resources/look-beneath-the-surface>

[National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#)

<https://www.missingkids.org/>

Go to [CyberTipline](#) 1-800-THE-LOST

The abuse of the human body for another's pleasure has occurred since the beginning of time. It is daunting to think we can end such a disgrace. As with any change of human nature we have to first search within ourselves with new eyes. We may not be the perpetrator but by ignoring the problem we bury our heads in the sand. Let's join in the fight to minimize victims. And provide love and care for survivors.

Inspirational Words by Lenet Compton - Co-Preparer of this Presentation