

“Identifying and Responding”
The Crime of Human Trafficking: A Law Enforcement Guide, Segment 2
Written Transcript
International Association of Chiefs of Police

Hilary Aham (Federal Prosecutor, U.S. Department of Justice):

State and local law enforcement— they are the eyes and ears on the ground. They know where the brothels are. They know where the factories are. They know the houses where there are a lot of 911 calls, and they’re in the position to see some of the first red warning flags.

Maria (human trafficking survivor):

The police came to the house a few times, to ask me if I was ok and I said yeah. And the man was next to the door, close to. The police just left. The times that they came, that’s what they did, they just looked and left.

Bill Rule (Commander, Collier County Sheriff’s Department):

They have to understand what it is in order to be able to see it. And then what they need to do is they need to look at what we call indicators of possible trafficking cases.

Maria (human trafficking survivor):

We always look down. We never look at the people in their face. We are always afraid of other people to know our situation. We avoid questions.

Bill Rule (Commander, Collier County Sheriff’s Department):

If you never see them outside but you know they’re there, that’s an indicator that you might have something. Another indicator is controlled communication to their home country. Controlled movement. They never separate. They always stay together. Look at the security: if the barbed wire is pointing in, that means it’s meant to keep people in, not to let them out.

Hilary Aham (Federal Prosecutor, U.S. Department of Justice):

If there’s a gut feeling that somebody’s controlling this person or scripting their answers, it’s worth following up on. Some of our biggest success stories have involved police officers on the front line saying something’s wrong with this picture.

Police officer: How old are you, Carla?

Carla: 18

Police officer: What’s your date of birth?

Carla: January

Lou de Baca (Involuntary Servitude and Slavery Coordinator, U.S. Department of Justice):

International organized crime, of course, that’s what people expect to find in this, and they are involved in this. But the bulk of what we’re seeing is loosely based family organizations. Often you’ll have a recruiter or two or three recruiters in the home country from that family who are pitching this dream of a better life to the victims. Other people facilitate their illegal entry, and

then you'll get the people who are making the money off of them by abusing them, forcing them into prostitution, holding them against their will.

Esperanza (human trafficking survivor):

We had our security guard who was watching us 24 hours a day. I had to work 17 hours a day and I had 10 minutes to eat a meal: beans and rice. Then I had to live inside.

Roseline (human trafficking survivor):

One day I was cleaning when she started yelling at me and pulled the Windex away from me and sprayed it on my face. And so anything she had on her hand she would use it at me. I was just hoping that one day it would stop.

Bill Rule (Commander, Collier County Sheriff's Department):

We cannot treat these people as criminals due to their immigration status. We have to treat them as victims.

Lou de Baca (Involuntary Servitude and Slavery Coordinator, U.S. Department of Justice):

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 has three main goals: prevention, protection, and prosecution. With an adult you have to show force, fraud, or coercion. For minors in commercial sexual activity, we no longer need to prove force, fraud, or coercion.

Maria Jose Fletcher (Supervising Attorney, Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center):

Any child under the age of 18 who has been involved in a commercial sex act is found to be a victim of severe form of trafficking automatically.

Lou de Baca (Involuntary Servitude and Slavery Coordinator, U.S. Department of Justice):

We're starting to see a lot of states enact anti-trafficking legislation. You need to make sure you know the laws in your area. Trafficking involves a whole host of crimes—kidnappings, murders, rapes, assaults, money laundering, immigration violations—any of these can be used against the traffickers.

Sean Doty (Sergeant, Lynnwood Police Department):

My partner and I got a call of an assault situation at a restaurant. We soon discovered that there were ten to a dozen Chinese immigrants who were being forced to work at this restaurant. That's when we called in INS. Once INS was on board, it just opened up the case, you know, tenfold. We started discovering all these apartments where they were housing people, and we were able to figure out who our suspect was.

Thomas Anello (Group Supervisor, Hostage Rescue Team, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement):

Our main goal is to attack these organizations. We can't effectively attack these organizations with just, you know, a handful of authorities. But we can get them with the combined authorities.

(Task Force Meeting Roll-Call)

Keisha Handy, Victim Witness Coordinator, U.S. Attorney's Office):

Keisha Handy, the victim witness coordinator for the United States Attorney's Office

Edwin Chapuseaux (Deputy, Harris County Sheriff's Department):

Edwin Chapuseaux, Harris County Sheriff's office.

Suzanne Bradley (Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation):
Suzanne Bradley, FBI

Hilary Aham (Federal Prosecutor, U.S. Department of Justice):
There's a role for every federal agency, every local law enforcement agency, to play. The success stories are the ones where all the different agencies have worked together.

