

Where can I get more information or assistance with serving victims of human trafficking?

Victims of human trafficking are eligible for services, and have legal rights that must be protected. USCCB and Catholic Social Services staff can assist with guidance in navigating law enforcement referrals and eligibility for services. If you believe that you are aware of a potential victim of human trafficking, or if you have any questions about the issue, please phone one of the following:

- **Special Immigrant Populations Project** at **215-313-9008** to screen potential victims, inform victims of their rights, and obtain assistance for victims as they move forward. This line is funded by the Department of Justice.
- **Trafficking in Persons Information and Referral Hotline** at **1-888-373-7888** to screen potential victims and identify local services available to assist the victim. This hotline is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services and by the Office of Refugee Resettlement.
- **Trafficking in Persons And Worker Exploitation Task Force complaint line** at **1-888-428-7581** to begin an investigation of a suspected case by federal law enforcement authorities. This hotline is funded by the U.S. Departments of Justice and Labor.

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Other SIPP services

The Special Immigrant Populations Project convenes an Advisory Board and Coalition that includes law enforcement agencies and services providers, and who are working towards developing a more collaborative and client-centered approach to serving survivors of human trafficking.

Other services offered through the Special Immigrant Populations Project include:

- Outreach and education for law enforcement, medical professionals, and social and legal service providers on special characteristics and needs of trafficking survivors
- Training and technical assistance to providers in the Mid-Atlantic Region serving victims of trafficking
- Public awareness and outreach events

For information about training and education opportunities for your group or organization, please contact the Special Immigrant Populations Project. We can be reached by phone or e-mail:

Special Immigrant Populations Project

Phone: 215.313.9008

E-mail: sippproject@gmail.com



Take a closer look

Special Immigrant Populations Project
Catholic Social Services, Archdiocese of Philadelphia
227 North 18th St.
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Phone: 215.313.9008

Take a closer look

Special Immigrant Populations Project



The trade in human persons constitutes a shocking offense against human dignity and a grave violation of fundamental human rights.

-Pope John Paul II

**A Catholic Social Services Program for Survivors of Human Trafficking:
In collaboration with the
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and
the U.S. Department of Justice**



What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is modern day slavery.

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It is the recruitment, transport, sale, or receipt of persons within or across national borders through force, fraud, or coercion to place the persons in slavery or slavery-like work conditions.

Around the world, women, men, and children are forced into prostitution, sweatshops, domestic servitude, or labor for little or no pay. Worldwide estimates of trafficked persons range from 800,000 to 900,000 per year. Approximately 18,000 to 20,000 of those people are trafficked into the United States.

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In 2000, Congress passed the **Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)** which provides immigration relief and social services to eligible victims of trafficking. Congress defines “severe forms of trafficking in persons” as:

- sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform the act is under 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.

How to recognize a victim of human trafficking:

Human trafficking includes more than forced prostitution. Trafficked persons may be forced to work in any of the following areas:

- Agricultural work
- Factory or sweatshop labor
- Domestic servitude (i.e., housekeeping, child- or elder-care)
- Restaurant labor
- Sex work

This is not an exhaustive list of potential activities in which a victim may be forced to participate. Victims of human trafficking may also be forced into criminal activity, begging, or any number of other activities.

Look for these observable signs in a potential victim:

- Evidence of being controlled
- Evidence of inability to move or leave job
- Bruises or other signs of physical abuse
- Fear of employer or depression
- Not speaking for him or herself and/or non-English speaking
- No form of identification or travel documentation

Questions that may be helpful in identifying a victim:

- What type of work do you do?
- Are you being paid? How much?
- Who organized your travel and work?
- Do you owe your employer money?
- Can you leave your job if you want?
- Have you or your family been threatened?
- Has your identification or travel documentation been taken from you?

Services available to victims of human trafficking:

Under the TVPA, survivors of human trafficking may be eligible for special immigrant status, and for federally-funded services through both public and private agencies.

Through the Department of Justice and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Social Services of Philadelphia is able to provide services to victims of human trafficking in the Mid-Atlantic Region upon identification and prior to certification.

The Special Immigrant Populations Project works with law enforcement, medical professionals and other potential points of contact to identify human trafficking survivors, to secure their safety, and ensure that they obtain such things as:

- Housing
- Medical/mental health services
- Food/clothing/personal items
- Interpreter services
- Cultural orientation
- Legal representation for immigration needs, including application for T Visa and for Certification

Upon certification, adult survivors of human trafficking are eligible for public services and benefits to the same extent as refugees. These benefits include food stamps, cash and/or medical assistance, and self-sufficiency programs.

Child and youth survivors of human trafficking are also eligible for benefits under the TVPA. In addition to the benefits available to adult survivors, children and youth are also eligible for culturally appropriate care within a family or group environment, depending on the child or youth’s developmental needs.

