



October 2015

Jewish Coalition Against Sex Trafficking (JCAST) Chicago

JCAST Chicago Blog

Thoughts on Trafficking: JCAST Chicago October Blog

"More girls have been killed in the last fifty years, precisely because they were girls, than men were killed in all the wars of the twentieth century."

This is a quote from Pulitzer Prize winners Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl Wu Dunn detailing the rampant, as they call it, "gendercide" occurring today in the world, in their non-fiction, book "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity." It is a 'must read' for anyone interested in learning more about the sex trafficking industry, and opened my eyes to the realities of this horrifying and growing industry.

I initially became involved in the issue of sex trafficking through Congregation Hakafa's Justice for Women's Group, which I formed about 2 and ½ years ago along with fellow congregant and friend, Beth Gordon, who had just finished reading "Half the Sky". Kristoff and Wu Dunn authors guide its readers through Africa and Asia to meet several extraordinary women struggling there, including a Cambodian teenager sold into sex slavery and an Ethiopian woman who suffered terrible injuries in childbirth. Although difficult to read at times, it is an inspiring book, and the authors make a great case for investing in the health and autonomy of women worldwide.

[Read More:](#)

Thank You Generous Donors

Recently, JCAST Chicago received an email from Heartland Alliance requesting baby items for a pregnant trafficking survivor. NCJW member Sharon Wolfson quickly coordinated a collection. Sharon received donations from six people who gave so much that

Traffick Free

JCAST Chicago organization of the month

Each month, JCAST Chicago hopes to highlight a Chicago-area organization dedicated to the fight against human trafficking. Our October organization is [Traffick Free](#).

Traffick Free is a faith-motivated organization that provides the greater metropolitan area of Chicago with tools and sustainable programs to combat human trafficking and transform the lives of victims and communities. Traffick Free seeks to mobilize the Chicagoland area into a place where human trafficking is unacceptable and where survivors have resources for immediate and holistic needs.

Traffick Free began in 2008 as a means of raising awareness and providing education on the local realities of sexual and labor exploitation in the greater Chicago area. Through an ever-growing partner network of city offices, churches, non-profits, and civic organizations, Traffick Free has worked to increase people's understanding of human trafficking

Sharon's car was completely filled with bags of diapers, clothing, toys, bottles, etc. Sharon says, "My circle of friends has been having babies lately, so people were happy to clear out and donate to a great cause. One woman stuck a note inside a homemade knit shawl for the new mom to be and a matching knit hat for baby. Darci, at the Heartland Alliance, said that these items would make a world of difference for the new mom, who has an apartment and not much else in terms of baby gear. It was quite moving to think about what little effort it took from friends who donated and what a huge impact it would make on the new mom.... Those baby items were so loving and thoughtful - it will surely make the transition to motherhood smoother for the mom-to-be. I don't know her name, but I know that she is young and having a baby girl in November. She has an apartment now so all of these items are going to make a huge difference in her life. On behalf of JCAST and the Heartland Alliance, our greatest thanks"

Upcoming Events in the Chicago Metro Area

Sex Trafficking Text Study

[October 30, 12:00-1:30 pm; Temple Shalom, 3480 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago](#)

What does the Torah teach us about sex trafficking in Jewish history? Join fellow scholars for a provocative session of discussion and discovery with Rabbi Shoshanah Conover. Free parking is available. Bring a bag lunch; drinks and dessert will be provided. [Click here](#) to RSVP.

Professional training opportunity for Illinois attorneys

Join CAASE for a training to provide legal representation to survivors of sex trafficking on October 28 from 12pm - 1:30pm at Mayer Brown LLP, 71 S. Wacker Drive. RSVP to rjohnson@caase.org no later than October 23rd. For more information visit <http://caase.org/event-calendar>.

Testimony and Tikkun Olam:

The Movement to End Gender-Related Violence

[Sunday, November 1, 2015 | 2:00 - 4:00 pm, Illinois Holocaust Memorial and Education Center, Skokie](#)

Anne K. Ream, the founder of The Voices and Faces Project. and author of Lived Through This: Listening to the Stories of Sexual Violence Survivors, will discuss the role that testimony has played in social justice movements, and introduce the audience to six extraordinary women and men from across the globe who are using their own stories to challenge legal and social responses to gender-based violence.

During this innovative lecture/photography program, debuting at the Illinois Holocaust Museum, Ream will consider the ways that

in our communities.

For more information about [Traffick Free](#), their work and their plan to open Chicago's first 24-hour drop-in center for self-identified female persons engaged in commercial sexual exploitation visit their [website](#).



Resources

[How to Talk to Your Son About Rape: A Guide for Dads and Hockey Fans](#)

Caleb Probst, Educator, CAASE, imagines a conversation between a father and son, making the assumption that the son would be an avid hockey fan with Patrick Kane as a favorite players. [Click here](#) for the blog post.

[URI North America](#) (United Religions Initiative) has some wonderful resources on sex trafficking available. [Click here](#) to visit their website.

[youthSpark](#) works to end child sex trafficking through prevention, early intervention, and youth-empowered education. youthSpark has produced PSAs with tips on how to talk to youth about trafficking. [Click here](#) to view.

8 Facts About the U.S. Sex Economy, a study published by the URBAN Institute discusses the

testimony can break through ideological barriers, explore the role that social and news media are playing in survivor story sharing and speak to a growing body of research that establishes the links between sharing testimony and healing from trauma.

Register at www.iholocaustmuseum.org/tikkun-olam/.

JCAST Chicago Presents at Limmud 2015: "Was Your Bubbe A Sex Slave?"

[Limmud Chicago is November 7-8 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Skokie \(exact time and date of JCAST Chicago presentation to be determined\).](#)

While the theme of slavery runs deep in our Jewish story, we often think of our exodus from Egypt and sex trafficking of women in the Torah or Megillah. Many are shocked to learn that thousands of Jewish girls from Eastern European shtetls were tricked into prostitution at the hands of Jewish traffickers. Often trafficked by their new "husbands," or promised jobs in America, girls arrived in ports such as Buenos Aires and Ellis Island and were forced to work in brothels. [Click here](#) to learn more and register for LIMMUD.

ELI Talks, a Jewish TED-style speaker series

ELI is coming to Chicago this November to film another 17 talks over the course of 3 days, Nov. 15, 16, and 17. On November 15, one of the speakers is educator/activist Robert Beiser: "If You Do One Jewish Thing: The Call to End Human Trafficking." Other talks focus on women and social justice. [Click here](#) for more information. ELI is providing a discount for JCAST Chicago supporters. [Click here](#) to register for 50% off the ticket price and use the promotional code: JCAST.

SAVE THE DATE

Trafficking in Israel Lunch & Learn w/Rabbi Levi Lauer

[Friday, November 20, Slice of Life, Skokie](#)

Cost: \$18 includes Kosher lunch

Join JCAST Chicago at Skokie's Slice of Life for a lunch and learn with Rabbi Levi Lauer, founder of Atzum, an Israeli organization that strives to remedy injustices in Israeli society and encourage individuals to become social activist agents of change. Rabbi Lauer is an amazing and inspirational speaker. Don't miss this chance to meet him! In 2003, ATZUM joined forces with [Kabiri-Nevo-Keidar](#) established the Task Force on Human Trafficking (TFHT) to help Israel put an end to human trafficking within its borders. The TFHT works tirelessly to engage and educate the public and government agencies to confront and eradicate modern slavery in Israel, and lobbies for reform in the areas of prevention, border closure, protection of escaped women, and prosecution of traffickers and pimps. [Click here](#) for more info on ATZUM's sex trafficking efforts.

Fighting Sex Trafficking:

underground economies of sex, drugs, and guns in eight cities: Atlanta, Dallas, Denver, Kansas City, San Diego, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. [Click here](#) for the study, and [click here](#) for an article about the study in the Atlantic magazine.

[IN PLAIN SIGHT Podcast to End Human Trafficking](#)

Each week, the IN PLAIN SIGHT Podcast features a an inspiring speaker who may educate you in your work to end human trafficking around the globe. [Click here](#) for a link to the website.



Take Action

Here are some things you can do today to take action against Sex Trafficking:

*** Like our Facebook Page**

[Click here](#) to like us on Facebook

*** Follow us on Twitter**

[Click here](#) to follow us on Twitter

*** Sign up for Action Alerts**

Visit our website to keep up-to-date with the issues most relevant to you. Sign up for JCAST Chicago, NCJW or Sex Trafficking Action Alerts today!

www.ncjwcns.org/jcast.

The Jewish Community Takes a Stand

December 2, 2015; 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm ;
Temple Beth Israel, 3601 Dempster St, Skokie
Join JCAST Chicago for an informative evening featuring Kaethe Morris Hoffer, Executive Director of the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE), and Brenda Myers-Powell, trafficking survivor and founder of the Dreamcatcher Foundation who will share personal stories and information about sex trafficking in Chicago, how it affects our community, and what we as Jews and as a congregation can do to fight against it. For more information as it becomes available, email info@jcastchicago.org.

JCAST Chicago and Hadassah with Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez

January 31, 2016; 4:00 - 6:00 pm
North Shore Congregation Israel, Glencoe
For more information as it becomes available, email info@jcastchicago.org.

Dignity Bag Packing for Chicago Sex Trafficking Victims

JCAST Chicago continues to collect toiletries and other items to help [The Dreamcatcher Foundation](#) during its outreach to youth who are trafficked and prostituted in Chicago. Each month, at least 300 bags are distributed, and they are in need of year-round supplies for street survival bags. We have established the following permanent collection sites so that you may always have the opportunity to help out with any of the following items:

Encore & More	Hadassah Resale	Hadassah Office
1107 Central Ave	405 Lake Cook Rd.	60 Revere Drive, Suite
Wilmette, IL	Deerfield, IL	800
M-S: 10am-5pm	M-F: 10am-5pm	Northbrook, IL
	Sunday: noon-4pm	M-F: 8:30am-4:30pm

Street Dignity Bag Packing List:

These items are needed in small, travel sizes. One of each item will be packed in a gallon ziploc "street survival" bag. These items may be packed in ziploc or other small bag, or donated in bulk.

- * Toothbrush and toothpaste (*ask your dentist!)
- * Hand sanitizer
- * Hand lotion
- * Granola or power bar
- * Gallon Ziploc Bags
- * Tissues
- * \$5 McDonald's Gift Cards

Prevention Bag Packing List:

Please include one of each regular sized product for girls living in at-risk communities. These items may be packed in a tote bag and donated in bulk.

- * Shampoo
- * Liquid body soap
- * Dove soap
- * Deodorant
- * Lotion or moisturizer
- * Perfumed body spray

*** Send a Letter**

Send a letter calling on local leaders and law enforcement to enforce laws and end demand. Visit our website to print out constructions and a sample letter. jcastchicago.org/st-resources

*** Hang a Flyer**

Victims may visit bus stations, grocery stores, currency exchanges, and gas stations. Hang a poster featuring the hotline for the National Human Trafficking Resource Center. and help them escape to safety! Visit our website for more information and to print flyers. jcastchicago.org/st-resources

*** Write a Letter to the Editor**

Write a letter to the editor when you learn publicly about arrests of perpetrators of sex trafficking? Commending the media, the police departments involved, and local authorities keeps sex trafficking in the news and encourages more enforcement. Visit our website for a sample letter to the editor. jcastchicago.org/st-resources

Steering Committee

JCAST Chicago is governed by a Steering Committee of dedicated individuals. If you would be interested in serving on the steering committee or one of JCAST Chicago's Action Teams, email info@jcastchicago.org.

[JCAST Chicago Steering Committee](#)

* Gift or tote bags

Bulk items, hotel toiletries and gift cards to McDonalds (\$5), Target, Dollar Store, CVS or Walgreens (any amount) are always welcome

National news and updates:

Federal Funding for NYC

This month, U.S. Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand announced \$2,070,022 in federal funding allocated through Department of Justice (DOJ) for four New York City based organizations. Specifically, the funding will help recovery for survivors of all types of human trafficking by survivor-centered services and interagency communication.

"This critical federal funding will allow these organizations to facilitate a wide range of programs to combat human trafficking and provide assistance to survivors," said Senator Gillibrand.

"New York City will now have additional resources to identify and respond to the needs of human trafficking survivors. I will continue to push for funding to help keep our families safe and better protected." [Click here](#) for more information.

