

# What is Human Trafficking and what can we do about it?



To prevent and end human trafficking



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# About Restoring Oaks Inc

- Restoring Oaks is a 501c3 faith-based nonprofit community alliance to prevent and end human trafficking
- We have a three-pronged approach to fighting human trafficking
  - Education
  - Advocacy
  - Survivor Care



# What is Human Trafficking?



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# What is Human Trafficking?

- Human trafficking is when a person is exchanged for an act or service.
- There are two major forms of trafficking
  - Sex Trafficking - Sex trafficking is the crime of using force, fraud or coercion to induce another individual to sell sex. Common types include escort services, pornography, illicit massage businesses, brothels, and outdoor solicitation.
  - Labor Trafficking - Labor trafficking is the crime of using force, fraud or coercion to induce another individual to work or provide service. Common types include agriculture, domestic work, restaurants, cleaning services, and carnivals.



# What are Force, Fraud, & Coercion?

- Force - Physical Restraint, physical harm, and sexual assault
- Fraud - False promises regarding employment, wages, working conditions, love, marriage, or a better life
- Coercion - Threats of serious harm, physical restraint, psychological manipulation, document confiscation, and shaming
- In order to prosecute human trafficking, at least one of these elements need to be present

- According to the Polaris Project, of the survivors whose ages were known in 2020, over 23% were minors.
- When prosecuting potential sex trafficking cases involving minors under 18, force, fraud and coercion are not required
- Proving force, fraud, or coercion IS required for proving labor trafficking cases

What  
About  
Minors?

Does human trafficking really  
happen today?





- [Pornhub removes most of its videos in effort to purge illegal content](#)
- [The CEO and COO of Pornhub's parent company have both resigned](#)
- [Allison Mack sentenced to 3 years in prison for role in Nxivm](#)
- [Wisconsin Supreme Court rules that sex trafficking can be argued as defense for homicide](#)
- [R. Kelly sentenced to 30 years in prison following sex trafficking conviction](#)
- [Ghislaine Maxwell is sentenced to 20 years in prison](#)
- [17-year-old escapes human trafficker at the Shops at Legacy](#)
- [Disney employees, former judge arrested in human trafficking sting, police say](#)
- [SWFL women receiving strange texts that could be connected to sex trafficking](#)
- [“OPERATION NO TRICKS NO TREATS” - 102 Arrested In Florida Human Trafficking Sting](#)
- [Pastor, girls’ basketball coach among 79 arrested in Hillsborough sex sting](#)

# Human Trafficking Statistics

- Human trafficking is a \$150 billion industry that enslaves 25-40 million people around the world
- In 2020 in the US based on the human trafficking hotline:
  - 10,583 reported cases of human trafficking
  - 16,658 victims identified
  - 31% of all trafficking recruitment was done by a family member or caregiver
- These are the cases we know of

source: Polaris Project



# Human Trafficking Statistics in Florida

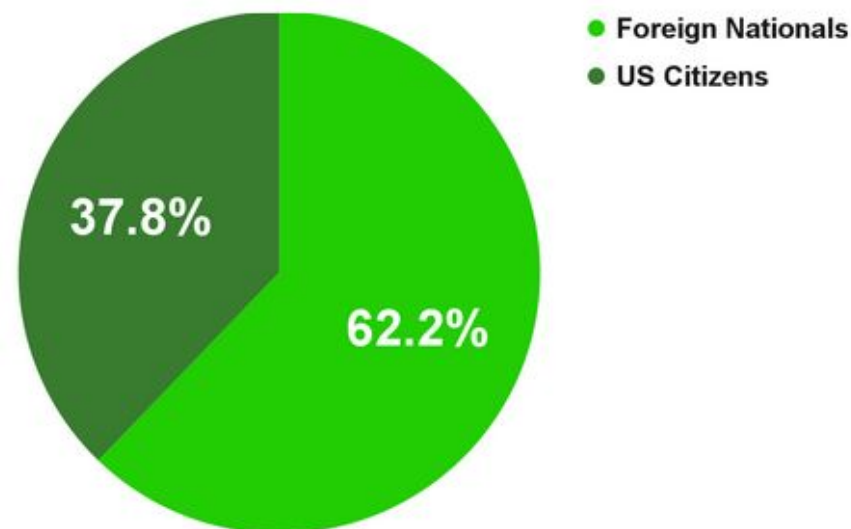
- Florida is number three in the country for reported cases
- In 2020, there are 2,539 contacts to the hotline in Florida
  - 738 human trafficking cases
  - 142 cases involved minors
  - 1,003 calls from victims & survivors
- As of 2020, there were 61 beds available in safe houses for minor victims of human trafficking in Florida

