



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## The Trafficked Persons Assistance Program

Human trafficking involves the recruiting, transporting, obtaining, or holding of an individual for the purposes of forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation. Human trafficking affects both foreigners and U.S. nationals. Houston is considered a major hub for human trafficking in the United States.

In 2003, the Y established the Trafficked Persons Assistance Program to identify and assist victims of human trafficking, regardless of their legal status. The program provides direct client services and raises awareness in the community through education and outreach.

Intensive case management services are available to both foreign national and U.S. national victims of human trafficking.

### Services include:

- Emergency housing, safety planning, food, clothing
- Legal/ immigration assistance
- Medical care
- Alcohol and substance abuse counseling
- Mental health services/ trauma recovery
- Life-skills/ education training
- Job training/ employment
- Family reunification
- Emotional support
- Confidentiality
- Criminal justice system advocacy
- Social services advocacy

For more information about the Trafficked Persons Assistance Program:  
Email [TPAP@ymcahouston.org](mailto:TPAP@ymcahouston.org) or call Jaimie Keller at 713-339-9015.

### Facts about Human Trafficking

#### *U.S. Nationals:*

- Both minors (under the age of 18) and adults can be victims of sex and labor trafficking
- More than 300,000 American children are at risk for being lured into sex trafficking each year
- Annually, Houston has an estimated 6,000 runaways, a major risk factor for human trafficking
- The average age of entry into the commercial sex industry is 12-14
- 1 out of every 3 children that run away are lured into sex trafficking within the first 48 hours of being on the streets

#### **YMCA International Services**

6300 Westpark, Suite 600

**P:** 713-339-9015

**[www.ymcainternationalservices.org](http://www.ymcainternationalservices.org)**



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## **Facts about Human Trafficking- Contd.**

### *Foreign Nationals:*

- There are an estimated 20-40 million people in modern-day slavery across the world
- 14,500-17,500 foreign nationals are trafficked into the United States every year

## **What are the Risk Factors?**

### *U.S. Nationals:*

- Childhood sexual and physical abuse
- Age
- Poverty
- Substance abuse
- Loss of parent/caregiver through divorce, death, or abandonment
- Lack of support systems
- Runaway/throwaway/homelessness
- Sexual identity issues
- Learning disabilities

### *Foreign Nationals:*

- Gender inequality
- Immigrant status
- Governmental corruption
- Economic and political instability
- Desire for a better life
- Feelings of hopelessness
- Cultural factors

## **Recognize the Signs:**

- Unexplained bruises, black eyes, cuts, or marks
- Behaviors including fear, anxiety, depression, submission, tension, and/or nervousness
- Truancy or tardiness from school
- Controlling or dominating relationships
- Inability or fear to make eye contact
- Wearing sexually provocative clothing
- Excessive amounts of cash
- "Hyper vigilance" or paranoid behavior
- No identification or documents

To report a tip, contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline at 1-888-373-7888. Trained staff members are available to take your call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The hotline is toll free and interpretative services are available for non-English speaking callers.

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