

# Human Trafficking

## Closer to Home than You Think

Presented by:  
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# Agenda

- 1** Introduction
- 2** Human trafficking recap
- 3** Who are the victims?
- 4** Red flags
- 5** Advocacy



# Introduction - Stealing freedom for profit

# Myths and Misconceptions

## Myth

Human trafficking does not occur in the United States. It only happens in other countries.

## Myth

Human trafficking victims are only foreign-born individuals and those who are poor.

## Myth

Human trafficking is only sex trafficking.

# Myths and Misconceptions

## Myth

Individuals must be forced or coerced into commercial sex acts to be victims of human trafficking.

## Myth

Human trafficking and human smuggling are the same.

## Myth

Human trafficking victims will attempt to seek help when in public.

# Human trafficking recap

**Human trafficking** is a crime in which **force, fraud or coercion** is used to compel a person to perform **labor, services or commercial sex**. It affects all populations: adults, children, men, women, foreign nationals and U.S. citizens, and **all** economic classes.



# Human trafficking further defined

- **Labor trafficking:** recruitment, harboring, transporting, or obtaining a person for labor or services through force, fraud or coercion
- **Sex trafficking:** a commercial sex act induced by force, fraud or coercion, or if under 18 years of age



There is

#NoSuchThing

as a

child prostitute.



# Human Smuggling vs. Human Trafficking

## Smuggling

- Voluntary
- Crime against a state
- Transportation based
- Requires border crossing
- Foreign nationals

## Trafficking

- Involuntary
- Crime against a person
- Exploitation based
- No border crossing required
- Foreign nationals or U.S. citizens



# Victim profiles

# Who are the victims?

**40.3 Million** victims of human trafficking globally

Estimated **403,000** victims in the United States



# Who are the victims?



- Men, women and children
- Any age, race, gender
- Any nationality
- Anywhere in the world

# The United Nations Report

**40.3 million people** across the globe are victims of human trafficking.

**79%** of them are being exploited as sexual slaves.  
**20%** of these are children.

**18%**  
exploited as  
forced labor  
(worldwide)

**Two out of  
every three  
victims are  
female**

Women make  
up the largest  
proportion of  
traffickers

**\$150 Billion**  
industry  
worldwide

# For what are they enslaved?

- Sex Trafficking (minors and adults)
- Forced Labor (involuntary servitude)
- Debt Bondage
- Involuntary Domestic Servitude
- Child Soldiers



Victims of trafficking are often lured into enslavement by the promise of a better life or a new opportunity, only to find themselves trapped in exploitation

# The United Nations Report

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\$32  
Billion

Annual income  
for human traffickers

\$90

Average cost  
of one human

1 in 100

Odds of rescue

# Victims Vulnerable to Trafficking

- Lack of social safety nets
- Poverty/economic hardship
- Demand for cheap labor
- Political instability/armed conflict
- Natural disasters
- Criminal activity
- Immigration status



# Common victim profiles

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- Migrant Workers
- Those with addiction
- Romantic “Grooming” victims





# A Victim's Story

At first, I thought he was my boyfriend. Then he convinced me to have sex with strangers to make money. He was my pimp. I was 15 years old. I was being advertised on the internet and sold for sex to support my 'boyfriend'

