

# Human Trafficking in Illinois Fact Sheet

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*"It ought to concern every person, because it is a debasement of our common humanity. It ought to concern every community, because it tears at our social fabric. It ought to concern every business, because it distorts markets. It ought to concern every nation, because it endangers public health and fuels violence and organized crime. I'm talking about the injustice, the outrage, of human trafficking, which must be called by its true name -- modern slavery."* Remarks by President Obama to the Clinton Global Initiative, September 25, 2012.

## OVERVIEW OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### Definitions

Human trafficking (or trafficking in persons) is the act of recruiting, harboring, moving or obtaining a person, by force, fraud or coercion, for the purposes of involuntary servitude, debt bondage or sexual exploitation (TVPA 2000).

Persons do not have to be transported internationally to be considered victims of human trafficking. For instance, it is human trafficking when a person is moved by force or lured from one neighborhood to another or from one city to another for prostitution purposes.

Major forms of trafficking in persons are: **sex trafficking; child sex trafficking; forced labor; forced child labor; bonded labor or debt bondage; domestic servitude; and unlawful recruitment and use of child soldiers.**<sup>1</sup>

**Sex trafficking.** When an adult engages in a commercial sex act, such as prostitution, as the result of force, threats, fraud, coercion or any combination of such means, that person is a victim of sex trafficking.

**Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), also referred to as child sex trafficking.** When a person under 18 years of age is recruited, enticed, harbored, transported, provided, obtained, or maintained to perform a commercial sex act, that person is a victim of CSEC. Proof of force, fraud, or coercion is not necessary for the offense to be characterized as trafficking. CSEC includes child prostitution, child sex tourism, trafficking of children for sexual purposes, child pornography, and forced marriage.

**Forced labor, also referred to as labor trafficking.** When a person uses force or physical threats, psychological coercion, abuse of the legal process, deception, or other coercive means to compel someone to work.

♦ **Bonded labor or debt bondage.** One form of coercion is the use of a bond or debt. Some workers inherit debt; for example, in South Asia it is estimated that there are millions of trafficking victims working to pay off their ancestors' debts. Others fall victim to traffickers or recruiters who unlawfully exploit an initial debt assumed, wittingly or unwittingly, as a term of employment.

♦ **Domestic servitude.** A form of human trafficking found in distinct circumstances—work in a private residence—that creates unique vulnerabilities for victims. It is a crime in which a domestic worker is not free to leave her job.

♦ **Forced child labor.** Although children may legally engage in certain forms of work, children can also be found in slavery or slavery-like situations.

♦ **Unlawful recruitment and use of child soldiers.** This form of human trafficking involves the unlawful recruitment or use of children—through force, fraud, or coercion—by armed forces as combatants or for other forms of labor. Some child soldiers are also sexually exploited by armed groups.

While it is commonly believed that trafficking takes place only for commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor, trafficking also occurs under some other forms such as **trafficking in human organs.**

**Trafficking in human organs, including trafficking in persons for organ removal,** has developed into a global problem. It involves the harvesting and sale of organs from unwilling donors or donors who sell their organs in ethically questionable circumstances. It is happening in many places throughout the world, but especially in China. **An estimated \$50 billion** is collected annually by organ traffickers around the world. The trafficking in human organs has been recognized as a significant health policy issue in the international community. A World Health Assembly resolution adopted in 2004 (WHA57.18) urges Member States to "take measures to protect the poorest and vulnerable groups from 'transplant tourism' and the sale of tissues and organs". In May 2014, NBC 5 INVESTIGATES found **hundreds of people in Illinois** who were willing to sell kidneys for thousands of dollars.<sup>2</sup>

### Global estimates

Human trafficking affects every country in the world, as country of origin, transit or destination. Victims from at least **127 countries** have been found to be exploited in **137 countries.**<sup>3</sup>

The clandestine nature of human trafficking makes it very difficult to arrive at authentic numbers. The numbers provided for all groups of victims of trafficking tend to remain the same, and are based on guesstimates rather than empirical research. These numbers enter official records and become facts which may be confidently quoted by anyone because they are the only figures available.<sup>4</sup>

The United Nations estimates the total market value of illicit human trafficking at **32 billion US dollars**, which ranks it as the world's third most profitable crime after illicit drug and arms trafficking.<sup>5</sup>

