



February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Loveisrespect.org estimates that one in three teens in the U.S. will experience physical, sexual or emotional abuse by someone they are in a relationship with before they become adults. Dating violence includes physical, financial, verbal, emotional, sexual, and digital abuse.

The National Center on Domestic Violence estimates that 75% of parents have not talked with their children about dating violence. NCDV and other organizations have come together this February to bring the conversation on teen dating domestic violence to the forefront.

If you would like to get involved, visit:

- Loveisrespect.org for social media messages
- [Break the Cycle](#) for a Talk-a-Thon guide
- Download the [Love is Not Abuse](#) iPhone App

JCAST Chicago February Blog

Through the Eyes of a Docent by Susan Block

At the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Educational Center, 60,000 students enter to learn every year. Some days we have 500 people within our walls wondering what happened so many years ago when a despot was given complete control.

Dehumanizing people as commodities, a genocide enslaving a population. To this, we say, "never again!"

In the Holocaust, we see the absence of human rights, a population enslaved without choices. Why would someone choose to be hurtful? Hitler used force, fraud, coercion, and terror. Survivors were victimized with no resolution. Empowering is our job. It is to make a difference, to help with the understanding of our own communities and to provide the venue to widen our world hoping to be the person that will make our world safe for democracy for future generations.

We emphasize respect, empathy, courage and through the Holocaust, treasure what we can learn from rescuers and survivors the qualities they exhibit, and how to transform them into our lives. What actions did they take? Where and with whom? Culture defines us. We emphasize convictions in one's own beliefs, working together to problem solve. Change is attainable. Activism is a venue, with the understanding of crimes against humanity, and taking a stand as an upstander.

The Illinois Holocaust Museum and Educational Center, "further preserves the legacy of the Holocaust by honoring those lost and teaching universal lessons that combat hatred, prejudice

DONATE »

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, NCJW
 Betsy Lazerow, JCFS, JCARES
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and indifference and human rights and the elimination of genocide."

JCAST's mission to come together with partners of those "concerned by human rights and the empowerment of women, and ending the community and take action to end the demand for purchased sex and protect children" reflects the mission of the Illinois Holocaust Museum with the power of education to make a difference. The Museum is working hard to change the thinking of people, broaden their understanding of the existence of history, and come together to fight and resist the inhumane treatment of those with victimless crimes.

Sex trafficking presents a similar picture. Abuse, control of one's lives by others, exploitation, brainwashing, are all aspects of those that are trafficked. We look at women as survivors. We are looking for a world without exploitation.

As a call for action, we need to talk, know the warning signs, be that person that is an upstander who involves themselves in the avenue of human rights for all of us.

Upcoming Events

Selah Freedom

Volunteer Connect Meeting:

Wednesday, February 22nd 6 PM - 7 PM

Learn more about all of the volunteer opportunities at Selah Freedom, meet our staff and other volunteers.

RSVP to Volunteer@selahfreedom.com to attend

Selah Freedom

Care Team Training:

Wednesday, March 22nd 7:30 PM - 9 PM

Willow Creek North Shore (Located in 4th & 5th Grade Room)
2200 Shermer Rd. Glenview, IL 60026

Volunteer opportunities with survivors include teaching life skills, tutoring, cooking meals, leading AA or NA groups, arts/crafts activities, fitness group, game/movie nights, decorating for special birthdays and holidays and more. Application and background check must be completed prior to volunteering on the Care Team.

RSVP to Volunteer@selahfreedom.com to attend.

MONEY MAKE'M SMILE is the journey of Girl and Boy whose lives get caught up in sex trafficking, end tragically but for a mistaken interception by Fate and Destiny. Given another chance, starting from birth, they revisit their former lives, watching themselves with family, friends, new loves and making choices that would lead to their ultimate demise. However, in the end, it is not the characters who decide their fates but the audience.

April 14-30, 2017

For more information, visit: <http://victorygardens.org/also-playing/money-make-m-smile/>

Updates and Information

JCAST Chicago Wants to Connect with You!

Educating our community on sex trafficking takes a village. We are looking for people who want to get involved to speak to groups



Featured Organization

World Without Exploitation

Our movement was born of a series of conversations among exploitation and trafficking survivors, human rights and gender justice advocates, artists, activists, and direct service providers. We're united in the belief that we won't end exploitation until we confront its root causes. We know that an injustice that goes unseen is an injustice that goes unchallenged. And challenging a world in which human beings are being trafficked and exploited is what World Without Exploitation is all about.

For more information, visit www.worldwithoutexploitation.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 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.

and groups who are seeking speakers. If you are interested in having JCAST come speak to your religious or secular group or becoming a speaker, please contact [Jacqueline Babb](#) to schedule a date.

JCAST Chicago Collaborates with Lawyers

Donna Fishman, JCAST Chicago Co-Chair, was invited to speak on two panels for practicing attorneys through the Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and DePaul University Center for Jewish Law & Judaic Studies. Donna educated the group on sex trafficking as a modern form of slavery and collaborated with other panelists to highlight some of the legal issues associated with trafficking.

Will you #BeBoldForChange on International Women's Day on March 8, 2017?

Each one of us - with women, men and non-binary people joining forces - can be a leader within our own spheres of influence by taking bold pragmatic action to accelerate gender parity. Through purposeful collaboration, we can help women advance and unleash the limitless potential offered to economies the world over.

We have urgent work to do. Are you ready to #BeBoldForChange this IWD 2017 and beyond?

For more information, visit <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

New Film Brings Sex Trafficking to the Big Screen

I Am Jane Doe, a film that follows the gut-wrenching human story and fresh look at sex trafficking premiered in six cities on February 10. I Am Jane Doe chronicles the epic battle that several American mothers are waging on behalf of their middle-school daughters, victims of sex trafficking on Backpage.com, the adult classifieds section that for years was part of the iconic Village Voice. Reminiscent of Erin Brockovich and Karen Silkwood, these mothers have stood up on behalf of thousands of other mothers, fighting back and refusing to take no for an answer. For more information, visit www.iamjanedofilm.com

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 bbgordon1@gmail.com or Donna Fishman at donna@jcastchicago.org.

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

* 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 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](#)

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

[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](#)

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 Jacqueline at communications@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.

[National Super Bowl Sex Trafficking Sting Nets Over 700 Sex Buyers and 29 Pimps/Traffickers](#)

[Lawmakers Must Champion Victims of Sex Trade and Human Trafficking](#)

[Flight Attendant Rescues Girl After Spotting Signs of Human Trafficking](#)

[Human Trafficking App Aims to Save Victims with Your Help](#)

[Dart Says He's Committed to Combating Sex Trafficking Despite Challenges](#)

[Ashton Kutcher Gives Emotional Senate Testimony on Human Trafficking](#)

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