



# UNDERSTANDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING: THE INTERSECTIONS AND COMPLEXITIES

A Live Learning Session

Presented by The United Way Center to Combat Human Trafficking



This curriculum was created by The Center to Combat Human Trafficking at United Way Worldwide. It was made in collaboration with the Rising Experts and Rising Worldwide, with input from the National Survivor Network. This effort is made possible through the generous support of UPS.





**THE UNITED WAY CENTER  
TO COMBAT HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING WAS  
FOUNDED IN 2015 AS  
A GLOBAL CENTER TO  
ACCELERATE ACTION.**

Our strategy brings anti-trafficking projects to scale by **energizing, coordinating, and mobilizing organizations** on the front lines and through the United Way network.

# UNITED WAY'S CRITICAL ROLE

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND  
SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP

PLACING LIVED  
EXPERIENCE IN THE  
CENTER OF OUR WORK

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

EDUCATING  
COMMUNITIES +  
RAISING AWARENESS

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

BUILDING BETTER  
COMMUNITIES FOR ALL

CATALYZING ACTION

STRENGTHENING THE  
ANTI-TRAFFICKING  
MOVEMENT

We are **innovating** where needed, **uplifting** good work already being done, **elevating** survivor leadership, and **utilizing** the United Way network to catalyze the anti-trafficking movement.



# YOUR FACILITATORS

Aja Houle (she/her)

Cari Herthel (she/her)

Dawn Allen (she/her)

Jess Torres (they/them)

Ummra Hang (she/her)



# OBJECTIVES

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- Understand human trafficking and your connections to it
- Recognize the complexities of human trafficking, including its types and prevalence
- Discern the frequent similarities and differences between human trafficking survivors' experiences
- Explore and identify next steps you and your organization can take to create connections and opportunities for change

**DOES HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAPPEN  
IN YOUR COMMUNITY?**



## WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?



Human trafficking is compelling someone through force, fraud or coercion to work or engage in commercial sex acts against their will.

Human trafficking includes when anyone under 18 is involved with commercial sex for any reason. When a youth is involved in commercial sex, no force, fraud or coercion is required for it to be human trafficking.





# HUMAN TRAFFICKING DOES NOT REQUIRE ANY MOVEMENT.

People can be trafficked around the  
world, across their hometowns, and  
even within their own homes.

# U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act (2000 - Present)



## Force

- Physical abuse
- Sexual violence
- Burns
- Physical restraints
- Withholding survival needs
- Sleep deprivation
- Financial abuse



## Fraud

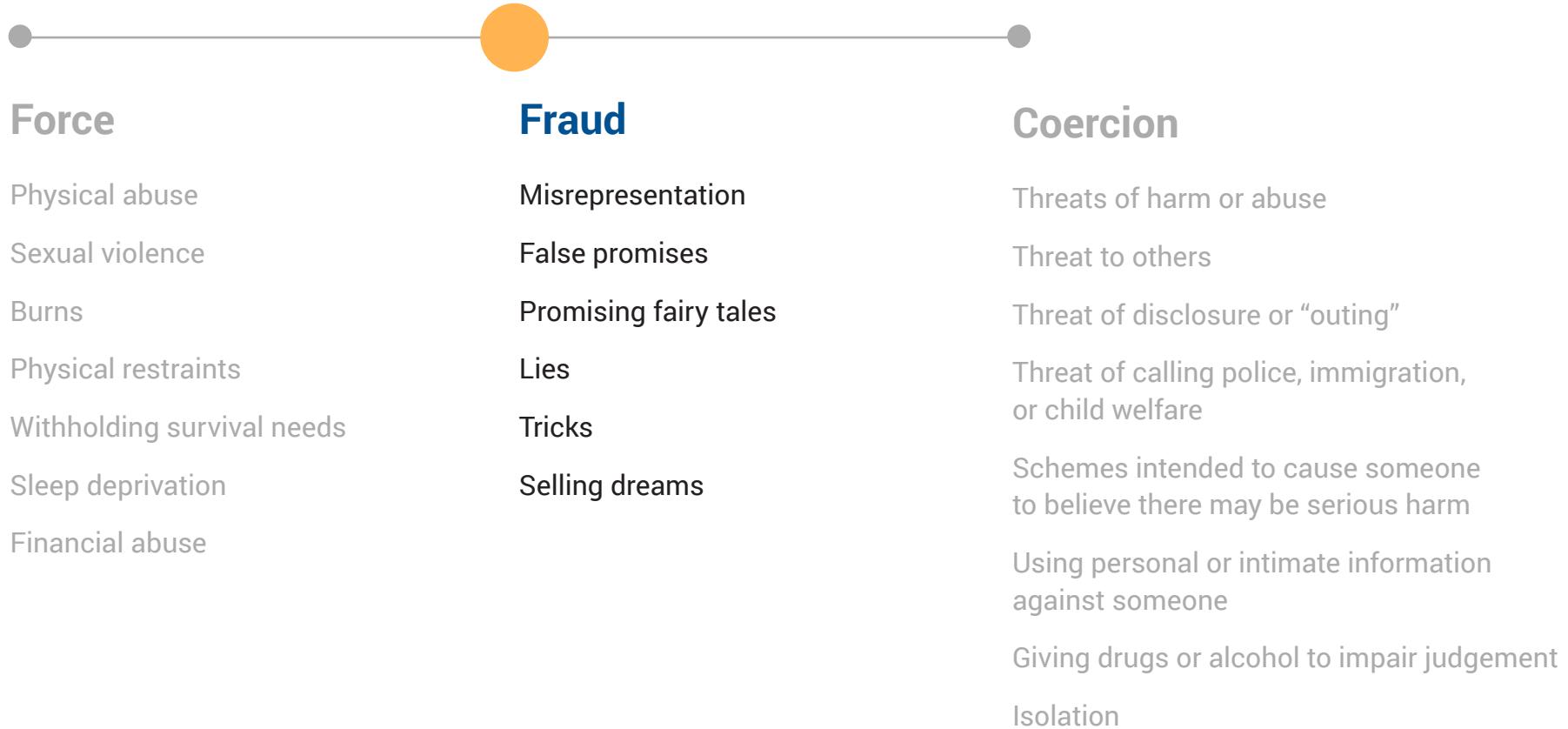
- Misrepresentation
- False promises
- Promising fairy tales
- Lies
- Tricks
- Selling dreams



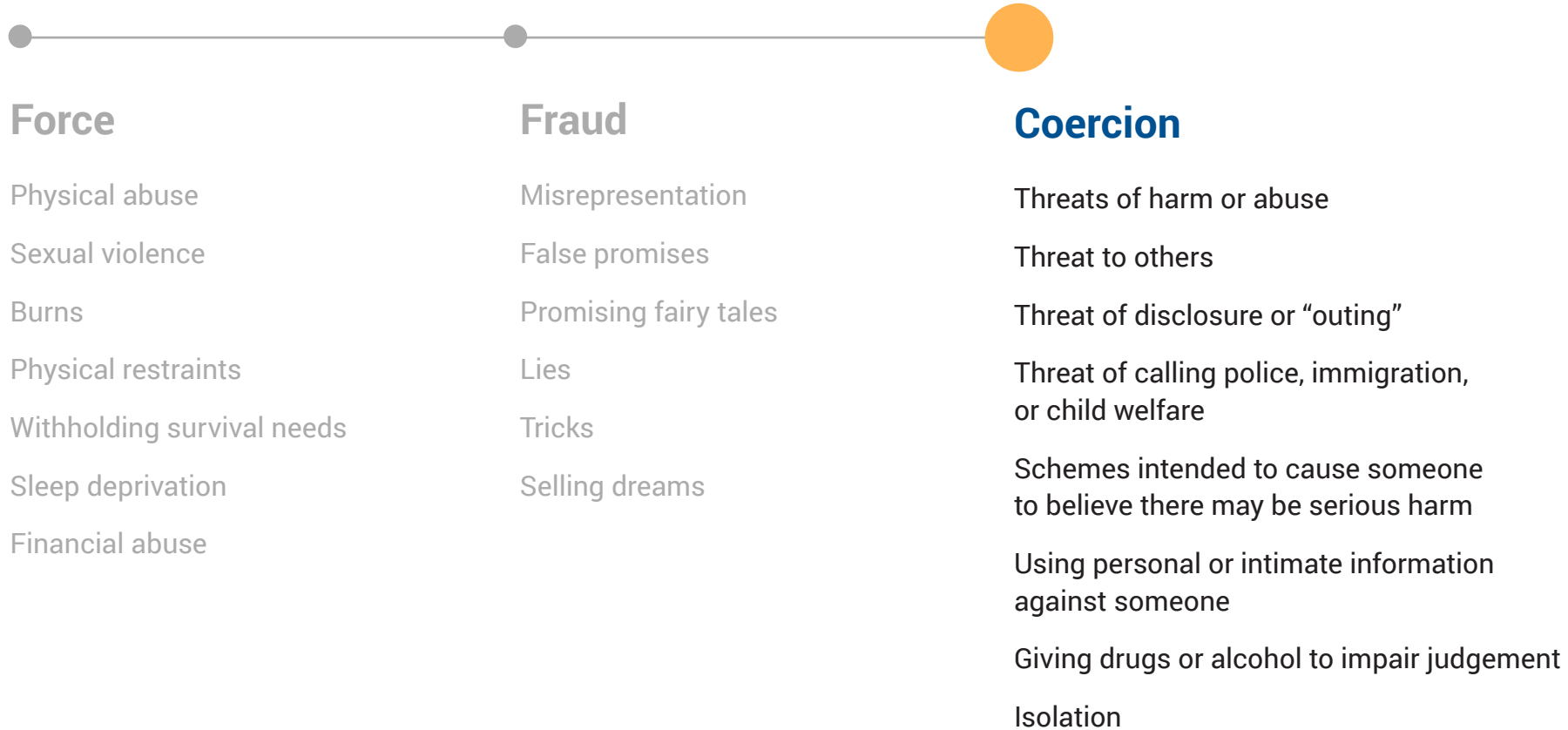
## Coercion

- Threats of harm or abuse
- Threat to others
- Threat of disclosure or “outing”
- Threat of calling police, immigration, or child welfare
- Schemes intended to cause someone to believe there may be serious harm
- Using personal or intimate information against someone
- Giving drugs or alcohol to impair judgement
- Isolation

# U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act (2000 - Present)



# U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act (2000 - Present)





## | CASES

# Labor and Sex Trafficking

**Judy**, a Native American youth in foster care, was encouraged by an older man to run away. He offered her drugs and alcohol and pushed her into work, sometimes in agricultural fields and other times at a fish cannery. At night, he would solicit cash from other workers to have sex with her and arranged for her to sell drugs for him.

These cases are real. Courtesy of a Rising Expert.



## CASES

# Forced Labor

**Martha**, a deaf woman from Indonesia, was promised a good job in a florist shop when she agreed to come to the United States. Once in the United States, she was forced to peddle trinkets on the street, sexually assaulted, and threatened by her trafficker if she did not make a daily quota.

**These cases are real. Courtesy of Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST).**

## Sex Trafficking

**Angela** started running away at the age of 13 because of sexual abuse at home. She had contact with the Child Dependency system at least 11 separate times. At the age of 13, she was introduced by a friend to a man who forced her into sex trafficking through beatings and other abuse. Angela was arrested two separate times.

