

LÁRO

Combatting Human Trafficking
with our time and money

Places to volunteer in Houston

1. **Be the Light** | Be the Light is an organization that provides educational programs and opportunities to engage with at-risk youth and marginalized adults. We empower youth to make positive changes and choices in their life and provide assistance and exit strategies for adults. Our program includes raising social awareness and involvement on a local and global level in order to eradicate all forms of human trafficking and exploitation.
2. **Deeper Love** | The mission of Deeper Love is to help people receive and grow in the transforming love of Jesus Christ and to share His transforming love with the nations.
3. **Elijah Rising** | Committed to ending human trafficking by equipping a new breed of justice warrior for prayer, awareness and intervention in the spirit of Isaiah 1:17.
4. **Freedom Place** | Freedom Place is a comprehensive Christ-Centered care and recovery center for underage female victims of domestic child sex trafficking.
5. **Free Our City** | A cooperative initiative dedicated to disseminating information and creating awareness about human trafficking in the United States and beyond.
6. **Free the Captives** | An interdenominational, evangelical anti-human trafficking 501(c)(3) non-profit that engages and mobilizes the Christian community and partners with non-profits, law enforcement, and government agencies in the fight against modern day slavery.
7. **Go Beyond** | Kolkata | Follow the justice initiatives of the women of Kingsland Baptist Church who serve in Kolkata, India.
8. **Hope Rising** | Hope Rising is committed to the long-term care and recovery for minor girls who have been rescued from human sex trafficking and exploitation.
9. **Houston Rescue & Restore Coalition** | Exists to prevent and confront modern-day slavery by educating the public, training professionals and empowering the community to take action for the purpose of identifying, rescuing and restoring trafficking victims to freedom.
10. **International Justice Mission** | A human rights agency that brings rescue to victims of slavery, sexual exploitation and other forms of violent oppression.
11. **Kosmos** | A not-for-profit coffee shop committed to "... changing the world one cup at a time." We seek to provide great coffee in the context of community -- with all the profits benefiting humanitarian organizations both locally and globally.
12. **Love 146** | Love146 aims to abolish child trafficking and exploitation through survivor care, prevention education, professional training and empowering movement. Love is the foundation of the organization's motivation.
13. **Redeemed Ministries** | A ministry focused on meeting the needs of victims of the human trafficking industry in the greater Houston area.

The Influence of Consumer Choices on Trafficking

Human trafficking is a complex problem that is influenced by laws, policies, economics, private and public agencies, and culture. There's not an easy fix, and consumer choices alone cannot change the plight of millions of victims. But many countries, including the United States, have begun looking at supply/demand economics as a source of influence. The hypothesis is that reducing demand for trafficking victims (through a mixture of harsher penalties for the traffickers and increased awareness by consumers) will begin to reduce the supply over time.

Here's what you can do as a consumer to reduce United States demand for modern-day slaves:

1. **Know Your Sources.** When possible, understand the sources of the products and services you enjoy. Products of Slavery features an interactive map that helps you understand which goods are most likely sourced by slaves, so you can find ways to avoid them. Examples include rice purchased from India, blueberries and strawberries from Argentina, and even fireworks from the Philippines.

