Executive Summary

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to control victims for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or labor services against his/her will. After drug dealing, human trafficking is often tied with arms dealing as the second largest criminal industry in the world. While a global concern, the epidemic is close to home as O'Hare Airport, the world's fourth-busiest airport, and Illinois' proximity to federal interstates creates a conducive environment to bring victims into Illinois and transfer them to other cities and states. This environment also makes it difficult for authorities to enforce anti-trafficking measures and rescue victims. As a result, Chicago has the third highest levels of human trafficking in the country.

Human trafficking impacts every community in the United States regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, and socio-economic backgrounds. Women and children are particularly vulnerable and it is estimated that in Chicago alone 16,000 – 25,000 women and girls are victims of commercial sexual exploitation every year. One third of these women first get involved in prostitution by the age of 15, sixty-two percent by the age of 18.

The Junior League of Chicago recognizes the severity of human trafficking’s impact on the well-being of women, men, and children in Chicago and supports awareness efforts, public re-education, the development of partnerships with and between community organizations, and greater access to services and support for victims.

What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is a form of slavery where traffickers control and exploit others for purposes of commercial sex and other sexual acts or the provision of labor services against their will and affects an estimated 20.9 million people around the world. Human trafficking is also closer to home than one might think. Since December of 2007 to December of 2017, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline received 178,971 signals (calls, web forms, and emails) of human trafficking in the United States alone, representing both sex and labor trafficking. In 2017 alone, there were 8,524 human trafficking cases reported.

Human trafficking affects people of a variety all backgrounds, and in the U.S., victims can be men, women, adults, and children. For the last 7 years, females accounted for 79% of the
identified human trafficking cases and minors accounted for over 30% of identified cases with the average age of entry into prostitution being 12-14 years old. Certain situations or individuals’ vulnerabilities such as runaway and homeless youth, victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, war or conflict, or social discrimination, make some more susceptible to victimization. Traffickers can be pimps, gangs, family members, labor brokers, small business owners, or large factory workers. Traffickers exploit previously mentioned vulnerabilities and lure victims into trafficking through promises of financial gains or a loving relationship.

**Human Trafficking in Illinois**

From 2014 to 2017 Illinois witnessed a 29% increase in human trafficking calls, and a 34% increase in cases reported. Chicago’s central geography, regionally divided ethnic communities, transportation infrastructure, and International Airports make it a hub for trafficking victims in and out of Illinois and to neighboring states. Additionally, traffickers often take advantage of Chicago’s tourism industry and traffic large numbers of women for sexual exploitation into the city. In Chicago alone, it is estimated that 16,000-25,000 women and girls are victims of commercial sexual exploitation every year. In 2005, the FBI labeled Chicago as one of the 13 “High Intensity Child Prostitution” areas.

To combat these issues, Illinois has enacted number of laws in place to punish traffickers and support survivors. Illinois is one of only 12 states to receive a Tier 1 rating by the Polaris Project, which takes into account 10 categories of laws that are critical to establishing a basic legal framework to fight human trafficking. In 2011, Illinois became only the eighth state in the United States with vacating conviction legislation allowing courts to clear and expunge convictions of prostitution from trafficked victims’ records. In 2013, Illinois became one of only a few states where prostitution is no longer a felony and where a minor cannot be charged with prostitution, even as a misdemeanor. Many other states have used current Illinois law as a guideline for creating their own. Experts say that Illinois is not lacking in legislation or programming but in the financial resources and services to make these laws reality.

**Junior League of Chicago Involvement**

Junior Leagues across the nation are helping to end child sex trafficking by encouraging more US-based companies to sign the Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct. The Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct is a voluntary set of business principles travel and tour companies can implement to prevent child sex tourism and trafficking of children. The Code is a joint venture between the tourism private sector and ECPAT (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking). ECPAT-USA, as the Local Code Representative in the US, launched the Code in 2004 along with UNICEF and with exceptional support from Junior League of Minneapolis member Marilyn Carlson Nelson, bringing Carlson Companies on board as the first signatory. Over 1,000 companies have signed onto the Code in 40 countries.

