



JCAST Chicago April Blog

The Nordic Model, pioneered in Sweden, is a legislative approach to prostitution, which makes it illegal to purchase sexual services. Under this model, the individuals who are trafficked for commercial sex are not criminalized, and are instead offered support and social services. The aim of this model is to change society's views of prostitution and to eventually eradicate it completely. Sweden has seen progress toward achieving this goal - the proportion of Swedish men purchasing sex has decreased since implementing the Nordic Model. In fact, research by the Swedish government indicates that street prostitution has been halved since the legislation was introduced in 1999. [Click here](#) for the full blog post.

Upcoming Events*

Selah Freedom Volunteer Connect Meeting: In the City

When: Saturday, April 22 from 9:30am - 10:30am

Where: Fourth Presbyterian Church

126 E Chestnut Street (at Michigan Avenue) Chicago, IL

About this event:

This meeting gives you an opportunity to learn more about all of the volunteer opportunities at Selah Freedom and meet our team. We look forward to meeting you!

RSVP to volunteer@selahfreedom.com

Illinois Women March on Springfield

When: Tuesday, April 25 from noon - 3:00pm

Where: Illinois State Capitol, Springfield

About this event:

The Illinois Women March on Springfield brings women and their allies together in Springfield on April 25, 2017. Join NCJW in Springfield for a day for advocacy, lobbying and a large rally in support of issues that support a progressive agenda. We are focused on advocating for specific legislation under consideration in the Spring 2017 Illinois legislative session. The progressive agenda includes a focus on the Women's Agenda, the People's Agenda of labor issues, plus issues including immigration, homelessness, criminal legal reform, the environment, LGBTQ, gun safety, health, economics and passing a responsible budget in Illinois. NCJW hopes to have a large contingent attending the March.

[Please click here](#) for more information.

Chicago Community Trust: Eric Liu

When: Thursday, April 27 from 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Where: Chicago Cultural Center

77 East Randolph Street, Chicago

About this event:

In partnership with New America and CHANGE Illinois, CCT is hosting Eric Liu, founder and CEO of Citizen University and executive director of Aspen Institute Citizenship and American Identity Program in conversation with Maria Hinojosa, president

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 Co-Chairs:

Donna Fishman, NCJW

Susan Rifas, JUF, JWF

Steering Committee:

Ronna Ash, Hadassah

Susan Block, Hadassah

Cathy Carmody, NCJW

Donna Gutman, NCJW, ICJW, CEASE Network

Sara Kalish, Chicago Parks Foundation

Betsy Lazerow, JCFS, JCARES

Carole Levine, NCJW

Rae Luskin, NCJW

Sherry Petlin, NCJW

Bonnie Ribet, NCJW

Heather Ross, NCJW, Hakafa

Mara Ruff, JUF

Stacy Saef, NCJW

Cheryl Susman, NCJW CNS

Joan Zahnle, NCJW CNS

Deborah Zions, NCJW, SHALVA

Haley Braun, Intern

and CEO of Futuro Media Group to discuss Liu's new book.
[Click Here](#) to register.

Taking it Personally: Why Gender Violence is an Issue for All Men

When: Thursday, April 27 from 9am - 12 pm

Where: Oakton Community College

TenHoeve Center, Rooms 1604-1610

1600 East Golf Road, Des Plaines, IL

About the event:

JACKSON KATZ, PH.D., is internationally renowned for his pioneering scholarship and activism on issues of gender, race and violence. He has long been a major figure and thought leader in the growing global movement of men working to promote gender equality and prevent gender violence.

He is co-founder of Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP), one of the longest running and most widely influential gender violence prevention programs in North America, and the first major program of its kind in the sports culture and the military.

[Click Here](#) for more information.

Selah Freedom Care Team Training

When: Wednesday, May 10 from 7:30pm - 9:00pm

Where: Willow Creek North Shore (Located in 4th and 5th Grade Room)

2200 Shermer Road, Glenview, IL

About this event:

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

Teen Dating Violence: Strategies for Prevention, Intervention, and Support

When: Tuesday, June 27 from 9:00am - 12:00pm

Where: JCFS/Abe and Ida Cooper Center

6639 North Kedzie Avenue, Chicago, IL

About this event:

This dynamic session will provide an overview of Teen Dating Violence (TDV). The presenter will explore the unique strengths and challenges that young people experience as they enter friendships and dating relationships. We will examine the dynamics and warning signs of TDV, its impact on young people, the barriers that many youth face when reporting, as well as strategies for engaging youth to build healthy relationships. The session will include an opportunity to practice interventions using safety planning and support skills. We will also discuss mandated reporting requirements and organizational policies that impact our role as professionals. This session combines presentation and small group work.

[Click Here](#) for more information and to register.

7th Annual Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force Conference

When: Thursday - Friday, August 3-4

Where: IIT Chicago- Kent College of Law

565 West Adams Street

About the event:

The Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force hosts a human trafficking conference to inform, educate and strengthen anti-trafficking efforts across the city of Chicago, in Cook County and throughout the surrounding areas. The conference generally features two full days of presentations on the most up-to-date and innovative work from local and national experts on human trafficking.

[Click Here](#) for more information.



Featured Organization

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 survivors 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.

Following six years of learning from experts, Traffick Free has opened a drop-in center for adult females engaged in commercial sexual exploitation.

The center serves individuals' basic and critical needs, including shelter, showers, clothes, and social services such as counseling and case management. Coming to the drop-in center is completely voluntary; it is a place of refuge and to stand in the gap by providing immediate tangible needs and safety.

Traffick Free's research with local civic and nonprofit organizations has shown that the greatest need for victims of exploitation is emergency services.

To keep the lights on, help is needed. As a volunteer-driven organization, the organization relies on the devotion of working and studying adults. Please help by [volunteering](#) your time.

**TAKE
ACTION
TODAY!**

* Please note that not all of these events are sponsored or hosted by JCAST Chicago but are listed here as a convenience to those who might be interested.

Updates and Information

Calling All Gardeners!

We are looking for people who are interested in volunteering for Selah Freedom on the Northshore to help plant flower and vegetable gardens. Please write to Donna at info@jcastchicago.org for more information.

TAKE ACTION

Toiletry and Gift Card Donations Needed Year-round to support young women trafficked in Chicago that are helped by the Dreamcatcher Foundation.

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 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

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*

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.

* 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

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.

- [Websites where children are prostituted are immune from prosecution. But why?](#)
- [Homeless Youth at High Risk of Human Trafficking](#)
- [France arrests at least two people a day for buying sex under new law](#)
- [In U.S. Restaurants, Bars And Food Trucks, 'Modern Slavery' Persists](#)
- [Father and 2 sons given prison for sex trafficking underage girls](#)
- [Prostitution as Financial Aid: Three College Students Speak Out](#)
- [George Will: The battle against sex trafficking of minors](#)

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](#)
[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](#)

Jewish Coalition Against Sex Trafficking (JCAST) Chicago
847-853-8889 * info@jcastchicago.org * www.jcastchicago.org

JCAST Chicago is supported by the Jewish Women's Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago.