



Uncovering the Brutal Reality of Human Trafficking

**A Presentation by
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Chief Executive Officer - OICA**





Introduction

Human trafficking is a global issue affecting millions of people. It involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to exploit individuals for labor or commercial sex. This presentation will examine the brutal reality of human trafficking and highlight the urgent need for action.

In Oklahoma, the Human Trafficking Hotline has received 3,153 contacts since its inception in 2007, mostly from calls, text messages, or online reports. The Human Trafficking Hotline has identified 887 cases of human trafficking, with 2,059 victims identified in these cases.



What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of threat, use of force or other forms of coercion for the purpose of exploitation. Victims are often subjected to **violence**, **abuse** and **exploitation**. It is a serious violation of human rights.

Types of Human Trafficking

There are two main types of human trafficking: **sex trafficking** and **labor trafficking**. Sex trafficking involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to compel a person to engage in commercial sex acts. Labor trafficking involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to compel a person to work or provide services.



Those Most at Risk

The U.S. populations most vulnerable to human trafficking include:

- **Children in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, including foster care.**
- **Runaway and homeless youth.**
- **Unaccompanied foreign national children without lawful immigration status.**
- **Native Americans and Alaska Natives, particularly women and girls. Individuals with drug addictions.**
- **Migrant laborers, including undocumented workers and participants in visa programs for temporary workers.**
- **Foreign national domestic workers in diplomatic households.**
- **Persons with limited English proficiency.**
- **Persons with disabilities.**
- **LGBT+ individuals.**
- **Participants in court-ordered substance use diversion programs.**



What Makes Children Vulnerable?

1. **Emotional vulnerabilities** (feeling lonely, desperate to belong, or in need of love).
2. **Poverty** (needing work in order to take care of family or pay for education, sometimes needing to move or migrate to find work).
3. **Aspects that make minors different and outcasts within their community** (sexual orientation, disability, or being new to a setting).
4. **Lack of family or community support** (being a runaway or throwaway, lacking parental supervision, being neglected).
5. **Presence of violence in the home** (physical, sexual, or emotional abuse).





Not Just Children

A 2019 report from the **Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women** noted that many believed that only children are victims of human trafficking; but it is even worse than that. The reality is many current adults who are trapped in human trafficking were first exploited as children, often by their mothers or fathers. This ties in with research done into generational trauma and the impact of how children are raised, carrying on actions into their own adult lives.