2. **Reduce Risk.** When you don't know your sources, you can at least reduce your risk. Avoid the industries associated with human trafficking, such as sexually-oriented businesses, internationally-sourced garments, and internationally-sourced precious metals. Most human trafficking victims are held for sexual exploitation, so industries that support the trafficking of victims for sexual purposes bear special attention. Consumers cannot always know if they're watching porn featuring minors, if they're watching strippers who were trafficked into the business, or if they're purchasing a sex act from a woman with a pimp who threatens her life. If you cannot know the source of your sexual gratification, then you can at least reduce your risk by not participating. Remember that the demand for purchased sexuality is what drives sex trafficking in the first place.
3. **Understand Your Slavery Footprint*.** If you live in the United States and consume goods and services, there's a strong likelihood that a modern-day slave has worked to produce the goods and services you enjoy. Slave labor is often in the supply chain for popular goods, such as internationally-sourced seafood, makeup, diamond jewelry, and fashionable garments. Go to Slavery Footprint to determine which of your habits and purchases are most likely tied to human trafficking. This knowledge, in turn, can influence your choices as you move forward.
4. **Boycott Goods Produced by Slaves.** Although you likely can't know everything about your supply chain, take action on the items you can. Boycott those goods that you know are likely touched by slavery and replace them with products that are certified Fair Trade. Not every industry uses the Fair-Trade certification, but you can start with small purchases, such as coffee, body care, cocoa, and garments.
5. **Find Out More, and Act.** There's a wealth of information about human trafficking, and many public and private agencies are taking strong action against this gross violation of human rights. Check out the Polaris Project for more information about human trafficking and how you can help prevent and rehabilitate victims in the United States. You can also look for local agencies that are doing the hard work of addressing the needs of victims as they exit the industry.
6. Every year, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) launches the Dirty Dozen List, calling out the 12 biggest contributors to sexual exploitation in mainstream America. Here is the list for this year:

NCOSE 2018 Dirty Dozen List

Amazon:

<https://endsexualexploitation.org/amazon>

Comcast:

<https://endsexualexploitation.org/comcast>

Steam:

<https://endsexualexploitation.org/steam>

iBook's:

<https://endsexualexploitation.org/ibooks>

HBO: <https://endsexualexploitation.org/hbo>

Roku:

<https://endsexualexploitation.org/roku>

Backpage:

<https://endsexualexploitation.org/backpage>

YouTube:

<https://endsexualexploitation.org/youtube>

Poster Boys of #MeToo:

<https://endsexualexploitation.org/posterboys>

Snapchat:

<https://endsexualexploitation.org/snapchat>

Twitter:

<https://endsexualexploitation.org/twitter>

EBSCO:

<https://endsexualexploitation.org/ebSCO/>

***Slavery Footprint | Take this brief survey to determine how many slaves you employ worldwide based on your lifestyle and purchases at <http://slaveryfootprint.org/>**

Brands That Fight Human Trafficking

1. **Láro** - A social enterprise with a 3-point cycle of change designed to support artisanal communities, leverage fashion as a means to educate and empower consumers and join the fight against human trafficking.
2. **REBBL** - We're working together to co-create a future without human trafficking.

REBBL donates 2.5% of all net sales to **Not For Sale** to support regions of the world that are vulnerable to exploitation and human trafficking. Through impact sourcing, we help communities to thrive and prevent their vulnerability to trafficking in the first place. Available at H-E-B.