The International Labour Organization estimates that **20.9 million** people are victims of forced labor, of whom **14.3 million** are victimized in economic activities such as agriculture, domestic servitude, construction, and manufacturing.<sup>6</sup>

Of approximately **215 million children** laboring full-time, **about 50%** are subjected to “the worst forms of child labor,” including slavery, forced labor, commercial sexual exploitation, drug trafficking, and armed conflict as child soldiers.<sup>7</sup>

Victims of human trafficking are very often not identified as victims of a crime, but rather considered as persons who have violated migration, labor or prostitution laws. Sometimes, people do not consider themselves victims of trafficking. Identifying trafficking victims requires special knowledge such as the ability to distinguish trafficking from migrant smuggling, and knowledge of trafficking indicators.

## SCOPE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE U.S.A.

### Statistics

The United States is considered the world’s major destination for human trafficking.

Due to a lack of reliable statistics, the estimate of **14,500-17,500** has been widely used without any variations for over 12 years, in most trafficking-related research and reports, as the official number of people who are trafficked into the United States from **over 50 countries** each year.

From December 7, 2007 to June 30, 2015, **21,434** human trafficking cases nationwide consisting of **42,401 identified victims** were reported to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC). These statistics are based exclusively on **103,026 signals**, consisting of 91,045 calls, 5,307 web forms, and 6,674 e-mails about human trafficking received by the NHTRC in that period.<sup>8</sup>

From January 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015, out of **11,001** calls received nationwide, **2,794 human trafficking cases** consisting of **5,506 identified victims** were reported nationwide to the NHTRC.

From January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014, **5,043 human trafficking cases** nationwide consisting of **9,106 identified victims** were reported to the NHTRC.

**Over 50%** of all victims in human trafficking incidents reported to the NHTRC are U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents (LPR).

U.S. citizens and LPR accounted for **63%** of sex trafficking victims reported to the NHTRC in 2009. Likewise, **66%** of suspected traffickers in reported trafficking cases are U.S. citizens and LPR.<sup>9</sup>

Of the foreign victims trafficked into the U.S., approximately **50 %** are under the age of **18 years**, and **80%** are female.<sup>10</sup>

According to a 2014 report by the Urban Institute, **71 %** of all international human trafficking victims arrive in the U.S. on a lawful visa, most commonly for domestic work or for work in the agricultural, hospitality, construction, and restaurant industries.<sup>11</sup>

### Local and federal law enforcement officials deem labor trafficking (or forced labor) a low priority, as the following statistics show:

- A survey of law enforcement, prosecutors, and service providers in 60 counties across the United States found that in states with anti-trafficking laws, **44%** of law enforcement investigators and **50 %** of prosecutors reported that their states either did not have legislation about labor trafficking or they were not aware of it.<sup>12</sup>

- A nationally representative survey of law enforcement agencies in the United States found that **no units or positions** exist within local law enforcement to specifically investigate labor trafficking cases.<sup>13</sup>

- Data from the more than 40 federally funded human trafficking task forces operating across the United States reveal that **only 11 %** of the investigations opened by these task forces between 2008 and 2010 were for labor trafficking violations.<sup>14</sup>

### A Glimpse of Profits from Sex Trafficking

Pimps may earn hundreds of thousands of dollars, probably **\$150,000-\$250,000** every year from child prostitution.<sup>15</sup>

A 2014 study by the Urban Institute about the sex trade in eight U.S. cities showed that this business generated between **\$39.9 million and \$290 million** in revenue.

In 2002, Oakland police identified **218 minors** actively being prostituted by **155 pimps**. The girls were **11-15 years old**. Each girl had a quota of approximately **\$500 a day**, which was turned over to the pimps. The amount of money made by the pimps through sexual exploitation of these 218 girls was estimated to be approximately **\$32,700,000** a year.<sup>16</sup>

### Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

There are no reliable statistics about victims of CSEC in the United States or any state. The situation on the quantification of CSEC is characterized not only by widely differing figures and lack of comprehensive research, but also by very different definitions. Data on children are frequently hidden within and confused with data on adults.<sup>17</sup>

In 2014, an estimated 1 out of 6 endangered runaway children reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children were likely sex trafficking victims. Of those, 68% were in the care of social services or foster care when they ran.<sup>18</sup>