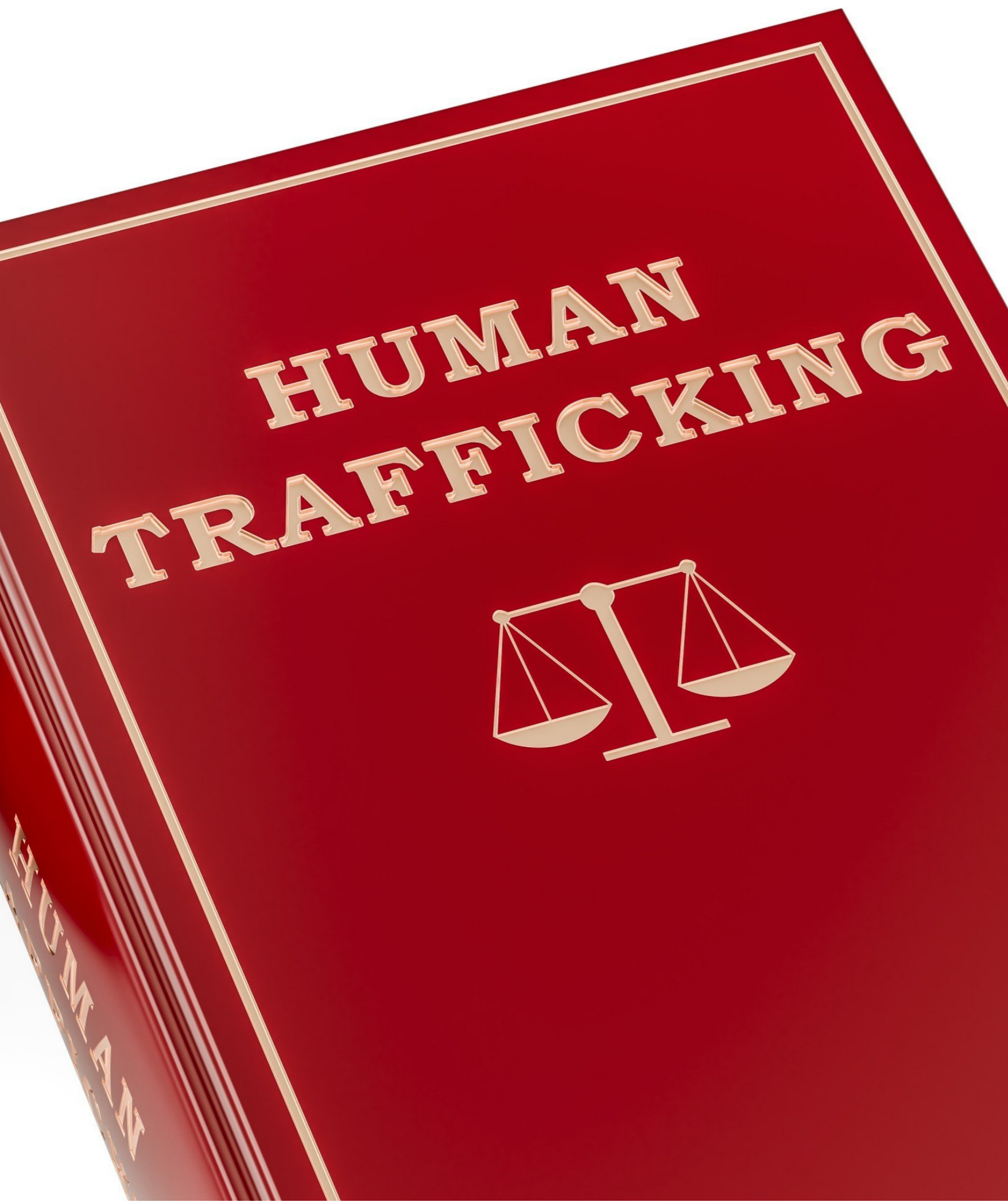
Traffickers Don't Need Roads

A common **misconception** is that most victims' entries into human trafficking occur through **random abductions** from front yards parking lots or because of our **highways**.

Traffickers can reach potential victims online - so it is critical parents monitor children's internet contacts.

Many **trafficking victims who were born and grew up in Oklahoma are trafficked right here in Oklahoma**, without even leaving their hometowns.





The Role of Governments and Organizations

Governments and organizations play a critical role in preventing and combating human trafficking. This includes **implementing laws and policies to protect victims, raising awareness about human trafficking, and providing support and services to survivors.** **Collaboration between governments and organizations is essential in the fight against human trafficking.**

Oklahoma law defines human trafficking as modern-day slavery that includes, but is not limited to, extreme exploitation and the denial of a person's freedom or liberty for the purpose of deriving benefit from that person's commercial sex act or labor. (Okla. Stat. Tit. 21 § 748). The crime is a felony in Oklahoma and is punishable by five years to life in prison, or a fine of up to \$100,000, or both

Why & How to Stop Trafficking

Trafficking is lucrative. As of June 23, 2021, the U.S. Department of Labor's **List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor** comprised **155 goods from 77 countries**. Gold, bricks, and sugarcane were the goods most listed as being products of forced labor, while bricks, cotton, and garments were those most listed as being produced by child labor.

