

Human Trafficking

*Saving Lives...
Building Hope...
Ending Violence...*

REFUGE HOUSE

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“A trafficker recruited a 19-year-old from southeastern Europe to work as a waitress, but then raped, beat, and drugged her, forcing her into prostitution. After a daring escape, her trafficker hunted her down and kidnapped her. Taken into custody during a police raid, she agreed to be a witness against her trafficker. The police officer assigned to protect her gave away her location and her trafficker threatened her life. At the trial, she was forced to sit next to her traffickers and was insulted and humiliated by the judge and defense counsel. Her pimps were found guilty but released on appeal. For her own survival, she has fled to another country and assumed a new identity.”

(Trafficking in Persons Report, Released by the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, U.S. Department of State, June 11, 2003)

Men, women, and children are recruited or kidnapped from their countries and forced into labor or prostitution. Victims of trafficking usually move from less developed countries to more developed countries; in some cases, they are people who want to emigrate for economic or social factors or to escape from discrimination or civil unrest in their country. Immigration laws, discrimination and the inability to obtain real information about migration laws can leave them vulnerable to the traffickers. Traffickers are sometimes neighbors, family members, or village chiefs. They can also be members of organized crime or proprietors of mail-order bride services. Agricultural operations and other businesses traffic workers, and, in some cases, even diplomats may traffic individuals for work in their homes. Traffickers most commonly recruit people through acquaintances or family members.

If you or anyone you know needs help with a trafficking situation, please give them Refuge House’s hotline number—681-2111.

(Information in this flyer adapted from the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST), 2003)

