



**City of Los Angeles
Commission on the Status of Women
Presentation by
Thai Community Development Center**

January 20, 2023

INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

About Thai CDC



The mission of Thai CDC is to advance the social and economic well-being of low and moderate income Thais and other ethnic communities in the greater Los Angeles area through a broad and comprehensive community development strategy including **human rights advocacy**, affordable housing, access to healthcare, promotion of small businesses, neighborhood empowerment, and social enterprises. www.thaicdc.org

Human Rights Advocacy



Thai CDC came to the aid of 72 Thai nationals found working in conditions of slavery in a makeshift factory in El Monte, CA in 1995. Known as the first case of modern-day slavery in the US, it was a landmark case that woke the world up to the global phenomenon of human trafficking and sparked the anti-trafficking movement.

- ▶ Provides legal and social services
- ▶ Aims to empower and improve working conditions for low-income and exploited workers
- ▶ Focuses on workers in inhumane conditions
- ▶ Protects the rights of immigrants via immigration services

Global Resource on Human Trafficking



- ▶ The El Monte Case was just the tip of the iceberg as Thai CDC has gone on to work on more large, unsettling and precedent setting trafficking cases both labor and sex trafficking cases involving thousands of victims.
- ▶ As a pioneer in the anti-trafficking movement, Thai CDC has become a world leading expert on human trafficking. We co-founded the **Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking** in 1998 and the **API Human Trafficking Task Force** in 2016, trained countless service providers and law enforcement, and helped pass critical pieces of legislation including the federal **Trafficked Victim Protection Act in 2000**.
- ▶ Thai CDC received the US Presidential Award in 2022 for its **Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons**.

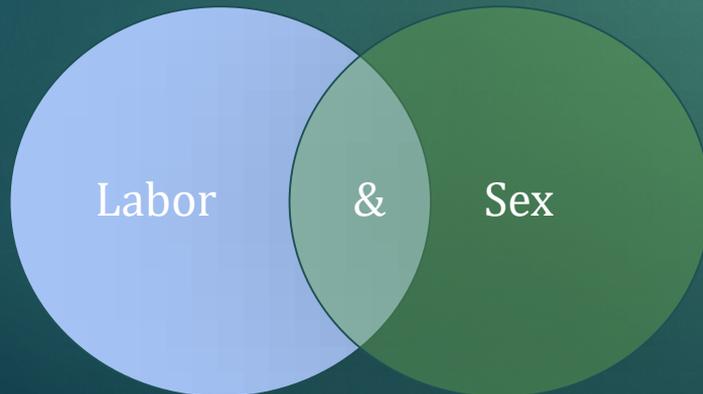


“Because of our Asian culture, most often when someone becomes a victim, they are being blamed and shamed by the family and community. It is very unlikely for a victim to come forward and seek help, and if they come forward seeking help, people think that they do it for benefit of getting legal status. We need to shift our thought and mindset and understanding the situation..”

- Angela, Survivor of Labor Trafficking, Philippines

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Use of **force, fraud (deception) or coercion** to obtain, **transport** or **harbor** another person for commercial gain. There are two main forms.



Labor Trafficking

The **recruitment, harboring, transportation, or obtaining** a person for labor or services, through the use of **force, fraud, or coercion**, for the purpose of subjection to **involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.**

Sex Trafficking

Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by **force, fraud, or coercion, or** in which the person induced to perform such act has **not attained 18 years of age.**

ELEMENTS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Traffickers undertake ACTION using MEANS for the PURPOSE of exploiting people

TYPES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING



WHAT INDUSTRIES?