It is estimated that **75% of children** in prostitution are under the control of a pimp.<sup>19</sup>

Pimps target vulnerable victims, particularly runaways or children from dysfunctional families. Victims do not often realize the deceiving nature of pimps’ interest in them, viewing them as a caretaker and/or boyfriend. A pimp’s use of psychological manipulation coupled with physical control (i.e., threats, violence, or drug addiction) can make a victim feel trapped and defenseless.<sup>20</sup>

Most studies about CSEC focus on girls, despite literature reviews indicating that a substantial number of victims of this form of human trafficking are boys.<sup>21</sup> Boys and young men are rarely rescued as victims of sex trafficking or identified as people arrested for prostitution.<sup>22</sup>

A 2008 study, *The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in New York City*, estimated that approximately **50% of victims of CSEC** in the U.S. are boys.<sup>23</sup>

ECPAT-USA’s (2013) study, *And Boys Too*, discovered that boys make up almost half of the CSEC victims in the United States.<sup>24</sup>

Dr. Tom Philpott was the first researcher to openly describe and decry the pervasive yet hardly discussed issue of boy prostitution in the United States. He exposed many atrocities associated with this phenomenon in the early 1980s on the *Alternative Views* TV program. In 1991, it was alleged that Tom had committed suicide. Yet, back in 1982 in an article published in *Texas Monthly*, Tom revealed that he had been shot at and had received several death threats concerning his active role in exposing boy prostitution in the United States.<sup>25</sup>

The article “The Case of the Campus Crusader” in *Texas Monthly* of May 1982 revealed the threats and hatred Tom faced for being strongly outspoken about high profile businessmen and political leaders preying on prostituted boys, mostly white children, in big U.S. cities including Houston, Chicago, and New York. The documentary about Tom’s research, *Boys for Sale*, is available at [http://www.archive.org/details/AV\\_126\\_127-BOYS\\_FOR\\_SALE](http://www.archive.org/details/AV_126_127-BOYS_FOR_SALE)

## Human Trafficking of Persons with Disabilities

There is little research on the impact of trafficking on individuals with disabilities in the United States. Yet, people with physical or intellectual disabilities are very likely to be forced into sex or labor trafficking. This vulnerable population remains one of the groups most at risk of being trafficked.<sup>26</sup>

A few cases of labor trafficking of people with disabilities across the United States are highlighted below.

- According to a CBS news report of December 20, 2011, titled *Philadelphia "Basement of Horrors" 5 charged in hate crime, murder of mentally disabled victims*, a group of individuals abducted mentally disabled adults and confined them in a basement, forcing some into prostitution, causing the death of two victims, in a scheme to steal their social security checks. One of the mentally disabled men found locked the basement testified that he had spent the last 10 years locked in rooms and closets across the country.

- According to an article in *Tampa Tribune* of April 13, 2010, titled "Feds: Man forced disabled girl into prostitution," Mario Laguna-Guerrero, a 25 year-old undocumented immigrant, was charged with sex trafficking of a minor for forcing a developmentally disabled girl into prostitution. The girl was taken to migrant labor camps in eastern Hillsborough County where she had sex with men for \$25 each. The 17-year-old trafficked girl has an IQ of 58.

- A senior home in Columbus, Georgia, was shut down in December 2013 after an FBI investigation found the residents (elders and people with disabilities) were victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation at the hands of the owner and staff (WSAV news, December 12, 2013).

- In Iowa, 32 mentally disabled turkey processing plant workers were subjected to abuse at home and work by their supervisors. They were forced to work through illness and injuries. The men were paid \$65 per month regardless of how many hours they worked. The company also kept the men's wages and Social Security disability benefits, alleging it was to pay for the cost of their care and lodging. The abused disabled plant workers were awarded \$240 million in damages (*Columbus Dispatch*, May 1, 2013).

### SCOPE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ILLINOIS

Among the Midwest ports of entry, Chicago experiences the highest volume of arriving immigrants and as such is more likely to be a point of entry for trafficking victims.<sup>27</sup>

Due to its strategic location and importance, Chicago's O'Hare International Airport is considered a highly used transit location by traffickers to transport victims and disperse them as needed to other cities and states.