In 2016, the Junior League of Chicago began their partnership with Traffick Free to support the fight against human trafficking. Since then, the Freeing Individuals from Human
Trafficking (FIHT) committee was formed and the committee has grown to include additional community partnerships. The Junior League of Chicago helps these partner organizations reach more survivors and volunteers. The program’s objective is to work with external partners in the Chicagoland area and internal JLC committees to combat human trafficking through volunteerism, education, and advocacy. The JLC is working with Chicago-based anti-Human Trafficking organizations to mobilize the Chicagoland area, with the ultimate goal of eradicating human trafficking and increasing survivor resources. The FIHT committee provides educational opportunities for league members and the public, including documentary movie screenings, lectures, panels, and JLCUs. During FY2017, FIHT served 103 women and children, provided 277 volunteers to organizations in need, and provided 698 indirect and 18 direct total volunteer hours.

Further opportunity for involvement could include collaboration between both the FIHT and Advocacy committees to organize an event during Advocacy Week that emphasizes public awareness and legal initiatives in place to combat human trafficking, going the next step beyond direct volunteer opportunities. Additionally, given that a large part of the problem is societal stereotypes, lack of empathy, and a lack of awareness of trafficking victimization, an education series within the league to raise awareness could be coordinated with an existing community partner. There are also several opportunities that the league could pursue with its Topics and Trends newsletter and various media outlets.

**Closing**

In conclusion, human trafficking is emerging as a pressing issue in our community. With a supportive legal environment and existing non-government organizations, there is now a clear need for more community organizations to assist with ongoing efforts in the form of raising awareness of the issue and providing emotional support, empowerment lessons, medical aid, legal aid, and financial support for victims. The Junior League of Chicago is well equipped with its resources to provide meaningful support and change in Chicago. This is an expansive human rights issue that fits well into our goals of promoting women and improving our community.
Legislation

Federal Legislation

Under the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, sex and labor trafficking are considered "severe forms of trafficking in persons," and are defined as:

- Sex trafficking: A commercial sex act induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.
- Labor trafficking: The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. Trafficking Victims Protection Act, 22 U.S.C. § 7102(9) (2012).

Since it was initially passed in 2000 and its subsequent reauthorizations, Congress has taken numerous steps (such as the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act and the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014) to address human trafficking on the national level. In May 2016, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) identified 105 provisions throughout six federal statutes that establish programs or initiatives to combat traffickers, or that provide assistance to victims. In the report, the GAO categorized the efforts into eight types of activities: victim services, coordination and information sharing, reporting requirements, training and technical assistance, research, public awareness, criminal justice and penalties and sanctions. U.S. Gen. Accountability Office, GAO-16-528R Human Trafficking, Human Trafficking: Actions Taken to Implement Related Statutory Provisions (2016).

A second GAO report, released in June 2016, in part evaluated federal efforts to understand how pervasive human trafficking is in the United States. The report identified several initiatives currently underway to enhance national trafficking statistics, including the Now You See Me: The Human Trafficking Data Collection Project, which is funded by the federal office of Health and Human Services. Current data, the report noted, is largely generated by federal agencies and their grantees as they collect information on investigations and services provided relevant to trafficking. U.S. Gen. Accountability Office, GAO-16-555 Human Trafficking, Human Trafficking: Agencies Have Taken Steps to Address Grant Prevalence, Address Victim Issues, and Avoid Grant Duplication (2016). For example, the report stated that grantees of the federal Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) provided services to 3,889 individuals who were potential or confirmed survivors of trafficking crimes from July 2014 to June 2015, which is up from 1,462 served from January to December 2012. Id. The GAO also stated that the Federal Bureau of Investigations reported the occurrence of 443 offenses involving human trafficking during 2014, and that the Executive Office for U.S Attorneys reported prosecuting 252 cases during the 2015 fiscal year. Id. Limitations of the data from these sources, as identified in the GAO report, would likely make them ineffective for the purpose of estimating all trafficking activity.

Moving forward, stakeholders are continuing to build upon current anti-trafficking efforts and to evaluate the effectiveness of different courses of action. An integral part of that work is happening at the state level.

State Legislation

State legislators, law enforcement, service providers and many other stakeholders are developing policies to effectively prosecute traffickers and provide services to victims. Every state has enacted human trafficking laws, but there are significant differences in the statutes and policies between jurisdictions. Laws criminalize trafficking activity, provide judicial protections for survivors,
establish funding sources for anti-trafficking efforts, coordinate stakeholder efforts, regulate businesses to mitigate the impact of trafficking and educate the public on trafficking issues. Illinois’ Trafficking of Persons and Involuntary Servitude Act was passed in 2006 and throughout its subsequent amendments, has maintained: criminal offenses for trafficking in persons for forced labor or services; and criminal offenses for involuntary servitude of adults and minors. The Act also increases the victims’ access to health and social services while penalizing traffickers through penalties such as criminal forfeiture. Id. The Illinois Predator Accountability Act of 2006 also created a civil cause of action that allowed victims of sex trafficking to sue their traffickers and recover damages. Illinois has since enacted a robust legislative scheme to continue to combat human trafficking within the state.

