



HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT ONE CONSTABLE'S OFFICE
Constable Alan Rosen

HUMAN TRAFFICKING SUMMARY

United Nations definition

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons by improper means (such as force, abduction, fraud, or coercion) for an improper purpose including forced labor or sexual exploitation. Human smuggling, a related but different crime, generally involves the consent of the person(s) being smuggled. These people often pay large sums of money to be smuggled across international borders. Once in the country of their final destination, they are generally left to their own devices. Smuggling becomes trafficking when the element of force or coercion is introduced.

U.S. Government definition

Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or, 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.

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery, and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit human beings for some type of labor or commercial sex purpose. Every year, millions of men, women, and children worldwide—including in the United States—are victims of human trafficking. Victims are often lured with false promises of well-paying jobs or are manipulated by people they trust, but instead are forced or coerced into prostitution, domestic servitude, farm or factory labor, or other types of forced labor.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is responsible for investigating human trafficking, arresting traffickers and protecting victims. DHS initiates hundreds of investigations and makes numerous arrests every year, using a victim-centered approach. DHS also processes immigration relief through Continued Presence (CP), T visas, and U visas to victims of human trafficking and other designated crimes.

Indicators

Human trafficking indicators include:

Does the victim possess identification and travel documents? If not, who has control of these documents?



HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT ONE CONSTABLE'S OFFICE

Constable Alan Rosen

Did the victim travel to a destination country for a specific job or purpose and is victim engaged in different employment than expected?

Is victim forced to perform sexual acts as part of employment?

Is the victim a juvenile engaged in commercial sex?

Does the victim owe money to an employer or does the employer hold wages?

Did the employer instruct the victim on what to say to law enforcement or immigration officials?

Can the victim freely leave employment or the situation?

Are there guards at work/harboring site or video cameras to monitor and ensure no one escapes?

Does the victim have freedom of movement? Can they freely contact family and friends? Can they socialize or attend religious services?

Support for Victims and Resources

ICE recognizes that severe consequences of human trafficking continue even after the perpetrators have been arrested and held accountable. ICE's Victim Assistance Program helps coordinate services to help human trafficking victims, such as crisis intervention, counseling and emotional support.

National Human Trafficking Resource Center: 1.888.373.7888.

Houston Police Department: 713.308.8600 / houstontx.gov/police/nr/2015/dec/nr151209-3.htm

United Against Human Trafficking (UAHT): 713.874.0290 / uaht.org

Statistics

- A. As of 30 June 2016, 3,646 human trafficking cases have been reported this year; the top five states include California (682), Texas (307), Florida (265), Ohio (186), and New York (173).
- B. These reports include Sex Trafficking (2,678), Labor Trafficking (470), Sex & Labor (129), and Not Specified (369).
- C. The gender for these cases are Females (3,058) and Males (433). The age for these cases involved 2,299 Adults and 1,181 Minors.



HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT ONE CONSTABLE'S OFFICE

Constable Alan Rosen

- D. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), and its reauthorizations in 2003, 2005, and 2008 define a human trafficking victim as a person induced to perform labor or a commercial sex act through force, fraud, or coercion. Any person under age 18 who performs a commercial sex act is considered a victim of human trafficking, regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion was present.
- E. Most (83 percent) of the reported human trafficking incidents involved allegations of sex trafficking. Labor trafficking accounted for 12 percent of incidents, and other or unknown forms of human trafficking made up the remaining five percent. About a third (32 percent) of the 1,229 alleged human trafficking incidents involved sex trafficking of children.
- F. More than a quarter of alleged sex trafficking incidents contained multiple victims, and nearly half of labor trafficking incidents had more than one victim. Labor trafficking incidents were more likely to involve more than one suspect (47 percent), compared to sex trafficking incidents (37 percent).
- G. As of September 30, 2008, less than 10 percent of the 1,229 alleged incidents had been confirmed as human trafficking. To be confirmed in the HTRS, the case must have led to an arrest and been subsequently confirmed by law enforcement, or the victims must have received a special non-immigrant Visa classification, as provided under the 2000 TVPA.
- H. Over 90 percent of victims in both alleged and confirmed human trafficking incidents were female. Nearly 40 percent of victims in alleged and confirmed labor trafficking incidents were male, while almost all (99%) victims in alleged and confirmed sex trafficking incidents were female.
- I. Hispanic victims comprised the largest share (37 percent) of alleged sex trafficking victims and more than half (56 percent) of alleged labor trafficking victims. Asians made up 10 percent of alleged sex trafficking victims, compared to 31 percent of labor trafficking victims.
- J. Approximately two-thirds of victims in alleged human trafficking incidents were age 17 or younger (27 percent) or age 18 to 24 (38 percent). Sex trafficking victims tended to be younger (71 percent were under age 25) and labor trafficking victims tended to be older (almost 70 percent were age 25 or older). Slightly more than half of all victims in alleged human trafficking incidents were U.S. citizens. U.S. citizens accounted for 63 percent of sex trafficking victims, compared to four percent of labor trafficking victims.



HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT ONE CONSTABLE'S OFFICE

Constable Alan Rosen

K. Nearly eight in 10 human trafficking suspects were male. A fifth of sex trafficking suspects were female, compared to about a third of labor trafficking suspects. Nearly two-thirds of sex trafficking suspects were under age 35, while nearly two-thirds of labor trafficking suspects were age 35 or older. U.S. citizens accounted for 66 percent of suspects in alleged incidents. Nearly three-quarters of sex trafficking suspects and a third of labor trafficking suspects were U.S. citizens.

Houston Case Study

The operation of a large sex trafficking ring in Houston was revealed during the culmination of a law enforcement investigation in October 2013 that included charges against 14 defendants and the rescue of 12 victims. According to the court records, from August 1999 until October 2013, the female matriarch running the sex trafficking enterprise paid human smugglers to illegally bring her victims into the US. The trafficking victims were undocumented Mexican and Honduran nationals as young as 14 years of age. The victims were recruited by means of fraud and coercion to engage in prostitution in the US. The conspirators relied on pimps to provide the women and young girls. Pimps would beat the victims if they spoke to a customer, took too long with a customer, or if a customer was dissatisfied.

The sex trafficking enterprise operated in four Houston brothels/bars. In addition, the defendants utilized nearby hotels, charging victims an additional fee to leave the brothel with the customer. The bar was located in the lower level of these establishments, while the second level provided rooms for prostitution. The trafficking victims were to remain locked in a room unless a special client or big spender paid to have sex with one of them. Some victims were also locked in a room at the home of the matriarch, who told them that they "couldn't leave" until they paid her back the money she had spent on them for perfume, food, clothing, and rent. She ensured that the girls remained in debt to her by continually increasing the amount of money they owed to her.

For every commercial sex act, the enterprise also charged a \$20 fee, which included a \$5 admission ticket and \$15 to gain access to a prostitution room and condoms. In an 18-month period, the enterprise acquired \$1,265,820 from the \$20 fee alone. At the end of each day, the money that was paid to the girls for commercial sex was taken from them. The matriarch determined the rates for individual sex acts based on the age and attractiveness of the female. Customers were allowed oral sex, anal sex, and to spank a victim as long as they did not hit the victim in the face. Although rates varied by girl, customers were charged \$500 for an hour and \$250 for a half hour with the youngest and prettiest victim. Another victim's rate was reported as \$70 for 15 minutes of illegal sexual services.

In order to conceal illegal proceeds, conspirators of the enterprise laundered money on various occasions and solely used cashier's checks totaling less than \$10,000 to avoid the bank's



HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT ONE CONSTABLE'S OFFICE
Constable Alan Rosen

financial reporting requirements. Conspirators also acted as security and lookouts in the parking lots of the bars/brothels to avoid detection by law enforcement.

