**ICAN MINISTRIES**

Human trafficking, which is the exploitation of people for sexual servitude, forced labor, or financial gain, is rampant in many countries. In the U.S., the FBI estimates that foster children are particularly vulnerable to falling victim to sex trafficking and other forms of human trafficking.

Children without families to make them feel loved and cared for are particularly vulnerable to exploitation by sex traffickers. Foster children in large cities like New York and Los Angeles are at the most risk of being targeted. Traffickers will sometimes send one of their girls into group homes to lure other girls to leave. Many girls who end up leaving foster care are trafficked into prostitution where they are routinely subject to physical abuse and violence.

### **7 HUMAN TRAFFICKING STATISTICS THAT PUT THE PROBLEM IN PERSPECTIVE**

#### **SLAVERY *DOES STILL* EXIST.**

Disguised under the term *human trafficking*, it’s one of the fastest-growing crimes. And it often hides in plain sight.

I pray these 7 statistics will shed some light on the global crisis, and that with them, you’ll have a renewed sense of urgency toward this crisis and its victims.

##### **1**. Over 40 million people are trafficked globally on any given year.

40 Million, People. That’s more than the entire population of California. Every 20 seconds someone is trafficked.

The scientific stats say that to every 276 persons, one is a potential victim of Human Trafficking. Which means in Trinidad the at-risk persons in our population of 1.5 million is 5,435.

Within the Seventh Day Adventist Church we have an approximate membership of 20,000, using the same scientific calculations, our at-risk membership number is approximately 72,463 persons.

##### **2.** Out of those 40 million people, 25 million are in forced labor and 15 million are in forced marriage.

Forced labor can take many forms–domestic work, construction, agriculture, sexual exploitation, state-imposed labor.

##### **3.** Women and girls account for 71% of all modern slavery victims.

And of the 4.8 million persons in forced sexual exploitation, **99%** are women and girls.

##### **4**. 1 in 4 victims of human trafficking is a child.

10 million children–more than the whole population of New York City. Of those 10 million, orphans and vulnerable children are among the most at-risk, especially those in poverty.

##### **5.** The industry is estimated to make illegal profits amounting to $150.2 billion per year. Making it the third-largest criminal enterprise in the world, right after drug trafficking and counterfeiting.

##### **6.** It’s happening in all 50 states.

According to the Department of State, the three states with the most human trafficking activity are California, New York, and Texas.

##### **7.** It’s estimated that 60% of child sex trafficking victims in the U.S. have a history in the child welfare system.

In 2013, 60% of victims recovered through FBI raids in the U.S. were from foster care or group homes. Most children rescued were 14 years old.

#### **AND YET, THERE IS HOPE.**

Why do we emphasize the need? Because we know–no matter how big the problem–our God is bigger.

The first step to eradicating a problem is raising its awareness.

**Now that you’re aware, what will you do? Here are some ideas–**

* Pray for victims of trafficking–for those still enslaved and for those who have been rescued.
* Partner with organizations like your church and other NGOS like ICAN Ministries, state agencies like Counter Trafficking Unit of Trinidad and Tobago that are fighting modern-day slavery.
* Sponsor an at-risk child.
* Keep spreading awareness.

#### **PRAY FOR**

#### Orphans and vulnerable children are among the most at-risk of being trafficked especially those in poverty. So, when we seek to meet orphans’ needs, we’re seeking to eliminate those risks from their lives. Partner with us here at the South Caribbean Conference of Seventh Day Adventist in caring for these children through our possibility ministry Initiative.

#### Thank you.