Traffickers seize opportunities for increased profits by trafficking greater numbers of women for sexual exploitation into Chicago during major events where the city is filled with large numbers of tourists.<sup>28</sup>

Hundreds of girls and young women are trafficked and held captive as sex slaves in Chicago, while teenage girls are "pimped" and exploited on Chicago streets. It is easy for a Cook County resident to become a victim of sex trafficking without ever leaving the county.<sup>29</sup>

In 2005, the FBI designated Chicago as one of thirteen locations of "High Intensity Child Prostitution."<sup>30</sup>

In a 2003 article, the New York Times labeled Chicago as a national hub for human trafficking.<sup>31</sup>

### Statistics

From January 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015, **61 human trafficking cases** in Illinois consisting of **215 identified victims** were reported to the NHTRC out of **283 calls** about trafficking.<sup>32</sup>

From January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014, **140 human trafficking cases** in Illinois consisting of **291 identified victims** were reported to the NHTRC.

From December 7, 2007 to March 31, 2015, **682 human trafficking cases** statewide consisting of **1,312 identified victims** were reported to the NHTRC) out of **2,818 calls** received.

In metropolitan Chicago, **16,000 to 25,000 women and girls** are involved in the commercial sex trade annually, with one third of them first getting involved in prostitution by the age of **15 years**, and **62% by the age of 18 years**.<sup>33</sup>

According to The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, **84 children below age 18, including 60 girls and 24 boys**, have been missing from January 2010 to October 2015 in Illinois. It is very likely that most of these children have become victims of domestic human trafficking.<sup>34</sup>

It is estimated that **175,000 different johns** in Chicago buy sex from women and girls in prostitution every year. In addition, it is estimated that there are **4,400 street prostitutes** active in Chicago in an average week.<sup>35</sup>

In Cook County, places such as massage parlors and strip clubs often serve as a front for trafficking and involve victims of the sex trade.<sup>36</sup>

Online forums highly utilized by individuals seeking sexual services include: **EroticMP.com, USASexGuide.com, eros.chicago.com, Backpage.com, Craigslist.com, and Rubmaps.com**. *Rubmaps.com* appears to be the most thorough and frequently used website for prostitution disguised as massage therapy.<sup>37</sup> Users on the Illinois forum of the *USA Sex Guide.com* use this website to inform one another about a variety of perceived threats to their buying sex online, particularly from law enforcement and prostitution prevention efforts.<sup>38</sup>

In Rockford, on February 7, 2005, federal authorities uncovered seven underground brothels operating under the guise of "spas", where traffickers locked Chinese and Korean women and used them as sex slaves.<sup>39</sup>

### Forced labor in Illinois

Forced labor networks thrive in highly populated states with large immigrant communities, like Illinois.<sup>40</sup> Such networks in Illinois manifest themselves in forced begging, domestic servitude, and forced labor in restaurants. While tens of thousands of people work as forced laborers in the U.S., it is unknown exactly how many of these victims are in Illinois.

On November 18, 2013, Roy Esteviz Jr., 26, a South Side landlord, was charged of aggravated involuntary servitude and criminal sexual assault. He used torture along with beatings and threats to keep two tenants working for him even as he took every cent the two men made. It was the first time Cook County prosecutors had charged anyone under the state's labor trafficking laws.<sup>41</sup>

Both of Esteviz's victims, in their early 20s, were **mentally handicapped**. According to State's Attorney Anita Alvarez, labor trafficking cases are difficult to uncover and prosecute. "In the United States, forced labor is much more prevalent than any of us realize. Victims are often isolated and often as a result of language and cultural barriers do not want to go forward," Alvarez said, after Esteviz was ordered held on \$500,000.

It is unknown how many people are trafficked into forced begging in the United States in general, and specifically in Illinois. The only known forced begging case in Illinois was the *Paoletti* case. In the 1990s, the Paoletti family trafficked over 1,000 deaf and mute Mexican men and women from Mexico to Chicago and other U.S. cities, and forced the victims to peddle trinkets and beg on subways and buses.<sup>42</sup>

Another type of labor trafficking occurring in Illinois is domestic servitude. Women and children often agree to come to the United States to be maids, but are then physically abused, exploited, and enslaved upon arrival. They are held in domestic servitude as nannies often by lawful permanent residents and naturalized citizens in homes in Illinois suburbs.