- IL H. 1677 of 2017 provides that the Secretary of State shall include in its commercial driver’s license curriculum and study guide information on the human trafficking problem in the State.
- IL S. 43 of 2015 amended the Department of Human Services Act to provide for cooperation between the Department of Transportation and the Department of Human Services to promote public awareness regarding the national human trafficking hotline. This includes, but is not limited to, displaying public awareness signs in high risk areas, such as, but not limited to, truck stops, bus stations, train stations, airports, and rest stops.
- IL S. 201 of 2015, Promoting Juvenile Prostitution Act, provides that if a defendant committed the offense of promoting juvenile prostitution, patronizing a prostitute, or patronizing a minor engaged in prostitution and at the time of the commission of the offense knew that the prostitute or minor engaged in prostitution was in the custody or guardianship of the Department of Children and Family Services, it is a factor that shall be accorded weight in favor of imposing a more severe sentence.
- IL S. 1588 of 2015 amended the Criminal Code of 2012 to provide an affirmative defense to a charge of prostitution that the accused engaged in or performed prostitution as a result of being a victim of involuntary servitude or trafficking in persons. If the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the assertion of an affirmative defense by the accused in open court would likely jeopardize the safety of the accused, court personnel, or other persons, the court may clear the courtroom with the agreement of the accused, order additional in camera hearings, seal the records, prohibit court personnel from disclosing the proceedings without prior court approval, or take any other appropriate measure that in the court's discretion will enhance the safety of the proceedings and ensure the accused a full and fair opportunity to assert his or her affirmative defense. Statements made by the accused during the in camera hearing to review safety concerns shall not be admissible against the accused for the crimes charged.
- IL S. 1763 of 2015 amended the Abused and Neglected Children Act to provide for a workgroup to review treatment programs for youth in the Department of Children and Family Service’s care who are sex trafficking victims, provides for a review of secured therapeutic residential care laws and rules, a pilot program of multidimensional treatment foster care for certain children, promotion of a human trafficking hotline, reporting of suspected abuse or neglect by staff in child care facilities or child welfare agencies and release of certain information.
- IL S. 1775 of 2015 created the Safeguard Our Children Act to mandate that the Department of Children and Family Services develop and conduct a training advisory for LEADS reporting of missing persons when the missing individual, regardless of age, is under the care and legal custody of the Department of Children and Family Services.
- IL S. 2047 of 2015 appropriated $100,000 for grants to organizations to prevent prostitution and human trafficking.
- IL S. 2286 of 2015 amended the Human Trafficking Resource Center Notice Act, providing that the notice required to be posted under the Act shall be posted, among other places, in the public restrooms of motels and hotels in clear view of the public and employees where similar notices
are customarily posted, requires the Department of Human Services to furnish copies of the model notice without charge to the owner of a hotel or motel.

- IL H. 2556 of 2015 amended the Human Trafficking Resource Center Notice Act required establishments that sell alcohol, provide adult entertainment, airports, rail stations, bus stations, truck stops, emergency rooms, urgent care centers, farm labor contractors and privately operated job recruitment centers to post a model notice that raises awareness of human trafficking. Sets minimum standards for the content and construction of the model notice. Charges the Department of Human Services with developing or adopting the notice. Charges the Department of Labor with regulating businesses use of the model notice. Provides a civil penalty of $500 for a first offense and $1,000 for each subsequent offense.

- IL H. 2822 of 2015 created the Human Trafficking Task Force to address the growing problem of human trafficking across this state. The Human Trafficking Task Force shall develop a state plan to address human trafficking, implement a system for the sharing of human trafficking data between government agencies in a manner that ensures that the privacy of victims of human trafficking is protected and that data collection respects the privacy of victims of human trafficking.

- IL S. 3007 of 2015 amended the Public Aid Code so that beginning January 1, 2018, persons who are foreign-born victims of human trafficking, torture, or other serious crimes are eligible for certain services.

**Cook County Legislation**

- Cook County Ordinance Chapter 58, Sec. 58-167. Public Morals Nuisance Violations. Among other things, the ordinance increases fines for those involved in the solicitation of services from $500 to $1000 and deposits those funds into the Women’s Justice Services Fund established by County Ordinance and shall be used to fund rehabilitation services, including mental health and substance abuse treatment services, provided by and through the Sheriff’s Office Department of Women’s Justice Services.

