All volunteers have a responsibility to respect, encourage, and protect those that have fallen victim to sex trafficking.
VOLUNTEER PACKET

PURPOSE

This document has been created as a resource for the volunteers involved in the rehabilitation and recovery process of survivors of human and sex trafficking around the globe. The focus of the document is to inform volunteers of the practices that will best assist each victim to have the smoothest and healthiest transition from slavery to independence. With main priority of educating volunteers on how to keep child victims safe from further exploitation, this resource will also inform volunteers about the prevalence of sex trafficking with supporting statistics. Also included is a resource page for reporting any suspicions of human trafficking within the US. All volunteers have a responsibility to respect, encourage, and protect those that have fallen victim to sex trafficking.

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DEFINITION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”

¹
General Statistics of Sex Trafficking Around the Globe

Statistics:\n
- 20.9 million adults and children are bought and sold worldwide into commercial sexual servitude, forced labor and bonded labor.
- Over $100 billion per year made from sex trafficking worldwide.
- Around 2 million children are exploited yearly in sex trade.
- 54% of human trafficking victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation.
- 96% of victims of trafficking used for sexual exploitation are female.

"Trafficking women and children for sexual exploitation is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world. This, despite the fact international law and the laws of 158 countries criminalize most forms of trafficking."\n
"Human trafficking is one of the most tragic human rights issues of our time. It splinters families, distorts global markets, undermines the rule of law, and spurs other transnational criminal activity. It threatens public safety and national security. But worst of all, the crime robs human beings of their freedom and their dignity. That's why we must pursue an end to the scourge of human trafficking."

Below is a chart with statistics on race and sex trafficking.

DEFINITION OF SEX TRAFFICKING:

"Is the illegal business of recruiting, harboring, transporting, obtaining, or providing a person and especially a minor for the purpose of sex."
Health Promotion of Survivors

As a volunteer involved with abuse victims, empathy and respect are the essential values to provide to survivors. Victims have witnessed and experienced abuse that many volunteers cannot imagine. The survivor’s emotional, physical and mental safety is a top priority for volunteers involved in aftercare.

Many children come into aftercare needing medical treatment for physical, sexual, spiritual, and psychological abuse.

The following is a list of health concerns that many survivors deal with:

- depression
- anxiety
- post-traumatic stress disorder
- eating disorders
- sleeping disorders
- drug addiction
- chronic pain
- guilt and shame
- HIV/AIDS
- sexually transmitted diseases
- malnutrition
- family concerns
- grief due to loss
- confusion
- unhealthy attachment to abuser

Survivors come from complex and various backgrounds. It is essential to respect each individual and understand that they have experienced severe trauma. The first step is to help the child feel safe and to foster trust within a secure environment. After building trust, volunteers can help children recover physically. It is important to help the child understand his or her worth and that he or she is not alone.

“Caregivers must earn the survivors trust, and be capable of developing quality relationships with individuals of varying maturity levels. They must be willing to listen to victimized people who may have not had anyone truly care about them for years, if ever. They must provide an environment for education and learning skills that coach survivors to become flourishing self-reliant adults”6.

DEFINITION OF AFTERCARE:

“…Providing quality holistic care through the healing process of the trauma of trafficking”7
Rules and Regulations

Child Protection Policy obtained from Freedom Collective: Code of Conduct for Volunteers:

All Volunteers Must:

• Treat children with respect and dignity regardless of race, color, gender, language, religion, political affiliation, national or ethnic origin, economic status, disability, birth or other status.

• Always put the welfare and safety of the child first.

• Always take into consideration the views and concerns of children, particularly with any decision that affect them.

• Never use language towards or around a child that is sexually or culturally inappropriate, harassing, or abusive.

• Never physically harass or assault a child.

• Never engage children in any form of sexual activity.

• Ensure that another adult is always present during any and all interactions with children in and outside of the organization’s premises.

• Provide privacy to children when they are addressing their personal needs, such as going to the toilet, showering, or dressing up.

• Never invite children back home or to non-organization activities.

• Never exchange personal contact information with the children.

• Never sleep in the same bed as or in close proximity to unsupervised children. If children require supervision during sleep, leadership must know this and another adult must always be present.

• Never hold, kiss, hug, or touch a child unnecessarily or in a sexually or culturally inappropriate way, and to ask for permission or consult with other staff before any touching whatsoever.

• Never show favoritism to any one child in any way, particularly in the form of gifts, special attention, or additional services.

• Never inflict physical, mental or emotional punishment on children.
• Never hire or pay children for labor that is inappropriate and exploitive.

• Immediately report concerns or allegations of child exploitation and abuse or any violations of the policy.

• Abide by the relevant laws of the country of operation and residence in regards to child protection and child labor.

• Never harass or exploit children with any inappropriate materials on the internet or by any other means.

• Never access or participate in child pornography through any source.

• Never use technological devices such as computers, mobile phones, cameras inappropriately around children, particularly in sharing any information about the children on social media without the consent of the parents/guardians of the children.

