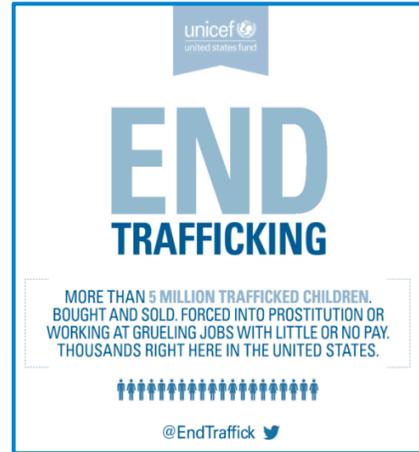


# THE IMPACT ON CHILDREN

**Of the more than 20 million victims of human trafficking globally:**

- **at least 5 million are children**
  - 17,000 of those children are from the United States (46 children every day).
  - Even very small children are forced into labor and are taken away from their families and forced to perform unspeakable acts.
  - Child trafficking victims could be anyone, including relatives, neighbors, or friends.



**Protecting children requires:**

- Timely victim identification.
- Placing children in a safe environment.
- Providing children with social services, health care, psychosocial support.
- Reintegration of children with family and community, if it is in their best interest.
- Training professionals working with children, including social workers, health workers, police and border officials to help stop trafficking and rehabilitate survivors.
- Strengthening laws and policies to prevent future trafficking, including:
  - Establishing minimum labor standards to protect against child labor.
  - Supporting access to education for children.

**Homeless Youth in the United States**

- Approximately 1.68 million U.S. youth experience homelessness each year.
- Unsheltered youth are more likely to fall victim to sexual exploitation.
  - 28% of youth living on the street trade sex for basic needs, such as food or shelter, a practice known as “survival sex.”
- 21 – 42% of runaway and homeless youth were sexually abused before leaving home.
- As many as 75% of runaway youth drop out of school, limiting employment opportunities and wage earnings.
- Street Outreach Programs help 25,000 youth find shelter each year.
  - Since 2008, over 45,000 youth were turned away due to lack of funds & space.
- Upwards of 40% of all American homeless youth identify as LGBT, yet only 7% of the overall U.S. youth population is LGBT.
- LGBT homeless young people are disproportionately likely to be young people of color, compounding the risks and impact of stigma and violence.

**The Convention on the Rights of the Child**

- The convention is a global treaty that sets international standards for protecting children from abuse, violence, and exploitation.
- The US is now the only country in the world that hasn't yet ratified the Convention.