

# Human Trafficking Awareness Day: Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>

## Human Trafficking Is a Serious Issue: Wear Blue Next Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>

Human trafficking is a serious problem worldwide. Often, we think it is not here in the United States, but trafficking is in all 50 states and right here in our own community. Human trafficking comes in many forms. It can be coerced labor such as hotel workers, farm workers or restaurant workers, as well as sexual exploitation. It can affect persons at any age. Sometimes sexual exploitation occurs with a family member or a known trusted person.

If you suspect something, the best idea is to call the hotline to get advice about what to do. Do not confront the people directly as that could put the victim at risk. The hotline phone number is 888-373-7888.

The State of Georgia has passed many laws that make sexual trafficking more difficult for the traffickers, and releasing the victim from prostitution charges, plus helping the victims to rehabilitate.

Many organizations in our community are working to put an end to human trafficking, and to help rescue victims. For example, **Street Grace** works to protect children and youth from sexual exploitation and **Wellspring Living**'s mission is transforming lives of those at risk or victimized by sexual exploitation.

Anytime there is a big event, whether it be sport related, concerts or conventions, human trafficking increases. It's time to put a **STOP** to human trafficking. So, when you join us for our worship services next Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, which is also Super Bowl Sunday, the United Women in Faith are asking you to please wear **BLUE** which is the international color of Human Trafficking Awareness.



## United Women in Faith Are Raising Funds to Help Put an End to Human Trafficking: Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>

On Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, the **United Women in Faith** will be selling chocolate candies and goodies just in time for Valentine's Day. All the proceeds will go to **Street Grace**, an organization that **fights human trafficking**. Founded in 2008, **Street Grace** been chasing one ambitious vision - **ending the sexual exploitation of children**. Thanks to the help of their generous partners and supporters, they are making serious progress.

**Street Grace** works on four areas to make changes:

- **PREVENTION** to help all of us recognize and stop exploitation before it starts;
- **PROTECTION** to make survival sustainable;
- **PURSUIT** to help law enforcement identify predators, protect victims and prevent future crimes;
- **POLICY** which makes safety the standard, shapes laws, training and systems that protect children long before a crisis begins.



So won't you say **YES** because change begins with you! Come to the Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, buy chocolates, and help put an end to human trafficking! Brooke Ruffin from **Street Grace** will be in the Fellowship Hall to answer any questions. For additional information about **Street Grace**, please visit their website at [www.streetgrace.org](http://www.streetgrace.org).

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## Human Trafficking "Did You Know?"

You are encouraged to wear blue on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, as it is the international color of Human Trafficking Awareness. Did you know that:

- The United States State Department says that there are 27.6 million victims of human trafficking worldwide at any given time.
- Human trafficking is the exploitation of a person's labor by coercion, power or control. Coercion can be done through drugs and/or a love belonging issue.
- If you suspect human trafficking, the best idea is to call the hotline at 888-373-7888 to get advice about what to do. Do not confront the people directly as that could put the victim in more risk.
- In 27 states children can be charged as prostitutes. **The State of Georgia is NOT one of them.** In 19 states sexual trafficking is not considered child abuse, So the victim is criminalized.
- 40% of human traffickers use black women and girls because they think they will get less jail time if the victim is black.
- Many victims of human trafficking deal with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), nightmares and the shame blanket that weighs them down. Most victims say the issue that causes them the most stress is sexual trauma before the age of 13. Victims need to be rewired as their body is the scene of the crime.

**How can we help?** We need to work inward first and deal with our biases. We need to be intentional and educate ourselves and others about human trafficking. We need to have redemptive vision. We need to share our stories. Secrecy is what enables trafficking.



## Human Trafficking

## Reporting and Resources

### **NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE (24/7 Confidential)**

- 1-888-373-7888
- Text: 233733

### **YOUR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT (911)**

#### **GEORGIA CARES**

- Georgia Cares is the single point of entry for anyone seeking help for actual or suspected victims under the age of 18 of child sexual exploitation and/or child sex trafficking.
- 24 Hour Hotline: 1-844-8GA-DMST

### **GA DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY & SERVICE (24-Hours, 7 Days a Week)**

- Reports of child abuse and neglect can be made to 1-855-GA CHILD (1-855-422-4453)

### **NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN**

- The Cyber Tipline: 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)

### **PREVENT CHILD ABUSE GA (Parenting is hard. Let someone help you.)**

- Help Line: 1-800-CHILDREN

### **OUT OF DARKNESS (GEORGIA)**

- Rescue Line: 404-941-6024 (24/7 hotline—age 18 and older)

### **TAPESTRI (Serving immigrant and refugee communities in Georgia)**

- For immediate help, call 404-299-2185.

## Information Resources

### **POLARIS PROJECT**

- <https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking-recognize-signs>

### **ECPAT-USA (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking)**

- <https://www.ecpatusa.org>

### **U.S. OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES — OFFICE ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

- <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/training/nhttac>

### **INTERNATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING INSTITUTE (Center for Civil and Human Rights Museum, Atlanta)**

- <https://www.ihtinstitute.org>
- Leverages the collective efforts of private, public, educational, faith-based, and civic organizations to accelerate local, national and global movements to end the trafficking of persons.