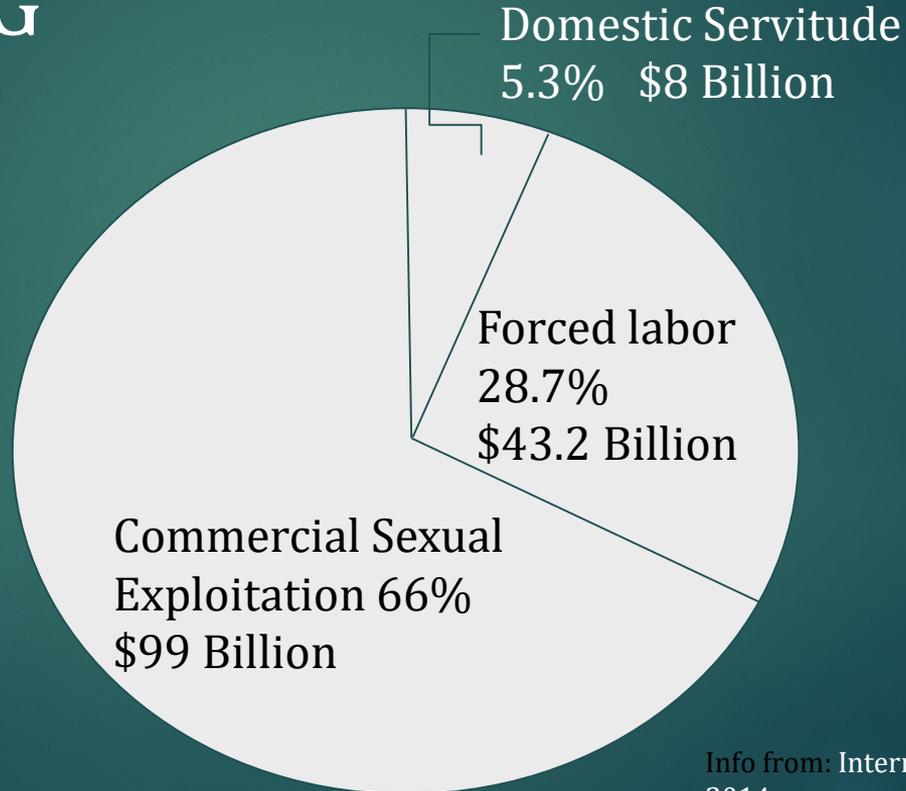
IT CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE

In the United States of America

In our very own communities

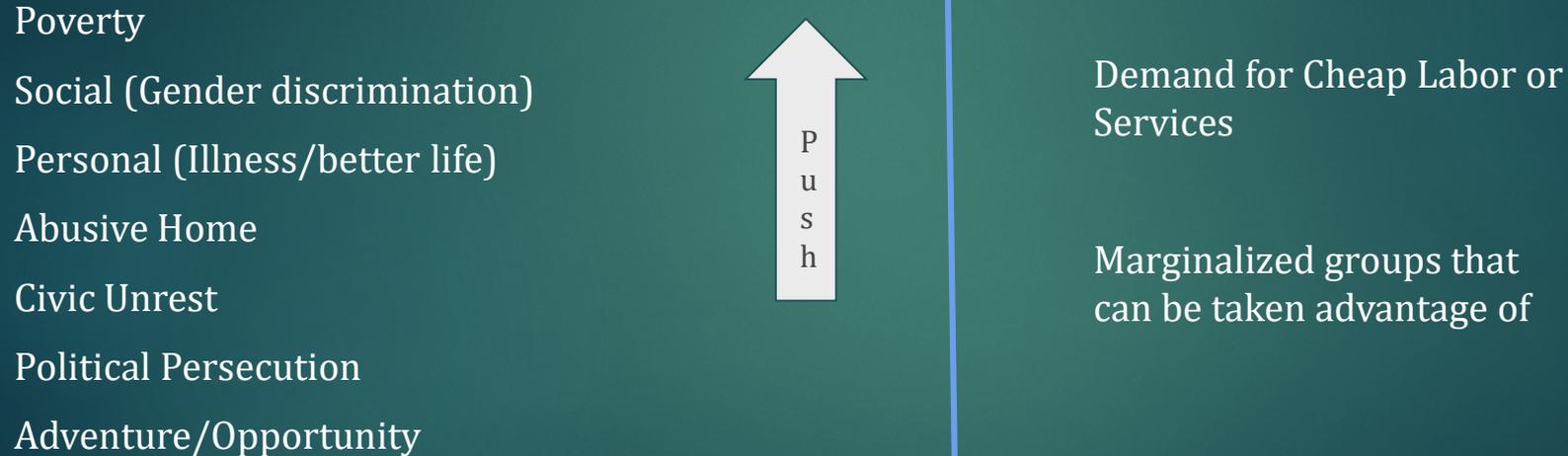
Anywhere in the World

THE PROFITS MADE FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING

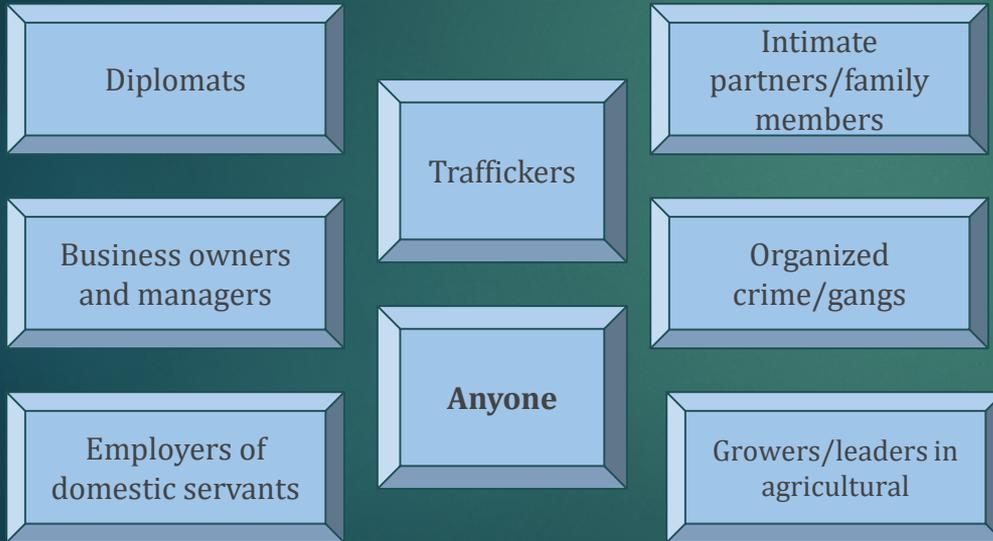


Info from: International Labour Organization
2014

WHAT MAKES SOMEONE VULNERABLE?



WHO ARE TRAFFICKERS?



TRAFFICKERS CAN BE ANYONE

Can be lone individuals or part of extensive criminal networks.

What do they have in common?

A desire to exploit people for profit.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

- ❖ It does not happen in our community
- ❖ Only women or children are trafficked
- ❖ Minors can consent to being trafficked
- ❖ Same as smuggling
- ❖ Can't be paid for work
- ❖ Can't be trafficked in marriage

Society doesn't hear about it because:

- ❖ Children are labeled as missing persons-not kidnapped
- ❖ Police officers mislabeling cases as prostitution vs. trafficking

REALITY

- ❖ It happens in our communities
- ❖ Men and boys are also victims
- ❖ Minors are NOT able to consent to being trafficked
- ❖ Smuggling is illegal entry into/out of a country whereas trafficking involves use of threat, force or coercion against a person
- ❖ Some trafficking victims are paid very little
- ❖ You can be trafficked in marriage

HUMAN TRAFFICKING EXISTS BECAUSE THE WORLD IS CONVINCED IT DOESN'T EXIST

ADDITIONAL RED FLAGS

Reluctant to speak

Exhausted

Dominated or controlled

Fearful

Long work hours

Alienated from family/friends

Gifts from older boyfriend (*minor*)

Signs of abuse

- Has very few (if any) personal possessions
- Lacks access to healthcare—may seem malnourished
- Avoids eye contact
- Fearful, anxious or paranoid
- Lacks identification of any sort
- Tattoos/branding

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES?

Physical

- Physical health symptoms that cause pain or discomfort
- Fatigue and weight loss, neurological symptoms, and gastrointestinal problems
- Untreated chronic health conditions

Psychological

- Mental health symptoms related to depression, anxiety and hostility.
- Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder symptoms
 - caused by repetitive and prolonged exposure to traumatic events

WHY VICTIMS MAY APPEAR NOT TO WANT HELP

Captivity, confinement and isolation	Use & threat of violence	Fear, shame, self-blame and hopelessness	Dependency
Distrust of law enforcement	Debt bondage	Misinformation/false promises	Lack of Knowledge of social systems

Non-identification as a victim	Stockholm syndrome	Trauma & cognitive distortion
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VICTIM CENTERED SERVICES FOR TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

❖ Legal Services

- Immigration Relief (e.g. T-Visa)
- Civil Lawsuits
- Administrative Claims for Discrimination and Unpaid Wages
- Class Actions

❖ Case Management

- Government Benefits
- Housing Assistance/Options
- Social and Human Services
- Employment

❖ Mental Health Services

- Screening and treatment for mental health conditions
 - Depression, PTSD, Anxiety disorders



INTEGRATED SERVICES TO ESTABLISH HEALING

Physical Health	Intensive Case Management	Mental Health Counseling	Life Skills Training
Access to Medical Care	Food/Clothing/ Housing/Financial Assistance	Individual, Family Therapy and Psychiatric Support	Independent and Navigation Skills
Referral to Specialist	Legal Services	Support Groups & Substance Abuse Counseling	Employment/Job Skills Training



Formerly A3PCON - Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council

Asian Pacific Islander Human Trafficking Task Force

Mission:

To “**bring together** various organizations that serve the API community to collaborate and **strengthen services** for Asian and Pacific Islander (API) human trafficking survivors; **raise awareness** of the prevalence of human trafficking in API communities and **advocate for the particular needs/issues** of API survivors; increase knowledge and usage of **culturally responsive strategies** to serve API human trafficking victims; **increase access** to, and quality of, services for API survivors; and inform API survivors and other community members that we are here to serve them.”