Kyle Jackson (Captain, Los Angeles Police Department):
There's a whole host of social service needs that law enforcement cannot provide.

Receptionist: Can I help you?

Kyle Jackson (Captain, Los Angeles Police Department):
Yes. I need to see Kay Buck.

Receptionist: Okay, she's expecting you. She's in her office right down the hall.

Kyle Jackson (Captain, Los Angeles Police Department):
Nongovernmental organizations, like community based organizations, can help.

Kay Buck (Executive Director, Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking):
What's really important for law enforcement agencies and officers is to know that by getting non-governmental organizations involved right from the very beginning, that will help their case.

Kay Buck (Executive Director, Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking):
Hey, thanks for coming in.

Kyle Jackson (Captain, Los Angeles Police Department):
Absolutely.

Kay Buck (Executive Director, Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking):
Good to see you.

Kyle Jackson (Captain, Los Angeles Police Department):
Part of our culture is hey, stand to the side, ma'am, we can handle this, we can go at it alone. We know that we will not be effective if we have that kind of attitude. We're going to have to learn to bring in community partners that are really experts in this work.

Kay Buck (Executive Director, Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking):
Victims almost always come to us with nothing but their clothes on their back. They need food and shelter; they need a lot of medical attention. We're not here to disrupt the investigation. We really want the same thing, and that is to put the trafficker behind bars and to help this victim lead a normal life again.

Edward Gallagher (Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice, Southern District of Texas):
There has to be a mutual respect for this local mission and the state mission, the federal mission, at every level. That's why we have a Harris County Sheriff's deputy assigned to the FBI right now working in FBI space.

Suzanne Bradley (Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation):
Hey Ed, when you get a chance, can you come over here?

Edwin Chapuseaux (Deputy, Harris County Sheriff's Department):
Sure. What you got?

Edward Gallagher (Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice, Southern District of Texas):

When an officer at role call gets a sheet of paper saying, hey, if you come upon a scene and you think there may be a human trafficking issue, here's your contact.

Edwin Chapuseaux (Deputy, Harris County Sheriff's Department):
If the U.S. Attorney's Office is asking, you may get a quicker response.

Thomas Anello (Group Supervisor, Hostage Rescue Team, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement):

Local law enforcement are the eyes and ears that are on the ground. They protect and serve, and they run into much more people than we do on a daily basis, so they also in turn receive much more information.

Bill Rule (Commander, Collier County Sheriff's Department):

Go out now into your community. Find out who can house people. Find out who can feed people. Find out who can interpret for you. You know, set up everything in advance because you may not have a case right now but you're going to.

Maria Jose Fletcher (Supervising Attorney, Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center):

Who do you need to call at an FBI agency? Who do you need to call at the ICE agency? Who do you need to call at the Department of Justice? your assistant U.S. Attorney? Have those phone numbers at hand.

Kyle Jackson (Captain, Los Angeles Police Department):

Police officers can't do this work alone. We're going to have to learn how to trust, how to be open, how to share. We really need to come together so we can expose this dark secret that's occurring throughout the Nation.

Lou de Baca (Involuntary Servitude and Slavery Coordinator, U.S. Department of Justice):

The following are key points from this segment:

In order to identify this crime, know the federal law, as well as the state anti-trafficking laws.

There are many potential indicators of human trafficking, including but not limited to:

- Buildings with high security.
- Massage parlors or escort services, especially those advertising exotic women.
- Situations in which people's movement and communication are controlled.
- Presence of a debt to the employer is a major red flag.

Additional red flags include situations in which—

- Documents are held by someone else.
- Women in prostitution who do not speak English.
- Individuals who are hidden or rarely seen but you know they are there.
- Victims may avoid eye contact and appear withdrawn.
- There's often a heightened fear of police.
- There may be one person trying to speak for the entire group when you first discover them.

Traffickers can operate in loosely based family organizations, or as a single individual working independently.

- International or U.S. organized crime may be involved.
- Larger operators include recruiters who lure with false promises.
- Brokers working as middlemen who sell and transport victims, and end traffickers who hold, move, trade, and sell victims.

Successful cases include collaborations between state and local law enforcement, victims and their advocates, nongovernmental organizations or nonprofit social service agencies, and prosecutors.

For more information, please refer to IACP's guidebook: *The Crime of Human Trafficking: A Law Enforcement Guide to Identification and Investigation*.

Or contact the IACP at 1-800-THE-IACP or www.theiacp.org