

# Stop Trafficking !

Anti Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

June 2017 Vol. 15 No. 06

This issue highlights various reports that help the reader realize the complexities of human trafficking.



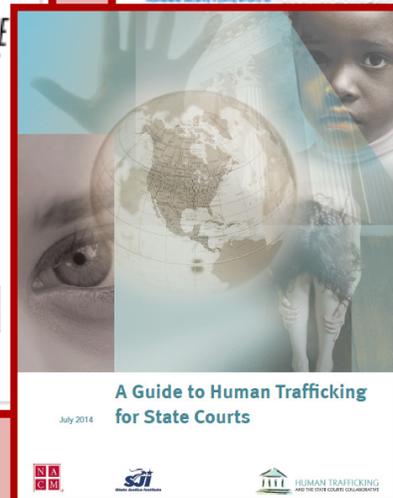
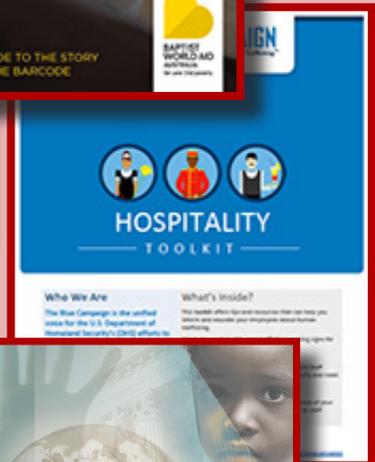
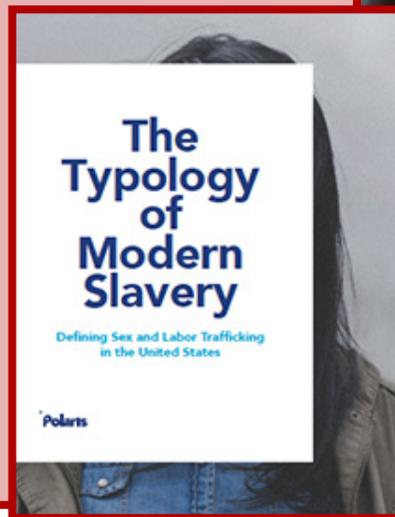
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## Reports: Expose Human Trafficking in Myriad Settings





## Awareness

### What Does Human Trafficking Look Like in the U.S.?

Human trafficking in the U.S. is more widespread than anyone realizes. It actually exists in the clothes we wear, the food we eat, and the storefronts and streets we pass on a daily basis.

To expose this yet hidden crime, **Polaris** released a recent summary of the research done through the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Entitled **'The Typology of Modern Slavery'**, the Report analyzed more than 32,000 cases of human trafficking documented over a nine-year period.

The study identified 25 unique types of trafficking that exist in the U.S.: Escort Services; Illicit Massage, Health, & Beauty Businesses; Outdoor Solicitation; Residential; Domestic Work; Bars, Strip Clubs, & Cantinas; Pornography; Traveling Sales Crews; Restaurants & Food Service; Peddling & Begging; Agriculture & Animal Husbandry; Personal Sexual Servitude; Health & Beauty Services; Construction; Hotels & Hospitality; Landscaping; Illicit Activities; Arts & Entertainment; Commercial Cleaning Services; Factories & Manufacturing; Remote Interactive Sexual Acts; Carnivals; Forestry & Logging; Health Care; Recreational Facilities.

Each type of enslavement has unique strategies for recruiting and controlling victims, and concealing the crime.

**'Escort Services'** (4651 cases) is a broad term used widely in the commercial sex trade, referring to commercial sex acts that primarily occur at a temporary indoor location. The operations are often described as **'out-call'**, where traffickers deliver victims to a buyer's hotel room or residence for **'private parties,'** or as

**'in-call,'** where potential buyers cycle in and out of a hotel room where the trafficker has confined the victim for extended stays. These cyclical business operations repeat once the trafficker relocates the survivor to another city where the demand for commercial sex is booming. Over the years, there have been fluctuations in popular online advertising platforms for commercial sex, but the most prevalent online marketplace is **Backpage.com**. Though Backpage closed its U.S. Adult Services section in January 2017 due to rising pressure from the U.S. Senate, Backpage has accounted for more than 1,300 cases of trafficking within escort services and remains a driving force in global sexual exploitation.

**'Outdoor solicitation'** (1643 cases) occurs when traffickers force victims to find buyers in an outdoor, public setting. In many cities, this occurs on a particular block or at cross streets known for commercial sex and often referred to as a **'track'** or **'stroll'**. In more rural areas, outdoor solicitation frequently takes place at truck or rest stops along major highways.

Sex trafficking can occur within organized **'residential brothels'** (1290 cases) run by a network of coordinated traffickers or within private households used more informally for commercial sex. Residential brothels that follow the first, more formalized model tend to cater to commercial sex buyers from similar ethnic and/or language backgrounds, advertising through word of mouth or covert business cards. Advertisement for the second model varies but often includes word of mouth, and Backpage.com is

emerging as a frequent source.

The vast majority of the survivors of **'escort services'** are U.S. women and girls, although men and boys make up a small percentage. Homeless LGBTQ youth are vulnerable and trade sex through online ads and social media, at hotels, and at customers' residences.

In **'outdoor solicitation'**, women and girls are the majority of victims, with women and girls of color disproportionately represented. While victims represent diverse experiences and socioeconomic backgrounds, it was found that certain inequalities and societal factors may make particular individuals especially vulnerable, such as: histories of trauma and abuse, addiction, chronic mental health issues, and economic hardship such as homelessness or unstable housing. Runaway homeless youth are particularly vulnerable.

In **'brothels'** the victims include U.S. citizens, but more Mexicans and Asians. Informal brothels include children and a growing number of boys.

Forms of control in **'escort services'** include extreme physical and sexual violence, often accompanied by weapons. Coercion is expressed by unmanageable quotas, debts, threats of harm or police involvement, excessive monitoring, gang intimidation, social isolation, and constant surveillance. Traffickers often condition victims to believe they are the only ones who care for them, manipulating an attachment bond that makes the decision to leave the trafficker extremely difficult. Traffickers more frequently use physical violence in **'outdoor solicitation'** than in other types of sex trafficking, exploiting their intimate relationship, isolating them from support networks, and inducing or exploiting substance abuse issues. Verbal abuse and other types of manipulation are common. Traffickers confiscate victims' entire earnings, set unrealistic nightly quotas, and deny food and shelter as punishment if a quota is not met. Violence, threats, confinement, and drugs are used in **'brothel-related'** trafficking.

To read the full Report, go to:  
<https://polarisproject.org/typology-report>



## Awareness

### 'Fashion Makes Me Uncomfortable'

In the region of South India that grows most of the cotton for the fashion industry, there is a dark joke:

*"You can tell what color will be fashionable in Paris in six months by the color of our river."*

But the fashion industry is no joke for the local people, nor are the conditions young girls are forced to endure in its spinning mills.

The truth is, fashion companies are in fierce competition for our business. And we, as consumers, fuel this competition by demanding cheaper clothes and better bargains. It is a demand which has placed pressure on the companies that supply our clothes to keep delivering the same quality clothing at lower and lower prices. If consumers refuse to let companies compromise on quality for the sake of cheaper garments, what do these manufacturers do to increase their profit? They sacrifice fair pay and worker rights, which means longer hours, unsafe conditions, oppressive heat in crowded factories, and fewer benefits for workers. It also means an increased risk of child trafficking.

The 'Sumangali Scheme' targets young, unmarried girls in poor, rural villages in India. 'Sumangali' in Tamil means 'married woman'. Traffickers show families bright, glossy photos of the buildings their daughters will live and work in and make fancy sounding promises: a stable income and a lump sum bonus of half a year's pay after a 3-year period.

While the custom of dowry was officially outlawed in India in 1961, it is still in practice, particularly among poorer communities, like the ones tar-



geted by 'Sumangali Scheme' traffickers. A lump sum payment is a tempting offer to a girl in need of a dowry. Thus, families are convinced to send their 13-to-16-year old daughters off to work in the city, where they arrive, in busloads, every few hours.

