



November 2015

Jewish Coalition Against Sex Trafficking (JCAST) Chicago

JCAST Chicago Blog

Truck Drivers Help End Demand for Sex Trafficking

Fact #1: Truck drivers are a huge part of the demand for sex trafficking.

Fact #2: Truck drivers are fighting to help end the demand for sex trafficking.

Trucker Kent Kimmel was parked at a pilot truck stop in New Kent County, VA when he saw a young woman hiding behind a black-curtained RV window. "The black drapes didn't make it look like a families' RV. When I saw the young girl's face, I said, that's not going to happen." After Kimmel called the sheriff's department, deputies came and interviewed the woman, age 20, who told gruesome stories of torture, imprisonment, and forced prostitution by a man who kidnapped her in Iowa and transported her to Virginia.

The trucking industry makes up a large portion of the demand for sex trafficking victims across our country. Heavy trafficking activity occurs at travel plazas and truck stops where truckers are forced to park and rest. Young girls will come up to the trucks, knocking on the doors to offer sex, and truckers think they are hiring willing, young woman for sexual services, when in reality they are slaves whose controlling pimps keep the money. Tens of thousands of truckers crossing the highways of our country are in the unique position to recognize and report incidents of possible sex trafficking during their many hours on the road. Since 2009, truckers made more than 1,000 calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, giving tips that "have led to countless arrests and recoveries of victims across the country", says hotline director Nicole Moler.

[Read More:](#)

CAASE

JCAST Chicago Featured
Organization

Each month, JCAST Chicago hopes to highlight a Chicago-area organization dedicated to the fight against human trafficking. Our November organization is the [Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation](#).

CAASE addresses the culture, institutions, and individuals that perpetrate, profit from, or support sexual exploitation. Their work features a combination of prevention, advocacy, community engagement, and legal services.

CAASE creates and implements educational curricula that encourage high-school-age men and women to work against sexual exploitation. They advocate for legislative and policy reforms that will increase legal and social accountability for perpetrators of harm and promote broad community support for services and resources for survivors. CAASE advises law enforcement, policy makers, and other stakeholders on best practices relating to sex trafficking,

Winter & Household Item Collection for Survivors

Judaism calls us to do tikkun olam, repair the world. One easy thing we can do is look around our houses and see if we have any of the following items to support survivors of sex trafficking.

Please look through this list. Collection information is below. Also, in addition to the above, JCAST Chicago is always collecting toiletries, toothbrushes, small gift cards to McDonald's and other small items to support victims of trafficking.

JCAST Chicago is helping Heartland Alliance by collecting winter coats, hats, gloves, and scarves for trafficking survivors and their family members. We are accepting men, women and children's no bigger than LARGE (please do not bring XL or larger as we do not have a need right now).

Also, a survivor is moving into her first apartment since leaving her trafficking situation. She moves in next week so there is a quick turnaround time for the items listed below. In addition, Heartland reunited a father with his 14 and 15 year old children last week after being apart for TWELVE YEARS! They are moving into their apartment December 1st as a family and need items to make their home whole. Please see the list of household items needed for both of these households:

Full-Sized and Twin bedding, Towels, Plates, Cups, Silverware, Cookware, Hygiene products, Microwave, Toaster, and Blender

To donate any of the above items, contact JCAST Chicago at info@jcastchicago.org for city and suburban collection information.

Thank you for helping families in need during this holiday season.

Upcoming Events in the Chicago Metro Area

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.

prostitution, and rape and works to prevent sexual exploitation by increasing public understanding of the harms inherent in the sex trade. CAASE also engages in civil litigation against perpetrators and facilitators of sexual harm and advocates for appropriate and effective criminal prosecution of perpetrators.

For more information about CAASE, their work and their resources and toolkits, visit their [website](#).



Resources

[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

Sex Trafficking Text Study - Part 2

Friday, December 11, 12:00-1:30 pm;

Temple Sholom, 3480 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago

Our first sex trafficking text study was so successful that we have scheduled a "sequel." All are welcome (you do not need to have attended the initial text study to participate). 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.

