



International Services
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The Trafficked Persons Assistance Program

Human trafficking involves the recruiting, transporting, obtaining, or holding of an individual for the purposes of forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation. Human trafficking affects both foreigners and U.S. nationals. Houston is considered a major hub for human trafficking in the United States.

In 2003, the Y established the Trafficked Persons Assistance Program to identify and assist victims of human trafficking, regardless of their legal status. The program provides direct client services and raises awareness in the community through education and outreach.

Intensive case management services are available to both foreign national and U.S. national victims of human trafficking.



TPAP is the lead Victim Service Provider in the Houston Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance ([HTRA](#)) task force where the program collaborates with federal, state, and local communities to support and recover victims of human trafficking.

TPAP includes a team of Advocates funded by the [Texas Office of the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team](#) that provide long term services to minor victims of commercial sexual exploitation.



Services include:



Crisis Response



Basic Needs



Personal Support



Case Management



Advocacy



Support in Justice Activities

Facts about Human Trafficking

- Both minors (under the age of 18) and adults can be victims of sex and labor trafficking
- More than 300,000 American children are at risk for being lured into sex trafficking each year
- Annually, Houston has an estimated 6,000 runaways, a major risk factor for human trafficking
- The average age of entry into the commercial sex industry is 12-14
- 1 out of every 3 children that run away are lured into sex trafficking within the first 48 hours of being on the streets
- There are an estimated 20-40 million people in modern-day slavery across the world
- 14,500-17,500 foreign nationals are trafficked into the United States every year



[Texas Statistics](#) from **National Human Trafficking Hotline**

People you know might be vulnerable to trafficking if they:

- Have an unstable living situation
- Have a history of domestic violence
- Has a caregiver or family member who has a substance abuse issue
- Are runaways or involved in the juvenile justice or foster care system
- Are undocumented immigrants
- Are facing poverty or economic need
- Have a history of sexual abuse
- Are addicted to drugs or alcohol

From The [Polaris Project](#)

What are the Risk Factors?

- Childhood sexual and physical abuse
 - Age
 - Poverty
- Substance abuse
- Loss of parent/caregiver through divorce, death, or abandonment
- Lack of support systems
- Runaway/homelessness
- Sexual identity issues
- Learning disabilities
- Gender inequality
- Immigrant status
- Governmental corruption
- Economic and political instability
- Desire for a better life
- Feelings of hopelessness
- Cultural factors



Recognize the Signs:

- Behaviors including fear, anxiety, depression, submission, tension, and/or nervousness
- Truancy or tardiness from school
- Controlling or dominating relationships
- Inability or fear to make eye contact
- Excessive amounts of cash
- “Hyper vigilance” or paranoid behavior
- No identification or documents, or help by another person

How can I...			
Report a Tip	Volunteer	Donate	Learn More
Contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline at 1-888-373-7888. Trained staff are available to take your call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.	When you volunteer at the Y , you take an active role in bringing about meaningful change in your community.	Together, we strive to create a stronger community and bring about meaningful change in our community. Make your donation now.	For more information about Trafficked Persons Assistance Program: Email TPAP@ymcahouston.org or call Jaimie Keller at 713-339-9015.