

JULY 2023

THE RED CORD

ISAIAH 61:1



FORGOTTEN, DISCARDED AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE THE MOST LIKELY TO BE VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING?
IMAGINE A LARGE CAGE AND INSIDE IT ARE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN TRAPPED INTO A LIFE OF BONDAGE AS A
TRAFFICKING VICTIM. WHAT WOULD YOU ASSUME ABOUT THE PEOPLE IN THERE?

IT IS MOST LIKELY FULL OF:

- CHILDREN, SINCE THEY ARE THE ONLY TARGET.
- ONLY FEMALES.
- PEOPLE FROM DEVELOPING NATIONS, SINCE THIS ATROCITY DOESN'T HAPPEN TO AMERICAN CITIZENS.
- SEX WORKERS WHO ARE THERE WILLINGLY SO THEY CAN MAKE MORE MONEY.
- KIDNAPPED INDIVIDUALS.

THOSE ARE COMMON ASSUMPTIONS THAT THE MEDIA LEADS YOU TO BELIEVE. (CONT.)



***TRAFFICKERS WILL TAKE
THE TIME TO STUDY THE
VICTIM AND LEARN WHAT
THEY NEED.***



(CONT.)

The reality is, these are the people that are most likely bound in the cage of trafficking today:

- Homeless youth.
- Refugees or migrant workers.
- Those with substance abuse disorders.
- Survivors of other forms of past violence.
- Members of minority populations based on sexual or gender identity.
- People with disabilities.
- Individuals who've been in foster care or juvenile facilities.
- People who live in poverty.
- Individuals with low self-esteem.
- People who have an unstable family life.

<https://deliverfund.org/blog/who-is-most-vulnerable-to-becoming-human-trafficking-victim/>

<https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/human-trafficking-america-schools/vulnerable-populations>

This is how the vulnerable are lured into a life of forced servitude:

Traffickers try to disingenuously fill the void in their victims' lives. They will take the time to study the victim and learn what they need. Once this is decided, a trafficker will reach out and establish trust between the two. When a trafficker selects a victim, he or she first sees dollars signs. Traffickers take their time in grooming victims because each victim will earn them about \$250,000 each year.

- If they notice a single mom struggling, they will offer to support her.
- If they see a high schooler that doesn't fit in with the rest of their friend group, they will show undenied attention to them.
- If they find a college student fighting to make ends meet, they will offer to sponsor them through "sugardaddyding," or weekend stripping "opportunities."

(CONT.)

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WHAT DO WE DO TO HELP THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE BE SAFE AND PROTECTED?



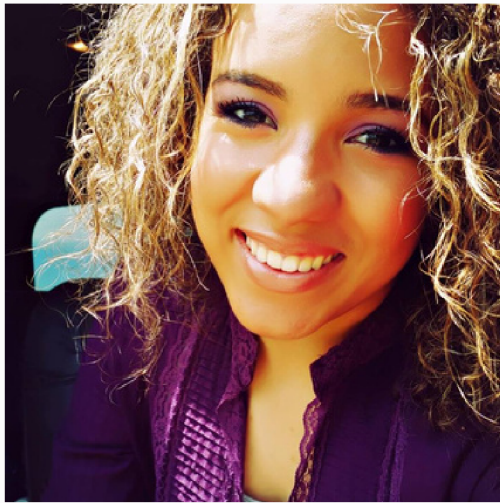
..They target undocumented people. If a victim is in the US illegally, they believe that reaching out for help will get them deported. They do not realize that we have federal victim services, especially for undocumented people, that do not result in deportation. ICE has an entire unit dedicated to fighting human traffickers that take advantage of undocumented people.

<https://growfreetn.org/2018/04/13/does-ice-deport-victims-of-human-trafficking/#:~:text=But%20gaining%20legal%20protection%20hinges,can%20be%20detained%20and%20deported.>

So, what do we do to help the most vulnerable people be safe and protected?

Read the July blog for some answers.





Be a Beacon of Support to the Most Vulnerable

Often, people fall into viewing themselves through the lens of their flaws or failures. Negative thoughts tend to be more potent than positive ones. When a victim comes from a rough background (homelessness, foster care, etc.) or has experienced trauma (sexual abuse, loss of a close relative or friend, etc.), it is easy for them to reduce themselves to their struggles or circumstances. When they do this, they are devaluing themselves in their own eyes. In moments like these, people become extra vulnerable, especially if they do not have others around them to guide them through the tough times. Once caught in trafficking, victims do not feel “worthy” of reaching out for help. They think that the abuse they are suffering is their fault. They think they are worthless and that no one truly cares about them. Traffickers will do their best to encourage these negative messages at any opportunity they get. They will remind a victim of their past failures or struggles and use that as psychological leverage. Isolation is a key component of victim silence. Our goal should be, as a community, to beat traffickers to our vulnerable populations. Traffickers, in essence, are simply seeking out victims that society has thrown away or forgotten. Each one of us needs to be a beacon of support for those around us. The stronger we become as individuals, families, and communities, the greater the impact we will have on fighting human trafficking. Learn more about who are the most vulnerable and how you can help them. Get Informed. (cont.)

JULY 2023 Blog (cont.)

Read:

·*Vulnerable: Rethinking Human Trafficking*, by Raleigh Sadler. Available on Amazon

<https://amzn.to/3XE6SFI>

·*Sex Trafficking Prevention: A Trauma-Informed Approach for Parents and Professionals*, by Savannah Sanders. Available on Amazon

<https://amzn.to/448O5Vs>

Attend a monthly free community training. See current listing in Events.





JULY EVENTS

Through July 15 -- The Sound of Freedom movie. The action film starring Jim Caviezel is based on the true story of former federal agent Tim Ballard and his mission to save children from human trafficking. Showing at AMC in Lawton. Purchase tickets here https://www.angel.com/tickets/sound-of-freedom?gclid=CjwKCAjwzJmlBhBBEiwAEJyLuyISMZfq2MT0WASIOki1eUJjMMJGwLMlnHzgrW1uCsF6QCsO6hs8WhoChzQQAvD_BwE

July 18 -- Community Training, 6:30 – 7:30pm, Fort Sill Federal Credit Union, 1614 NW 67th St, Lawton.