## RESPONSES to HUMAN TRAFFICKING at the FEDERAL LEVEL

### Police Response

*Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015*, signed by President Obama on May 29, 2015, is the first federal law that specifically addresses domestic human trafficking (i.e. trafficking in U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents) and prioritizes the need to fight CSEC.

In 2013, all 50 states had sex trafficking statutes, according to the Polaris Project, which ranks the states based on 10 categories of anti-trafficking laws.

The United States passed the **Trafficking Victim Protection Act (TVPA)** in 2000, making human trafficking a federal crime. It was followed by the **Trafficking Victim Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003 (TVPRA 2003)**, the **TVPRA of 2005** and the **Wilberforce TVPRA of 2008**.

In 2003, the **Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to End the Exploitation of Children Today (PROTECT) Act** was passed to further combat the sexual exploitation of children. The Act requires courts to impose mandatory sentences for sex offenders and makes it a crime to travel abroad to engage in sexual conduct with minors.

### Prosecution Efforts

In June 2003, the FBI, in conjunction with the Department of Justice Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, launched the **Innocence Lost National Initiative**.<sup>43</sup> This combined effort was aimed at addressing the growing problem of domestic sex trafficking of children in the United States. In the 12 years following its inception, the initiative has resulted in the development of 73 dedicated task forces and working groups throughout the U.S. involving federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies working in tandem with U.S. Attorney's Offices.

To date, the 73 task forces and working groups worked successfully to rescue more than **4,800 children** from CSEC. Investigations have successfully led to the conviction of **more than 2,000** pimps, madams, and their associates who exploit children through prostitution. These convictions have resulted in lengthy sentences, including multiple life sentences and the seizure of real property, vehicles, and monetary assets.<sup>44</sup>

### Service Response

A 2013 study, *National survey of residential programs for victims of sex trafficking* by Reichert & Sylwestrzak, showed the following:<sup>45</sup>

- ◆ A total of 33 residential programs nationwide were found to be currently operational and exclusive to trafficking victims with **a total of 682 beds**.
- ◆ The 33 residential programs were open in **16 states and the District of Columbia**; California had the most with nine residential programs offering **371 beds for victims**.
- ◆ The Western region of the country had the most residential programs for victims with **59%** of the total beds available there. In California, there were ten residential programs with about **54 %** of all beds for trafficking victims.

According to ECPAT-USA's (2013) study, *And Boys Too*, there are almost no known shelters for male victims of CSEC. Worse, few providers of services to girls are equipped to serve boys rescued from prostitution.<sup>46</sup>

Of the surveyed programs, there were fewer than **28 beds for male victims of sex trafficking**, and only **two facilities of the 37** operational programs - *Children of the Night* in California and *Grounds of Grace* in Illinois - indicated they would accept male victims.<sup>47</sup>

## RESPONSES to HUMAN TRAFFICKING in ILLINOIS

### Policy Response

Illinois is **one of 32 states** with the highest ranking for adoption of broad legislation about human trafficking. With its various anti-trafficking laws, the state

meets the criteria for **9 of the 10 categories** of anti-trafficking laws defined by the Polaris Project's NHTRC.<sup>48</sup>

In May 2015, Cook County established the **Chicago Prostitution and Trafficking Intervention Court**, a specialized deferred prosecution program that aims to divert individuals arrested for prostitution from traditional prosecution and incarceration, and instead offer them access to trauma-informed services.

On August 21, 2014, Governor Quinn signed a law, **Senate Bill 3558**, that establishes a fund to provide services for victims of human trafficking. The law reallocates collected criminal fines and fees to establish a specialized fund for survivors of the sex trade. The fund is managed by the Department of Human Services and provides targeted key services such as community based drop-in centers, emergency housing, and long-term safe housing.

In 2012, Illinois enacted the **Justice for Victims of Sex Trafficking Crimes Act (Public Act 097-0267 [725 ILCS 5/116-2.1])**. This law enables victims of sex trafficking to clear their criminal records of prostitution convictions. If the conviction occurred while the individual was a victim of trafficking, as defined by the Illinois trafficking law, he or she can seek to have the conviction removed. There is no time limit for a victim of trafficking to clear their record of these convictions, even if the prostitution conviction occurred many years ago. The legislation was signed by Governor Quinn on August 8, 2011.

