



HSI

HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS

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ASSISTANT SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE





HSI SAC PHOENIX

ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Human Trafficking Investigation Program Strategy

- Focused on victim-centric investigations, where equal value is placed on the identification and stabilization of victims, as well as the investigation and prosecution of suspects.
- Promotes partnerships with private and public entities, including interagency task forces.
- Builds capacity through outreach activities, such as providing training to foreign law enforcement and building long-lasting relationships with NGOs and service providers.

National Law Enforcement Results

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, HSI, initiated 1,029 human trafficking cases, resulting in 1,952 criminal arrests and 631 convictions, and identified 435 victims of human trafficking.



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HSI SAC Phoenix Law enforcement focus and results:

HSI Phoenix has developed a comprehensive strategy to combat these criminal organizations through coordination with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and law enforcement entities both domestically and in foreign countries, to identify and provide services to trafficking victims and coordinate investigations.

- HSI Phoenix has 8 offices in Arizona with dedicated Human Trafficking (HT) groups and Subject Matter Experts (SME's) in the field.
- HSI Phoenix in Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) initiated 34 HT case and 7 Forced Labor (HT-related) cases and closed 27 HT and 5 Forced Labor (HT-related) investigations.
- During FY16, HSI Phoenix has made 56 criminal arrest, secured 14 indictments, 5 convictions, 6 seizures, 5 admin arrest and the execution of 18 search warrants associated to HT investigations throughout Arizona.



HSI SAC PHOENIX

Partnerships to Combat Trafficking in AOR:

Non-governmental Organization SAC Phoenix HSI works with locally:

International Rescue Committee/ALERT

TRUST (Training Resources United Stop Trafficking)

Phoenix Dream Center

Sojourner Center (DV Shelter with HT beds)

Moma's House (DV Shelter with HT beds)

United Methodist Church SW

Truckers Against Trafficking

COAST Club Owners Against Sex Trafficking

Greater Phoenix HT Task Force (mostly NGO's sponsored by TRUST)

Salvation Army

Identity Theft Resource Center

Maryland Crime Victims Assn (ID Theft)

Phoenix Children's Hospital Sex Abuse Group (coalition on SA and Child Porn)

AZ Coalition Against Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence (education on HT and victim options)



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Official Organizations HSI SAC Phoenix works with:

Arizona State University (School of Social Work)

City of Phoenix HT Task Force

AZ Governors HT Task Force

Outreach and Training:

To date, HSI Phoenix has conducted **16** Human Trafficking presentations within the State of Arizona to **834** participants. The **Victim Witness Coordinator** (Marc Tetzlaff) has also provided **4** U/T Visa benefit trainings to various law enforcement partners throughout the State of Arizona to **80** participants. Aside from the domestic training, Marc Tetzlaff also provides Human Trafficking training throughout the world.



HSI SAC Phoenix-Sells

In December 2011, HSI Sells received information from the South Tucson Police Department regarding a 15 year old runaway who was a possible victim of sex trafficking. In coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), HSI Sells initiated an investigation on Cesar REA, a citizen of Mexico unlawfully present in the United States and documented gang member, and a female associate in Tucson, Arizona.

- REA provided the victim methamphetamine and alcohol before transporting and prostituting her in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- At the same time, the REA and a female associate were in custody in Tucson on state charges of Molestation of a Child in the Second Degree, Child Prostitution of a Minor Under Fifteen, and Child Endangerment relating to the exploitation of a different 14 year old girl (Convicted and sentence to 10 years for this event-Federal Pros declined in Lieu of State Charges).
- HSI Sells conducted a follow-up investigation that ultimately led to the filing of federal charges. On August 26, 2015, REA was indicted for violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1591 (a)(1) Sex Trafficking of Children, or by Force, Fraud, or Coercion and 2423 (a) Interstate Transportation of a Minor for Purpose of Prostitution in the District of Arizona at Tucson. On February 10, 2106, REA pled guilty to violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371, to wit: 18 U.S.C. § 1591 (a)(1) Sex Trafficking of a Child. On May 4, 2016, REA was sentenced to 60 months incarceration in the U.S. Bureau of Prisons.



