

BUSINESS TRAVEL

Who You Are Matters: Combating Trafficking Every Day

Molly begins her day by taking an early train to the airport. As she walks into the bathroom at the train station, she notices a poster on the wall that has information on who to call if you suspect human trafficking. She is keeping her eyes open for unaccompanied minors traveling alone or appearing to be approached by someone they do not recognize.

During her flight, Molly asks the flight attendants if they are familiar with the issue of human trafficking and how it relates to their industry. She shares with them that there is an organization that offers such training to airlines, and she encourages the flight attendant to learn more to share with their carrier.

As Molly walks through baggage claim, she continues to be alert for any suspicious activity. She is equipped with the National Human Trafficking Hotline number programmed in her phone and the website bookmarked so that she can make an anonymous tip if necessary. Molly also took the time to research if there was a local Task Force in the area she would be traveling to so that if needed, she could reach out to them as well.

Molly has a rental car to drive to her final destination. As she travels, she will have to refuel, purchase food, and possibly use a rest stop. These are all places where she can be aware of suspicious activity, as car transportation is the most often method of travel used for transporting victims.

Molly can ask any restaurants and gas stations if they have learned about human trafficking and if they have any materials or postings to educate customers and reach out to victims.

As Molly checks into her hotel she is reminded that before she booked her hotel, she looked up their policies to combat human trafficking. They have received a seal from an organization that offers training to employees. The hotel has taken a stand on the issue to identify sex traffickers who may wish to utilize their hotel and to prevent labor trafficking from occurring in their work force and supply chain.

Today, Molly was reminded of the many ways that trafficking can occur and the ways it intersects with her regular travel routine. She is encouraged to know that she can be eyes and ears to what was going around her where this might occur and that by simply having the national human trafficking hotline number programmed, she can make a difference by calling in a tip. One tip, added with others, builds a case and helps law enforcement begin to see victims that may be hidden in plain sight. She knows not to underestimate that her one tip could lead a rescue.

Molly did not have to start or join an initiative, she simply enhanced what she was already doing in her usual routine of business travel.

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Human trafficking often occurs in the United States by some mode of transportation – on the roadways in a city or between states, on trains, at bus stations, and by air travel. Individuals who travel often can have key roles in identifying victims in need and equipping law enforcement with the important details needed to start an investigation or build a case.

As a business professional, you can make a big difference with simple adjustments to what you are already doing every day! Consider the following:

- Learn the signs of sex and labor trafficking. Know what to look for to identify women, men, girls, and boys who are in need of assistance.
- Program the National Human Trafficking Hotline (888-373-7888) into your personal and work mobile devices, and bookmark www.humantraffickinghotline.org so that you can quickly and anonymously report any suspicious activity you see on the roadways, rest stops, truck stops, train stations, bus stations, airport, or elsewhere in your travels.
- Ask if your air carrier, driver, or transportation company has been trained on how to identify and report human trafficking. Make it known to the companies you utilize frequently that doing so is important. Explore organizations like Airline Ambassadors (www.airlineamb.org) and Truckers Against Trafficking (www.truckersagainstrafficking.org) to see how.
- Share information with your colleagues about human trafficking and how they can identify and report it.
- Make note of posters and materials that do a great job of catching your attention and spreading information, and share about these (often free) materials in places where you do not see any materials posted.
- Donate unused or extra frequent flyer miles to organizations that use them to support a human trafficking survivor's return home.

When we engage together, miracles happen. Eradicating human trafficking will not be an easy task, but the steps to engaging the fight are simple. For more information about combating human trafficking and protecting vulnerable populations as a business, individual, or organization, visit www.engagetogether.com.