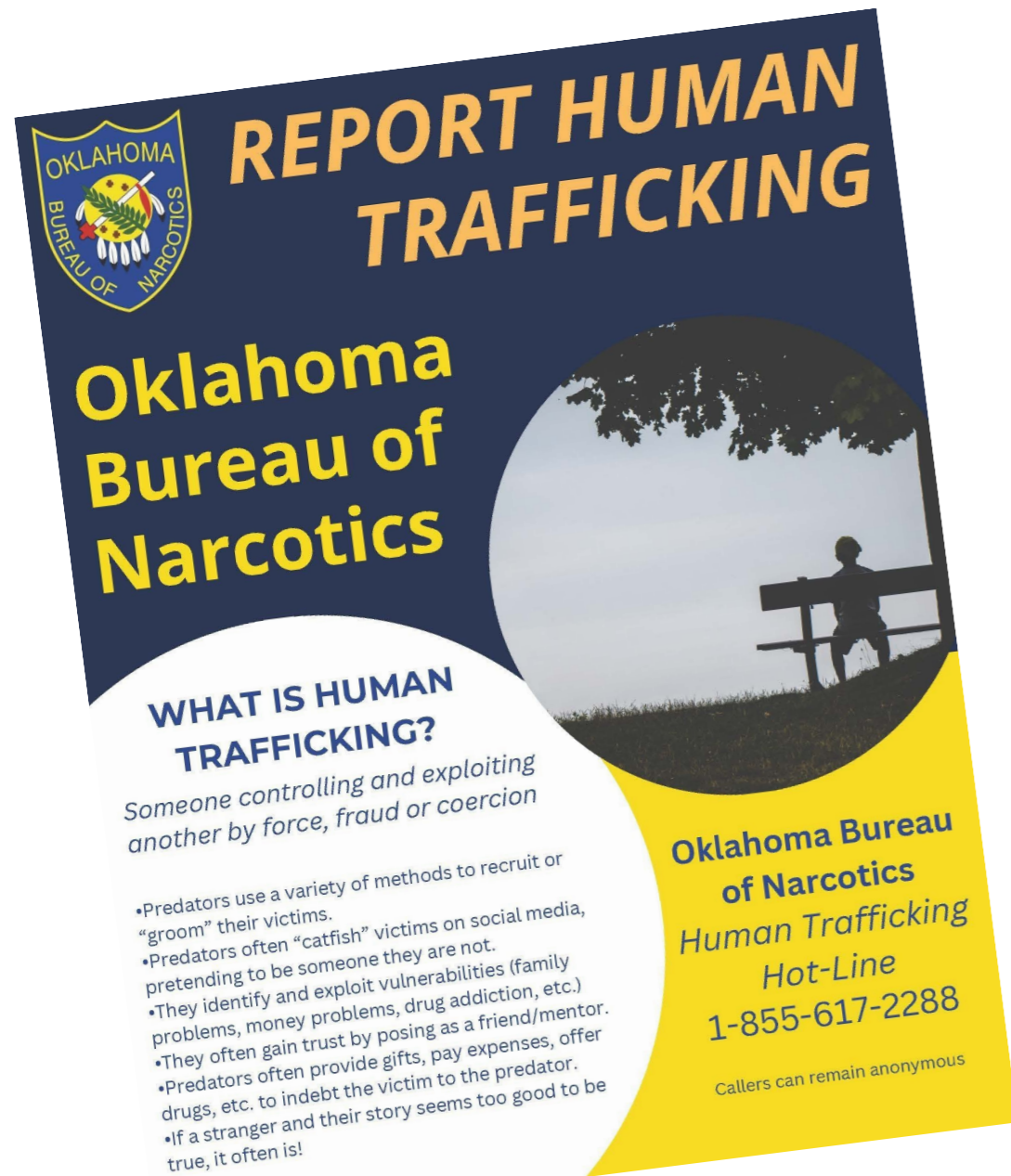
To stop trafficking, policymakers must look for ways to make it unprofitable.

To reduce **vulnerabilities of potential victims**, efforts to **strengthen the social safety net** for those suffering from **poverty, drug abuse, unstable living situations, and sexual or domestic abuse** will **reduce the supply of potential victims to be exploited by traffickers**.

Resources

Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond
Victims Services Unit - 405.521.3921

National Human Trafficking Hotline
888.373.7888 or
Text 233733



REPORT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?
Someone controlling and exploiting another by force, fraud or coercion

- Predators use a variety of methods to recruit or "groom" their victims.
- Predators often "catfish" victims on social media, pretending to be someone they are not.
- They identify and exploit vulnerabilities (family problems, money problems, drug addiction, etc.)
- They often gain trust by posing as a friend/mentor.
- Predators often provide gifts, pay expenses, offer drugs, etc. to indebted the victim to the predator.
- If a stranger and their story seems too good to be true, it often is!

Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics
Human Trafficking
Hot-Line
1-855-617-2288
Callers can remain anonymous



918.7HELP.ME (918.743.5763)



918.245.4075



405.212.3377 or
Toll-Free 855.674.4767

Thank You!

OICA appreciates Senator Darrell Weaver for requesting the interim study, and for each of you in attendance. If you have any questions or need additional insight on this insidious problem, contact:

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