**These cases are real. Courtesy of Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST).**



From The International Labor  
Organization & Walk Free Foundation

40.3 MILLION

**PEOPLE ARE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AROUND THE WORLD**





OVERVIEW: UNITED STATES

**There is no official estimate of the total number of human trafficking victims in the US.**

**48,326 contacts**

made to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center in 2019

**11,500 cases**

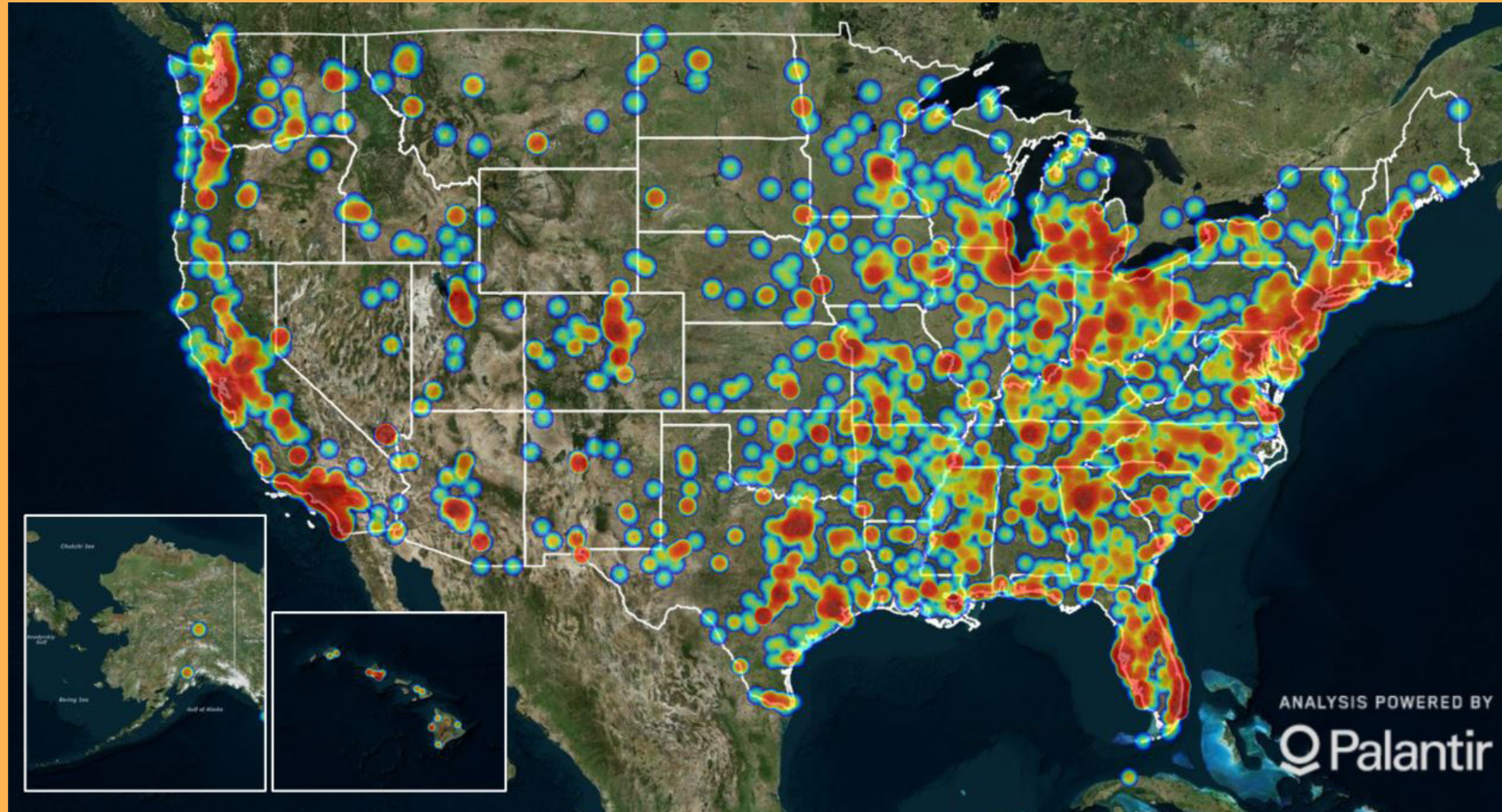
reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline in 2019, including 2,582 cases involving a minor trafficking survivor

Cases reported in all

**50 states**

as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and US territories, according to the National Human Trafficking Hotline