OVC Funded Service Partners 2016-2020

served 149 clients with 25 different services

- ▶ Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles
- ▶ Asian Pacific Aids Intervention Team
- ▶ Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking
- ▶ Korean American Family Services
- ▶ Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
- ▶ Pacific Asian Counseling Services
- ▶ South Asian Network
- ▶ Thai Community Development Center



Asian Pacific Islander Human Trafficking Task Force Language Specific Help

Korean (Korean American Family Services): 213.389.6755

Thai (Thai Community Development Center): 323.468.2555

Bangla, Gujarati, Hindi, Nepali, Urdu (South Asian Network): 562.403.0488

Tagalog (Pilipino Workers Center): 213.250.4353

Khmer (Pacific Asian Counseling Services): 562-424-1886

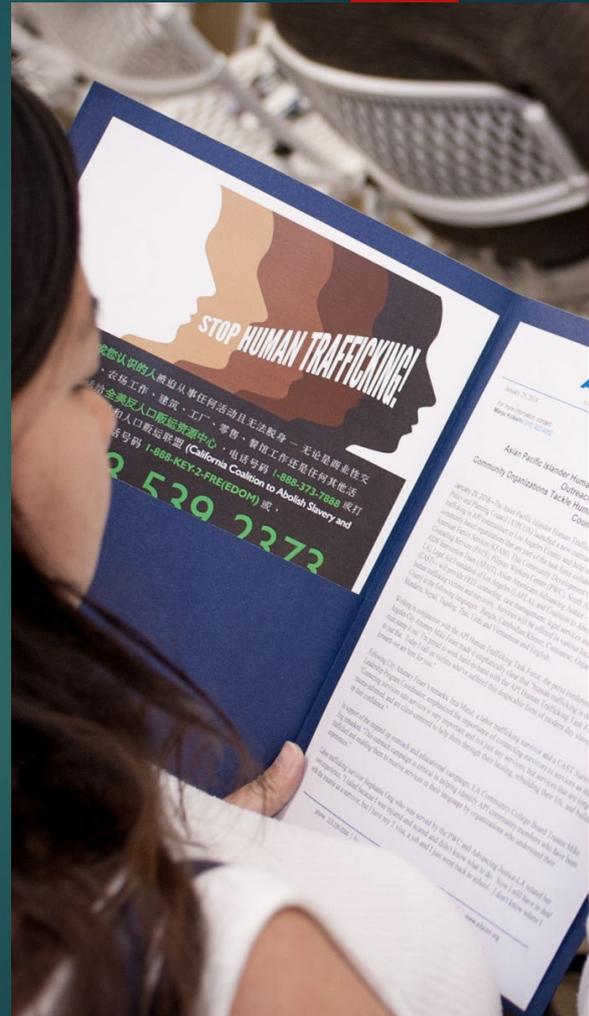
Chinese (Asian Americans Advancing Justice): 800.520.2356

Vietnamese (Asian Americans Advancing Justice): 800.267.7395

For any language not listed above, you can call the CAST Hotline:
1.888.539.2373 (*Interpreters can be accessed 24/7 for any language*)

What is Justice for the Victims?

- ❖ Reframing Prosecution to Remedies
- ❖ Criminal Proceedings
- ❖ Civil Enforcement Actions
- ❖ Administrative Proceedings
- ❖ Culturally and Linguistically Competent and Trauma-Informed Victim-Centered Support Services (Food, Housing, Health, Mental)
- ❖ T-Visas, Green Cards, Naturalization and Family Reunification
- ❖ Vacatur
- ❖ Employment
- ❖ Restitution



A Victim Centered Approach...

- Systematically focuses on the needs and concerns of a victim to ensure the compassionate and sensitive delivery of services in a nonjudgmental manner.
- Seeks to minimize retraumatization associated with the criminal justice process by providing the support of victim advocates and service providers, empowering survivors as engaged participants in the process, and providing survivors an opportunity to play a role in seeing their traffickers brought to justice.