HSI SAC PHOENIX-FLAGSTAFF

HSI Flagstaff and FBI Flagstaff conducted this investigation into the labor trafficking activities of the McReynolds family, which owned and operated the “I Do I Do” wedding boutique in Flagstaff. The case was initiated after HSI and FBI special agents developed information that the McReynolds family committed marriage fraud and forced labor against Vietnamese nationals during 2001 to 2008 (During the investigation, the IRS Criminal Investigations Division in Phoenix was brought onboard to assist).

- The McReynolds family conspired to defraud Vietnamese nationals into applying for and obtaining visas to come to the United States for the purposes of marriage, as well as education.
- Upon arrival, the McReynolds family stripped the victims of their immigration documents, and forced them work 16-18 hour days at the “I Do I Do” boutique, as well as domestic servants at the assorted McReynolds family homes in Flagstaff.
- In July 2011, HSI and FBI special agents arrested Huong (Kelly) McReynolds, her ex-husband James, and their two adult sons, Vincent and Joseph. The charges in the indictment covered violations of marriage fraud; forced labor; conspiracy; and money laundering. All four members of the McReynolds family pled guilty in 2013, to the following charges:



HSI SAC PHOENIX-FLAGSTAFF

- Joseph, Vincent, and James pled to violating Title 8 USC 1325(c), marriage fraud, and Title 8 USC 1325(a), aiding and abetting an alien to improperly enter the United States.
- Kelly McReynolds pled guilty to Title 18 USC 371, conspiracy, and Title 18 USC 1546, Conspiracy to Commit Visa Fraud, and Title 29 USC 205, 215, and 216, violations of Fair Labor Standards Act. The court also ordered Kelly McReynolds, whom the investigation established as the leader of the conspiracy, to pay \$156,000 in restitution to the victims.
- Each member of the family received probation from U.S. District Court Judge Murray Snow in Phoenix.



HSI SAC PHOENIX

In November 2015 HSI initiated a human trafficking investigation which identified a sex trafficking organization using Thai females posting on backpage.com as escorts working in the Phoenix metropolitan area. HSI Phoenix agents learned that this organization recruits Thai females, also known as “flowers,” in Thailand.

The Thai women are charged a tax (approx. 50-60k) by the facilitator/smuggler that sets up a bank account with legitimate activity, fraudulent work records and prepares the women for their visa interview at the consulate. Once they receive their B1/B2 visa, the facilitator/smuggler purchases airline tickets to the United States. Through the course of the investigation HSI agents identified Eric DUNHAM and Phatcharin KOIBUCHI as operating the prostitution ring out of Tempe, Arizona.

- On April 26, 2016, HSI Phoenix, along with Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Tempe Police Department (TPD) Vice Unit, conducted simultaneous search warrants (SW's) at three separate locations of which two were believed to be brothels where Thai nationals were being held against their will. HSI Phoenix Victim/Witness coordinator provided assistance identifying a safe shelter to house the victims. HSI administratively processed three of the victims and exercised prosecutorial discretion with the victim centered approach.
- DUNHAM and KOIBUCHI are facing charges under the Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) for; 13-3201 – Operation of a House of Prostitution, 13-2312 – Illegal Control of an Enterprise, 13-2317 – Money Laundering, 13-1307 – Sex Trafficking and 13-1003 – Conspiracy.



dhs.gov/blue-campaign

The Blue Campaign is the unified voice for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) efforts to combat human trafficking. Working in collaboration with law enforcement, government, non-governmental and private organizations, the Blue Campaign strives to protect the basic right of freedom and to bring those who exploit human lives to justice.

Through the Blue Campaign, DHS raises public awareness about human trafficking, leveraging [partnerships](#) to educate the public to recognize human trafficking and report suspected instances. The Blue Campaign also offers [training](#) to law enforcement and others to increase detection and investigation of human trafficking, and to protect victims and bring suspected traffickers to justice.

