

# Human Trafficking Fact Sheet

eliminating racism  
empowering women

**ywca**

missoula

EXHIBIT 9

DATE 2/2/15

HB 89

## YWCA Support

The YWCA Missoula is spearheading outreach and education efforts about Human Trafficking and is at the forefront of multidisciplinary action to address this social justice issue in Missoula and across the state. **YWCA Missoula supports anti-human trafficking legislation and initiatives that support women, children, minorities and marginalized populations, and people that have experienced prior trauma.** This includes efforts that:

- Educate law enforcement, human services and legal professionals about the indicators of Human Trafficking
- Provide funding to victim services agencies in the Bakken region of Montana
- Establish stricter penalties for buyers of commercial sex

## Background

Last year the Global Slavery Index estimated that nearly 30 million people around the world are being trafficked. These people live as slaves. **Traffickers target the most oppressed and marginalized people in our society.** The vast majority of young girls and women working in the sex industry were victims of child sexual abuse, neglect or other forms of trauma like domestic or sexual violence prior to recruitment. Kids with prior involvement in the child welfare and foster care system are especially vulnerable and at much higher risk of being exploited. Other marginalized populations at risk in Montana are Native Americans. Native American women and children have been identified as one of the most economically, socially, and politically disenfranchised groups in the United States. Traffickers capitalize on the risk factors present on remote reservations and Alaskan communities: extreme poverty, homelessness, the lack of access to education, chronic unemployment, discrimination and the lack of opportunities. Although most research on violence against Native women in the US does not include prostitution or sex trafficking as forms of sexual violence, Montana is seeing increased numbers of young Native girls transported up into the Bakken region to offer commercial sexual services to the drastically rising number of men working in the oil fields.

During the transatlantic slave trade from the 1600s to the 1900s, approximately 9 million people were exploited for financial gains. **Today, more people are living in slavery than during any other point of human history and are being controlled by the use of extreme violence, the threat of violence, or both.** Human Trafficking is modern day slavery and, although it is not legal anywhere in the world, it is thriving everywhere.

## Montana Facts

- An estimated 15,000- 18,000 people are trafficked into the United States each year; 80% are women, 50% are children.
- Most children are between the ages of 12 -14 when they enter the commercial sex industry in the U.S.
- Of the 154 Montana Calls to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline between December 2007 – February 2014, 27 calls referenced potential Human Trafficking cases (72% sex trafficking and 21% labor trafficking).

### Sources

International Labor Organization, June 2012  
Polaris Project, 2012  
UNODC Website 2013  
Department of Justice 2013

### Contact for more information

Kat Werner  
Pathways Program Manager, YWCA Missoula  
[kwerner@ywcaofmissoula.org](mailto:kwerner@ywcaofmissoula.org)