source: Polaris Project



# Foreign Nationals Vs US Citizens

- Often the assumption is that those trafficked are from other countries on boats/in vans. This is a myth.
- There's a difference between smuggling and trafficking
  - Smuggling is strictly transportation of people across country or state lines
  - Trafficking focuses on exploitation



source: ICE, Polaris Project

# Risk Factors/ Vulnerabilities

- Runaway/Homeless youth
- Recent move
- Substance abuse
- Past sexual abuse
- Unstable home life
- Foster/child welfare system involvement



# Anyone can be a trafficker

- Family
- Friend
- Business owner
- Gang member
- Fellow school student
- Spouse/partner
- Owners of corporations
- Government Representatives
- Escort Services
- Illicit Massage, Health, & Beauty
- Outdoor Solicitation
- Residential Sex Trafficking
- Domestic Work
- Bars, Strip Clubs, & Cantinas
- Pornography
- Traveling Sales Crews
- Restaurants & Food Service
- Peddling & Begging

What can we do about it?



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# The Earn It Act Legislation

Legislation that helps hold Big Tech accountable for their distribution of CSAM.

“It creates a safer world for children—while still respecting user privacy and free speech—as it does four main things:

- Clarifies that there is no immunity for social media and technology companies that knowingly facilitate the distribution of child sexual abuse material (CSAM).
- Gives victims a path to justice and possibility of restoring their privacy.
- Updates existing federal statutes to replace “child pornography” with the more accurate term “child sexual abuse material” (CSAM).
- Establishes a commission of survivors, technology representatives, privacy and civil rights experts, and other stakeholders to recommend best practices for tech companies to implement in order to respond to the astronomical increase in online sexual exploitation of children—including grooming for sex trafficking.”