Sex Trafficking - Surprise: It's in your Community, Too

January 31, 2016; 4:00 - 6:00 pm

North Shore Congregation Israel, 1185 Sheridan Road, Glencoe

Sex Trafficking: We don't like to acknowledge it, but it's all around us and we're taking a stand against it in our community. Hadassah Chicago-North Shore is hosting an advocacy and action program on the devastating and local issue of human sex-trafficking.

NCJW and JCAST Chicago are among the program co-sponsors.

The program consists of a moderated panel discussion with keynote speaker Cook County Prosecutor, Anita Alvarez.

Tentative co-panelists include Cook County Sheriff, Tom Dart, State Senator 29th District, Julie Morrison, and a trafficking survivor. The program begins at 4:00 followed by light refreshments and sponsor information session. There is no fee to attend but reservations will be required due to limited seating.

For more information as it becomes available, email

info@jcastchicago.org.

Trafficking News and Updates:

Rights4Girls

On October 8th, [Rights4Girls](#)' Yasmin Vafa moderated a Congressional briefing on juvenile justice reform and their report, [the Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline](#). The event was hosted by Congresswoman Karen Bass (D-CA) and attended by eight Members of Congress, including Congressman Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Congressman Ted Poe (R-TX) signaling the growing bipartisan support for juvenile justice reform efforts in the House to address the specific needs of girls.

Spreading the Word

JCAST Chicago members, Steering Committee and staff have been busy contacting local law enforcement and municipalities regarding JCAST Chicago and our efforts against sex trafficking. [Click here](#) to read the response from Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart and [click here](#) to read the response from Northbrook Village President Sandy Frum.

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.

* Send a Letter

Send a letter calling on local leaders and law enforcement to enforce laws and end demand.

Chicago Says No More

[Chicago Says No More](#) is dedicated to addressing the challenges of domestic violence and sexual assault in the Chicago metro area. It is aligned with the national NO MORE campaign that was started by a coalition of leading advocacy groups, service providers, and major corporations. Visit their [website](#) for more information and resources and to pledge to educate yourself and others about domestic violence and sexual assault.

Anti-Slavery Panel at Western Illinois University

Commemorating the Abolition of Slavery: Work to Do
Wednesday, Dec. 2, noon-1:15 pm, WIU, Macomb
The event commemorates the abolition of slavery with the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, December 6, 1865, and the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, December 2, 1949. The panel of speakers discusses legacies of these declarations to end slavery. The speakers are Dr. Tim Roberts of the Department of History; Dr. Erik Brooks of the Department of African-American Studies; and Ms. Cathy O'Keeffe, director of the Quad Cities NGO Braking Traffik. [Click here](#) for more information.

Washington Institute

Save the Date!



Washington Institute 2016 | March 13-15
Elections 2016: What's at Stake for Women?

Join us at Washington Institute, NCJW's premier public policy event with in-depth issue briefings from political leaders and policymakers along with specialized advocacy skills trainings and meetings on Capitol Hill. From voting rights to judicial nomination to reproductive justice, the issues we care about are at stake in the 2016 election! Receive in-depth issue briefings from political leaders and policymakers along with specialized advocacy skills training to help you educate yourselves and your communities on the issues that matter. Plus, you'll have the opportunity to speak with members of Congress in face-to-face meetings on Capitol Hill. One of NCJW's advocacy points at the 2016 Washington Institute will be sex trafficking. [Click here](#) for more information.

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.

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

Donna Fishman, NCJW
Beth Gordon, NCJW
Susan Rifas, JUF
Heather Ross, NCJW
Carole Levine, NCJW

- [Meet the Former Sex Worker Who's Battling Prostitution](#)
- [Examining the Issue of Human Trafficking](#)
- [Lake County detectives set their sights on sex trafficking](#)
- [29 arrested in multistate sex trafficking case](#)
- [Appeals court orders Cook County sheriff to cease campaign against backpage](#)
- [149 Child Sex Trafficking Victims Rescued In Nationwide Sting](#)
- [Hub of human trafficking: underground sex trade thrives in Milwaukee](#)

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

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
- * 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



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.

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.

Jewish Coalition Against Sex Trafficking (JCAST) Chicago

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

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