Murray Sheard, the author of this excerpted article, met Susekula last month, when he traveled in India as part of his work with *Tearfund New Zealand* to learn more about worker exploitation in the fashion industry.

Susekula arrived to work in the spinning mills with 60 other girls from her village. She worked the night shift until midnight each night and was up every day at 5 a.m. Working so much forced overtime, Susekula was often sick, and the cotton fibers were always irritating her eyes. Sometimes she only had 10 minutes to sit down for lunch.

When she received her pay check, Susekula would often discover deductions for 'offenses' like returning a minute late from lunch. Deductions were also made for medical expenses, yet no medical treatment was ever offered her.

Vulnerable families are being promised a way out of their poverty, but the reality is that their daughters are being forced to work back-breaking

hours in unsafe conditions. Worse still, 'Sumangali Scheme' contracts are frequently terminated just before the promised lump sum payment, often leaving girls with nothing but their chronic health problems caused by cotton fiber inhalation.

Fortunately for Susekula, when her contract ended, she met a local organization that trained her to make her own living.

She now works with the same organization, teaching families to spot the tricks used by 'Sumangali Scheme' traffickers. "Because I used to work in the mill, I can relate to those girls," Susekula said. "We train them to use their talents and skills in clothes design and sewing for the

local market. Thus they double their income."

It was at once a heart breaking and inspiring story to hear. But what can ordinary people do to help other vulnerable girls like Susekula?

**First**, we can stop and feel, even if that is uncomfortable. When we sit with the world's pain, we find compassion within us. And compassion gives us the courage and determination to act, rather than to turn away.

**Second**, when we buy clothes, we can preference the companies doing most to protect workers in their supply chain. Learn more through *'The Ethical Fashion Report'* (see page 6).

**Third**, we can keep pressuring companies that refuse to make their supply chains transparent. A significant element of transparency is the publication of a list of suppliers. Transparency demonstrates a company's willingness to be accountable to consumers, the public, and their workers.

Together, with our voices and our ethical choices, we can continue to influence the fashion industry to help protect its workers and lift people out of poverty.

(<https://baptistworldaid.org.au/2017/04/15/fashion-makes-me-uncomfortable/>)



## Awareness

### 4 Google Funded Defense of Backpage.com, Despite Its Tolerance of Child Sex Trafficking

On May 17, 2017 a coalition of anti-child sex trafficking and public interest groups (*Consumer Watchdog, DeliverFund, Faith and Freedom Coalition, The Rebecca Project and Trafficking In America Taskforce*) and Nacole S., mother of a trafficking victim, released a report entitled, *'How Google's Backpage Protects Child Sex Trafficking'*. The Report details how a Google-funded campaign protects a law that shields Backpage.com, a notorious hub of child sex-trafficking, from any accountability for its activities. Google and the organizations it funds purport to be protecting free speech on the Internet.

The coalition challenged Google and the organizations it funds to acknowledge the damage Backpage has caused and to support changes in a key Internet law, Section 230 of the *Communications Decency Act (CDA)*, that shields Backpage.com from accountability for its ongoing abuses.

*"Once again the bottom dollar means more than the lives left in the distinctive path of Backpage. This just shows how other companies would rather back them and save their 'precious' Section 230, than to see a safer Internet,"* said the mother of a sex trafficking victim sold at Backpage.com.

The *Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT)* and the *Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)* are two nonprofit organizations that have led the legal effort defending Section 230 benefiting Backpage. CDT and EFF have received millions in funding from Alphabet Inc.'s Internet giant, *Google*. In addition, both groups have dozens of top advisors with close ties to

#### Cases Resulting from Backpage.com Ads:

- 2011 Atlanta, GA - a 12-year-old girl's pimp regularly fired at her with a Taser and even forced her to work while pregnant with his child.
- 2012 New York City - a 13-year-old girl was regularly beaten and even kicked down a stairwell for trying to escape her pimp.
- 2013 Miami, FL - a 13-year-old girl's pimp tattooed his name on her eyelids.
- 2016 Seattle, WA - a 15-year-old girl was sold for sex more than 150 times.
- 2016 Chicago, IL - a 16-year-old, suffering from depression, left home. Three weeks later, she was advertised for sex on Backpage and murdered at the hands of her Backpage buyer. (<http://www.consumerwatchdog.org/resources/backpagereport.pdf>)

Google that are detailed in the comprehensive report.