FBI Press Release – 3 June 2014

Author: Special Agent Shauna Dunlap

Texans Unite Against Human Trafficking: Local, State, and Federal Agencies Launch Statewide Campaign

The FBI, United Against Human Trafficking, and Clear Channel Outdoor joined local, state, and federal partners today to call upon Texans to unite against human trafficking and help put a stop to modern day slavery throughout Texas. The unified group of agencies announced a statewide campaign and unveiled billboards and a host of public service advertisements to raise awareness about human trafficking and encourage reporting. The FBI also released a list of Most Wanted Human Traffickers in Texas. A reward up to \$10,000 is being offered for information leading to the arrest of fugitives on the Most Wanted Human Traffickers list.

Texas ranks second in the nation in total calls to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline, with only California ranked higher. In 2013, a total of 436 potential trafficking cases were reported through the hotline from Texas; 144 of those cases were from Houston. Texas' geographic location, proximity to the border, demographics, and large migrant work force make the state a popular point of entry for human trafficking.

Since the Polaris Project began operating the NHTRC in December 2007, the anti-trafficking hotline has taken over 110,000 calls nationally, including more than 9,500 from Texas. The NHTRC has received reports of more than 1,500 potential cases of human trafficking in Texas. The billboard and public service ad campaign is aimed at reaching trafficking victims who need help, as well as Texans who are being encouraged to report any signs of human trafficking.

“Traffickers are preying on the vulnerable and enslaving them right here within our own communities,” said FBI Acting Special Agent in Charge Carlos J. Barron. “Human beings are not a commodity to be bought and sold. The FBI will continue to aggressively investigate and prosecute these cases with our local, state, and federal law enforcement partners.”

Beginning today, educational messages about human trafficking will be displayed on both traditional and digital billboards across the Houston area and throughout Texas. Advertising space and time are being donated by the Outdoor Advertising Association of Texas (OAAT) and its member companies, Clear Channel Outdoor and Lamar Advertising. Public service ads will appear on Houston-area Yellow Cabs, Metro buses, and area shopping malls. Similar public service announcements will also air on Univision television, Univision radio, and Clear Channel-owned radio stations throughout Texas. All public service ads promote the National Human



HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT ONE CONSTABLE'S OFFICE

Constable Alan Rosen

Trafficking Resource Center hotline (1-888-3737-888) or Polaris Project's texting short code "BeFree" (233733).



Human trafficking awareness billboard (English) | High-res image



Human trafficking awareness billboard (Spanish) | High-res image

United Against Human Trafficking (UAHT), formerly known as Houston Rescue and Restore Coalition is a driving force in this media campaign to deepen the community's understanding of the issue, to inform the community that anyone can be a victim of human trafficking and to encourage continued reporting to the human trafficking hotline. "Media campaigns have been an integral part of our efforts to grow public awareness about this issue as the community is the eyes and ears on the ground helping law enforcement to bring traffickers to justice and victims out of the shadows" stated Maria Trujillo, Executive Director of UAHT. "We are thrilled to be



HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT ONE CONSTABLE'S OFFICE

Constable Alan Rosen

partnering this year with agencies such as the FBI and Clear Channel Outdoor and to have the support of leaders such as Governor Perry and Mayor Parker for this endeavor.”

“The OAAT is proud to be a major part of this effort to bring to the forefront the issue of human trafficking in our state,” said Lee Vela, OAAT president. “Through our resources these messages will reach millions of Texans throughout the year and it is our sincere hope that victims come forward for help as we raise awareness in the general public.”

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center is a confidential, toll-free lifeline for victims of human trafficking to reach out for help and for the public to anonymously report tips of suspected human trafficking or to obtain information. People can call 1-888-3737-888 for help, or text Polaris Project at BeFree (233733), 24 hours a day, every day of the year. The hotline is available in more than 180 languages through the use of interpreters, including in Spanish through bilingual staff.