DHS understands how difficult it can be for victims to come forward and work with law enforcement due to their trauma. DHS is committed to helping victims feel stable, safe, and secure.



PROTECTING THE HOMELAND WITH HONOR, SERVICE, AND INTEGRITY



INTERNATIONAL
RESCUE
COMMITTEE

International Rescue Committee Anti-Trafficking Program Labor Trafficking

Chris Debreceeni

International Rescue Committee

- Founded in 1933, at the request of Albert Einstein to aid refugees fleeing persecution & genocide in Europe.
- We are now an International humanitarian relief: Haiti-earthquake, Japan-tsunami, Myanmar-ethnic cleansing, Middle east-war & religious persecution
- Phoenix office began in 1994.
- Anti-Human Trafficking program began operation 2003 in partnership with City of Phoenix Police Dept and again in 2016*. IRC focuses on foreign nationals trafficking victims.

ALERT Program

FFY16

52 Victims of trafficking served.

Philippines, Mexico, Guatemala

Work with Ambassadors/consulates

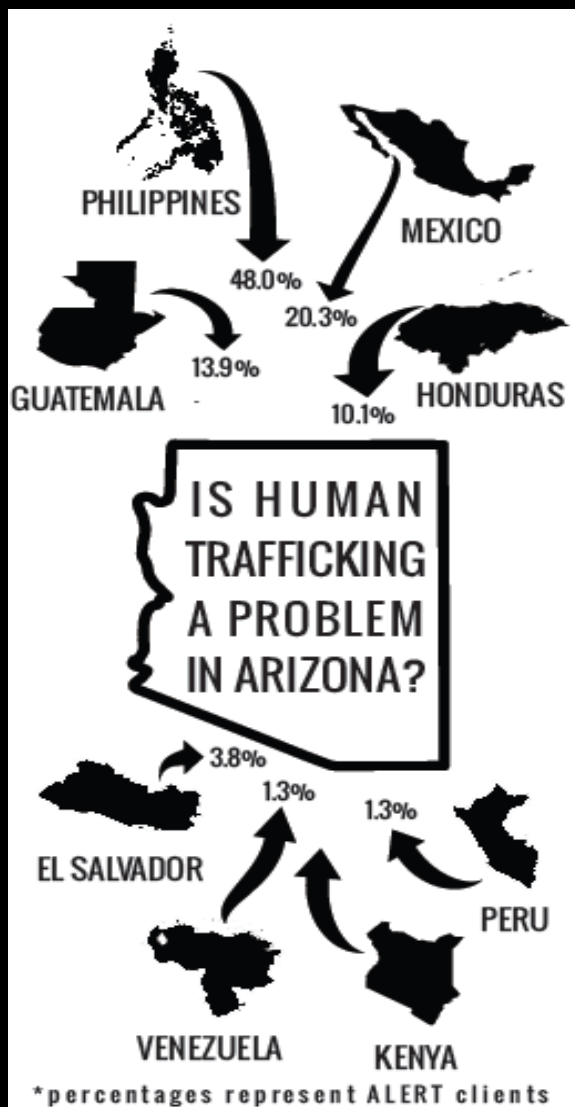
FFY17

17 enrolled trafficking cases

6 – Sex trafficking

10 – Labor trafficking

1 – Both Sex & Labor trafficking



Arizona 2016 Human Trafficking Hotline (Polaris) Statistics

116 Human Trafficking cases were *reported* in the state of Arizona in 2016 – 19 of the *reported* cases were labor trafficking.

4 Statistics from AZ Trafficking Hotline – operated by Polaris
<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/arizona>

A VICTIMS' EXPERIENCE



Top Venues / Industries For Labor Trafficking In Arizona

- Traveling Sales Crews
- Domestic Work
- Assisted Living
- Construction



What Does Labor Trafficking Look Like?

