

MARCH. 2023

# THE RED CORD

ISAIAH 61:1



## MALE HUMAN TRAFFICKING: FACT OR FICTION?

IT'S NOT A TOPIC WE HEAR MUCH ABOUT IN THE NEWS. WHAT DO YOU TRULY KNOW ABOUT MEN AND BOYS AND THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING? TAKE THIS QUIZ AND THEN, CONTINUE READING TO DISCOVER THE ANSWERS.

### FACT OR FICTION?

1. SEX TRAFFICKING IS ONLY A FEMALE ISSUE.
  2. THE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT (TVPA) STATUTE INCLUDES LAWS FOR MEN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS.
  3. THERE WERE 15 CIVIL AND CRIMINAL SEX TRAFFICKING CASES THAT WERE FILED IN U.S. FEDERAL COURTS BETWEEN 2000 AND 2020, WHERE AT LEAST ONE, IF NOT ALL THE VICTIMS, WERE BOYS.
  4. THE VULNERABILITIES OF MALES AND FEMALES ARE THE SAME IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING SITUATIONS.
  5. MALE TRAFFICKING IS NOT AN ISSUE IN SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA.
- (CONT.)



***THE TRUTH IS, TRAFFICKING IS A  
SOCIETAL ISSUE AND MALES ARE ALSO  
TARGETS.***



**ANSWERS:**

1. **Fiction:** The truth is, trafficking is a societal issue and males are also targets. Males are targets both of labor and sex trafficking. In sex trafficking, males may even be “softer” targets than women, because rarely do men speak about this abuse. Many cultures tend to discourage males from displaying emotions or vulnerability because those attributes are considered weak and feminine. In the media, female vulnerability is highlighted, while male vulnerability gets obscured by expressions of male dominance. Many young boys grow up hearing “suck it up,” “men do not cry,” “do not be a girl,” or “be a man” when it comes to vulnerability, emotions, and pain. Unfortunately, these are statements they take into adulthood that can create barriers for male victims in disclosing their exploitation. The female-victim and male-perpetrator paradigm also contributes to low identification rates of male victims. When males are included in the discussion on sex trafficking, they are usually discussed as the perpetrators, not the victims.

2. **Fact:** The law is gender-neutral regarding who can be a victim of sex trafficking.

3. **Fiction:** There were 35 cases filed. The number of cases has grown over the last 15 years.

4. **Fact and Fiction:** There are some common vulnerabilities shared by males and females. These vulnerabilities included:

- substance dependency
- child abuse
- identifying as LGBTQ+
- limited English proficiency
- undocumented or irregular immigration status
- homelessness

(CONT.)

Cont.

**There are several common themes that effect men and boys more often:**

- Black and brown males and gay men are notably at higher risk for trafficking. Male victims commonly face the fear of being judged for their sexual identity, whether they identify as LGBTQ+ or fear the ramifications of being perceived as such. Male victims who identify as LGBTQ+ may be reluctant to disclose their sexual exploitation for fear of discrimination, retribution, or blame that their sexuality got them into the situation. Because of this stigma, many male victims may decide not to disclose their sexual exploitation.
- Younger males are contacted more through **gaming systems**. Specifically, games for international audiences.
- Male victims commonly face the **lack of resources** to help them exit a trafficking situation and address their various needs to allow them to thrive. Male survivors are often faced with limited services specifically for male survivors of sex trafficking. With over 120 human trafficking organizations that offer housing and support only a hand full include male survivors. Male and female victims alike have basic needs such as housing, food, and clothing. If these needs and others are not being met, boys and men are going to continue to be vulnerable to sex trafficking as they look to traffickers to meet those needs. In sex trafficking, this is referred to as survival sex. Victims will exchange sex for food, shelter and other needed items. (Cont.)



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Source: <https://traffickinginstitute.org/the-silenced-minority/>

The issue becomes real and personal when you hear the stories from victims. ***Pause right now and listen to or read this interview:***

<https://www.npr.org/2021/05/24/999726614/growing-number-of-male-survivors-talk-about-being-a-sex-trade-victim> . Listen as this victim explains,

***“There's just a lot of guilt and self-blame for adult survivors that they have a hard time getting over and then can't have a discussion out of the shame and the guilt.”***

5. **Fiction.** Please read this month's blog, Silent No More Together, to find the answer and how the church can help bring answers to this issue.





