



**Belleville Area Cares
Coalition**

**BELLEVILLE AREA CARES
COALITION**

AODA PREVENTION

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

January 2023

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

More than 23 years ago, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 enshrined the US's commitment to combating human trafficking domestically and internationally. In 2010, by presidential proclamation, President Obama declared January "National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month" and every year since, each president has followed this tradition.

Presidential proclamations not only raise the profile of the issue, but are also snapshots of global trends and challenges, and significant U.S. anti-trafficking policy achievements. Some highlights include:

- In 2012, the issuance of the Executive Order 'Strengthening Protections Against Trafficking in Persons in Federal Contracts';
- In 2016, the first convening of the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking;
- In 2017, the State Department's launch of its largest anti-trafficking program, the Program to End Modern Slavery; and
- In 2021, the release of the updated National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking.

What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked worldwide – including right here in the United States. Human trafficking occurs when a perpetrator, often referred to as a trafficker, takes an Action, and then employs the Means of force, fraud or coercion for the Purpose of compelling the victim to provide commercial sex acts or labor or services. At a minimum, one element from each column must be present to establish a potential situation of human trafficking.

Trafficking can happen to anyone, but some people are more vulnerable than others. Significant risk factors include recent migration or relocation, substance use, mental health concerns, involvement with the children welfare system and being a runaway or homeless youth. Perpetrators of human trafficking span all racial, ethnic, and gender demographics and are as diverse as survivors. Some use their privilege, wealth, and power as a means of control while others experience the same socio-economic oppression as their victims.

**NATIONAL
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE**

1-888-373-7888

Human Trafficking Online

Between 2019 and 2020, traditional recruitment sites such as bus stations, strip clubs, mental health facilities, malls, and private foster homes all experienced significant declines. At the same time, Facebook experienced a 125% increase in trafficking recruitment. Public health measures implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. social distancing, quarantining, temporary closures of commercial and public spaces) made it more difficult for traffickers to recruit from traditional physical locations, so traffickers increasingly turned to the Internet. The nearly 95% increase only rivals that number in those using Instagram to find victims. In 2020, the Human Trafficking Hotline identified 22% increase in online recruitment trafficking schemes and reported the internet as the top recruitment location for all forms of trafficking.



Individuals often share posts, updates, and content that describe their hobbies and interests and express their frustrations and hardships. Traffickers leverage this information to exploit vulnerabilities and tailor escalating manipulation tactics, grooming individuals by offering empathy and support, forming emotional connections, and building trust and confidence. In cases of labor exploitation, traffickers will use social media to scout job seekers or those experiencing financial hardships and then use online job boards and employment websites to recruit them through false advertisements.

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As a result of the increase of online trafficking and harassment, the Biden Administration launched a Task Force to address online harassment and abuse. This task force is an interagency effort to increase prevention, response, and



protection measures related to the proliferation of technology-facilitated violence—including human trafficking while also developing programs and policies to address the disproportionate impact of online violence on women, girls, people of color, and LGBTQIA+ individuals.

Human Trafficking Book Recommendations

Human Trafficking Around the World: Hidden in Plain Sight by Rita James Simon and Stephanie Hepburn:

This unprecedented study of sex trafficking, forced labor, organ trafficking, and sex tourism across twenty-four nations highlights the experiences of the victims, perpetrators, and anti-traffickers involved in this brutal trade. Combining statistical data with intimate accounts and interviews, journalist Stephanie Hepburn and justice scholar Rita J. Simon create a dynamic volume sure to educate and spur action.

Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World Where Girls are Not for Sale by Rachel Lloyd:

In *Girls Like Us*, Lloyd reveals the dark world of commercial sex trafficking in cinematic detail and tells the story of her groundbreaking nonprofit organization: GEMS, Girls Educational and Mentoring Services. With great humanity, she shares the stories of the girls whose lives GEMS has helped—small victories that have healed her wounds and made her whole. Revelatory, authentic, and brave, *Girls Like Us* is an unforgettable memoir.

Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy by Kevin Bales:

“*Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy*” examines what present day slavery in the 20th (and 21st) century looks like. It does so via five case histories oriented around the persistence of slavery in Thailand, Mauritania, Brazil, Pakistan and India. Each of the stories illustrates a new type of trafficking and slavery in the world.

Human Trafficking: The Complexities of Exploitation by Margaret Malloch & Paul Rigby:

What is human trafficking? Despite legislative developments and national and international interventions, we still lack firm definitions, estimates of its full extent, effective responses to perpetrators and sound survivor care. This volume critically examines the competing discourses surrounding human trafficking, the conceptual basis of global responses and the impact of these horrific acts worldwide.

Unbroken Chains: The Hidden Role of Human Trafficking in the American Economy by Melissa Ditmore:

Unbroken Chains tells these workers’ stories: They are nannies for New York City’s diplomatic elites and door-to-door magazine salespeople in the American South. A trafficked person may have harvested your produce, sewn your clothes, or cleaned your apartment lobby. Ditmore offers readers an illuminating window on the world of forced labor, which exists within our own, and a road map for participating in its destruction.

The Great Escape: A True Story of Forced Labor and Immigrant Dreams in America by Saket Soni:

In this eye-opening true story about immigrants in America, a visionary labor leader devises a plan that wins the citizenship of 500 workers from India after being exposed to inhumane conditions.

Blood and Earth: Modern Slavery, Ecocide, and the Secret to Saving the World by Kevin Bales:

For readers of such crusading works of nonfiction as Katherine Boo’s *Beyond the Beautiful Forevers* and Tracy Kidder’s *Mountains Beyond Mountains* comes a powerful and captivating examination of two entwined global crises: environmental destruction and human trafficking—and an inspiring, bold plan for how we can solve them.

Belleville is a small community southwest of Madison in Dane and Green Counties. Belleville is a special place to visit because of its natural beauty, recreational activities and friendly people and atmosphere. Belleville is a great community for families seeking a solid educational system along with the natural amenities of the community.

The Belleville Area Cares Coalition came into existence following a town hall meeting in April of 2014.



We are comprised of local representatives from schools, businesses, churches, village administration as well as parents, and youth—all working together to promote healthy lifestyles

More information can be found at : <https://www.bellevillewicare.org/>

BACC meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 4:45 pm in the Belleville Village Hall.

BACC Mission Statement

“The mission of Belleville’s Area Cares Coalition is to promote a healthy community for youth and young adults, free of alcohol and other drug abuse.”

The Belleville Area Cares Coalition works to develop, implement and support environmental strategies to reduce substance abuse.

We believe by working together, we can nurture social and environmental changes to make the Belleville area a safer and healthier place, brightening the future of our children, youth and families.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The BAAC asks you to give the gift of time. Make a difference in the lives of our youth and our community by

1. Working with us in providing support for planning, project management and awareness campaigns
2. Helping with coalition events, conferences, workshops, and fairs held throughout the year.
3. Being a voice for change in our community, it is time to come together and be that force for change in the Belleville area.