• Never take photos or video footage of children without prior approval from leadership and prior consent from children and their parents/guardian
Specific Guidelines and Recommendations for Aftercare Volunteers for Operation Underground Railroad:

Important Do’s and Don’ts:

General

- Treat everyone with respect.
- Be mindful of physical boundaries.
- Ask O.U.R team leader any and all questions that come to mind.
- If going somewhere, always tell O.U.R team leader.
- Never go anywhere alone.
- Obey all the laws and guidelines of the country.
- No use of illegal drugs (Participant will be asked to return home with no financial aid for return trip).

Interactions with Survivors

- Do NOT make promises.
- Do NOT give individual gifts to survivors. This can create conflict and jealousy. If giving gift, first check with OUR leader and bring enough for any and all survivors.
- Do not be alone, one-on-one, with a child or adult victim or survivor, especially with a child of the opposite sex.

Communication

- No use of foul language, speech in an angry tone, or gossip.
- Please do not give out personal information such as phone number, address, last name, Facebook account, or any other personal social media information.
- NO PHOTOGRAPHY with or of victims or survivors. This can be a distraction and for the safety of the children. Pictures will be taken by an OUR associate and will be approved and given to volunteers after volunteer service is over (Memories will be captured).
- When calling loved ones while on volunteer service, please do it in the mornings or after team debrief meetings at night. If there are multiple calls it can be very distracting.

*Detailed information on communication rules and regulations on next page.
Social Media Policy Obtained from Freedom Collective:

“The following guidelines help set clear procedures when photographing, filming, or publicly sharing information about a child.”

Volunteers must:

• Obtain informed consent from the child and parents/guardians before photographing or filming a child.

• Explain to children and parents/guardians of the purpose of collecting and distributing such media, and the final content being shared.

• Allow children or parents/guardians to change their mind and withdraw their consent at any time if they so choose.

• Ensure that any written content, photographs and video footage of the child is dignified and respectful in nature, and does not place the child in a vulnerable, submissive or embarrassing position.

• Ensure the children are fully clothed in images and/or video footage and are not in contexts that are sexually suggestive.

• Ensure images and/or video footage accurately represent the context and the facts of the story surrounding the child.

• Ensure that identifiable information (i.e. names, locations, etc.) about the child or their family is not shared in any written or visual content.

• Hide faces of children in photos or video, either by blurry faces or creatively angling footage so that faces are not directly shown.

• Work closely with any media outlets or newspaper to ensure that content about the organization and the child is accurate, not sensationalized, and respectful.
Protecting Children: How to Prevent and Report Sex Trafficking

Key Indicators:\n
Recognizing key indicators of human trafficking is the first step in identifying victims and can help save a life. Here are some common indicators to help recognize human trafficking: (Department of Homeland Security n.d)

- Does the person appear disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, or houses of worship?
- Has a child stopped attending school?
- Has the person had a sudden or dramatic change in behavior?
- Is a juvenile engaged in commercial sex acts?
- Is the person disoriented or confused, or showing signs of mental or physical abuse?
- Does the person have bruises in various stages of healing?
- Is the person fearful, timid, or submissive?
- Does the person show signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care?
- Is the person often in the company of someone to whom he or she defers? Or someone who seems to be in control of the situation, e.g., where they go or who they talk to?
- Does the person appear to be coached on what to say?
- Is the person living in unsuitable conditions?
- Does the person lack personal possessions and appear not to have a stable living situation?
- Does the person have freedom of movement?

Not all indicators listed above are present in every human trafficking situation, and the presence or absence of any of the indicators is not necessarily proof of human trafficking.

Being able to clearly identify children that may be at risk and knowing who to contact is very important in the rescue and prevention of human trafficking. Many times, traffickers are hard to find and the kids are difficult to rescue. With people on the lookout for the indicators of a trafficked child, people can then rescue the victims that desperately need help. Keeping a lookout for kids that are near strip clubs, hanging around bars, or that may be on the streets alone wandering and talking to men specifically are all signals to report.
Resources for Reporting Human Trafficking in the United States:

The resources in the United States to contact if anyone is concerned or if anyone sees any suspicious activity are:

- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (1-800-843-5678),
- The National Child Abuse Hotline (1-800-422-4453)
- Police: Dial 911

These are all resources that are active and ready to take on any situation with human trafficking. Contacting them could potentially save many lives and shut down a trafficking operation. Do not hesitate to take action.
Resources

Recommended Reading Suggestions from Operation Underground Railroad:

*When Helping Hurts* by Steve Corbett
*Boundaries* by Henry Cloud
*Mending the Soul* by Steven Tracy
*God in a Brothel* by Daniel Walker
*Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery* by Siddharth Kara

Educational Websites on Sex Trafficking:

Operation Underground Railroad: *Ourrescue.org*

United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking: *Ungift.org*

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: *Unodc.org*

Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons: *State.gov/j/tip*

Department of Homeland Security: *Dhs.gov/blue-campaign*

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: *Missingkids.org*

Ark of Hope for Children: *Arkofhopeforchildren.org*

Equality Now: *Equalitynow.org*

Freedom Collaborative: *Freedomcollaberative.org*

Anti-Slavery International: *Antislavery.org*

The Polaris Project: *Polarisproject.org*
References


