



10 Ways You Can Fight Human Trafficking

Beauty for Freedom

1. LEARN ABOUT IT

Modern day slavery is an issue that few people really understand. Human Trafficking is a global crisis and is exploiting victims in a \$150 Billion Industry. Spend your time reading and researching all the areas that trafficking exists and how perpetrators participate in the exploitation of trafficking. Trafficking exists in the form of sex exploitation, child labor, illegal supply chain management, domestic servitude, etc. Start with reading the U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report.

2. ALIGN WITH NON-PROFITS VIA SOCIAL MEDIA

Research anti-trafficking organizations in your community and globally to learn more about the issues, what they are doing to combat it and supporting survivors. Follow them so you can be aware and reminded that this is happening in US too. Identify with a NGO you are passionate about and reach out.

3. DONATE AND FUNDRAISE

Find a way to get involved and be part of the solution. Donations at any size are a starting point to your start in contributing at a larger scale. Smaller non-profits benefit from any donation that work toward prevention, intervention, after-care, empowerment workshops, self-care supplies, etc.

Once you see the results from your contribution, you can decide to get further involved with an NGO in the community by hosting a fundraiser and/or volunteering. Your support in sharing the message to your community is critical in building momentum for this cause.

KEY NOTE: Be sure to research the NGO/Foundation to ensure a quality charity. Look at their work and impact to identify which org is best for you.

4. VOLUNTEER

Research local anti-trafficking non-profits that you align with and volunteer. Human Trafficking exists in every industry and you can dedicate time to a cause most aligned with your values and where you feel you can contribute the most. Most charities are understaffed and underfunded so your help will be appreciated.

5. CORPORATE INVOLVEMENT

Investigate if your company or if any of your corporate network supports non-profits through volunteer day participation, matching donations and/or grant funding. Socially conscious companies support employees who volunteer and find ways to "Give Back" to the causes employees support.

6. BUY FAIR TRADE

When you wake up in the morning, put on your clothes, have a cup of coffee, think to yourself if it came at a cost of a life. Recognize that men, women and children are enslaved on fishing boats, fielding coffee beans, harvesting chocolate and not being paid for hard labor.

Now that you know illegal labor practices, child labor and illegal supply management occurs, it's important to research the products you buy and if those companies have strict guidelines in place. Socially Responsible companies will state that clearly on their products and on their website. Make a positive impact by buying from companies that support fair wages and stop purchasing products from companies participating in illegal labor practices.

7. USE YOUR VOICE

The power of your voice can travel to your community, across states and overseas with the easy access to online platforms (social media, news, etc). Knowing the issues is one thing and sharing that message is another. Host dinner parties to talk with friends, post messages on your social media about the signs, write a letter to your local senator or community board member. Let them know that Human Trafficking is an important issue to you and ask them how they are working to fight it in your state or community. The top 4 highly trafficked states are TX, CA, FL, NY.

8. PARTICIPATE IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

During the month of January, advocates, organizations, and individuals unite to raise awareness about the issues of human trafficking. Decide to host an awareness rally or fundraising campaign in January (online or in your community) and help raise more attention to this movement.

9. STOP TRAFFICKING EFFORTS IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

If you see something, say something. If you suspect a trafficking situation to be occurring in your area, go online or call the national human trafficking hotline at 1-888-373-7888. You can report a completely confidential tip and access an advocate 24/7. In immediate danger, please call 911 first.

10. EMPATHY

Freedom is a human right and we all deserve the right to be free. Our ability to understand, be aware of and be sensitive to the thoughts and feelings of others is due to the fact that we are human. Think of the opportunities you were afforded and remember that it's our duty to help those who can't help themselves. So, do whatever you can to the best of your ability to contribute and participate in this fight.

*ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: Listed on website: www.beautyforfreedom.org