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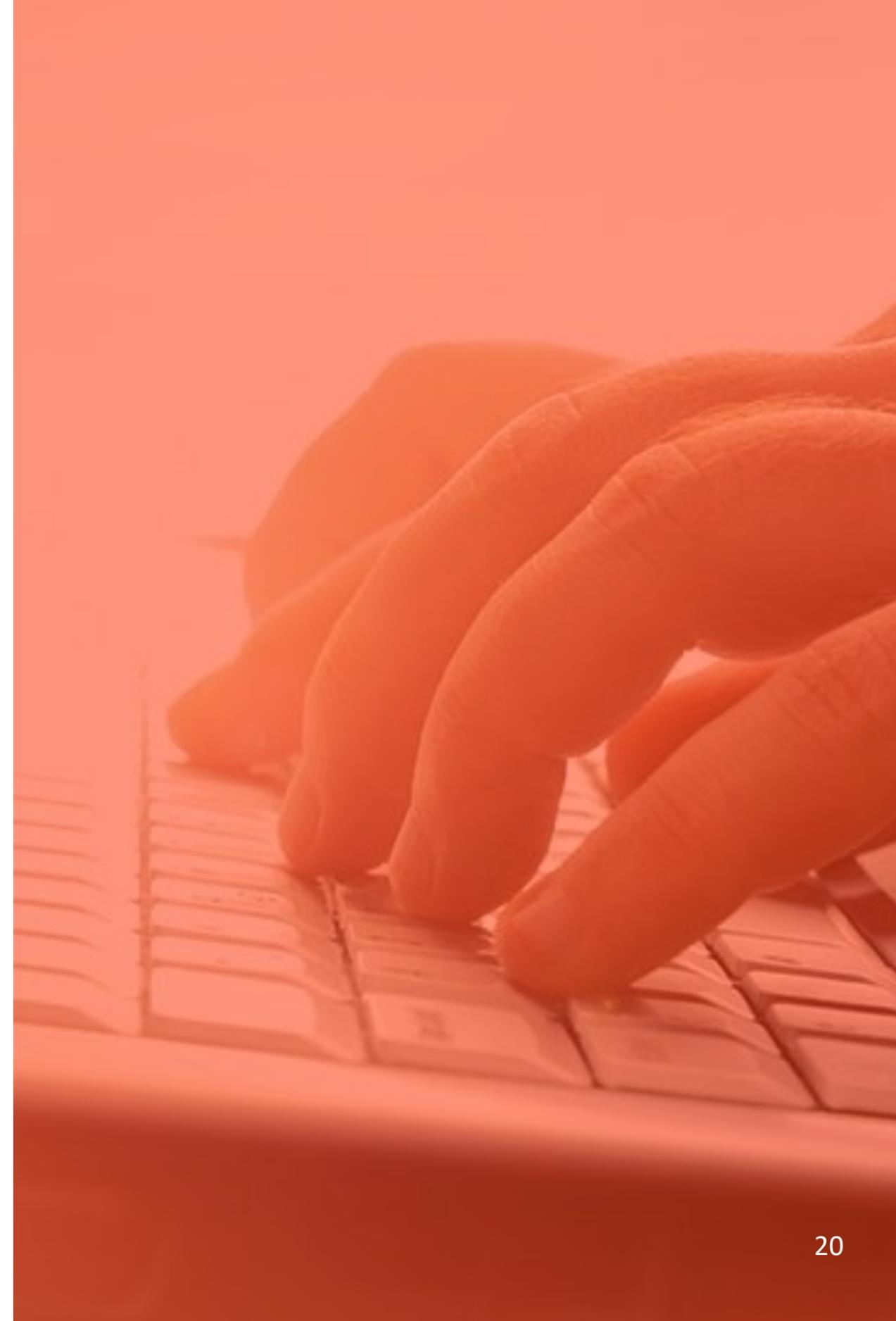
**Jessica**

Sex trafficking survivor



Almost “every popular social media site” is used to recruit sex trafficking victims.

—  
Source: FBI



# The global landscape



Tracks progress in the fight against human trafficking  
Ranks countries, including our own, by Tier Placement



# Message from the Secretary of State

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“The use of human trafficking by terrorist groups, such as ISIS and Boko Haram, not only reflects the brutality of these groups, but also acts as a means by which terrorist organizations recruit adherents and finance their operations. Combating human trafficking is... an issue that threatens international peace and security.”



# Tiers Guide

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## Tier 1

Fully comply with standards

## Tier 2

Do not meet standards, but are making significant efforts

## Tier 2 Watch List

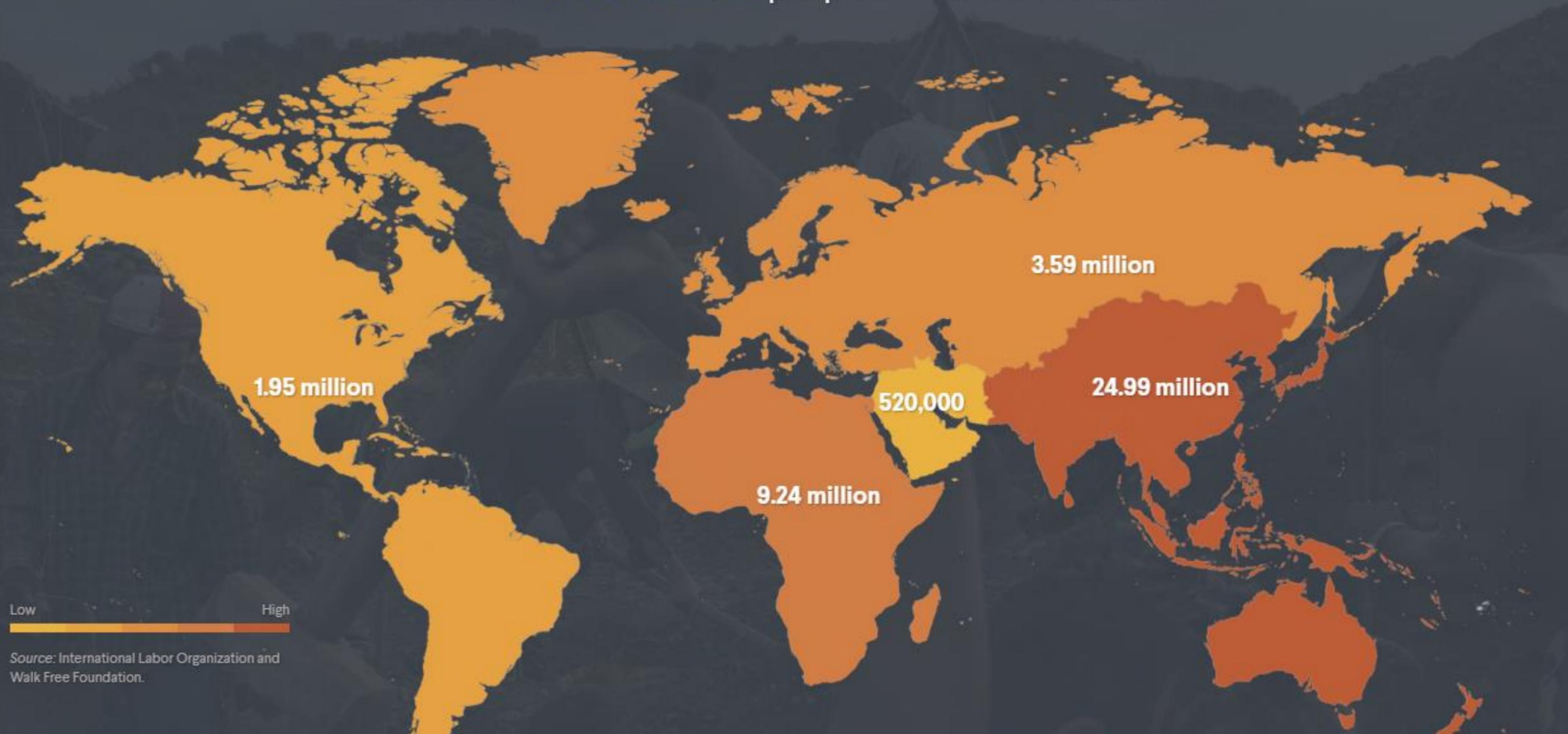
Do not meet standards, are making significant efforts, but have significant level of concerns

