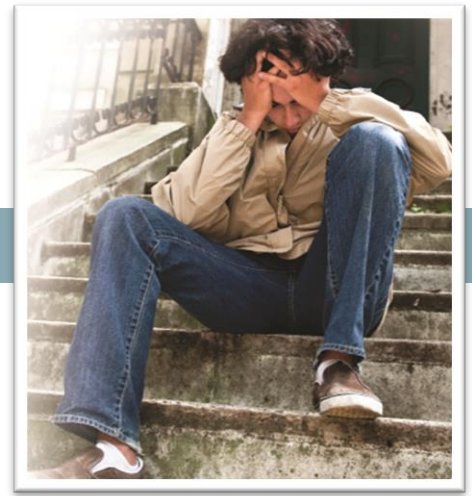


Labor Trafficking

Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis

MN HTTF sub labor committee: *The mission of the Minnesota Human Trafficking Task Force (MN HTTF) labor committee is to identify human trafficking and labor exploitation and bring awareness to the impact it has on our communities. Through a coordinated multi-level disciplinary response we are committed to reducing labor trafficking and making the state of Minnesota as healthy for workers as possible.*



What is Labor Trafficking?

Labor Trafficking is a form of modern day slavery. Minnesota law defines labor trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, enticement, provision, obtaining or receipt of a person by any means, for the purpose of debt bondage or forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery; or the removal of organs through the use of coercion or intimidation or receiving profit or anything of value, knowing or having reason to know it is derived from an act described in clause (609.281).

Victims

Victims can be both male and female, adults and youth, educated or lack of education. There is no discrimination between race, creed, orientation, socioeconomic status, U.S. citizens or Foreign born.

Traffickers

Traffickers themselves also have few common characteristics.

- Male/Female
- Adult/minor
- Domestic/International
- Your neighbors and/ or someone you know
- Your relatives; your brothers/sisters
- Your parent/parents

Types of Industry where Labor Trafficking can be found:

- Domestic service
- Commercial agriculture
- Factories
- Construction
- Hospitality industry
- Custodial work
- Forced begging/Pan handling
- Food Processing plants
- Brick layers
- Hog farmers
- Tree cutters

Common Indicators A VICTIM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- No ID or travel documents
- Physical signs of scars and bruises.
- Denied freedom of movement and contact with family
- Threatened with harm if escape is attempted
- Threatened with deportation or arrest
- Harmed or denied food, water, sleep or medical care
- Salary is garnished to pay off smuggling fees leading to debt bondage

Case Examples

01 | Labor Trafficking

A 15 year old female Asian girl was brought to Minnesota by her uncle. The girl's uncle paid a lawyer to process her legal immigration to the United States to come to Minnesota. The girl's uncle owned an ethnic restaurant. The girl was required to work as a waitress in the restaurant. She was told by her uncle that he had paid \$15,000 legal fees for her immigration, and she was required to work off this debt.

This girl attended high school, but worked every evening at the restaurant until late. She worked 12-14 hour days on weekends and during vacation time. She was never paid. She did poorly in school and was always tired.

The girl ran away from her uncle's home. She was picked up by Minneapolis Police and temporarily placed in a children's home.

02 | Labor Trafficking

The defendant Kim recruited workers in Maryland. The pick-up place was a parking lot of a shopping center known as a hang-out where illegal aliens could be hired.

Defendant transported five aliens to Minnesota with a promise that they would give them work applying siding for construction projects. He promised that he would provide housing and food. Five men were recruited, all from Central America, all undocumented.

In Minnesota, the victims were paid for the first few weeks, after which they received no pay for their work. The 'housing' provided by the defendant was the basement of Kim's house in Dakota County. The victims slept on the floor of the basement, without bedding. They were recruited in late fall, and with the arrival of winter they were not given winter clothing. The only food provided was cold cereal. Kim told the victims that if they complained to the police he would turn them over to Homeland Security.

Common Indicators

LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS

- Heavy Surveillance
- In humane living conditions
- Inappropriate dress for MN climate
- Video Taped
- Blackmailed
- Extreme isolation
- Lured from areas of economic depression and little education, high illiteracy rate

03 | Labor Trafficking

MANKATO, Minn. (AP) — A 59-year-old Mankato woman has pleaded guilty to one count of forced-labor trafficking in federal court in St. Paul for luring a woman from Vietnam under false promises, and compelling her to work long hours without pay in a Mankato restaurant.

According to a Justice Department news release, Tieu Tran recruited the woman from Vietnam to travel to the United States, falsely promising her legal immigration status and a high-paying job.

"In reality," the department said, "Tran smuggled the victim and two other Vietnamese nationals across the southern U.S.-Mexico border, imposed a significant debt upon the victim and forced the victim to pay down the smuggling debt at Tran's son's Vietnamese restaurant, Pho Saigon, in Mankato."

For more information on Labor Trafficking please visit:

Catholic Charities

www.cctwincities.org/TraffickingVictimsServices

www.mnhttf.org

To request FREE training on Labor Trafficking contact Catholic Charities Trafficking Victim Services at (651) 647-3100.

Questions and Answers

1. We have conducted training for officers on Human Trafficking to include labor trafficking in the past what are some additional training opportunities?

