

## Resolution on the Prevention of Child Trafficking

*An official statement from the Global Alliance on Behavioral Health and Social Justice (formerly the American Orthopsychiatric Association) prepared by the Child Trafficking Prevention Task Force*

As a behavioral health organization that is global in scope and that embeds its work in principles of human rights and social justice, we are committed to the prevention of child trafficking.

Trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery, affecting approximately 20.9 million people. Although accurate data regarding trafficking are difficult to obtain given the nature of trafficking, it occurs worldwide, including in every state in the United States. The International Labour Organization estimates that 26% of victims are children. Many factors can make young people vulnerable to becoming trafficked or becoming traffickers, including poverty, family violence, exclusion, and migration.



To address these challenges and in keeping with our values and approach, we advocate for a human rights-based focus on prevention of child trafficking, both among those vulnerable to becoming trafficked and those vulnerable to becoming traffickers. We support prevention efforts that include tackling factors that make individuals vulnerable and implementing initiatives and policies that improve human rights protections. We further support efforts to affirm the dignity of human trafficking survivors through trauma-informed care and community inclusion, rather than their prosecution.

### Additional Resources

The Polaris Project. <https://polarisproject.org/>

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT). <http://icat.network/>

United Nations (UN): Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.  
[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf)

UN: Human Rights and Human Trafficking Fact Sheet.  
[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FS36\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FS36_en.pdf)

*Preventing Human Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act.* <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/4980>

UNICEF: Child Trafficking.  
<https://www.unicefusa.org/mission/protect/trafficking>

### Relevant Articles from *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*

Rafferty, Y. (2013) Child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation: a review of promising prevention policies and programs. doi: 10.1111/ajop.12056.

Hartinger-Saunders, R. M., Trouteaud, A. R., & Matos Johnson, J. (2017). Mandated reporters' perceptions of and encounters with domestic minor sex trafficking of adolescent females in the United States.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/ort0000151>

Rafferty, Y. (in press). Mental health services as a vital component of psychosocial recovery for victims of child trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/ort0000268>

Peled, E., & Parker, A. (2013). The mothering experiences of sex-trafficked women: Between here and there.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/ajop.12046>

### How You Can Help

- Join our Human Trafficking Task Force. Learn more at <http://www.bhjustice.org/human-trafficking>
- Join forces with groups (e.g., Polaris, United Nations) to advocate for nations, organizations, and local communities to promote standards of well-being (e.g., inclusion of all people, economic opportunity) consistent with preventing child trafficking.
- If you suspect child trafficking, report it to Polaris' Human Trafficking Hotline (888) 373-7888 or local authorities.