- Traveling Sales Crews
- Agricultural work
- Domestic work
- Factory work
- Restaurant work
- Construction work
- Hotel housekeeping
- Illicit Activities
- Day labor
- Nail salons
- Assisted Living



Human trafficking victims make an alarmingly high number of consumer goods and food products, imported to the United States and produced domestically. **More often than we realize, elements of forced labor may be present within the supply chain of products we buy or the services we pay for.**



Victims of human trafficking can be found here.

What can be done?

Enact state laws can ensure all companies certify a lack of slavery or forced labor in their supply chains.

The California Transparency in Supply Chains Act 2012 is the only state law requiring US companies to disclose their efforts to ensure their supply chains are free of human trafficking.

H.R. 3226 Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015. Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services 7/2015

Understanding the Organization, Operation, and Victimization Process of Labor Trafficking in the U.S.

Research Report released October 2014



North Eastern University
& Urban Institute

Urban Institute Justice Policy Center



What They Found...

- Local and federal law enforcement agencies had difficulty defining labor trafficking and separating it from other forms of labor exploitation and workplace violations.
- In general, labor trafficking investigations require more investigation by local or federal law enforcement agencies.
- Survivors mostly escaped on their own and lived for several months or years before being connected to a specialized service provider.
- A lack of awareness and outreach, coupled with the victims' fear of being unauthorized, inhibited the identification of survivors.

How are victims of labor trafficking recruited?

- Victims are often recruited in their home countries for work in the United States. They often arrive to the US legally with work or tourist visas.
- Victims learn about the job opportunities that became labor trafficking situations through their social networks.
- On average, victims paid \$6,150 in recruitment fees to recruitment agencies for jobs in the United States.
- Recruiters engage in *fraud* and *coercion* during the recruitment process - they use a combination of false promises and high-pressure, coercive tactics to get victims to commit to employment offers.
- Many come to the U.S. in search of an opportunity to better their lives and, often, the lives of their family members.

Trafficking Indicators

- Injuries from beatings or weapons
- Branding or scarring indicating ownership
- Signs of torture (e.g., cigarette burns)
- Signs of malnourishment/health problems
- Victims may lack personal possessions, financial records, transportation, knowledge about how to get around in a community
- Existing debt issues
- Isolation from family members
- Security intended to keep person confined
- Expired work visa or no visa/undocumented person
- Depression and suicidal ideation
- Poor dental hygiene
- Sleep disorders
- Afraid to talk to law enforcement/fear of deportation
- Third party that insists on interpreting
- Extreme weight loss in a short period of time
- Might not have any health insurance and pays cash for services
- Signs of trauma and PTSD
- Signs of sexual assault and rape

Identifying victims

Appearance and mannerisms of workers

- Are there signs of trauma, fatigue, injuries, etc?
- Are they withdrawn, afraid to talk, or censored?

Building security

- Is it used to keep people out or in?

Working conditions

- Do they have freedom of movement?
- Do they live and work in the same place?
- Do they owe a debt to their employer?
- Do employers have control of their documents?

Health Impacts of Labor Trafficking

The physical effects include:

- Scars, headaches, hearing loss, cardiovascular/respiratory problems, limb amputation, chronic back, and visual and respiratory problems.
- Child victims of labor trafficking are often malnourished to the extent that they may never reach their full height, they may have poorly formed or rotting teeth, and later they may experience reproductive problems.

The psychological effects include:

- Helplessness, shame and humiliation, shock, denial and disbelief, disorientation and confusion, and anxiety disorders including posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), phobias, panic attacks, and depression.
- Many victims also develop Traumatic Bonding or “Stockholm Syndrome,” which is characterized by cognitive distortions where reciprocal positive feelings develop between captors and their hostages. This bond is a type of human survival instinct and helps the victim cope with the captivity.

Services provided

- Trauma informed Case Management
- Emergency food and shelter
- Housing assistance
- Language Interpretation in 52 lesser diffused languages
- Mental Health Counseling
- US Immigration Assistance
- Legal Assistance
- English Language Training
- Employment Training and Assistance
- Education and Entrepreneurial funding

Thank you