## Tier 3

Do not comply and are not making efforts

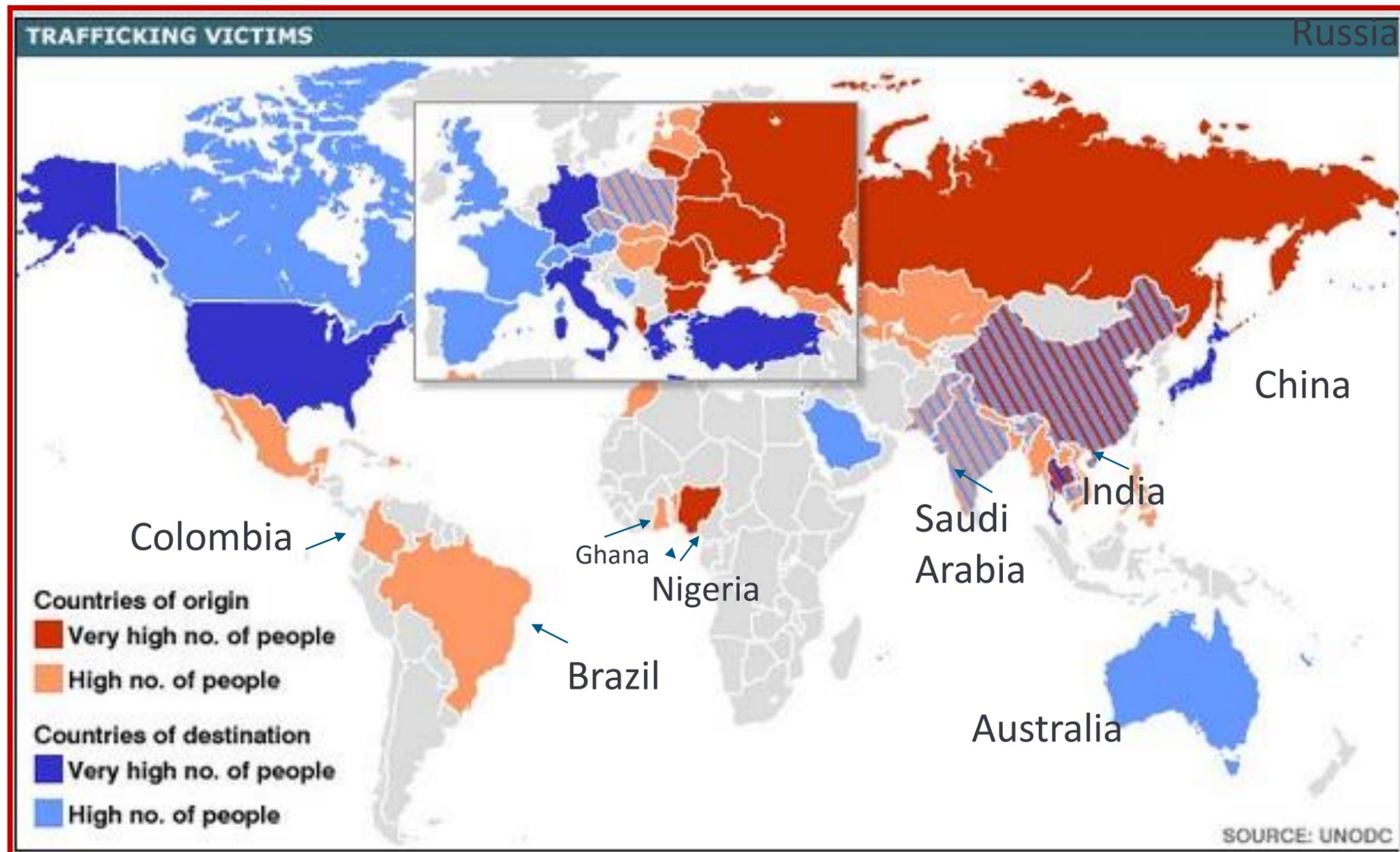


An estimated **40.3 million** people are enslaved worldwide.