Legal scholars and groups supported by Google have written letters and amicus briefs in support of Backpage. Google has also deployed at least four of its lobbying firms to fight efforts to close the legal loophole that allows Backpage to profit from child trafficking. *"For years, one company—Backpage.com—has dominated online trafficking in minors for sex. The advertising giant's reach is vast, with sites catering to 437 locations in the U.S. and 506 overseas. So is its impact. By one count, 73% of all suspected child trafficking reports in the U.S. involve Backpage,"* the report said.

The groups were inspired to release an investigation of Backpage's supporters after watching the newly-released film, *'I Am Jane Doe'* (See pg. 8).

Backpage's victims have filled multiple lawsuits, legal actions and government investigations. Despite widespread revulsion at its business model, the groups said, Backpage has managed to elude a series of legal challenges and beat back legislative efforts to stop it from advertising children for sex, repeatedly citing Section 230 of the CDA, which protects an Internet site from liability for crimes by people using the site's services, as its defense.

*"Proponents have argued that it protects and promotes free speech on the Internet,"* the report noted. *"They have, however, ignored the devastating impact the law can have in its current form."*

*"Freedom of expression on the Internet is vital to the Internet platforms we all enjoy, but exploitation of children should not be a second order effect of that freedom. Proper protection of children is essential and should be built into the framework of every policy and law governing the hosting of content on the Internet,"* said Nic McKinley, executive director of DeliverFund. *"There is no choice between freedom and the protection of children. The internet can remain neutral, free, and protect children simultaneously; we have only to choose to make it so."*

*"Citing something called the Communications Decency Act to protect such immoral activity is the ultimate irony,"* said John M. Simpson, Consumer Watchdog's Privacy Project Director. *"This isn't about free expression; it's about protecting gargantuan profits at the expense of children's*



## Awareness

### Google Report *cont. from pg. 4*

*lives. Just like the First Amendment doesn't give you the right to scream fire in a crowded theater, Section 230 can't be allowed to protect child sex trafficking."*

In its successful efforts, Backpage has benefitted from the help of an all-star cast of lawyers and legal scholars, as well as significant political and lobbying muscle that it could not assemble itself. *"The common factor behind nearly all those forces: Alphabet Inc.'s Internet giant, Google,"* the report said.

The report's analysis of public records, tax documents and legal filings and other publicly-available documents shows Google has financed and supported a broad array of groups and individuals who have fought aggressively to thwart legal challenges to Backpage's business model. Efforts have included:

- Legal scholars and groups supported by Google have written letters and amicus briefs in support of Backpage. Twenty-two of the 42 signatories of a letter opposing a bill to tackle online child trafficking were either directly funded by Google, or worked at institutions that were funded by the company.
- At least four of Google's lobbying firms have also worked to block efforts by the U.S. Congress to strengthen laws to prevent child sex-trafficking under the *Stop Advertising Victims of Exploitation (SAVE) Act* of 2014 that would have targeted Backpage and held it accountable.
- Google hired one of the leading campaigners for shutting down Backpage's child-trafficking ads, who, after being hired, then changed her

stance on the issue to align with her new employer. She now argues that it isn't possible to shut down sites like Backpage and that laws should target buyers rather than websites that advertise children for sex.