149 Child Sex Trafficking Victims Rescued In Sting

Child sex trafficking is a nationwide problem, and this sting is only the tip of the iceberg. In the operation's ninth year, authorities netted more recoveries and arrests than in any previous enforcement year, the FBI reported Tuesday. The sting spanned more than 135 American cities, with about 500 agencies working together with the FBI and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to help save victims.

"Our mission is to protect the American people -- especially our children -- from harm," FBI Director James Comey said. "When kids are treated as a commodity in seedy hotels and on dark roadsides, we must rescue them from their nightmare and severely punish those responsible for that horror. We simply must continue to work with our partners to end the scourge of sex trafficking in our country." [Click here](#) for the full article from Huffington Post.

"Human trafficking is a monstrous and devastating crime that steals lives and degrades our nation," Attorney General Loretta Lynch said in a statement, announcing the outcome of the sting known as Operation Cross Country. "As a result of the FBI's outstanding coordination and exemplary efforts alongside state and local partners during Operation Cross Country, more children will sleep safely tonight, and more wrongdoers will face the judgment of our criminal justice system," she said. [Click here](#) for

Donna Fishman, NCJW
Beth Gordon, NCJW
Susan Rifas, JUF
Heather Ross, NCJW
Carole Levine, NCJW
Betsy Lazerow, JCFS
Mara Ruff, JUF
Sara Kalish, JWF
Deborah Zionts, NCJW
Jessica Schaffer, American
Jewish World Service
Stacy Saef, NCJW
Donna Gutman, NCJW
Cathy Carmody, NCJW

Julie Newman, NCJW Staff
Melissa Prober, NCJW Staff



Support JCAST Chicago

[Click here](#) to donate to JCAST to help subsidize the cost of Dignity Bags or our other projects. Please indicate on the form where you'd like the donation to be directed - i.e., JCAST Chicago. Thank you for your support.

the full article from CNN.

Pope Francis Addresses United Nations

On Friday, September 25th, Pope Francis formally addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York City. An excerpt of his remarks is below.



"Our world demands of all government leaders a will which is effective, practical and constant, concrete steps and immediate measures for preserving and improving the natural environment and thus putting an end as quickly as possible to the phenomenon of social and economic exclusion, with its baneful consequences: human trafficking, the marketing of human organs and tissues, the sexual exploitation of boys and girls, slave labour, including prostitution, the drug and weapons trade, terrorism and international organized crime. We need to ensure that our institutions are truly effective in the struggle against all these scourges."

JCAST Chicago ON THE MOVE

JCAST Chicago has been busy giving presentations across the Chicago Metropolitan area, for Jewish and secular groups. Please help JCAST secure speaking "gigs" at Jewish organizations.

Contact Donna at info@jcastchicago.org with names and contacts at synagogues, chavurot, and other Jewish organizations.

Interns Wanted

NCJW is looking for interns for JCAST Chicago. A great opportunity for undergraduate or graduate students. Contact Donna for more information, info@jcastchicago.org.

'Splendor and Misery: Images of Prostitution,' Captures Profession in Paris Through Artists' Eyes

Ambiguity about prostitutes in the public space is a central theme of "Splendor and Misery: Images of Prostitution 1850-1910," which opens in Paris Tuesday and runs through Jan. 17 at the Musée d'Orsay. Taking its title from Honoré de Balzac's mid-19th-century Comédie Humaine novel "The Splendors and Miseries of Courtesans," it is



touted by the museum as the first major exhibition on the artistic representation of prostitution in Paris. [Click here](#) for the full article and photos from the exhibit.

Sex Trafficking in the News

More and more our news feeds are filled with stories about sex trafficking - some positive and some negative. Here are a few article links that may be of interest.

- [Human trafficking forum calls for victim services in the suburbs](#)
 - [14 johns arrested in Lake County prostitution sting](#)
 - [Group works to reach out to victims of human trafficking in Chicago](#)
 - [Congress to seek more transparency in human trafficking report](#)
 - [Inking Out a New Future](#)
 - [7 ways to spot that someone is being trafficked](#)
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Jewish Coalition Against Sex Trafficking (JCAST) Chicago

847-853-8889 * info@jcastchicago.org * www.jcastchicago.org

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