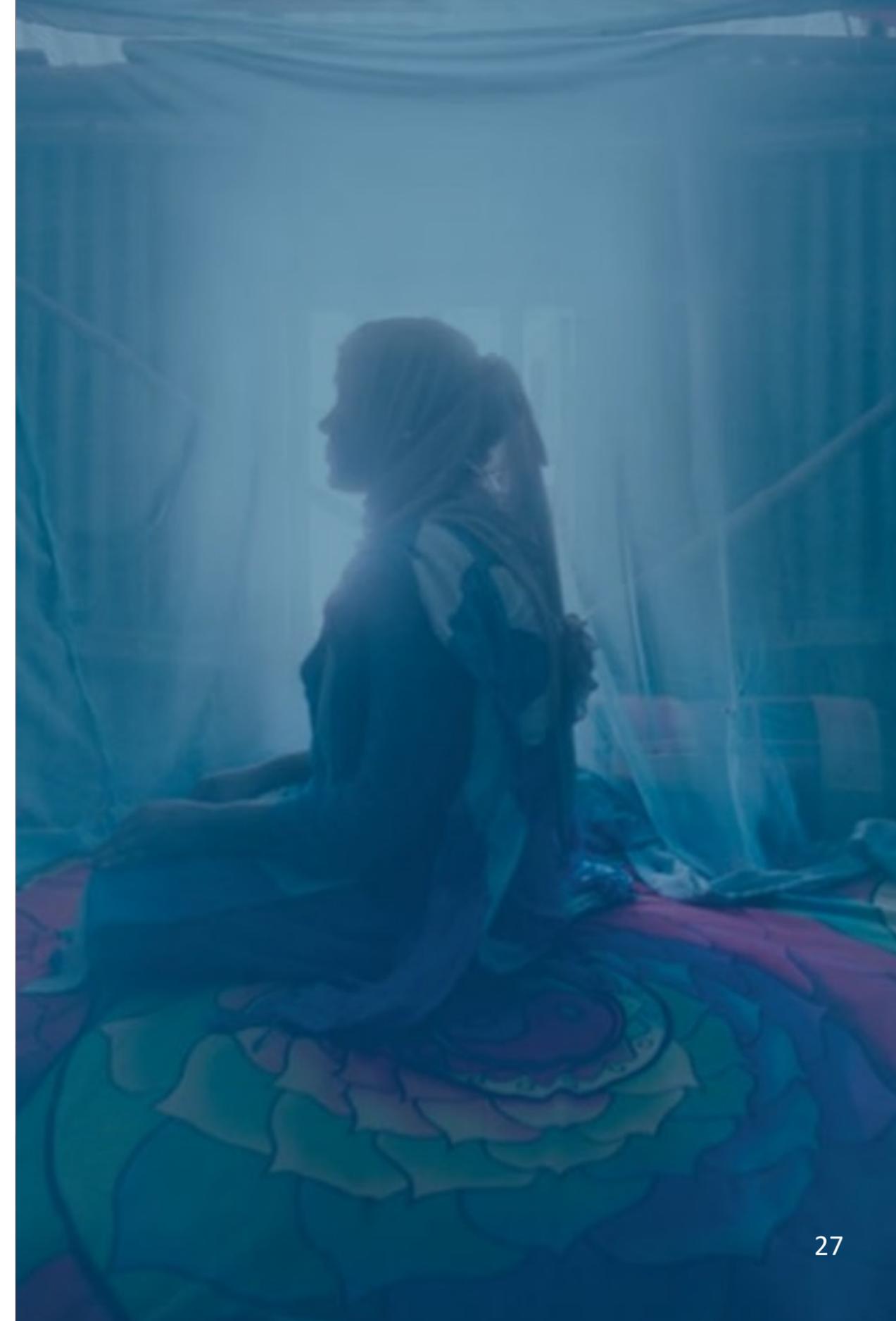
Low High

Source: International Labor Organization and Walk Free Foundation.



# Full List of Tier Placements

<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/20221020-2022-TIP-Report.pdf>



# Ukrainian Refugees and Trafficking Risks

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- 2.5 million have fled Ukraine, including more than a million children
- Increased vulnerability with women and children needing money and immediate assistance
- Sexual exploitation, forced labor, domestic slavery, and organ removal are serious concerns
- Several attempts to stop abductions have been stopped in border states

# Common typologies and cases

# Finance Industry and Human Trafficking

The financial services industry intersects with 92% of the various types of human trafficking.