Google's financial support of EFF, CDT and dozens of other groups, has contributed to a string of legal successes by Backpage and complicated the quest for justice among its underage victims. Since 2011, the nonprofits have helped Backpage defeat several cases related to child sex trafficking by filing Section 230 briefs on Backpage's behalf. Among the initiatives the groups have helped defeat:

- A legal case brought by three underage sex-trafficking victims who were advertised on Backpage and sold for sex in MA and RI more than 1,900 times over three years.
- Proposed state laws aimed at curbing Backpage's child sex advertisements in WA, NJ, and TN.
- Efforts by law enforcement in Cook County, IL, to prevent the use of credit card payments to purchase ads offering children for sex.
- Efforts by 49 state attorneys general to amend Section 230 so state and local law enforcement officials had authority to criminally investigate and prosecute companies like Backpage for promoting child sex trafficking.
- The 'reckless' standard in early versions of Congressional legislation such as the SAVE Act, which strengthened child sex trafficking laws by making it illegal for online advertisers to recklessly disregard child sex trafficking occurring on their websites.

Defenders of CDA Section 230 claim



*Michael Lacey, James Larkin and Carl Ferrer of Backpage.com*

it promotes and protects free expression on the Internet. Alphabet Inc.'s Google has another reason to protect Section 230: **business**. Google says the law provides it with almost unlimited immunity from liability for crimes committed using its services. That includes the posting of pirated movies and music to its *YouTube* service, fraudulent advertisements posted through its *AdWords* service or Google suggesting trademarked terms as advertising keywords.

*"Section 230 has been central to Google's stratospheric success over the past two decades,"* the report said. *"Partly as a result of the provision, a Harvard professor reported in 2011 that Google earned over \$1 billion in revenue annually from Google advertisers posting unlawful material related to child trafficking, illegal drugs, and counterfeit goods."*

(Excerpted from article by John M. Simpson <http://www.consumerwatchdog.org/newsrelease/report-shows-how-google-funded-defense-child-sex-trafficking-hub>)

*'How Google's Backing of Backpage Protects Child Sex Trafficking':*

<http://www.consumerwatchdog.org/resources/backpagereport.pdf>

*Letter to Larry Page, CEO of Google's parent company Alphabet; Eric Schmidt, Chairman of Alphabet; and Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google:*

<http://www.consumerwatchdog.org/sites/default/files/resources/ltralphabetgooglebackpage051717final.pdf>



## Advocacy

### 2017 Ethical Fashion Report & Guide

The fourth edition of the Australian *Ethical Fashion Report* was launched just prior to the fourth anniversary of the Rana Plaza factory collapse in Bangladesh, a tragedy which cut short the lives of 1,134 garment workers. When the factory came down, it simultaneously catapulted the poor and unsafe working conditions of the apparel industry to front page news and to the front of our minds.

The Rana Plaza shocked the collective conscience of consumers and decision makers across the world, helping to accelerate efforts to uphold the rights of workers throughout the entire apparel industry supply chain. The need remains urgent. There are presently 14.2 million people in forced labor exploitation and 168 million child laborers scattered across the global economy. Many are forced to work in the farms and factories that feed the apparel industry. For millions of others working in the industry, wages remain so low that they are unable to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

(<https://baptistworldaid.org.au/resources/2017-ethical-fashion-report/>)

Baptist World Aid also released the 2017 *Ethical Fashion Guide*, which lists the grades for 330 fashion brands (many of which are also sold throughout other countries) and provides an overall grade of each brand's labor rights management systems. Forty separate criteria were used to analyze each company's supply chain practices in four key areas: policies, knowledge of suppliers, auditing and supplier relationships, and worker voice. If companies chose not to disclose the efforts they are taking to protect workers in their supply chain, they were graded using publicly available information.

The *Guide* empowers consumers to purchase from companies that treat their workers ethically, ensuring they work free from the tyranny of modern slavery.

(<https://baptistworldaid.org.au/resources/2017-ethical-fashion-guide/>)

### How State Courts Can Assist Trafficked Victims

In 2014 the State Justice Institute funded a 200-page Guide entitled, 'The National Association for Court Management Guide to Addressing Human Trafficking in the State Courts' (HT Guide), that provides state court practitioners a comprehensive resource for:

- clarifying the types and dynamics of sex and labor human trafficking involving U.S. citizens and foreign nationals present in jurisdictions across the nation;
- identifying how traffickers and victims might appear in different types of state court cases, including criminal, family, juvenile, child protection, ordinance violation, and civil cases;
- accessing tools and guidelines to help courts identify and process cases where trafficking is involved; and
- accessing links to other resources to help courts address trafficking-related problems.