- Illinois Safe Children’s Act of 2010 provides for the transfer of jurisdiction over children who are arrested for prostitution from the criminal system to the child protection system, with special provisions to facilitate their placement in temporary protective custody if necessary.
  - The ordinance also makes crimes that penalize the commercial sexual exploitation of children applicable to all minors under 18 as child victims, in conformity with Illinois’ human trafficking law and federal law; removes references to “juvenile prostitutes” in the criminal code, in recognition of the fact that children have no capacity to consent to their own commercial sexual exploitation and thus are not prostitutes but rather are victims of a serious sexual offense;
  - protects minors by limiting the affirmative defense that pimps or traffickers “believed” that the prostituted child was at least 18 years old to only those pimps and traffickers who had no reasonable opportunity actually to see the victim (in accordance with federal law and constitutional requirements of due process);
  - increases the fee and expands the vehicle impounding provisions currently in place for the crime of “Soliciting for a Prostitute” (11-15), to other related crimes of commercial sexual exploitation, including the exploitation of minors, and uses the money for victim services and police officers;
  - supports the criminal investigations of these organized crime rings by adding the related offenses of human trafficking and juvenile pimping crimes to the list of offenses subject to court-ordered interceptions as defined by existing law. In this way, under judge supervision, the same legal tools used to fight groups selling drugs can be used against groups selling children; and
  - allows for officer-safety recordings to protect undercover officers during dangerous sex-trafficking investigations.

- The Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act of 2012
• Provides that the statute of limitations for a prosecution for involuntary servitude, involuntary sexual servitude of a minor, or trafficking in persons for forced labor or services may be commenced within one year of the victim attaining the age of 18 years;
• Provides that in no case shall the time period for prosecution of those offenses expire sooner than 3 years after the commission of the offense;
• Includes in the offense of involuntary servitude using a scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause the person to believe that, if the person did not perform that labor or services, that person or another person would suffer serious harm or physical restraint;
• Provides that in prosecutions for involuntary servitude, involuntary sexual servitude of a minor, and trafficking in persons, when the offense involves sexual activity, the prior sexual activity or the reputation of the alleged victim or corroborating witness is inadmissible except under certain circumstances;
• Includes in the definition of "sex offense" trafficking in persons, involuntary servitude, and related offenses, provided the offense involved commercial sexual activity, a sexually-explicit performance, or the production of pornography. Also includes in the definition of "sex offense", involuntary sexual servitude of a minor.

Organizations Providing Services to Chicago and Illinois Victims

Currently, there are a number of organizations fighting human trafficking in Chicago and Illinois. Many of these organizations work with victims of human trafficking, engage in advocacy efforts, and aim to improve public education. Some organizations engaged in this work are as follows:

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| 1 | STOP-IT (Salvation Army) | • Outreach to suspected trafficked persons  
• 24-hour hotline  
• Trauma-Informed case-management services  
• Service Connector  
• Training and Education | http://salarmychicago.org/stopit/ |
| 2 | Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force (CCHTTF) | • Combats human trafficking through collaboration between law enforcement and social service providers;  
• Uses a victim-centered approach in proactively investigating and prosecuting human trafficking crimes; and  
• Provides comprehensive, high-quality social services to all victims of human trafficking. | https://www.cookcountytaskforce.org/ |
<p>| 3 | Chicago Dream Center | • Faith-based advocacy, housing and recovery for sex-trafficking victims | <a href="http://www.chicagodreamcenter.org/">http://www.chicagodreamcenter.org/</a> |</p>
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<td>Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE)</td>
<td>Prevention, policy, and advocacy, community engagement, legal services aimed at addressing institutions and individuals that perpetrate, profit from, or support sexual exploitation.</td>
<td><a href="http://caase.org">http://caase.org</a></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>The End Demand Illinois Campaign</td>
<td>A multi-year, statewide campaign to transform community’s response to commercial sex trade</td>
<td><a href="http://caase.org/end-demand-illinois/HYPERLINK">http://caase.org/end-demand-illinois/HYPERLINK</a> &quot;<a href="http://www.enddemandillinois.org/">http://www.enddemandillinois.org/</a>&quot;</td>
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http://www.enddemandillinois.org/trafficking


http://www.chicagodreamcenter.org/ministries/human-trafficking/