SOURCE: NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE



# Where are the traffickers?

## Sex Trafficking:

- Escort services
- Residential sex trafficking
- Illicit massage businesses
- Outdoor solicitation
- Pornography



# Addiction & Abuse

Tyler was thirteen when he found leftover oxycodone in his parents' medicine cabinet and got high for the first time. Over the next four years, he became addicted to drugs, eventually switching to heroin. His cousin Dwight was a drug dealer and told Tyler if he wanted to keep getting drugs, he would have to work for it.

That's how Tyler ended up living in Dwight's house and selling sex for drugs. Dwight didn't give him any of the money he earned and forbade him from telling the rest of their family what he was doing. When Tyler tried to leave, Dwight threatened him — and then took advantage of Tyler's addiction to keep him there.





# Where are the traffickers?



## Labor Trafficking:

- Agriculture and animal husbandry
- Domestic work
- Construction
- Restaurants and food service
- Hospitality

# Abuse in Our Food

“But I was promised \$11 an hour,” he protested. Manuel had been recruited in Guanajuato, Mexico to work on a potato farm in North Carolina. The recruiters charged Manuel and 40 other Mexican males \$1,200 each for their H-2A visa, despite these fees being illegal.

When Manuel and his coworkers tried to complain, their supervisors physically abused them and threatened to have them deported. By the end of the season, despite his 12-hour workdays, Manuel hadn't even earned enough money to cover his recruitment fee.



Type of Economic Abuse	Top 5 Types of Trafficking (by percent of victims affected)	Percentage of Potential Victims
Creates Debt Bondage or Institutes Quotas	Traveling Sales Crews	37.36%
	Hotels & Hospitality	36.09%
	Restaurants & Food Service	32.48%
	Carnivals	28.57%
	Health Care	24.53%
Withholds Wages	Forestry & Logging	81.48%
	Restaurants & Food Service	73.36%
	Carnivals	71.43%
	Health Care	67.92%
	Recreational Facilities	66.67%
Limits Access to Finances	Arts & Entertainment	30.39%
	Commercial Cleaning Services	18.81%
	Factories & Manufacturing	12.99%
	Health Care	11.32%
	Domestic Work	7.97%
Other Economic Abuse	Forestry & Logging	18.52%
	Agriculture & Animal Husbandry	12.97%
	Construction	12.74%
	Health Care	11.32%
	Domestic Work	10.09%

**Closer to home than you think**

# Operation Cross Country

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- FBI and 200 partner agencies
- National Sweep Targeted Sex Traffickers, Recovery of Minors – Aug 2022
- Identified 84 minor victims of sex trafficking and child sexual exploitation
- Located 37 actively missing children
- Average age of victim was 15.5, with the youngest victim being 11 years old
- Located 141 adult victims of human trafficking
- Identified or arrested 85 suspects with human trafficking offenses



# Austin, TX



**abriigo**<sup>TM</sup>  
make big things happen.

# Website Personal Ads & Dark Web

[+++NEW++ Wonderful ++ Touch++ by a ++ Cute ++ Asian Girl +++out/in - 28 📷 \(N parmer I 35\)](#)

[Spaniard Busty Beauty - 28 \(W Slaughter Ln\)](#)

[80\\$ specials... cant miss COME TAKE A LOOK - 22 📷 \(North Austin Hotel Suite\)](#)

[»—👤—» \[ \\*NEW PICS\\* \] »—👤—» \[ \\*HOT BLONDE BARBIE! \] »—👤—» \[ \\*WELL REVIEWED\\* \]♥ »—👤—» - 23 📷](#)

[\(\(📞 CALL ME 📞\)\) Sexy PETITE Treat! 4'10, 110 lbs \(\(💎 60 SPECIALS 💎\)\) - 19 📷 \(North Austin \(Incalls Only\)\)](#)



# In Plain Sight

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## **backpage.com and affiliated websites have been seized**

as part of an enforcement action by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division, with analytical assistance from the Joint Regional Intelligence Center.

Other agencies participating in and supporting the enforcement action include the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, the U.S. Department of Justice's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, the office of the California Attorney General, and the office of the Texas Attorney General.

Backpage record certification requests should be sent to [info@backpage.net](mailto:info@backpage.net). Please remember to attach the records you need certified and the certification document that you are requesting be completed and returned to you. Please allow 2-3 days for your request to be processed. If you have a record certification request that requires urgent attention, indicate that by including the word "URGENT" in the subject line of your email.

**April 6, 2018**

Choose a location:

[post ad](#)

“Are you looking for backpage Chicago Escorts? Were you the frequent visitor of Backpage Chicago Escorts? Are you the one who miss Backpage Chicago Escorts? Then you are at the right place, finally you found the best alternative option of Backpage Chicago Escorts. Explore our categories and find the useful solutions to satisfy your needs.”

**Note:** Actual text from website; these are NOT the presenter's typos or grammatical errors.

# We're Back! Bedpage.com

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🔥🔥HOT GIRL🔥🔥 INDEPENDENT AND OPEN TO ANYTHING [REDACTED] I OFFER A TRUE [REDACTED] GIVE IT TO ME - 22 (USA)

Melt [REDACTED] 🌸❤️👄👄

[REDACTED] GET IT 🍷🔥. 🔥HOT FIERY 🔥BRUNETTE OFFERING [REDACTED] THE FULL [REDACTED] WITH NO RESTRICTIONS - 22 (USA)

I'm always [REDACTED]!

