

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## The Problem

Human trafficking is another description for modern day slavery. Around the world criminals buy, sell, rent, transport, and trade people. These people are forced to work or use their bodies against their will. Today over 20 million people around the world are held as slaves, and hundreds of thousands of these slaves are in the U.S. Young people are particularly vulnerable to becoming victims of human trafficking. The problem hits the news when tragedies like the trailer full of people is found in the sweltering heat of San Antonio, or big events like the Super Bowl come to town. However, the problem exists every day online, at malls, on the streets, at truck stops, and other public locations.

## Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking

But we are fighting back. Groups like the Polaris Project, Truckers Against Trafficking, and a variety of different law enforcement coalitions are working hard to create more awareness, get people to report more suspicious activities, and bring the facilitators to justice. Trucking itself has a unique vantage point on the issue. Being out on the road every day truckers see a lot more than the average person. They see the young person with scared eyes at the truck stop silently begging for help. They see the person that doesn't quite fit the situation and looks up to no good. They can report these things to the police and get help to the scene. And all of us can too.

Visit [www.truckersagainsttrafficking.org](http://www.truckersagainsttrafficking.org), [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov), or [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org) for more information about the problem and how you can help.

## Senator Klobuchar's Efforts

One of our own senators, Senator Klobuchar, has been a vocal leader on this issue. Recently she introduced a new bill called the *Combating Human Trafficking in Commercial Vehicles Act* and *No Human Trafficking on Our Roads Act*. If enacted, this law would create a special office within the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration engineered specifically to address human trafficking. The office would help spread awareness and training, as well as help facilitate law enforcement efforts to combat human trafficking. The bill has support on both sides of the aisle, and is also supported by the industry.

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, Senator Klobuchar held a news conference at Dart Transit Company in Eagan with law enforcement officers and trucking executives. She spoke about how truckers can be the first line of defense in spotting potential victims. "This happens at every hour of every day at truck stops around the country in big cities and little towns."



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