



September 2015

Jewish Coalition Against Sex Trafficking (JCAST) Chicago

G'mar Chatima Tova

As we bid farewell to 5775, we welcome the arrival of 5776 with all of the challenges and opportunities a new year has to offer. As Jews, we have a special responsibility to help repair this broken world. We take to heart our history as slaves in Egypt and our belief that no one should be exploited as we once were.

We are so thankful for our inaugural JCAST Chicago members as well as the hardworking women of our steering committee. Please consider adding your name to our [membership](#) roll or joining our [steering committee](#) or [action teams](#). Links and information are on our [website](#).

May the year ahead be filled with peace & justice for you & for the world. Let the shofar, once again, call us all to action & renewal.
~ JCAST Chicago Co-Chairs Donna Fishman and Beth Gordon

JCAST Chicago Blog

Apples and Honey and Human Trafficking

When I think of Rosh Hashanah, I think of community and honey cake and apple picking with my family. I think of my children fidgeting in temple but reciting the prayers with comfort in their familiarity. I think of round challah and noodle kugel - always sweet - with cinnamon and raisins. But until recently, I never thought about human trafficking. I never thought about those who spend their days in chains - figuratively or literally - trapped in the bondage of modern-day slavery. As Jews, slavery is part of our history - but unfortunately it isn't just a part of the past. More people are enslaved today than in any other time in history. On any given day there are an estimated 16,000-24,000 women and girls involved in prostitution-related activities in Chicagoland alone (<http://caase.org/fact-sheets>). How can we not take any day and every day as an opportunity to support trafficking victims and help

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

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 Zions, NCJW
Jessica Schaffer, American Jewish World Service
Stacy Saef, NCJW
Donna Gutman, NCJW
Cathy Carmody, NCJW

Julie Newman, NCJW Staff
Melissa Prober, NCJW Staff



Upcoming Events in the Chicago Metro Area

Immigration Lunch and Learn

[October 1, 11:30-1:30: Temple Jeremiah, Northfield](#)

Join us for an informative and educational program covering an overview of immigration: Federal laws, definition of immigrants and refugees, how people come to the United States, special concerns about women and children, and the connection of immigration to sex trafficking. Presented by Amy Stern, JD, and co-sponsored by NCJW Chicago North Shore and JCAST Chicago. For more information, call 847-853-8889 or email advocacy@ncjwcns.org.

Sex Trafficking in Chicago

[October 5, 7:15pm, Vail Chapel, 1870 Sheridan, Evanston](#)

Amnesty International-USA Group 50 is sponsoring a presentation with Donna Fishman and Julie Newman, JCAST Chicago, focusing on sex trafficking in Chicago and what we can do to stop it. Please join us to learn more about sex trafficking locally, what organizations are working to end it, and how you can participate with them in fighting this extreme violation of human rights. If you have questions or need directions, call Carolyn: (847) 328-4010.

JCAST Chicago Coalition Meeting

[October 15, 9:30am: Curt's Cafe, 2922 Central, Evanston](#)

Join JCAST Chicago for a coalition meeting. JCAST Chicago will provide updates, share what JCAST Chicago is doing, present goals for 2015-2016 and get feedback. [Click here](#) to RSVP.

Sex Trafficking Text Study

[October 30, 12:00-1:30 pm: Temple Sholom, 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.

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

[Limmud Chicago will take place on November 7-8, 2015 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Skokie \(exact time and date of JCAST Chicago's presentation to be determined\).](#)

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

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 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](#)

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.

SAVE THE DATE

Fighting Sex Trafficking:

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

A big THANK YOU to all who quickly responded to the call and donated toiletries and other items to help [The Dreamcatcher Foundation](#) during its outreach to youth who are trafficked and prostituted in Chicago. Unfortunately, each month, at least 300 bags are distributed, and they are in need of year-round supplies for street survival bags. JCAST Chicago would love to find groups to fill this need for each month of the year. If you or your organization would consider organizing a collection drive or a packing program, please let us know as soon as possible and we will be in touch with details. (Link)

We have also 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

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.ncjwcons.org/jcast.

