

A PROGRAM AND SERVICE OF  
THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.

VIRTUS® Online



- [Home](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Services / Programs](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Reporting Child Abuse](#)
- [Contact Information](#)
- [Help / FAQs](#)

## Human Trafficking Awareness

By Caitlin Bootsma

It is estimated that there are currently **27 million** people enslaved throughout the world.<sup>1</sup> This shocking reality is one that we must pay attention to, because it is an important way to effect change.

What is human trafficking? It is forced exploitation of men, women, and children. This exploitation can take the form of prostitution, sex tourism, pornography, forced marriage, sweat-shop work, begging, armed services, and migrant farmers. Many people are ensnared with false promises of payment or other basic needs.

The United States is not an exception to the world of human trafficking. Every one of the 50 states and D.C. have reported instances of human trafficking. Sex trafficking of adults and children takes place in places such as rest stops, brothels, "escort" services, and through online solicitation—and sex trafficking can happen in *any* community. Children are also exploited for labor in many industries from restaurants to agriculture.

What can we do to combat such an immense international crime against human dignity? The first thing we can do is spread awareness and acknowledge that this could be happening within our own community. There are great resources available to help you educate yourself and spread awareness, such as:

- [U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking](#)
- [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#)
- [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#)



We can also share resources in the hopes that someone being trafficked can reach out. One easy way to do this is to post the National Human Trafficking Hotline (Call 1-888-3737-888 or Text "BeFree" 233733) in public places. Another important way to prevent trafficking is to be a reliable support to vulnerable children—mentoring, as a safe adult, can save lives.

#### References

1 <https://www.unicef.org/>

This article is the copyrighted property of National Catholic Services, LLC. All rights reserved. To provide constructive feedback, or request permission to redistribute, please communicate with: [editor@virtus.org](mailto:editor@virtus.org)

This article is not part of your continuing training. To access your required bulletins you must log in using the form in the upper left-hand corner of the screen. Then go to the TRAINING tab.

## What is Your Opinion?

Have you ever felt lost in your faith?

- Yes, frequently.
- Maybe only a few times in my life.
- No.
- Faith, what's that?
- I'm not sure, or I haven't thought about it.

Submit Vote!

#### LOGIN FOR EXISTING ACCOUNTS

User ID:

Password:

[Need login information?](#)

[I NEED LOGIN HELP FIRST-TIME REGISTRANT ESPAÑOL: ACCESO O INSCRIPCIÓN STOPit! Partnership](#)

