Continuing the Conversation...

Google defines sex trafficking as a crime when men, women and/or children are frequently involved in commercial sex acts. In the U.S., any minor under the age of 18 engaged in commercial sex is automatically considered as victims of sex trafficking under the law. Worldwide, it’s estimated that there are 4.5 million victims of sex trafficking.

www.dhs.gov/blue campaign takes it a step further by saying that any form of human trafficking involves the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services (sex trafficking) through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to voluntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery. From this latest definition, we can see that sex trafficking is actually a form of modern day slavery.

From an article by Margaret Smith (msmith@wickedlocal.com) in the March 7, 2019 Chelmsford Independent, Attorney General Maura Healey states: “This is an activity that exists in Florida, it exists in Massachusetts, it exists all over the country”.

One of the major ways that people are recruited (especially minors) is by way of lies. False jobs are offered on the internet and social media promising great opportunities overseas. Once they arrive at their destination, they are compelled to relinquish their Visas with a promise that the cards will be returned as soon as they have saved enough money to go home again. And the blatant truth is that they will never save enough money to go home again. Why? Because they are forced into abject poverty working many hours a week with pay so low that they can’t escape the poverty, so they can never return home and are stuck in a trafficking operation. The groups that are most likely to be caught up in this web are minority groups. Women and young girls might be entranced with offerings of glamorous jobs such as models or dancers. Once caught up in the trafficking, they soon find that they are being used in the sale of sex.

Unfortunately, our own country is a major haven for the sex trafficking industry. As Google states, once caught up, women and girls can be used in brothels, escort services, massage parlors, strip clubs or hotels or even sold in the streets.

How can you help? One way is to upload photos of your hotel room when you travel. These photos will be used where perpetrators of sex trafficking are committing their crimes. Simply go to traffickcam:https://traffickcam.com.

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