# The Earn It Act Legislation

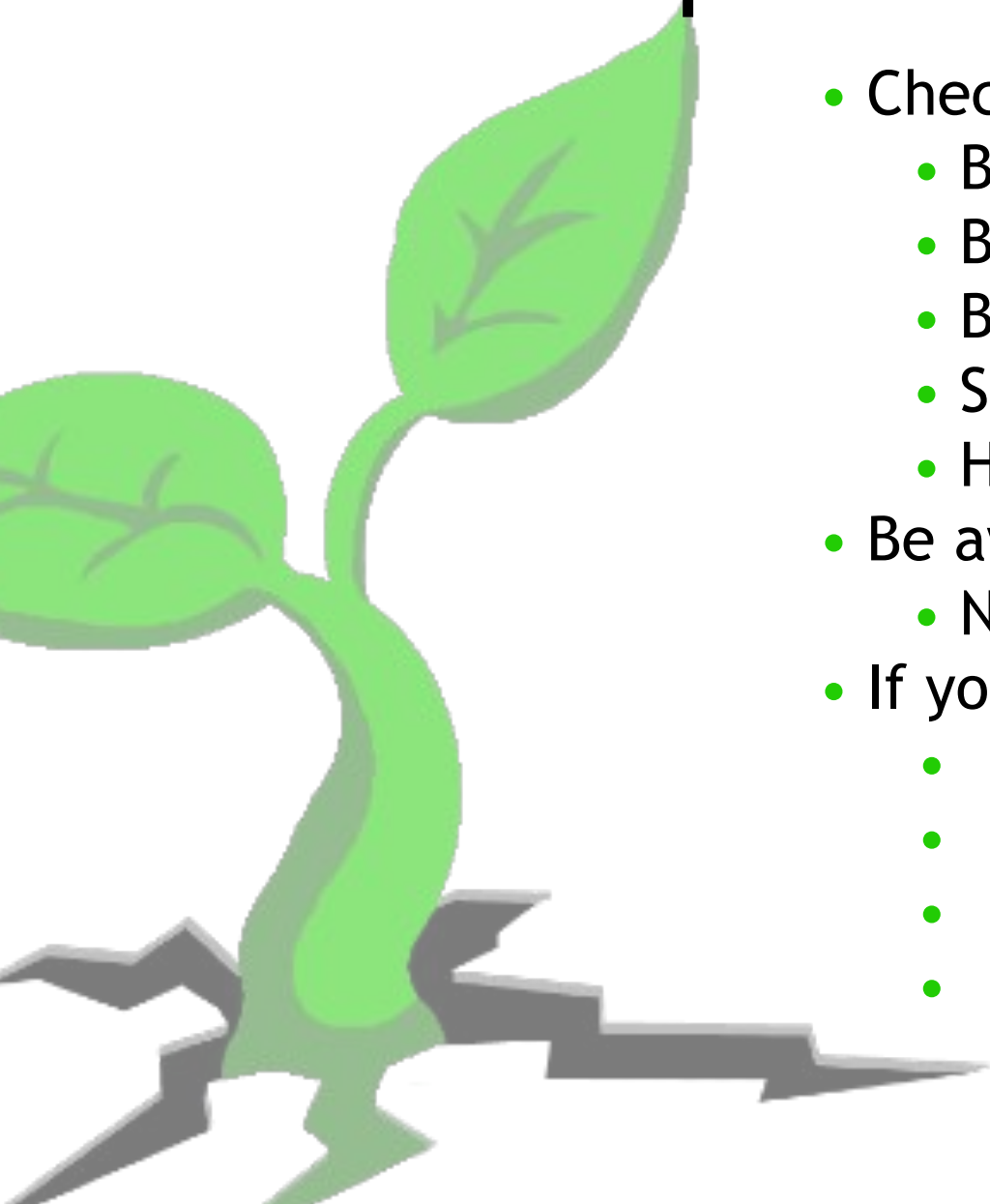
What the Earn it Act doesn't do:

- Does not undermine encryption
- Does not undermine privacy
- Does not give the federal government new power

[Read the bill here](#)

# Keep Our Eyes and Ears Open

- Check in on the youth in our lives
  - Be transparent
  - Be open
  - Be available
  - Show love and security
  - Hear them/don't assume
- Be aware of surroundings in public
  - Not just for yourself
- If you see anything suspicious, report it
  - Call authorities first
  - Call the human trafficking hotline:  
1-888-373-7888
  - \*Text 233733



# Teach online safety

## 21 Apps



**BADDOO**

**BADDOO** is a dating and social networking app where users can chat, share photos and videos and connect based on location. While the app is intended for adults only, teens are known to create profiles.



**BUMBLE**

**BUMBLE** is similar to the popular dating app "Tinder" however, it requires women to make first contact. Kids have been known to use **BUMBLE** to create fake accounts and falsify their age.



**Calculator%**

**CALCULATOR%** is only one of SEVERAL secret apps used to hide photos, files and browser history.



**HOT or NOT**

**HOT OR NOT** encourages users to rate your profile, check out people in their area, and chat with strangers. The goal of this app is to hook up.



**HOLLA**

**HOLLA** is a self-proclaimed "addicting" video chat app that allows users to meet people all over the world in just seconds. Reviewers say they have been confronted with racial slurs, explicit content, and more. Check out people in their area, and chat with strangers. The goal of this app is to hook up.



