

A photograph of a modern church interior, viewed from the back of the sanctuary looking towards the front. The church features wooden pews, a central aisle, and a modern altar area with a cross on the wall. A large yellow circle is overlaid on the image, framing the text.

---

**CHURCH**

**QUICK-START  
GUIDE**

---

**CHURCHES  
CAN PREVENT AND  
END HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

**ENGAGE  
TOGETHER®**  
Created by AFRJ® Powered by Altus™



WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD  
YOU'RE HERE

Churches are already serving in every community and providing a refuge for the vulnerable. They know the needs of their community better than anyone. Each member of your congregation has an important role in preventing and ending human trafficking, as does your church as a whole. Congregations can leverage their skills, talents, gifts, and resources to end human trafficking and prevent it from happening in the first place. As a church leader, you can make a big difference with simple additions to what you are already doing every day. Below are common questions and answers to help you understand how churches can make a difference. You will find resources at the end with direct links to get you the information you need to get started!

---

**HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

# ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE



## **WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING, IN THE U.S. AND ABROAD?**

Human trafficking knows no geographic or economic bounds. It happens in urban cities and rural communities. It can occur in a variety of industries, such as construction, hospitality, and farming. Knowing what human trafficking looks like can help your staff and members identify and report in the communities you serve, in the U.S. and abroad.

## **WHERE IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAPPENING?**

Human trafficking has been reported in all 50 states and may occur in countries where you serve or support missionaries. You can be aware of the types of human trafficking and demographic data that have been reported in every state and country, equipping your members and missionaries with the information they need to be knowledgeable about vulnerabilities specific communities face.

## **HOW YOUTH ARE VULNERABLE**

Data has shown that human trafficking is happening in every state in the U.S. While there is no one face of a human trafficking victim, human trafficking disproportionately affects vulnerable individuals, including children in foster care, runaway and homeless youth, refugees, and those facing challenging situations, such as poverty, homelessness, or domestic violence.

Teens are vulnerable to human trafficking for many reasons outside of their control. They often face challenging or unstable family situations, making them at-risk to traffickers who seek to build trust and relationships before exploiting them. Youth often seek connection, affirmation, popularity, and acceptance from their friend groups, social media, and other outlets in the community. These are all ways that traffickers can monitor and engage with potential victims, establishing relationships before turning on them. Knowing the vulnerabilities, dangers, and risk-factors youth face can allow youth ministers, mentors, and outreach volunteers to talk to youth, offer support, and meet needs where traffickers would look to exploit.

---

## ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE CONTINUED



### **SUPPORT VULNERABLE YOUTH & YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE**

Churches exist everywhere, and often already seek to meet the needs of those facing difficulties in their communities. Enhancing what youth ministries and church outreaches are already doing is a simple way that churches and leaders can engage. Supporting foster care families with tangible needs, grocery and laundry help, mentorship, and respite are ways that members can offer support to these families and fill gaps where traffickers would seek to step in. Churches can provide crucial assistance alongside government and community efforts to help end and prevent human trafficking from happening in the communities they serve.

### **INCORPORATING BIBLE STUDIES AND PRAYER GUIDES**

Churches can include/incorporate human trafficking into designated prayer times. Prayer guides exist to help members know how to specifically pray for individuals impacted by trafficking and the issues that surround it. Churches can also introduce human trafficking and social justice to members, both youth and adults, through Bible studies that are specific to these topics. Equipping members with resources for further study can enhance their understanding and engagement.

### **HOW CAN WE INCORPORATE FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS?**

Your church can support farmers with fair wages by purchasing fair trade products, including coffee to serve before and after your services and during fellowship events. Church bookstores can carry fair trade and survivor-made products to economically empower survivors. Explore products from the U.S. and from countries around the world.

### **SHARING WITH MISSIONS TEAMS AND MISSIONARIES**

Whether your missions and outreach are focused locally or abroad, your members who serve in this capacity can be educated on what makes certain populations vulnerable, warning signs to look for, and simple ways they can step in where a trafficker would look to fill a void. If they know tactics of traffickers, build relationships with other churches, organizations, and leaders, they can be equipped to prevent human trafficking and help end it. Program phones with local hotline contacts to ensure members can report any suspicious activity they see.



---

## ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE CONTINUED

---

### **HOW CAN I RECEIVE CURRENT UPDATES ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING?**

Following trusted organizations on social media and specific hashtags can help you have the latest information and be inspired with ways you can engage. Staying up-to-date with new resources, facts, cases, and ways others are engaging will help you know trends and changes in the movement. You can also sign up for google alerts about human trafficking in your community.