In 2011, Illinois enacted the **Illinois Safe Children Act**. The law makes Illinois the first state to make any children under the age of 18 immune from prosecution for prostitution. If a child in prostitution is encountered by law enforcement, she/he may be taken into temporary protective custody, and law enforcement must notify DCFS, which in turn must initiate an investigation into child abuse as soon as possible. The law provides the possibility of additional funding for services to survivors of human trafficking and prostitution. It gives law enforcement additional tools to fight the human-trafficking groups that exploit children.

**A 2010 Amendment of the Juvenile Court Act** stipulates that all minors forced to engage in commercial sex or prostitution by a parent, legal guardian, family member, or other household member are recognized as abused minors under this provision.

**The Illinois Predator Accountability Act** was enacted on July, 3 2006. It allows victims of the sex trade to sue their abusers for damages.

**Illinois Trafficking of Persons and Involuntary Servitude Act**, the state's first human trafficking law went into effect on January 1, 2006.

### Prosecution Efforts

In June 2014, Illinois state prosecutors charged 10 people with human trafficking under the first ever state-based wiretap investigation called "Operation Little Girl Lost". 36 victims were rescued and provided social services, including some girls as young as 13 years old.<sup>49</sup>

From fall 2010 to spring 2015, The Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force has collaboratively prosecuted and tried 107 human trafficking cases, achieved 72 convictions, trained 9,100 potential first responders (police, social service providers, health providers, etc.), and helped 179 victims receive assistance services.<sup>50</sup>

From 2008 to 2012, the Cook County Sheriff's Office Human Trafficking Response Team (HTRT) increased prostitution customer arrests from a yearly low of **15** in 2008 to a high of **269** in 2011, an **18-fold increase**. At the same time, arrests of prostituted women and girls decreased from **a high of 330** (2008) to **a low of 269** in 2011.<sup>51</sup>

On February 7, 2012, the Cook County Sheriff announced the results of the second "National Day of John Arrests" that covered a 10 day period and involved 20 U.S. law enforcement agencies in 8 states. A total of **314 sex buyers** also known as "Johns" were arrested and charged including **46 in Chicago** and **6 in Aurora, Illinois**.<sup>52</sup> The Cook County Sheriff's Office spearheaded the coordination of these nationwide sweeps while providing support for prostituted individuals through its HTRT.

From 2011 to 2012, under the Cook County State's Attorney's Human Trafficking Unit, **55 defendants** were charged with human trafficking and related crimes.<sup>53</sup>

On November 26, 2012, Alex Campbell, 45, of Glenview, Illinois, a former northwest suburban massage parlor owner, was sentenced to life in federal prison for various crimes including sex-trafficking and forced labor involving undocumented immigrants. The Cook County State's Attorney's Office assisted in the investigation, which was coordinated by the County Human Trafficking Task Force.<sup>54</sup>

On February 9, 2011, Tyrelle and Myrelle Lockett, 18, twin brothers, charged with operating a sex trafficking ring in the south suburbs of Chicago, pled guilty and were sentenced to 4 years in prison. These are the first human trafficking convictions under the State's Attorney's Human Trafficking Unit established in 2010.<sup>55</sup>

In March 2011, Troy Bonaparte was convicted of sex trafficking. On July 12, 2011, Bonaparte was sentenced to 18 years in prison.<sup>56</sup>

According to NBC Chicago, on February 23, 2009 FBI agents and police arrested 44 Chicago-area adults as part of a nationwide crackdown on child prostitution.<sup>57</sup>

In 2002, Russian-born Alex Mishulovich was sentenced to 9 years in prison for bringing several Latvian women into the country and forcing them to work in Chicago-area strip clubs. This was the first prosecution of a human trafficking case in Illinois.

### Anti-trafficking Collaborative Initiatives in Illinois

Illinois is among the states with multiple anti-trafficking coalitions and task forces, including the following:

- **The Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force**--a multi-disciplinary task force that brings law enforcement and social and legal service agencies together to work on human trafficking cases.

- **Chicago Regional Human Trafficking Task Force (CTTF)**--This task force is a FBI Innocence Lost Task Force/Working Group, which includes federal, state and local law enforcement agencies working with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

- **Partnership to Rescue Our Minors from Sexual Exploitation (PROMISE) of the Salvation Army**--The task force is comprised of over 24 governmental and non-governmental organizations that work together to eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Illinois by focusing on prevention, intervention, outreach, and service provision.

