



# PARTNERS IN CRIME PREVENTION

JULY/AUGUST 2013

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## HUMAN TRAFFICKING—IT HAPPENS IN WASHINGTON

Normally, we talk about crimes that have a direct effect on people such as burglaries, car thefts, car prowls, or ID theft. But

some crimes seem to be all but invisible. Their victims do not make the headlines. Most of the time, their families,

friends, or even neighbors do not know that the victim has been victimized.

Human trafficking, modern slavery, affects people of many cultures. The most vulnerable are women who are between 10 and 35 years of age, who belong to an ethnic minority, indigenous group, rural or refugee group. They are susceptible to being misled, forced or allured by traffickers.

Human trafficking shows itself in two ways. Sex trafficking, the easiest to detect, where vulnerable individuals are forced into the sex trade. The other is labor trafficking that might include domestic workers, farm workers or factory workers.

While certain demographics may be most vulnerable, victims of human trafficking can include U.S. citizens or foreign nationals, adults or minors, men or women.

Human trafficking has become a big concern in Washington State and Snohomish County. In

Snohomish County, law enforcement agencies, human service agencies such as the Providence Intervention Center for Assault and Abuse and Cocoon House have developed a Human Trafficking Hotline. If you know of someone who is a victim of human trafficking, call the hotline to obtain help for them.

The rest of this newsletter will go into a little more depth about human trafficking and how you can tell if someone around you is a victim.

### Report Possible Human Trafficking Victims

Including victims of sex trafficking, forced labor and domestic servitude

**Snohomish County Human Trafficking Hotline**

**425-258-9037 24/7**

This hotline connects to law enforcement and victim advocacy agencies



**Ty Trenary, Sheriff  
Snohomish County  
Sheriff's Office**

3000 Rockefeller  
M/S 606  
Everett, WA 98201  
425-388-3393  
<http://sheriff.snoco.org>

## RED FLAGS FOR VICTIMS-

*The following are potential indications of a victim of sexual human trafficking. Be aware, a loved one, friend, or acquaintance may have all of these traits and not be victim. But the traits should be a trigger to investigate further.*

- Chronic run away history
- Drug/alcohol use
- Foster care
- History of sexual abuse
- Transiency
- Concerns expressed by service providers
- Homeless/thrown away youth
- Female gang members
- Transgender youth

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING- THE SEX TRADE

Recently, as part of a nationwide crackdown on prostitution, the FBI recovered three victimized children and arrested nine people on suspicion of abuse to minors and related crimes in the Puget Sound region. The local sting took place in Everett, Seattle, Kirkland, Tacoma, and throughout King County. Nationwide, the sting rescued 105 children and arrested 150 pimps in 76 cities. The victims, almost all girls, ranged in age from 13 to 17 years old. (<http://www.king5.com/news/local/FBI-raids-rescue-105-kids-prostitution-217397171.html>).

Sex traffickers will “recruit” from vulnerable people who have histories of abuse. They may develop a “romantic” relationship to hook the victim. Also, peers might recruit victims for a pimp. Strangers or acquaintances can recruit victims with promises of riches and a luxurious life style. Another recruitment method is false job advertising to trick victims into prostitution.

The sex trafficker will use violence, threats, lies, false promises, debt bondage, or other forms of control and manipulation to keep victims involved in the sex industry.

Sex traffickers use several venues to sell the “services” of their victims. Most have been used by pimps, madams, etc. for ages. Victims usually

have a quota of so many dollars to take in or a high volume of men to see during their shift.

Online- The internet has become the number one method to advertise commercial sex. Sex traffickers will set up their own web sites or use services such as Backpage.com or Eros.com.

Fake Massage Parlors- Claiming to be legitimate businesses, a massage parlor will offer only commercial sex. Massage parlor/brothels can be found in strip malls, office buildings and sometimes residences.

Brothels- Brothels may be located in homes, condominiums, apartments, or mobile homes. Typically, victims are women and children from Latin America.

Street prostitution- Some pimps will force victims into commercial sex on the streets. Usually, victims are adults, girls, boys and transgender youth and U.S. citizens.

Escort services- An escort service may have the “john” go to a location (in-call service) or the victim might go to the john’s location (out-call service). Escort services will advertise through escort websites or through general websites such as Backpage.com.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING– LABOR TRAFFICKING

As with sex traffickers, labor traffickers will recruit people who are in vulnerable positions in life. And they will use coercion, violence, threats of violence and lies to keep control of their victims.