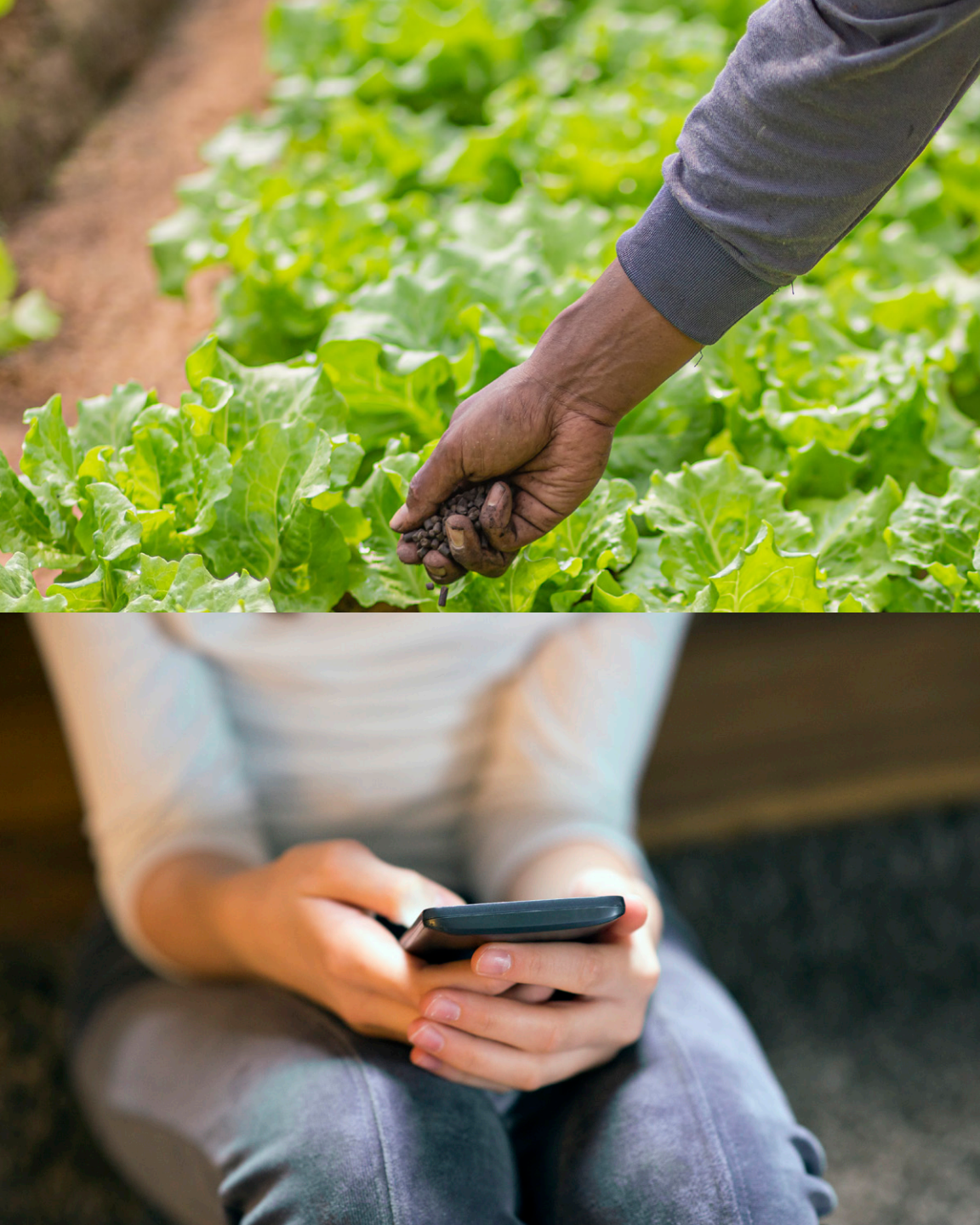
Colors indicate verified cases of human trafficking reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline in 2019.



*Some reported cases*



*High frequency of cases*



## | CASES

# Trafficking During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The National Human Trafficking Hotline saw a **70% increase in reports of human trafficking among agricultural workers** who held H-2A visas from April to September 2020.

Reports of online sex trafficking to the hotline **increased by more than 45%** during the same period.

# COMMON TYPES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A trafficking victim may be forced to work across many of these categories. They are not exclusive to one another but rather are ways to understand the different types of exploitation that people may face.

*Source: The Typology of Modern Slavery Report by Polaris.*



**Escort Services**

**Illicit Massage, Health, & Beauty**

**Outdoor Solicitation**

**Residential**

**Domestic Work**

**Bars, Strip Clubs, & Cantinas**

**Pornography**

**Traveling Sales Crews**

**Restaurants & Food Service**



**Peddling & Begging**

**Agriculture & Animal Husbandry**

**Personal Sexual Servitude**

**Health & Beauty Services**

**Construction**

**Hotels & Hospitality**

**Landscaping**

**Illicit Activities**

**Arts & Entertainment**



**Commercial Cleaning Services**

**Factories & Manufacturing**

**Remote Interactive Sexual Acts**

**Carnivals**

**Forestry & Logging**

**Health Care**

**Recreational Facilities**



# HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND RACIAL JUSTICE

*“Pain is important: how we evade it, how we succumb to it, how we deal with it, how we transcend it.”*

– Audre Lorde

**61%**

of human trafficking survivors surveyed said that racism made them more vulnerable to trafficking

