



Congratulations and best wishes to Steering Committee Member Sara Klalish on her new position as Development Director for Chicago Parks Foundation!

You Shall Not Be Indifferent

לא תוכל להתעלם
you shall not be indifferent Deut. 22:3

The statistics around sex trafficking in our local community are staggering.

- It is estimated that 16,000-25,000 young women and men, boys and girls in Chicago are victims each year
- 55% of Chicago runaways and homeless people report engaging in sex for survival
- The lifespan of someone who is prostituted is only seven years

Force, fraud, and coercion - the definers of sex trafficking - cannot continue. We have the ability to change lives. These people are our daughters, sisters, brothers, neighbors, classmates, and friends. They deserve a different life trajectory. We shall not be indifferent.

Together, we have the power to alter the way that our culture looks at people as reusable commodities, as lives to be sold into a modern form of slavery.

JCAST Chicago harnesses the power of community and awareness to end the demand for paid sex. And, when demand diminishes, supply diminishes. Women and children will no longer be forced or coerced into sex slavery. JCAST Chicago partners with interfaith and human rights groups, nonprofit organizations, government officials, and law enforcement agencies to end the demand for purchased sex and protect children.

Our work is underway; we need your help more than ever. And we will do the affirmative work with you and on your behalf. Your gift of \$36, \$50, or \$100 will help us eradicate sex trafficking through awareness and advocacy. Please make a gift [online](#) or via mail to: JCAST Chicago, 5 Revere Drive, Suite 200 Northbrook, IL 60062.

Thank you from the women, men and children who need us.

[Click here to donate today!](#)

Don't Miss Women Hold Up Half the Sky

Running through January 22, 2017 at the Illinois Holocaust Museum, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, Women Hold Up Half the Sky identifies one of the central moral challenges of the 21st century - full equality for the world's women. It is inspired by the book Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide, by Pulitzer-prize winning authors, Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. Like the bestselling book, the exhibition features ordinary women who have accomplished extraordinary things. It challenges visitors to open their eyes, minds, hearts, and most of all, to take action to improve women



Support JCAST Chicago

[Click here](#) to donate to JCAST to help subsidize the cost of Dignity Bags or our other projects. Thank you for your support.

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 our Action Teams, email info@jcastchicago.org.

Steering Committee:

- Ronna Ash, Hadassah
- Susan Block, Hadassah
- Cathy Carmody, NCJW
- Donna Fishman, NCJW, JCAST SC Co-Chair
- Beth Gordon, Hakafa, NCJW
- Donna Gutman, NCJW, ICJW, CEASE Network
- Taal Hasak-Lowy, AJWS
- Sara Kalish, JWF
- Betsy Lazerow, JCFS, JCARES
- Carole Levine, NCJW
- Rae Luskin, NCJW
- Sherry Petlin, NCJW
- Bonnie Ribet, NCJW
- Susan Rifas, JUF, JWF, JCAST SC Co-Chair
- Heather Ross, NCJW, Hakafa
- Mara Ruff, JUF
- Stacy Saef, NCJW
- Deborah Zions, NCJW, SHALVA

Jacqueline Doolittle, Staff
Melissa Prober, Staff

and girls' lives locally and worldwide. NCJW Chicago North Shore and JCAST Chicago are community partners of the exhibit. [Click here](#) for more information.

Half Price Admission Offer

As a thank you to the organizations that partnered to promote the Women Hold Up Half the Sky special exhibition, the Illinois Holocaust Museum is offering half-price admission to NCJW and JCAST Chicago members from now until January 2, 2017. Kids visit for free. To receive half-price admission, you must present [this flyer](#) at the Museum admissions window. (If you have any trouble with the flyer link, please email communications@jcastchicago.org and we will send you the pdf directly).

JCAST Chicago December Blog

Recently, when so many cases of college rape are making the news, and when presidential candidates and political leaders joke and excuse assault as "locker room talk," I realized that it isn't enough to talk to my teen daughter about how to protect herself. I needed to talk to my (almost) teen son about respect, exploitation and pornography.

[Click here](#) for the full blog post:

Upcoming Events

Film Screening: *Dreamcatcher*

January 12, 2017; 6:30 pm

Illinois Holocaust Museum, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie
The award-winning documentary *Dreamcatcher* follows former Chicago trafficking victim Brenda Myers-Powell who created the *Dreamcatcher* Foundation in order to help other women escape prostitution. The film screening is presented as part of the Women Hold Up Half the Sky exhibit. [Click here](#) for more information.