Hi guys! Im looking for someone fun and exciting is that you?! ❤️❤️❤️

=❤️❤️❤️❤️= Hot petltte blonde with a great [REDACTED] =❤️❤️❤️❤️=

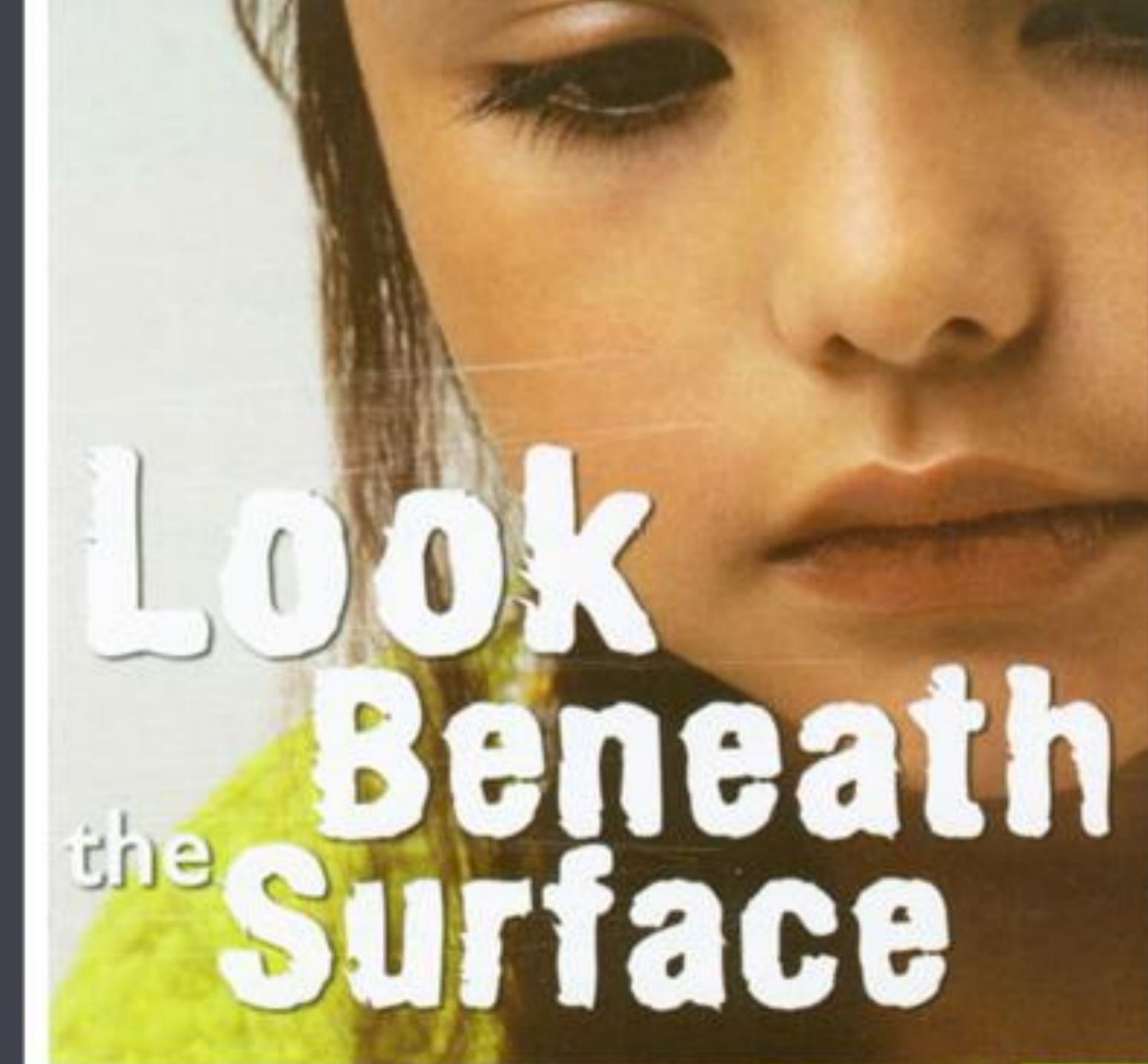
XXXXXXXX [REDACTED] 🌸🌸🍓🍓🍓🍓🌸🌸 asian 929-[REDACTED] 🌸🌸🍓🍓🍓🍓🌸🌸 XXXXXX willowbrook XXXX💎

Lux [REDACTED] NEW K-GIRLS [REDACTED] Need Best? 🍷 CHOOS UR on GIRL [REDACTED] SPECIAL SKILLS [REDACTED]

❤️❤️ Banana cream, [REDACTED] friendly, real pics ❤️❤️👄



# Red flags



# Look Beneath the Surface



## Victim Indicators

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- Accompanied by a controlling person or boss; not speaking on own behalf
  - Lack of control over personal
    - schedule, money, I.D., travel documents
  - Transported to or from work; lives
    - and works in the same place
  - Debt owed to employer/crew
    - leader; inability to leave job
  - Bruises, depression, fear,
    - overly submissive
  - A juvenile engaged in commercial sex acts
-