The HT Guide is intended to support the efforts of courts not only in their

traditional role of independent adjudicators, but also in their role as justice system and community leaders. Consequently, even though state court judges and personnel are the primary audience for the HT Guide, numerous other groups concerned about human trafficking—such as health and human service organizations, law enforcement agencies, and victim advocates—should find it valuable as well.

The Guide covers an extensive range of issues within human trafficking. For example, Ch. 10 explores issues related to *labor trafficking victims*, who may appear in court for various reasons, such as in criminal, civil, family, juvenile, dependency, probate, municipal ordinance, and other types of cases. It aims to help judges and court practitioners identify how labor trafficking might appear in other types of forums such as safety, labor, health, licensing, employment and other administrative and regulatory boards and commissions, and identify possible remedies that labor trafficking victims might have against their traffickers.

The authors discuss what steps the courts can take to assist and protect participants in court whom the judge has reason to suspect may be labor trafficking victims and identify the types of services that these victims might require, including immediate and long-term housing, trauma-informed care, sustainable jobs, as well as what the courts can do to assist victims in accessing those services.

The discussion includes:

- a description of the legal rights and protections of labor trafficking victims;
- a review of the characteristics of a labor trafficking-involved case;
- a discussion of judicial strategies for identifying and assisting labor trafficking victims; and
- links to additional tools & resources.

To access the Guide, go to:

[http://www.htcourts.org/wp-content/uploads/00\\_EntireGuide\\_140726\\_v02.pdf](http://www.htcourts.org/wp-content/uploads/00_EntireGuide_140726_v02.pdf)



## Advocacy

### Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development

The United Nations designated 2017 as the year in which to promote the role of tourism in development. There are five areas of action:

#### *Inclusive and sustainable economic growth*

- 4% or more annual increase in international tourist arrivals since 2009;
- 7% of total world exports and 30% of world services exports;
- US\$ 1.5 trillion in exports from international tourism in 2015;
- 10% of world GDP;

#### *Social inclusiveness, employment and poverty reduction*

- One in every eleven jobs globally;
- Largest export category in many developing countries;
- 57% of international tourist arrivals in 2030 will be in emerging economies;
- Almost twice as many women employers as other sectors;

#### *Resource efficiency, environmental protection and climate change*

- Committed to reducing its 5% of world CO<sub>2</sub> emissions;
- Raises financing for conservation of heritage, wildlife and the environment;
- Can be a vehicle for protecting and restoring biodiversity;
- Must sustainably manage an expected 1.8 billion international tourists in 2030;

#### *Cultural values, diversity & heritage*

- Revives traditional activities and customs;



- Empowers communities and nurtures pride within them;
- Promotes cultural diversity;
- Raises awareness of the value of heritage; *Mutual understanding, peace and security*
- Breaks down barriers and builds bridges between visitors and hosts;
- Provides opportunities for

cross-cultural encounters that can build peace;

- A resilient sector that recovers quickly from security threats;
  - A tool for soft diplomacy;
- <http://www.tourism4development2017.org/why-tourism/>

[http://www.tourism4development2017.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/brochure\\_en\\_web.pdf](http://www.tourism4development2017.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/brochure_en_web.pdf)

### Responsible Tourism

The Code (short for “*The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism*”) is an industry-driven responsible tourism initiative with a mission to provide awareness, tools and support to the tourism industry in order to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).

CSEC involves the buying and selling of children under 18 years of age for sexual purposes. Sexual exploitation of children in tourism, child sex trafficking, the prostitution of children, and child pornography are all forms of this crime. CSEC in travel and tourism often takes place in hotels and uses other travel infrastructure. Therefore, work-

ing with responsible tourism companies is a powerful way to keep children safe and prevent these crimes.