* 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

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
- * 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

Cook County Updates

Over 1,000 Arrests in National Summer Sex Trafficking Sting

A national coalition of law enforcement agencies conducted a summer sting operation that led to 1032 arrests - 961 would-be sex buyers (or "johns") and 71 pimps or traffickers. The initiative ran for approximately three months from June 1 - Aug. 30 and brought together 39 law enforcement agencies throughout 18 states in a widespread crackdown on the demand for purchased sex. The operation also targeted pimps and traffickers who have forced victims into lives of prostitution. 71 men were taken into custody on charges of pimping, trafficking or promoting prostitution. Sheriff Dart conceived these sweeps in 2011 to highlight the role of sex solicitors as perpetrators to this violent and exploitative industry. Since then, the Cook County Sheriff-led national coalition has grown rapidly, with this sting emerging as the largest and most successful operation yet. The campaign has highlighted the online evolution of the sex trade - 41 percent of the johns and trafficker arrests stemmed from online ads for prostitution. 98 percent of that online activity occurred on Backpage.com. [Click here for the full press release.](#)

Prostitution Paradox: How One County is Targeting Men Who Buy Sex | TIME (Video)

Since 2009, Cook County has been cracking down on sex buyers and adding social services for prostituted women. Now, they're coaching law enforcement from around the country to take this new approach. [Click here for the video.](#)

* 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



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.

Police arrest more than 150 men in sex trafficking sting

A nationwide summer sex trafficking sting enlisting the help of police departments in Cook and Lake counties has led to the arrests of more than 150 local men looking to pay for sex, one of whom was caught while his 2-year-old daughter was in the car, authorities said. [Click here for the article.](#)

Prostitution - Legalize or Not?

While NCJW does not take a position on the legalization of prostitution, the recent decision by Amnesty International to support the decriminalization of prostitution worldwide has generated much debate on the topic. The links below are shared for your information and do not indicate that NCJW is taking a specific position.

[Buying Sex Should Not Be Legal. New York Times. Aug. 28, 2015](#)

[Should Prostitution Be a Crime?. New York Times. Aug. 26, 2015](#)

[Pros and Cons of Legalizing Prostitution. Chicago Tonight. Sept 1, 2015](#)

[Over 400 women's groups & advocates sign letter protesting Amnesty International's position on prostitution. Feminist Current. July 23, 2015](#)

~ I know there are some advocates who argue that women in prostitution sell sex as consenting adults. But those who do are a relatively privileged minority - primarily white, middle-class, Western women in escort agencies - not remotely representative of the global majority. Their right to sell doesn't trump my right and others' not to be sold in a trade that preys on women already marginalized by class and race. - Rachel Moran, Buying Sex Should Not Be Legal.

Sex Trafficking In Israel: Important Update from ATZUM's Task Force on Human Trafficking

Recently, Israeli society has been deeply engaged in a dialogue about the evils of prostitution. The intensive public discourse on the exploitation of vulnerable, prostituted girls and women was triggered by a tragic event.

On August 13, G, a 36-year-old woman who made aliyah at age 15 and had been prostituted for half her life, committed suicide in the

brothel in which she was raped and abused nightly by 20-30 johns, six nights a week. The place where this tragedy took place, located at 98 Hayarkon Street in the heart of Tel-Aviv, and in operation for a decade, is one of the area's 200-250 brothels and "discrete" apartments well known to law enforcement agencies. It is also where nearly 900 Israelis gathered on August 22 to mourn G's death, urge society to confront the brutal cost of prostitution, and act to assure its abolishment.

[Read More:](#)

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.

- [Married couple charged with sex trafficking of a minor](#)
 - [Illinois Sheriff Can Resume Campaign Against Backpage](#)
 - [ISIS Enshrines a Theology of Rape](#)
 - [Washington Supreme Court rules against Backpage.com](#)
 - [3,000 Girls and Women Sold as Sex Slaves By ISIS, Chicago Student Heads to Iraq to Save Them](#)
 - [Denying basic human rights. Italy to deport dozens of Nigerian women tortured and trafficked](#)
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Immigration and sex trafficking:

National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)

The T Nonimmigrant Status, or the T Visa, is a form of temporary immigration relief made available to foreign national victims of human trafficking under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. In order to qualify for the T visa, an applicant must comply with any reasonable request from law enforcement to assist in the investigation or prosecution of their case, unless they are under the age of 18 or are unable to cooperate due to physical or psychological trauma. This "trauma exception" is determined by USCIS as part of the T visa application process.

[This fact sheet](#) provides an overview of the trauma exception for frontline professionals who work with victims and survivors of human trafficking, but who may not be familiar with this aspect of the T visa. It also provides trauma-related symptoms that may prompt legal professionals and social service organizations to consider this option and pursue further evaluation with qualified mental health or medical professionals for their clients. For a full list of trafficking indicators and the definition of human trafficking, visit: www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/resources.

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

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