

If You See Something, Say Something

by Kay Stone
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In the U.S. there is both labor trafficking and sex trafficking. Labor trafficking includes domestic slavery as well as agricultural and farming work. In the tourism industry some persons working in entry level positions are victims of trafficking. Both males and females are recruited with promises of high pay but are quickly isolated from friends and family and often made dependent on drugs.

Sex trafficking is the better-known form of trafficking in the U.S. Traffickers often seek out individuals who appear lonely and befriend them, promising them friendship and money. Minors are the most vulnerable and, once successfully recruited, are forced to work in escort services, massage businesses, strip clubs or street prostitution. These victims are almost always made dependent upon drugs and the only way to keep getting their drug “fix” is to continue in the trafficking activity.

What can you do to help end trafficking?

- Think about where you shop, who made your clothes, grew your food, cleaned your hotel room. Know the signs of human trafficking (<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/human-trafficking/recognizing-signs>) and even if you are just suspicious, call the Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888.
- Stay informed, attend workshops about human trafficking, see if your diocese has a special department or at least an individual whose job is to combat trafficking in your community. Donate your time and/or money to them!
- Make your voice heard by contacting local elected officials. In Florida several laws have been passed due to community support.

As the saying goes “If you see something, say something!”