- **The Illinois Task Force on Human Trafficking**--A coalition of 30+ organizations from across the state of Illinois that are working to combat human trafficking.

- **The Illinois Rescue & Restore Coalition**--This partnership between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Illinois State brings together over 100 law enforcement, social services, healthcare, and advocacy organizations across the state to raise awareness about human trafficking through various strategies.

- **The Intersystem Assessment Work Group**--the Group aims to address the disparity in the city's response to prostitution. The group ensures that the response is coordinated and informed by research, and that safe options are available for individuals interested in leaving prostitution. The Chicago Prostitution Alternative Roundtable (PART), the Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence, and the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, are the key members of the Group.

- **End Demand, Illinois**--launched in 2009, it is a policy and legislative campaign group directed at increasing the ability of the criminal system to focus their efforts on the demand for prostitution, while increasing services for girls and women at risk for, suffering in, or attempting to escape from prostitution.

### Assistance service organizations for victims of sex trafficking in Illinois

- ◆ **There are two residential programs** in Illinois out of the 33 residential programs exclusively serving victims of sex trafficking nationwide:

- ◇ **Anne's House** (in Chicago) -- a residential program for young women and girls who were victims of domestic minor sex trafficking, ages 12-21. <sup>58</sup> **Number of beds: 8.** Phone: (312) 291-7916. Website: [www.sapromise.org/anne.htm](http://www.sapromise.org/anne.htm)

- ◇ **Grounds of Grace** (In Springfield) -- a residential program for victims of international and domestic trafficking, ages 18+. **Number of beds: 4.** Phone: (314) 472-5942. Website: [www.groundsofgrace.com](http://www.groundsofgrace.com)

- ◆ **Dreamcatcher Foundation**-- an agency run by survivors of the sex trade, providing services to young women between the ages of 12-25 who have survived the sex trade. Phone: (773) 936-9898. Website: <http://dianetye.com/dreamcatcherfoundation/index1.html>

- ◆ **Heartland Alliance's National Immigrant Justice Center - Counter Trafficking Project**--provides comprehensive legal services and case management for children and adult survivors of human trafficking. Website: [www.immigrantjustice.org](http://www.immigrantjustice.org)

- ◆ **Illinois Coalition against Sexual Assault (ICASA)** --Throughout the state of Illinois, ICASA operates 33 community based sexual assault crisis centers that provide 24-hour crisis intervention services. Website: [www.icasa.org](http://www.icasa.org)

- ◆ **Salvation Army's STOP-IT**-- offers services referrals and ongoing support to people who are victims of trafficking. 24-hour hotline: 1-877-606-3158. Phone: (773) 275-6233, ext. 3029. Website: [www.sa-stopit.org](http://www.sa-stopit.org)

- ◆ **Young Women's Empowerment Project**--offers girls involved in the sex trade and who are ages 12-24 a place for support, harm-reduction information and resources. Website: [www.youarepriceless.org](http://www.youarepriceless.org)

### Advocacy organizations working on issues of commercial sexual exploitation in Chicago include:

- ◆ **Chicago Alliance against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE)**--seeks to refocus law enforcement's attention on pimps, johns and traffickers, while developing a network of support and services for survivors of the sex trade. Phone: (773) 244-2230. Website: [www.caase.org](http://www.caase.org).

- ◆ **Chicago Coalition for the Homeless**  
Website: [www.chicagohomeless.org](http://www.chicagohomeless.org)

- ◆ **International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA)**  
Website: [www.iofa.org](http://www.iofa.org)

- ◆ **Traffick Free**-- raises awareness about human trafficking by conducting presentations for churches, schools, and groups. Website: [www.traffickfree.org](http://www.traffickfree.org)

### Organizations and centers for information and help about cases of human trafficking nationwide:

- **The Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking awareness campaign.** Website: [www.rescueandrestore.org](http://www.rescueandrestore.org)

- **Polaris Project.** Website: <http://www.polarisproject.org/>

- **National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)**, managed by Polaris Project. Hotline: 1-888-3737-888. E-mail: [nhtrc@polarisproject.org](mailto:nhtrc@polarisproject.org). Website: [www.traffickingresourcecenter.org](http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org).

- **Blue Campaign.** Hotline 1.866.347.2423. Website: [www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign](http://www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign)

## ENDNOTES

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