Answer: Catholic Charities provides free training opportunities for additional training opportunities for law enforcement. Gerald D. Vick Task force and MN HTTF provide training opportunities for law enforcement. There is also a comprehensive list of organizations in Minnesota that provide education outreach opportunities to further train law enforcement on current regional dynamics and trends of Labor Trafficking. Please go to www.mnhttf.org for list of resources.

2. Can Trainings be conducted as lecture format training in person or on line?

Answer: There are various formats to receive education and training on Labor Trafficking. Please refer to the list of resources from the www.mnhttf.org to receive a list of organizations that provide training opportunities.

3. In what industries is trafficking frequented?

Answer: Trafficked victims can be anyone, but missing children, homeless and runaway juveniles are particularly vulnerable to being trafficked. Various entities report cases in Minnesota to include: Hospitality Industry, selling crews, Agriculture, and Domestic Servitude, newly arrived Immigrants.

4. Is there a quick reference guide to signs or clues of trafficking?

Answer: The magnet or sticker will have an informational handout that will include information on signs and clues of labor trafficking. You can also find this information on the www.mnhttf.org website.

5. Who is doing the trafficking?

Answer: Who are possible traffickers can vary. Traffickers can be the following individuals. They can be male or female, adult or minor. They can be either a U.S. citizen or international. They can be your neighbors and/ or someone you know. They can be a family member such as your relatives; your brothers/sisters, and event your parent/parents.

6. What is the best way to get in to a business to build a case for probable cause?

Answer: You will want to call Gerald D. Vick task force and speak to their investigative unit.

7. How are people being moved around?

Answer: Through false job promises. In accordance with our Federal Definition of force, fraud and coercion individuals are moved around frequently. Depending on the industry and recruitment individuals are migrating from state to state as work becomes available.

8. Where is trafficking frequented?

Answer: Labor Trafficking is happening in all communities of MN. Those who are at great risk of being labor trafficked are missing, homeless and runaway youth can be lured into selling crews (mega magazine crews). Other potential areas are construction, agriculture, hospitality industry. Many Sub Contracting practices have been identified and subject to investigation for labor exploitation.

9. When is most of the trafficking happening?

Answer: Labor Trafficking is connected to the agriculture sector and it's growing season. Areas of trafficking where cases have been found in construction jobs will happen during the spring-fall seasons. Other cases such as domestic servitude and restaurant crews can be all year around. The individuals who are trafficked are under strong surveillance and monitoring. Isolation is key to the success of keeping a victim under the control of its trafficker.

10. How do we know who handles or what agency has jurisdiction in labor trafficking cases? Would also need to know information on housing for people who don't want to go back to their jobs or have nowhere to go.

Answer: Everyone has the responsibility to report suspicious activity. Labor Trafficking is a violation of both state and federal laws. The key is to recognize and ask questions. All law enforcement should document their suspicions in a police report which should be fielded by your department's investigative unit or referred to other authorities. Contact the Gerald D. Vick task force at (651) 266-5900 should you have questions.

Housing resources are available on the DayOne website <http://dayoneservices.org/>. This phone number is: 1-866-223-1111.

Questions and Answers continued

11. How do I recognize this as labor trafficking when law enforcement responds to the other call for service or traffic stops?

Answer: Please refer to the education sheet, power point and the MN HTTF website at www.mnhttf.org for information that will assist you.

12. Is there a question along the lines of “Were you allowed to keep/hold your identity documents?” or “Did your employer take your identity documents from you?”

Answer: The magnet and sticker questions will address the elements of human trafficking as defined in the Federal and State laws. The questions are designed to answer if manipulation of by Force, Fraud and Coercion were used in the victimization. The questions are designed to foster conversation that will give law enforcement the information needed for investigation. The question of, “Were you allowed to keep/hold your identity documents?” is a good follow-up question once rapport is established.

13. Who would I contact in the Federal Government to pass information on to?

Answer: Labor Trafficking is a state and federal violation. Assistance and help is available to all law enforcement. Please contact the Gerald D. Vick task force at (651) 266-5900.

14. When there is a language barrier how can law enforcement get individuals to trust officers and get useful information to them?

Answer: Please refer to your department’s Persons Disabled in Communication policy. Refer to your respective department’s protocols and procedures about accessing certified interpreters who can provide in person or telephonic services.

15. What if the perception of the police asking these questions could be misinterpreted by the potential victim as the police trying to make problems for the victim?

Answer: The possibility exists that a potential labor trafficked victim will distrust law enforcement during questioning. It is important to build a good rapport with the individual. The methodology of the questions is in an order that will encourage dialogue between law enforcement and the individuals.

What to do if you suspect Labor Trafficking:

If you believe you may have information about a potential trafficking situation, please contact the following:

Gerald D. Vick Task Force
(651) 266-5900

National Human Trafficking
Resource Center
(888) 373-7888

Minnesota Human Trafficking
Task Force
www.mnhttf.org

Resources

- Catholic Charities Trafficking Victims Services
- Advocates for Human Rights
- Immigrant Law Center
- National Center for Exploited and Missing Children
- Centro Trabajadores Unidos en Lucha
- NTAC
- Civil Society