Foreign nationals are often brought in or smuggled in to the United States. If the victims have passports or other legal papers, the trafficker will confiscate their legal papers to keep the victim under control. They will also deny the victim access to local and national labor law rights.

Labor traffickers provide workers to a wide variety of industries:

**Agriculture–** Unscrupulous traffickers often prey on migrant workers who may have entered the country illegally and work long hours for low pay. Traffickers or crew leaders take advantage of the isolation and the peaks and lows of harvesting different crops by adding debt, or threatening violence, to hold the workers in servitude.

**Domestic work–** A domestic worker may or may not live in the household where they work. Often, the household owner or trafficker will severely restrict the movement of the victim.

**Restaurants and Food Service–** Victims of labor trafficking may experience long or erratic hours with little time to themselves. Employers may require more work for less pay and may ignore labor and safety laws.

**Factories/Manufacturing–** Documented and undocumented immigrants may be recruited into factory jobs such as the garment industry or food processing. They

may be forced to work 10 to 12 hours a day, six to seven days a week with few breaks. Traffickers might use threats of deportation and may confiscate documents to keep control of the victims.

**Sales crews, Peddling rings, Begging rings–** Traffickers might recruit American youths between 18 and 25 years of age to sell magazines with promises of seeing America, a carefree life, and the opportunity to make lots of money. Begging or peddling rings might recruit U.S. citizens or immigrants. In either case, the trafficker/controller, maintains control by confiscating earnings, and taking the victims from town to town, state to state, keeping the victim in unfamiliar territory. If the victim complains too much, the controller can dump the victim with little or no resources.

The key for labor traffickers is to keep control of their victims. They will do that through three means:

1. Force– including physical or sexual abuse, restrictions on movement and communications, and constant surveillance.
2. Fraud– False promises or misrepresentation of the work and working conditions, non-payment, underpayment or confiscation of wages.
3. Coercion– verbal and psychological abuse, threats of harm, threats of deportation.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING– SIGNS OF TRAFFICKING

*The following are a few indicators of possible human trafficking victim:*

- *Is not free to come and go as they wish.*
- *Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips.*
- *Works excessively long or unusual hours.*
- *Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off.*
- *Was recruited through false promises.*
- *Seems fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid.*
- *Has few or no personal possessions.*
- *Is not in control of his/her own money.*
- *Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or does not know what city he/she is in.*

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING- RESOURCES FOR GETTING HELP

Human trafficking of any type is a problem for our country, economy and for the victim’s human rights. In Snohomish County, a coalition of local agencies has banded together to focus on the sexual trafficking of minors. Called the Sexual Exploitation Intervention Network (SEIN), this network has taken on the mission to “end domestic sex trafficking (commercial sexual exploitation of children) in Snohomish County through education, prevention and intervention services.”

The list of participating agencies is long including:

- Providence Intervention Center for Assault and Abuse
- Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center
- Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office
- Snohomish County Prosecutor’s Office
- Everett Police Department
- FBI
- Department of Social and Health Services
- Cocoon House
- Cedar House
- Compass Health
- Snohomish Health District

The network will also help with labor trafficking such as forced labor and domestic servitude.

If you suspect someone of being a victim of commercial sexual exploitation or of labor trafficking, call the Snohomish County Human Trafficking Hotline at:

**(425) 258-9037**

For more information about Human Trafficking go to:

- The Washington Anti-Trafficking Response Network (WARN):

<http://warn-trafficking.org/>

- Seattle Against Slavery:

<http://www.seattleagainstslavery.org/>

- Polaris Project:

<http://www.polarisproject.org/index.php>

### CRIME PREVENTION COORDINATORS

**ANN GIFFORD,**  
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS  
[crimeprevention@snoco.org](mailto:crimeprevention@snoco.org)

425-388-7375

### SHERIFF’S OFFICE CRIME PREVENTION WEB PAGE:

[http://sheriff.snoco.org/Sheriff\\_Services/Crime\\_Prevention.htm](http://sheriff.snoco.org/Sheriff_Services/Crime_Prevention.htm)

### NEWSLETTER INFO

#### EDITOR

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If you have questions regarding this newsletter or any articles that appear in it, please contact the editor at [neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org](mailto:neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org)

### TIP LINES



Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office: 425-388-3845

<http://www.snoco.org/app/ssh/anonymoustips/>

Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound: 1-800-222-8477