### **HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

Your church and church members are uniquely positioned in your community. Discover how you can leverage the passion, skills, and interests your church and your congregation already have to influence your community. Whether through prevention, identification, rescue/exit, restoration, or reforms, there are many ways you can practically engage. Sign up for an Engage Together® Toolkit Plus membership to receive access to toolkits and resources filled with action items, ideas, and practical examples to help you engage and make a difference.

### **WHAT'S THE FIRST STEP?**

Equipping your staff, leaders, and missionaries with the knowledge they need is the first step in getting started. Getting educated on what human trafficking is, who is vulnerable, and how you can report gives everyone the foundation they need to take action. Churches interact with vulnerable populations every day, and when made aware of what to look for, they can help prevent human trafficking. Whether you are serving your local community or deploying and supporting missionaries abroad, the free Justice U™ Human Trafficking Awareness course will help you gain a better understand of human trafficking.

QUICKLINKS

# RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES

- To learn more about the different types of human trafficking, review the [typology of modern slavery](#) from the Polaris Project.
- Discover "[Is Human Trafficking happening In My Community?](#)" with the Engage Together® Blog.
- Review the [National Human Trafficking Hotline statistics](#) for any state in the U.S. to learn the top types of trafficking reported, venues/industries for labor and sex trafficking, gender, age, and more.
- Review the [Global Slavery Index](#) and the [State Department TIP Report](#) to find specifics on human trafficking in the countries you serve.
- Learn how some communities are more vulnerable than others, myths and common misconceptions, and more with the Engage Together® Blog, [Human Trafficking 101: Who are the victims?](#)
- Find out the "[5 Reasons Foster Youth Become Human Trafficking Victims](#)" with the Engage Together® Blog.

---

# RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES

## CONTINUED



- Watch [awareness videos](#) from the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign to learn how youth are vulnerable, how youth are recruited in schools, and how students can become entrapped.
- Learn the [5 Risks for Youth Online](#) and what you can do from the Engage Together® blog. This article offers practical things you can do with over 10 resources for information.
- [Netsmartz](#) offers resources specific for kids, youth, and teens to talk to them about dangers online and the activities they engage in. Equip yourself with these teaching resources and share the videos with parents and youth.
- Review the [How To Talk To Youth About Human Trafficking](#) toolkit from Department of Homeland Security.
- Review the Blue Campaign to learn what human trafficking looks like for youth, lifestyle factors that contribute to their vulnerability, and ways to approach the topic, whether in a group setting or individually. [Faith Alliance Against Slavery and Trafficking \(FAAST\)](#) offers human trafficking prevention and awareness Bible studies for youth and adults as well as prayer guides for churches and leaders.
- Learn [what fair trade is](#), how it supports farmers with fair wages, and [why it is good for business](#). Shop [Fair Trade Certified](#) and [Fair Trade America](#) products to add to your church bookstore or share with members.
- Learn what Freedom Businesses are in the Engage Together® Blog "[Businesses That Bring Freedom](#)" and explore the list of companies that offer products made by survivors. Consider how your church can offer products in their bookstore.
- Get started by following trusted social media outlets, such as The Blue Campaign [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#), Polaris [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) & [Instagram](#), Shared Hope International [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), & [Instagram](#).
- Follow social media hashtags: [#endhumantrafficking](#), [#humantrafficking](#)

---

# RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES

## CONTINUED

---

- Sign-up for [Engage Together® Online Access](#) to get access to toolkits and resources filled with action items, ideas, and practical examples to help you engage and make a difference as a business professional.
- The [Engage Together® Church Teaching Series](#) equips churches with the knowledge, resources, ideas, and strategies needed to move forward in their efforts to end human trafficking and to protect the vulnerable in their local community. For leaders and facilitators, an Engage Together® Church Group Membership will give you all you need to guide your membership in developing an action plan unique to your church's strengths and your community's needs.
- The free [Justice U™ Human Trafficking Awareness Course](#) will educate you on what human trafficking is, who is vulnerable, how to report and more. Earn your digital badge and share with your network.



WE'RE HERE  
TO HELP

---

FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR ASSISTANCE,  
CONTACT US AT  
[CONNECT@ENGAGETOGETHER.COM](mailto:CONNECT@ENGAGETOGETHER.COM)





# ENGAGE TOGETHER®

Created by AFRJ® Powered by Altus™

Engage Together® provides both individuals and organizations the ideas, tools, insights, connections, and resources they need to end and prevent human trafficking in their local community.



Follow us on social @engagetogether

[engagetogether.com](https://engagetogether.com)

[connect@engagetogether.com](mailto:connect@engagetogether.com)