The Demand that Drives Illinois Sex Trafficking

January 15, 2017; 2:00 pm

Evanston Public Library, Evanston

There are more people living in slavery today than at any time in history. Sex trafficking is one form of modern day slavery that is prevalent in Chicagoland. Experts will discuss the demand for prostitution in Illinois and important ways communities are fighting back. The panel includes: Laura Jansen, lead author of *Our Great Hobby: An Analysis of Online Networks for Buyers of Sex* in Illinois, and researcher, University of Chicago, Caleb Probst and Lynne Johnson, Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE) and Laura Ng (Moderator), Executive Director, Traffick Free. The panel is presented as part of the Women Hold Up Half the Sky exhibit. [Click here](#) for more information.

Every Person Has a Voice: Exposing, Examining, and Eradicating Human Trafficking

January 23, 2017, 3:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Chicago Bar Association, 321 S. Plymouth Court, Chicago

This program will provide an in-depth look at issues, concerns and remedies aimed to address the exploitation of individuals through human trafficking both domestically and globally. Panelists and speakers will discuss what trafficking is, provide current research and trends concerning trafficking, and describe how ending demand is the key to preventing the further exploitation and abuse of individuals through sex trafficking. [Click here](#) to register.

Every Person Has a Voice is presented in connection with the



Featured Organization

Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force

The Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force (CCHTTF) is a multi-disciplinary task force that brings law enforcement and social and legal service agencies together to work on human trafficking cases. The task force is a joint project of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and the Salvation Army STOP-IT Program, and is jointly funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Office for Victims of Crime. Although membership on the task force is by invitation only, in order to preserve confidentiality of cases worked, subcommittee participation is open to the community. Task force subcommittees include: training, victim services, labor trafficking and LGBTQ.

Each August, CCHTTF holds a two day conference of experts in the anti-trafficking arena.

For information visit www.cookcountytaskforce.org.



Take Action!

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

* [Like our Facebook Page](#)

* [Follow us on Twitter](#)

* Sign up for Action Alerts
[Visit our website](#) to keep up-to-date

Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Section 2017

Human Trafficking Awareness Week. Other programs include:

[CAASE Know Your Rights Training](#)

January 24; 12:00-1:30 p.m.

[A Path Appears, Episode One: Sex Trafficking in the USA](#)

January 25; 12:00-1:30 p.m.

[A Spotlight on Child Trafficking in Chicago](#)

January 27; 12:00-1:00 p.m.

[Click here](#) for more information on these programs.

Updates and Information

Jewish Women's Foundation Grants

The Jewish Women's Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago (JWF) has awarded \$345,500 to 21 outstanding projects that improve the lives of Jewish women and girls in Chicago and around the world including a significant grant to JCAST Chicago. JCAST Chicago is grateful for the continued support of JWF but is always looking for additional sources of funding to continue its mission to eradicate sex trafficking in the Chicagoland area through public awareness, community engagement, and advocacy at local, state, and national levels. If you are aware of foundations, granting opportunities or would just like to speak with someone at JCAST Chicago about how you can help, contact us at info@jcastchicago.org.

NCJW Film Screenings: Brave Miss World

Weeks before the Miss World Competition event, the reigning Miss Israel was raped at knife-point in Milan, Italy. An 18-year-old with remarkable inner strength and supportive family, Linor Abargil refused to submit to shaming silence and fought to bring her attacker to justice. The film follows her from the rape, to her crowning and through her crusade to fight for justice and break the silence. During her travels to speak out and meet with other rape victims, her own trauma begins to resurface. Her serial rapist becomes eligible for parole, and she has to hunt down his previous victims in order to help keep him behind bars. The film explores the trauma of sexual assault through one young woman's journey from teenage rape victim to Miss World to empowered lawyer and activist.

Glencoe Screening:

Thursday, January 26, 2017

5:00 pm (registration and refreshments); 5:45 pm (program begins)

Takiff Center, Aiken Activity Room, 999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe

Reserve your spot at <http://conta.cc/2gsKGss>.

Naperville Screening:

Sunday, January 29, 2017, 3:00 - 5:30 pm

Congregation Beth Shalom, 772 West 5th Avenue, Naperville

Reserve your spot at <http://conta.cc/2hn8nU4>.

Discussion- Human Trafficking Here & Elsewhere

Sunday, January 22, 2017, 2:00 pm

The Stevenson Center on Democracy

25200 N St. Mary's Rd, Mettawa

\$15.00 (students free by registering by email)

Speakers include CAASE's Caleb Probst, trafficking survivor Dr.

with the issues most relevant to you. [Sign up](#) for JCAST Chicago, NCJW or Sex Trafficking Action Alerts today!

* 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.

* 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.

* 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.