“Whether it’s the woman forced to sell sex in a brothel, the man coerced into a fraudulent door-to-door sales crew, or the young girl sold on Backpage.com, there’s a broad network of support ready to help victims of sex and labor trafficking in Texas and throughout the country.

Awareness campaigns are critical to ensure that we can reach more victims and get them connected to help,” said Bradley Myles, CEO of Polaris Project. “Polaris Project is grateful to participate in this effort with organizations like United Against Human Trafficking in Houston, Clear Channel Outdoor, and law enforcement and legislative partners at the state and national levels.”

Legislation

Under federal law, knowingly providing or obtaining the labor or services of a person by any force, threats or physical restraint is a felony offense, carrying a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a significant fine. Additionally, under federal law, knowingly engaging in the sex trafficking of children or the sex trafficking of adults by force, fraud, or coercion is a felony offense, carrying a sentence of 10 years to life in prison and significant fines. Under Texas state law, trafficking of persons or compelling prostitution are felony offenses, carrying punishment ranges of two to 20 years or five to 99/life in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.

Fugitives

The FBI and its partners also unveiled a list of Texas’ Most Wanted Human Traffickers. A reward up to \$10,000 is being offered for information leading to the arrest of these individuals, whose descriptions and billboards are below:

Alfonso Diaz-Juarez, aka Poncho, aka El Greñas, a 45-year-old Mexican national, is wanted federally for sex trafficking violations. Investigators believe Diaz-Juarez may be in the Houston area, or traveling between Texas and Mexico.

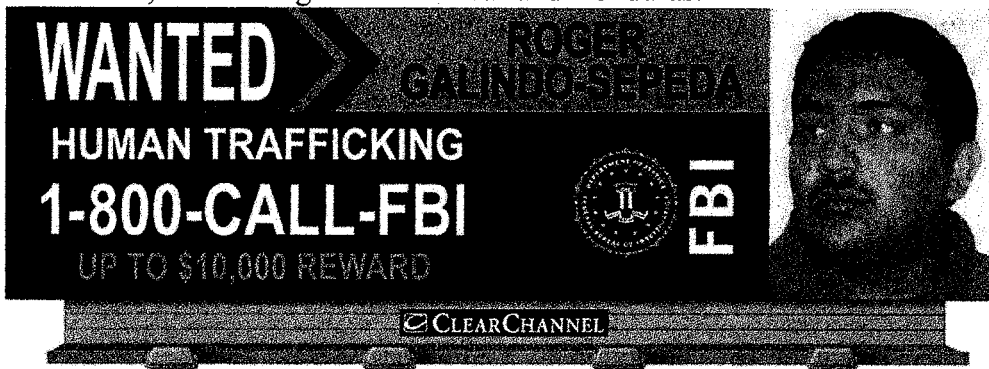


HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT ONE CONSTABLE'S OFFICE
Constable Alan Rosen



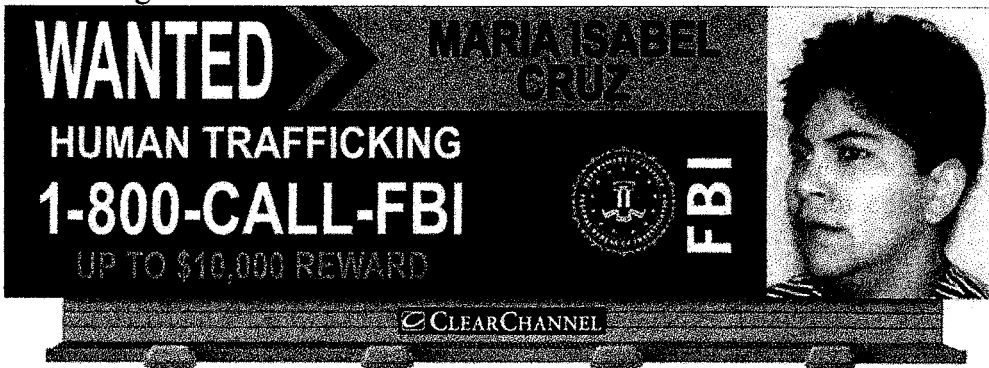
Digital billboard depicting wanted human trafficker Alfonso Diaz-Juarez. | High-res image