**KIK**

**KIK** allows anyone to contact and direct message your child. Kids can bypass traditional text messaging features. **KIK** gives users unlimited access to anyone, anywhere, anytime.



**LIVEME**

**LIVEME** is a live-streaming video app that uses geolocation to share videos so users can find out a broadcaster's exact location. Users can earn "coins" as a way to "pay" for photos.



**MYLOL**

**MYLOL** designed for students 13-19 years old. Built-in features of **MyLOL** encourage users to send private messages to random strangers.



**SNAPCHAT**

**SNAPCHAT** while the app promised the users can take a photo/video and it will disappear, new features including "stories" allow users to view content for up to 24 hours. **Snapchat** also allows users to view your location.



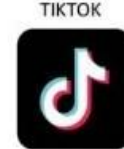
**TANGO**

**TANGO** social networking app that uses geolocation. Encourages users to talk to strangers and since the app utilizes location strangers can get access to your child's location if they are using the app.



**Best Secret Folder**

**BEST SECRET FOLDER** is specifically meant to "hide photos and videos," according to app store descriptions. It features password protection, decoy videos and alarm settings.



**TIKTOK**

**TIKTOK** is a new mobile device app popular with kids used for creating and sharing short videos. With very little privacy controls, users are vulnerable to cyberbullying and explicit content.



**WHATSAPP**

**WHATSAPP** is a popular messaging app that allows users to send texts, photos, voicemails, make calls and video chats worldwide. **Whatsapp** uses the internet connection on your smart phone and computers.



**BURNBOOK**

**BURNBOOK** anonymous app for posting text, photos and audio rumor messages about others.



**GRINDR**

**GRINDR** is a dating app geared towards gay, bi and transgender people. The app gives users options to chat, share photos and meet up based on a smart phone's GPS location.



**SKOUT**

**SKOUT** is a location-based dating app and website. While users under 17 years old are unable to share private photos, kids can easily create an account using a different age.



**WHISPER**

**WHISPER** is an anonymous social network that promotes sharing secrets with strangers. It also reveals a user's location so people can meet up.



**MEETME**

**MEETME** is a dating app that allows users to connect with people based on geographic proximity. As the app's name suggests, users are encouraged to meet each other in person.



**WICKR**

**WICKR** instant messaging apps allow users to exchange end-to-end encrypted and content-expiring messages, including photos, videos, and file attachments and place end-to-end encrypted video conference calls.



**DISCORD**

**DISCORD** is an app that allows users to talk to friends or strangers in real-time via voice, text, or video chat while playing video games. Reviewers say they have been confronted with racial slurs, explicit content, cyberbullying, and more.



**ASK.FM**

**ASK.FM** is known for cyberbullying. The app encourages users to allow anonymous people to ask them questions.

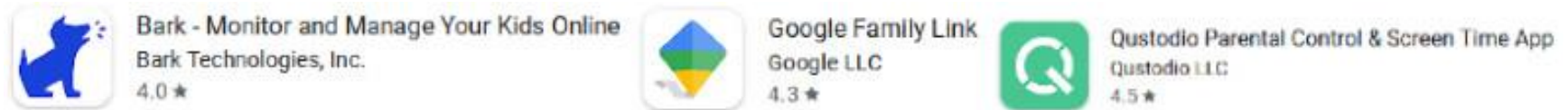


# What can we do about it?

- Other things to look for are vault apps (that look like things like calculators but allow them to hide photos, videos, apps, messages, etc), 2nd number/burner number/texting apps, and live video call apps.



- Search for parental monitoring apps and sync up phones like Family Link, Bark, Qustodio among others.



- It's also recommended to keep computers or gaming systems in public areas in the home.
- Look for Fair-trade, sustainable, single source products. They will likely have one of these:



## 5 Ways to Combat Human Trafficking

- If you are a parent/guardian, teach and show those under your care how to respect all life and how to protect themselves.
- Keep watch for potential abusive or trafficking situations and take appropriate action or contact local authorities.
- Live a life of integrity that says no to pornography and transactional sex.
- Invest in the teens and young adults in your community by coaching, mentoring, listening, and learning.
- Educate yourself and volunteer raising awareness to abuse, trafficking and other community corrupting tragedies.