# Customer red flags (continued)

- Bank account opened for victim, with no subsequent deposits
- Businesses and industries easily exploitable by traffickers – immigration attorneys or anyone that handles visa paperwork
- Customers with excessive number of accounts
- Conceals illicit businesses with legitimate business accounts
- Has ATM on premises for easy cash access



# Financial red flags

- Structuring deposits to avoid detection:
  - High volume of round-dollar deposits via wires, ACH, or cash in the range of \$2,000-\$3,500
    - Look for increments of \$50, \$150, and \$200 – using large denominations
  - Excessive interstate or intrastate cash deposits less than \$1,000 each at multiple branches daily - micro structuring
  - Cash deposits just below the currency transaction reporting threshold but deposited at several branches

# Financial Red Flags (continued)

- Use of funnel accounts to move money to connected parties
- Deposits from multiple cities, close in time frame
- High use of prepaid cards to pay operating expenses (used frequently by lower scale operations)
- Frequent cash deposits made without ACH payments
- Extensive purchase of money orders



# Sex trafficking red flags

- Extensive payments to web advertisers that cater to the sex industry
- Wire transfer activity inconsistent with customer's business (victim wires money back to trafficker)
- Wires to/from origin or staging countries that are inconsistent with customer's known profile
- Offers high drink prices of cover charges to disguise sex profits (primarily bars and adult entertainment establishments)



# Sex trafficking red flags (continued)

- High volume of debit card/credit card transactions using specific merchants' codes
- Airline, rental car, bus, or taxi charges in multiple cities or states
- Excessive Red Box (movie), fast-food, or pharmacy charges
- Excessive hotel charges and high percentages of purchases made at high-end merchants, casinos, etc.

# Sex trafficking red flags (continued)

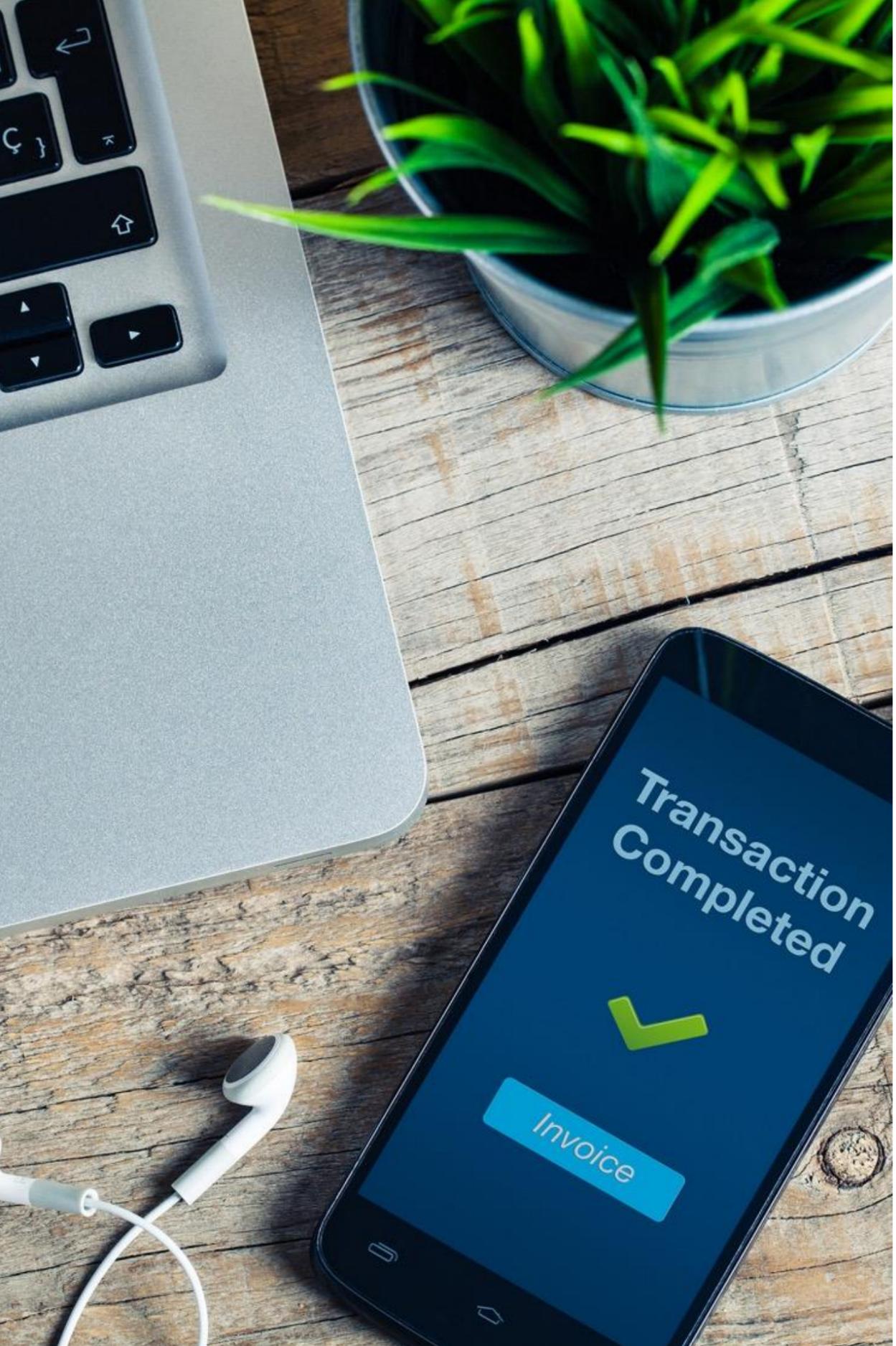
- May have transactional histories indicating unusual domestic travel and spend large amounts on gas and hotels.
- Frequent crypto or dark web transactions
- Frequent interaction with online classified sites from foreign jurisdictions
- Deposits made during off hours, such as between 10 pm – 6 am, often made in cash
- Multiple cell phone expenses
- Tattoos or branding (crowns, money, tag lines)