Roger Galindo-Sepeda, a 40-year-old Honduran national, is wanted federally for conspiracy to smuggle, transport, and harbor illegal aliens. Investigators believe Galindo-Sepeda may be in the Dallas area, or traveling between Texas and Honduras.



Digital billboard depicting wanted human trafficker Roger Galindo-Sepeda. | High-res image

Maria Isabel Cruz, a 46-year-old Honduran national, is wanted federally for conspiracy to smuggle, transport, or harbor illegal aliens. Investigators believe Cruz may be in the Dallas area, or traveling between Texas and Honduras.



Digital billboard depicting wanted human trafficker Maria Isabel Cruz. | High-res image



HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT ONE CONSTABLE'S OFFICE

Constable Alan Rosen

If you have information about these fugitives call 1-800-CALL-FBI, or the Crime Stoppers tip-line at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

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What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Millions of men, women, and children are trafficked into forced labor situations and into the sex trade worldwide. Many of these victims are lured from their homes with false promises of well-paying jobs; instead, they are forced or coerced into prostitution, domestic servitude, or other types of forced labor. Victims are found in legitimate and illegitimate labor industries, including sweatshops, massage parlors, agricultural fields, restaurants, hotels, and domestic service.

Human trafficking is different from human smuggling. Trafficking is exploitation-based and does not require movement across borders or any type of transportation.

Who are the Victims? Who is at Risk?

Trafficking victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. Trafficking victims can be men or women, young or old, American or from abroad, with or without legal status.

Traffickers prey on victims with little or no social safety net. They look for victims who are vulnerable because of their illegal immigration status, limited English proficiency, and those who may be in vulnerable situations due to economic hardship, political instability, natural disasters, or other causes.

The indicators listed are just a few that may alert you to a potential human trafficking situation. No single indicator is necessarily proof of human trafficking. If you suspect that a person may be a victim of human trafficking, please call the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Tip-line at 1-866-347-2423. You can also report online at www.ice.gov/tips.

To reach a non-governmental organization for confidential help and information, 24 hours a day, please call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-3737-888.

How do I Identify Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is often “hidden in plain sight.” There are a number of red flags, or indicators, which can help alert you to human trafficking. Recognizing the signs is the first step in identifying victims.

Some Indicators Concerning a Potential Victim Include:

Behavior or Physical State:

- Does the victim act fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid?
- Does the victim defer to another person to speak for him or her?
- Does the victim show signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture?
- Has the victim been harmed or deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care, or other life necessities?
- Does the victim have few or no personal possessions?

Social Behavior:

- Can the victim freely contact friends or family?
- Is the victim allowed to socialize or attend religious services?
- Does the victim have freedom of movement?
- Has the victim or family been threatened with harm if the victim attempts to escape?

Work Conditions and Immigration Status:

- Does the victim work excessively long and/or unusual hours?
- Is the victim a juvenile engaged in commercial sex?
- Was the victim recruited for one purpose and forced to engage in some other job?
- Is the victim’s salary being garnished to pay off a smuggling fee? (Paying off a smuggling fee alone is not considered trafficking.)
- Has the victim been forced to perform sexual acts?
- Has the victim been threatened with deportation or law enforcement action? Is the victim in possession of identification and travel documents; if not, who has control of the documents?

Minor Victims:

- Is the victim a juvenile engaged in commercial sex?

For more information, please visit:
www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign

Like us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/bluecampaign

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