## 5 Ways to Protect Yourself from Human Trafficking

- Keep your personal information private. Never share your home address or phone number with people you don't know online or in person.
- There is safety in numbers. Never go somewhere or meet someone by yourself.
- Love does not hurt. Abuse or being forced to do something you do not want to do is not a healthy relationship. Safely get out.
- Always let your parents or a trusted adult know where and who you are hanging out with in case of an emergency.
- Talk to a counselor or adult that you trust if you think you've been abused or trafficked.

# What Can I Look Out For?

- Walking the streets alone
- Couple where one looks uncomfortable and/or much younger than the other
- Having a boyfriend or girlfriend that you can't meet
- Frequent tardiness or absence from work, school or other normal functions
- Constant working
- No identification or phone
- Signs of abuse
- Unstable living conditions
- Receiving lavish gifts, or making large purchases
- No bank account or money
- Drug addiction



- Problems at home
- Cryptic about work or boyfriend/girlfriend
- Meeting people on video games or social pages who ask for personal details
- Expression of love or job opportunities that sound too good to be true
- Elaborate or inconsistent stories
- Multiple people coming to the house
- Signs of illness
- Isolation
- Trauma bonding even if in clear abusive situation
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts
- Talk of quota or debt that they owe
- Insecurity or feeling marginalized
- Mental instability

What  
can I  
listen  
for?



# What Questions Can I Ask?

- “Who do you depend on if you live out here?”
- “Have you been asked to do anything you’re uncomfortable with?”
- “What kind of work do you do? Do you have a quota?”
- “Have you spoken to your family or friends recently?”
- “Do you have a phone/Is your communication monitored?”
- “What would happen if you left your job/boyfriend or girlfriend?”
- “How did you hear about your job?”
- “Where did you meet...?”
- “Have you ever needed to do anything in order to get necessities?”
- “Are you able to go where you want?”
- “What happened to you?”



# What should I do if I see a situation?

- Don't assume that the victim will cooperate or want help
- If they do ask for help, take care of their immediate needs first and give resources if available
- Speak on their terms and let them share what they are willing to share
- Gather as many details of the person, situation and trafficker if present to present to authorities later. (You probably won't get an arrest at that moment)
- Make the necessary calls to the police, child protective services, and programs like the human trafficking hotline and the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)
- Let the victim know that they will not get in trouble if they work with you
- Throughout the interaction, regardless of where it ends, show them love and security



“If a survivor is not able to get the help they need pretty quickly, they could end up trafficking themselves to try to gain some control and because that lifestyle is so familiar to them they continue in it, but on their own and of course drug dependence is most often involved. I think that’s why it’s important to catch the survivor when they’re still pretty fresh so we can try to prevent that from happening which will cause further trauma.”

Maribeth - Board Member and Survivor



To prevent and end human trafficking

# Join us for the Vigil of Voices

## Vigil *of* Voices

Candlelight vigil for  
the trafficked

*Proverbs 31:8-9*

**Friday, July 29th, 6:30-8:00pm**  
**Centennial Park in Port Charlotte**

We need  
your  
help!

- We are attempting to connect with a survivor who was referred to us to get the counseling and other care that she needs
  - Counseling costs: 1 session for \$50, 5 for \$200, 10 for \$300. We want to cover these costs for her
  - Help cover other costs as she tries to start a new life
- We are all volunteer and want to hire staffing so we can do more education and advocacy, and survivor care
- We ultimately want to open a safe house in Charlotte County so we can offer hope and restoration to survivors
- If you wish to make a donation, text “SUPPORTRO” to 53-555 or visit <https://restoringoaks.org>
- We need volunteers
- Be a voice. Raise awareness



info@restoringoaks.org

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, or LinkedIn

Consider becoming a financial partner. Click Donate on the top right corner of our website.



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