## March 2023 Blog

### Silent No More Together

Ahsha Morin, *The Red Cord President*



**Male human trafficking is an issue everywhere, including southwest Oklahoma.** Conceptions about sex trafficking have been formed, promoted, and viewed through news reports, movies, public awareness programs, academic literature, and criminal statutes as a crime only against women and girls. The truth is, it affects men and boys too.

But there is something we can do about this issue. We can do something as a community, as a church and as individuals.

**First, the church can start talking** about it! Empower fathers, brothers, and sons to find their voices by pushing out the stigma surrounding male trafficking. While each victim has his own reason to remain silent about his situation, the root of many of these reasons comes down to this: our societies reinforce such ideas that males are “too strong” to become victims, and if they become one, then they’re weak or foolish for not escaping. Having men talk about their experience with each other can help break the stigma and allow others to share and heal together.

(cont.)



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(BLOG CONT.)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Asha Morin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. It is set against a white rectangular background, which is itself centered within a larger blue rectangular frame.

**Second**, the church can help by offering classes about **pornography addiction**. One in three men and one in four pastors are addicted to watching porn. This is a “silent sin” that no one in the church likes to discuss because so many are involved. But we know that pornography fuels and encourages human trafficking on many levels. Educating about this topic and offering support and resources, which The Red Cord has, can help break the stigma and bring more men to healing; whether it is from pornography addiction, or other sexual abuse. It happens way more than people think.

**Third, get informed.** Attend a Red Cord training. We can provide you with resources on how to personally make a difference. See the training schedule listed in upcoming events. Also, discover more information:

<https://traffickinginstitute.org/the-silenced-minority/> and <https://preventht.org/about/>

In the interview cited on the home page this month, “Male Survivors Talk About Being A Sex Trade Victim”, it states that some anti-trafficking advocates say the public understanding of sexual exploitation of boys is about 15 years behind that of girls. It’s time that we start talking about the issue, as a church, as a community and as individuals, and hope that by speaking out, another male teen won’t have to go through this abuse alone.

Please contact us with your questions about this topic and others related to human trafficking. Let’s be silent no more together.

## HERE IS HOW YOU CAN PREVENT MODERN DAY SLAVERY TODAY:

### 1. ATTEND A FREE TRAINING EVENT.

[HTTPS://THEREDCORD.ORG/UPCOMING/](https://theredcord.org/upcoming/)

### 2. BE INFORMED. READ INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE.

[HTTPS://THEREDCORD.ORG/GET-THE-FACTS/](https://theredcord.org/get-the-facts/)

### 3. SHARE WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED WITH SOMEONE IN YOUR CHURCH, SCHOOL, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS. REQUEST A TRAINING IN YOUR LOCATION. [HTTPS://THEREDCORD.ORG/TRAINING/](https://theredcord.org/training/)

### 4. PRAY. USE THE MONTHLY PRAYER CALENDAR.

[HTTPS://THEREDCORD.ORG/PRAYER/](https://theredcord.org/prayer/) SIGN UP TO RECEIVE URGENT PRAYER TEXTS. [HTTPS://VERIFIED-BROADCAST-9201-5JCRMM.TWIL.IO/SUBSCRIBE.HTML](https://verified-broadcast-9201-5jcrmm.twil.io/subscribe.html)

### 5. SUPPORT THE RED CORD TO CONTINUE TO FUND TRAINING EVENTS AND OFFER RESOURCES TO OUR COMMUNITY.

[HTTPS://SECURE.PROCESSDONATION.ORG/THEREDCORD/DONATION.ASPX?DONATIONREFID=F98CJ6689698E](https://secure.processdonation.org/theredcord/donation.aspx?donationrefid=f98cj6689698e)

### 6. CONTACT THE RED CORD:

[HTTPS://THEREDCORD.ORG/SAMPLE-PAGE/](https://theredcord.org/sample-page/)

## CELEBRATE FEBRUARY EVENTS:

COMANCHE SHERIFF CLEET, FOSTER/ADOPTION SUPPORT GROUP ELGIN  
BRAY-DOYLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRAINING, GREAT PLAINS REPUBLICAN WOMEN PRESENTATION



## MARCH EVENTS

CAMERON BAPTIST LEGION-STUDENTS, TUESDAY, MARCH 7TH, 7:00 – 9:00 P.M., SHEPLAR BALL ROOM, CAMERON UNIVERSITY

COMMUNITY TRAINING, TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 6:30 P.M., FORT SILL CREDIT UNION, 614 NW 67TH ST, LAWTON