



Recruitment of vulnerable children and adults for sex and other forms of trafficking happens in all our communities. Youth who have experienced trauma, foster youth in unstable or group home situations, and those who have aged out of the system without a permanent family are particularly vulnerable to exploitation by traffickers.

But there is hope! Local churches and Christians, often in partnership with local organizations, can be a powerful force for prevention as well as rescue and restoration, for those whose lives have been ensnared by human trafficking.

FIVE CATEGORIES FOR LOCAL CHURCH ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ **AWARENESS AND EDUCATION:** Resourcing and equipping for pre-teens to adults, to prepare congregants in helping prevent, identify and disrupt human trafficking (e.g. curriculum, educational events and webinars)
- ▶ **RECRUITMENT PREVENTION:** Relationship-building efforts to decrease vulnerability and increase protections for potential trafficking victims (e.g. mentorship, family preservation, foster care and adoption)
- ▶ **DEFUSING OFFENDERS:** Reaching out in love and mercy to participants, or those at risk for participation, in recruitment or illegal/immoral engagement with victims (e.g. anti-pornography efforts, discipling men in prison, strip club ministries)
- ▶ **MARKETPLACE DISRUPTION:** Focus on victim identification and rescue at businesses that directly or indirectly participate in trafficking activities (e.g. strip clubs, hotels, airports, bus stations, truck stops)
- ▶ **SURVIVOR SERVICES:** Creating holistic healing environments, resources and opportunities to help trafficking survivors thrive (e.g. safe houses, spiritual care, substance abuse treatment, mental health care, transportation, education and employment opportunities, reintegration)

NOTE: Explore local anti-trafficking organizations and law enforcement agencies for awareness/education opportunities for your church, as well as next steps for partnership and hands-on involvement in your community.