Resources

Books:

Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery by Siddharth Kara

Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World where Girls are not for Sale by Rachel Lloyd

The Johns: Sex for Sale and the Men Who Buy it by Victor Malarek

The Natashas: Inside the Global Sex Trade by Victor Malarek

Women Hold up Half the Sky: Turing Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Sheryl Wudunn and Nicholas Kristof

Podcasts:

IN PLAIN SIGHT Podcast to End Human Trafficking Each

Joel Filmore, and Anne K. Ream, Founder of Voices and Faces Project. [Click here](#) to register.

Tikkun Olam

Do you have a teenager who needs a mitzvah project or community service hours? [Click here](#) for a PDF with a couple of great ideas for you and your child to do a little tikkun olam!

Selah Freedom TEDx Talk

Selah Freedom President/CEO Elizabeth Fisher recently spoke at The TEDx Oak Park Women's symposium and the outcome of her presentation is saving young lives from sexual abuse. In her talk, entitled, "Look Again: Sex Trafficking in Your Own Backyard," she painted a picture of what it looks like for a little girl to become trapped in sex trafficking and what the preventable root issue is for all the survivors we serve: childhood sexual abuse. She also shed light on how young boys grow up to be men that are consumers of the sex industry; thus creating a tangled web of insatiable exploitation. [Click here](#) to watch.

Implementing Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws?

Did you miss the NCJW Call: Implementing National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws? On this call, we heard from NCJW leaders and partners about their experiences implementing hotline posting laws in cities and states from coast to coast. [Watch and/or listen](#) to the call recording and check out the resources in [NCJW's Advocacy Google Folder](#), in subfolder "NCJW Call: Implementing National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws."

New Affordable Housing Open for Domestic Violence Survivors

The YWCA Evanston/North Shore is excited to announce the opening of longer-term supportive housing wait-list for survivors of domestic violence. Safe, stable, affordable housing is a primary barrier to survivors permanently leaving abusive relationships. YWCA Evanston/North Shore is pleased to making this housing option available to the eligible clients you serve. In partnership with the Housing Authority of Cook County we are opening a site-based waiting list for survivors of domestic violence. The housing consists of one and two bedroom newly rehabbed project-based voucher (PBV) units located in Evanston IL. The PBV program is a rental assistance program where the resident pays 30% of his/her income towards the rent and the HACC subsidizes the remainder of the rent to the owner.

Women's March on Chicago - January 21, 2017

Let's march together in Chicago and join in spirit with all marches across the country. On January 21, 2017 at 10am, marchers will gather at Petrillo Bandshell in downtown Chicago's Grant Park. Marchers will CONNECT to make our voices heard and to support each other in PROTECT-ing and furthering women's/human rights and civil liberties by ACTIVATE-ing in our communities. Visit <http://wmoc.wpengine.com/> for more information.

TAKE ACTION

Toiletry and Gift Card Donations Needed Year-round!

Donation Drop off locations:

Encore & More: 1107 Central Ave, Wilmette
Hadassah Thrift Shop, 405 Lake Cook Rd, Deerfield
Hadassah Office, 60 Revere Dr #800, Northbrook
Temple Shalom, 3480 N Lake Shore Dr, Chicago

If you or your organization would consider organizing a collection drive or a packing program, please contact Beth Gordon

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.

Websites:

[Polaris Project](#)
[National Human Trafficking Resource Center](#)
[URI North America](#)
[Heartland Alliance](#)
[STOP-IT Initiative Against Human Trafficking](#)
[American Jewish World Service](#)
[Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation](#)
[Selah Freedom](#)
[National Domestic Workers Alliance](#)

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 tote bag, or donated in bulk. (You might even Ask your local businesses if they have items to donate and share this list.)

toothbrush and toothpaste (* ask your dentist!)

hand sanitizer

hand lotion

granola or power bar

pack of tissues

Gallon Ziploc Bags

\$5 McDonald's Gift Cards

Prevention Bag Packing List:

The Dreamcatcher Foundation regularly visits girls living in at-risk communities, including teen-aged single mothers. 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*

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.

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.

- [Greeley man sentenced to 248 years in capstone of sweeping human trafficking case](#)
 - [Sex trafficking convictions help address problem](#)
 - [My Name Is Brooke Axtell and I Was Sex Trafficked at Age 7 in the US](#)
 - [A New Front Against Domestic Abuse: The Hairstylist's Chair](#)
 - [Oswego man sentenced for paying to have sex with a child](#)
 - [Jewish Women's Foundation awards \\$345,000 in grants](#)
 - [Yellow Cabs and Strip Clubs: New York Sells Inequality](#)
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Jewish Coalition Against Sex Trafficking (JCAST) Chicago
847-853-8889 * info@jcastchicago.org * www.jcastchicago.org

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