To see which companies have become signatories of The Code, go to: <http://www.thecode.org/who-have-signed/signatories/>

### How the Hospitality Sector Can Assist the Exploited

The *Blue Campaign* is the unified voice for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) efforts to combat human trafficking. Working with law enforcement, government, and non-governmental and private organizations, the Blue Campaign strives to protect the basic right of freedom and bring those who exploit others to justice.

The hospitality toolkit offers tips and resources that can help inform and educate employees in the hospitality industry about human trafficking.

It includes posters of human trafficking warning signs for four groups of employees:

- Hotel and Motel Staff;
- Housekeeping, Maintenance and Room Staff;
- Concierge, Bellman, Front Desk, Security and Valet Staff;
- Food and Beverage Staff.

These posters can be displayed in common areas of a business where employees congregate (such as staff break, laundry and maintenance rooms).

To access toolkits, go to: <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/materials/toolkits>  
<https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/blue-campaign/toolkits/hospitality-toolkit.pdf>



## Action

## Actions Against Backpage.com



Mary Mazzio, director and producer of *I Am Jane Doe*.

*"It is time for the tech community to be part of the solution, and finally stand with the victims of this devastating crime."*

The film is available on iTunes, Google Play, Amazon, and Netflix.

The film, *I Am Jane Doe*, chronicles the epic battle that several American mothers are waging on behalf of their middle-school daughters, victims of sex-trafficking on Backpage.com, the adult classifieds' site that for years was part of the Village Voice. Reminiscent of Erin Brockovich and Karen Silkwood, these mothers have stood up on behalf of thousands of others, fighting back and refusing to take 'no' for an answer. It is a gut-wrenching human story and a fresh look at social and legal issues that affect every community in America. Read more:

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/01/16/i-am-jane-doe-takes-on-backpage>

On Feb. 11, 2017, a day after *I Am Jane Doe* screened in Washington DC, *Shared Hope International* and *ECPAT*, two anti-trafficking NGOs, convened a Congressional briefing on the issues raised in the film. Representative Ann Wagner (D-Missouri) announced that she would begin working on an amendment to Communications Decency Act (CDA) Section 230.

*"(The Google) report is one more indication that tech companies have gone out of their way to defend what the U.S. Senate found to be essentially a boiler room operation to facilitate the crime of child sex trafficking,"* said

The trailer can be viewed at:  
<http://www.iamjanedofilm.com/>

## Legislation to Amend CDA Sec. 230

On April 3, 2017 Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO), along with nine co-sponsors, introduced Bill HR 1865, *Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act of 2017*.

The bill amends the *Communications Decency Act of 1934* to specify that communications decency provisions protecting providers or users of interactive computer services from liability for the private blocking or screening of offensive material shall not be construed to impair the enforcement of, or limit availability of victim restitution or civil remedies under state or federal criminal or civil laws relating to sexual exploitation of children or sex trafficking.

The bill amends the federal criminal code to specify the violation for benefiting from participation in a venture engaged in sex trafficking of children, or by force, fraud, or coercion, includes *'knowing or reckless conduct by any person or entity and by any means that furthers or in any way aids or abets the violation'*.

**Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline**  
National Human Trafficking  
Resource Center  
1.888.3737.888  
Text 'Help' at: BeFree  
(233733)

**Informative Web Sites:**  
(Each contains information related to human trafficking)

***"Denial of Harm: Sex Trafficking, Backpage, and Free Speech Absolutism,"***

*Dignity: A Journal on Sexual Exploitation and Violence*  
<http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/dignity/vol2/iss1/8>

**Report Child Sex Tourism**  
<https://www.justice.gov/criminal-ceos/report-violations#reporttourism>

**Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct**  
<http://www.ecpatusa.org/code>

A provider of an interactive computer service that publishes information provided by an information content provider with reckless disregard that the information is in furtherance of a sex trafficking offense shall be subject to a criminal fine or imprisonment for not more than 20 years.

Currently the bill is in the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

To follow the progress of this bill, go to: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1865>

**Stop Trafficking!** is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among USCSAHT members and organizations, collaborating to eliminate all forms of human trafficking.

To access back issues of *Stop Trafficking!*, go to: <http://www.stopenslavement.org/>

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