**40.4%**

of all sex trafficking survivors are Black according to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

**71%**

of youth identified as sex trafficking survivors in Los Angeles from 2014 to 2018 were Black

**14.8%**

of all labor trafficking survivors are Asian or Asian American according to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

**55.7%**

of all labor trafficking survivors are Hispanic according to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

**Worldwide**, Indigenous people are at a higher risk of human trafficking—including both sex trafficking and labor trafficking—than other diverse populations

**LGBTQIA+ homeless youth are twice as likely** to experience labor and/or sex trafficking compared to homeless youth who do not identify as LGBTQIA+, according to the Loyola University's Ten City Study of Youth Homelessness

*"We are not what other people say we are. We are who we know ourselves to be, and we are what we love. That's okay."*

**– Laverne Cox**





## HUMAN TRAFFICKING MYTHS

### Myths

### Facts

Limited to developing countries	It happens in every state in the US
Defined by movement	People do not need to move across borders to be victims
Restricted to minors	Adults make up $\frac{3}{4}$ of the world's victims
Restricted to women & girls	It happens almost as often to men and boys and includes people of all genders
Only sex trafficking	Forced labor occurs far more frequently
Traffickers are strangers	Traffickers are often people the victim knows and trusts
Mostly abduction from public places	Human trafficking is a crime of coercion, a psychological state
Victims will try to escape if they have the chance	Traffickers use coercion and trauma bonding to control their victim

A man with a mustache and goatee, wearing a grey baseball cap and a white t-shirt, is working in an orchard. He is holding a wooden crate filled with red apples. The background is filled with green leaves and branches of the orchard.