3. **Noonday Collection** – A unique collection of jewelry and accessories handmade by Artisans across the globe. Noonday Collection is committed to fair trade. As a socially responsible business, they use fashion to create meaningful opportunities across the globe.
4. **Uncvrd Jewelry** - Uncvrd donates 40% of their funds to their partner non-profit that helps "break the mental and emotional ties the women have to their pimps, giving them a greater chance of success as they work to begin a new chapter".
5. **Citezen & Darling** - A simple and beautiful clothing line based in LA that donates a portion of their proceeds to organizations rescuing victims of trafficking.
6. **My Sister** - A MN based company that works to prevent the spread of human trafficking, raise awareness in their community, and fund organizations that provide aftercare to victims. Their bold and empowering statement tees are some of my favorites!
7. **Girl Set Free** - A women's clothing line that advocates and supports the freedom of women locally and globally.
8. **The Tote Project** - The Tote Project sells beautifully designed totes and pouches, benefiting their partner, Two Wings — an organization that provides wholistic care and mentorship to victims of trafficking in the US.
9. **Malia Designs** - Malia Designs works in Cambodia, employing at-risk women and allowing them to provide a dignified income to their families. Their products are made with materials that give-back to the community- like recycled cement bags and feed bags that would otherwise not be recycled. Read my interview with Malia Designs for more.
10. **Freeset** - Freeset offers employment to women in Kolkata, making fair trade tees and handbags.
11. **Good Paper** - ADORABLY designed hand-made greeting cards made by women who have escaped trafficking in the Philippines and young adults orphaned in Rwanda.
12. **iSanctuary** - Through their jewelry line, Purpose, iSanctuary employs and provides aftercare for survivors in California and Mumbai, India. Read my feature on Purpose for more.
13. **Sari Bari** - Sari Bari makes handbags and home decor from secondhand saris. They provide employment for women who worked in the red-light district in Kolkata.
14. **Starfish Project** - A jewelry brand that does much more than design jewelry, The Starfish Project supports victims of exploitation in Asia with their holistic care programs designed to shelter, counsel, and educate the women they rescue.
15. **The Brave Collection** - The Brave Collection's jewelry is handmade by artisans in Cambodia — women who otherwise wouldn't have a fair wage, dignified job opportunity. In addition to providing job opportunities, The Brave Collection donates 10% of their funds to fight human trafficking in Cambodia.
16. **Thistle Farms** - This Nashville based community is dedicated to being a "sanctuary for healing for women survivors of abuse, addiction, trafficking, and prostitution". They employ graduates of their program, creating job opportunities and ethically made products like bath and body supplies, accessories, children's goods, and running the Thistle Stop Cafe in Nashville.
17. **Trades of Hope** - Trades of Hope exists to give women the opportunity for a fair wage job in communities where there likely wouldn't have been other choices. They create jewelry made by artisans all over the world.
18. **Muxiply** - Modern and gorgeous handmade jewelry restoring hope to women and men in Nepal.
19. **Sudara** - Sudara is an ethical and fair-trade apparel line whose products are all made by at-risk or rescued women in India. Read my interview with them for more.
20. **Elegantees** - Each of Elegantee's beautiful pieces of clothing are handmade by a survivor of human trafficking in Nepal.

Apps that Fight Human Trafficking

Want to fight human trafficking? There's an app for that.

We can hold a miracle of modern technology in the palm of our hands: the smart phone. With built-in features like high-definition cameras and GPS location, it's never been easier to communicate in a variety of ways. You can even download extra applications programmed for special tasks, from social media to self-productivity, to access on-the-go.

Human trafficking prevention is no exception. In the fight against trafficking, here are four free apps developed by companies with a heart for ending global slavery.

1. **Redlight Traffic** - Developed by redlighttraffic.org, this app allows citizens to report suspicious activity that may be related to human trafficking. Users may submit reports under one of three categories: business, person, or vehicle, depending on the context in which they suspect human trafficking. All reports are then shared with local authorities. The app also features a short informational page on how to recognize physical and behavioral signs of trafficking victims.
2. **The STOP APP** - This app is very similar to Redlight Traffic, but with the additional feature of attaching up to three photos and one video with a submitted report. After submitting these images, users are prompted to fill out three brief forms describing who they observed, where they observed, and what they observed. This information then goes directly to STOP THE TRAFFIK's database.
3. **Lifeboat ACT Game** - Created with interactive features and story-structured gameplay, this app lets users learn how to identify the signs of human trafficking in the people they love. Play as Tommy or Sarah as they watch their friend Macy manipulated into becoming a victim. Identify red flags in the surroundings, along with legitimate reasons for raised suspicions; players can even reach out for lifelines like police officers and reference books if they feel stuck. This app combines education with fun as users learn that everyone can play a role in identifying victims of human trafficking.
4. **TraffickCam** - TraffickCam was specifically created with frequent travelers in mind. Because trafficking victims are often photographed in hotel rooms, this app lets users photograph their hotel rooms and upload them to TraffickCam's database. These pictures are then analyzed and run against a database of pictures provided by law enforcement to find sex trafficking locations. The app also pinpoints the location of its users when they upload a picture, so that if a match is found, the local authorities know exactly where to look. With an 85% success rate, even the FBI agrees that this app could revolutionize how they conduct their investigations.