# Labor trafficking red flags

- Often makes large payments in cash or wire to recruiters or smugglers who supply victims
- Extremely low or \$0 paychecks or unusual deductions on pay stub
- Victim's employer pays in cash
- Victim pays recruitment fees or transfers money to a labor recruiter





# Cryptocurrency Red Flags

- ✓ Small transactions
- ✓ Night transactions
- ✓ Trafficking combo  
*(Hotel, food, car rental, convenience stores, etc.)*
- ✓ Adult sites
- ✓ Token exchange  
*(SPANK, BOOTY, etc.)*

# Human trafficking as a FinCEN priority

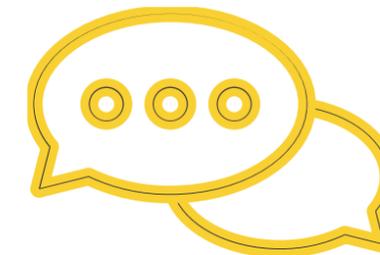
# FinCEN Priorities



AMLA mandated



June 30, 2021



Eight National Priorities

[https://www.fincen.gov/sites/default/files/shared/AML\\_CFT%20Priorities%20\(June%2030%2C%202021\).pdf](https://www.fincen.gov/sites/default/files/shared/AML_CFT%20Priorities%20(June%2030%2C%202021).pdf)



# Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling



- Both activities can intersect with financial institutions
- Refers to FinCEN advisories on red flags and SAR guidance:
  - FIN-2014-A008
  - FIN-2020-A008
- Warns of a variety of payment means, including funnel accounts and TBML schemes

# Regulatory readiness

- Consider updating risk assessment
- Prepare to revise BSA policy
- Evaluate internal controls
- Assess customer due diligence
- Enhance training



**Help for survivors**

## Unique Needs of Survivors

- Obtaining identification
- Obtaining visas
- Housing
- Eviction notices and lease terminations
- Emancipation
- Identity theft
- Credit issues and coerced debt
- Expunction/expungement
- Navigating child protective services (CPS)
- Accessing public benefits

# How to vet NGOs

# Vetting NGOs



Identify the organization's mission



Review IRS Form 990



Read the annual report and audit



Evaluate results



Speak to a representative or volunteer for the charity

# **Financial freedom and second chance banking**

# Unbanked

- 63 million adults- 25% of US households- are un- or underbanked
- Second chance banking
- Microgrants





## Do you know people

who have been forced or coerced to work in prostitution, domestic servitude or other types of labor?

- ▶ Were they recruited for one purpose but forced to engage in some other job?
- ▶ Have their passports or IDs been confiscated?
- ▶ Are they held against their will?
- ▶ Can they socialize and have friends?
- ▶ Have they been threatened with arrest or deportation?



**They can be any age, gender or nationality.  
They could be human trafficking victims.**

**Please help them by calling 1-866-347-2423**  
[www.dhs.gov/humantrafficking](http://www.dhs.gov/humantrafficking)



Homeland Security  
Blue Campaign

**Everyone has rights.**

We are committed to protecting everyone from human trafficking regardless of a person's immigration status.

Identifying and reporting human trafficking is everyone's responsibility!



# Key Takeaways

- Traffickers prey on vulnerabilities to lure victims into trafficking
- Train front-line staff
- Look for multiple red flags on accounts that could be markers of trafficking
- If it doesn't look right, report it – you might save a life

<https://www.abrigo.com/whitepapers/human-trafficking-red-flags/>





# Resources

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- US Department of State - <https://www.state.gov>
- Department of Homeland Security - [www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign](http://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign)
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement – [www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime-[www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org)
- Financial Action Task Force (FATF)– [www.FATF-GAFI.org](http://www.FATF-GAFI.org)
- PolarisProject.org – [www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking](http://www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking)
- Human Rights Watch – [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)
- United Nations – [www.un.org/en/](http://www.un.org/en/)
- Financial Crimes Enforcement Network - [FinCEN.gov](http://FinCEN.gov)



**Thank you**