## José

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José came to the U.S. hoping he could help his family avoid further violence after his brother's murder. He works the orchard harvest season.

He works 12 hours a day on average and lives in a crowded trailer on the site, which is guarded at night so he can't leave. His employer says José owes a large debt for his rent and water. José isn't paid and is told his earnings are paying off this debt.

He would like to seek medical help for an injury, but his employer threatened to hurt his family back home if he does.\*

*\*This case study is fictional but based on true stories.*



A portrait of a young Black woman with voluminous, curly dark hair, wearing a bright yellow t-shirt. She is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a light-colored brick wall.

## Kayla

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Kayla was 17 years old when she met Tim online and they began to hang out. She had felt isolated from her family after she was sexually abused by a family friend when she was 11.

Tim said he loved her. He asked her to have sex with a friend of his. He said he would only continue loving her if she did this.

The friend was a customer. Tim required Kayla to engage in sexual acts for money repeatedly over the next 3 years. She was arrested twice for things Tim told her to do. When she tried to leave Tim, he threatened and abused her.\*

*\*This case study is fictional but based on true stories.*

**HOW ARE JOSÉ AND KAYLA'S  
EXPERIENCES SIMILAR?**

**HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT?**



# WHAT'S BEING DONE

Human trafficking is a complex problem that requires

- multiple interventions and programs
- a multi-sector approach
- including survivors in leadership

**A multi-sector approach requires different sectors to work together, including:**



Nonprofits



Government



Companies



Individuals



Communities



Tribes



Schools



Healthcare  
Systems

● **Prioritize Survivor Leadership**

Continue to Learn About Human Trafficking

Offer Services Tailored to Survivors

Advocate

- Invite and pay survivors to educate your team and organization
- **Hire survivors!**
- Promote survivor leadership at meetings and events
- Institutionally support survivor-led organizations
- Mentor survivors and survivor-led organizations
- Recognize that survivors are experts in their own healing and in creating an accurate community response

## HOW TO HELP

Prioritize Survivor  
Leadership

● **Continue to Learn About  
Human Trafficking**

Offer Services Tailored  
to Survivors

Advocate

- Seek out further education created by survivors
- Train staff in the complex dynamics of human trafficking
- Create HR policies and practices on anti-trafficking
- Post signs with anti-human trafficking hotline and encourage staff to save the number into their phones
- Create protocols for intake or interactions with clients to screen for trafficking
- Promote survivor leadership at meetings and events

Prioritize Survivor  
Leadership

Continue to Learn About  
Human Trafficking

● Offer Services Tailored  
to Survivors

Advocate

- Listen to and involve survivors in decisions about their own needs and healing
- Commit to the long haul, as healing takes time
- Resist the “rescue” mentality – successful interventions are most effective when they are in partnership with survivors
- Collaborate with other community organizations to ensure survivors’ needs are met, including short-term, long-term, and legal needs:
  - **Short Term Service Needs:** Housing, crisis services, food, child-care
  - **Long Term Service Needs:** Housing, job training, public benefits, child custody
  - **Legal Service Needs:** Immigration, social services, child custody, criminal justice

## HOW TO HELP

Prioritize Survivor  
Leadership

Continue to Learn About  
Human Trafficking

Offer Services Tailored  
to Survivors

● **Advocate**

- Support local and national campaigns led by survivors
- Join local and national advocacy campaigns
- Join local anti-human trafficking taskforce
- Include all impacted groups in collaborative work, including communities of color and Native American Tribes
- Educate your local and state lawmakers
- Ask your local police department how they are responding
- Assist law enforcement with survivor advocacy and services
- Raise awareness in your community





# WHAT TO DO

If you suspect something, report it to the **National Human Trafficking Hotline**

**1-888-373-7888**



# Q&A

**THANK YOU!**



Center to Combat  
**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**RISING**  
worldwide