Human Flourishing

Human Trafficking: What It Is, Why It Matters, and What You Can Do

THE ISSUE

Human trafficking is the exploitation of a person through force, fraud, or coercion for labor, services or commercial sex acts. It is exploitation based and doesn't require crossing a border. The abuse and control tactics used against human trafficking victims often causes trauma that lasts well beyond the trafficking itself including psychological, physical, and emotional trauma.

27.6M

human trafficking victims globally.
(ILO 2022)

57% of human trafficking victims are men and boys.
(DHS 2025)

Since 2007, the NHTH has identified 127,938 cases of human trafficking.
(NHTH 2026)

HOW IT IMPACTS TEXANS

Texas is a national hub for human trafficking. Its extensive domestic and international highway infrastructure, particularly along the I-10 corridor, contributes to the state's high volume of trafficking activity. The region connecting Dallas–Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Houston—commonly known as the Texas Triangle—is considered one of the areas with the highest levels of reported human trafficking in the state.

300K+

victims in Texas at any given time.
(University of Texas at Austin, 2017)

The area connecting Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Houston, is known as the Texas Triangle.

36K+

The NHTH has received 36,417 Texas signals since its inception.
(NHTH 2026)

Scan for the live, up-to-date version of this guide

A CLOSER LOOK

Nearly one-third of identified human trafficking victims globally are children. Anyone can be a victim of trafficking, but children are among the most vulnerable targets. Child exploitation extends far beyond trafficking. Recognizing the signs of human trafficking and causes like isolation and hardship informs prevention efforts.

WHY CHRISTIANS CARE

"For he will deliver the needy who cry out the afflicted who have no one to help. He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in His sight."

Psalm 72:12-14 NIV

"...He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind. to release the oppressed, to prclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4: 18-19 NIV

"Is this not the fast which I choose, to loosen the bods of wickedness, to undo the bands of the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free and break every yoke?""

Isaiah 58:6 NASB

TAKE ACTION

1. **Learn** how current policies affect Texans.
2. **Pray** for victims, traffickers, and organizations on the frontlines. Pray for wisdom and compassion for the leaders and communities affected by this issue.
3. **Participate** in the process.
   - Contact your local and state officials. Ask them to support laws that increase criminal & civil penalties for traffickers, including online exploitation of children.
   - Support organizations providing services and shelter for victims.
   - Share this guide with someone in your church.

Scripture highlights God's heart for the oppressed. Christians are called to protect the vulnerable by seeking justice and loving mercy.