

Crime Victims' Institute



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Our Mission

The mission of the Crime Victims' Institute is to:

- Conduct research to examine the impact of crime on victims of all ages in order to promote a better understanding of victimization
- Improve services to victims
- Assist victims of crime by giving them a voice
- Inform victim-related policy-making at the state and local levels

CVI's Community Outreach

- Texas Victim Services Association Board Member
- Victim Services Coalition Member

Sam Houston
STATE UNIVERSITY

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™

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January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

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Human trafficking is a crime that involves the exploitation of individuals for involuntary servitude, debt bondage, labor, or commercial sex. Victims are vulnerable, voiceless, and controlled through violence or threats of violence.

The International Labor Organization estimates that there are 20.9 million victims of human trafficking around the world. To that end, human trafficking is a considerable problem both internationally and within the United States. For example, the Polaris Project reported that in 2016, there were 8,042 cases of human trafficking in the U.S. Further, estimates provided by the Institute of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault at the University of Texas Austin have suggested there are currently 313,000 victims of human trafficking in Texas—234,000 are exploited for labor and 79,000 are exploited for commercial sex.

National efforts to prevent, combat, and respond to human trafficking culminated in the passage of federal anti-trafficking legislation. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA, 2000) promotes the protection of victims and prosecution of traffickers.

The TVPA has defined trafficking as, "the process of recruiting, harboring, moving or obtaining a person through force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of involuntary servitude, debt bondage, or commercial sexual exploitation (22 U.S.C. §7102(9)(B)). If the victim is under the age of 18, it is not necessary to demonstrate force, fraud, or coercion (22 U.S.C. §7102(9)(A)).

In 2011, the White House designated January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month to raise awareness and recognize the vital role that individuals, state coalitions, non-governmental organizations, criminal justice agencies, and communities can play to prevent, combat and respond to all forms of human trafficking.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCES

Polaris Project: www.polarisproject.org

National Human Trafficking Resource Center: 1-888-373-7888

Child Protective Services (CPS) operates in every state: <http://www.childhelp.org/pages/hotline>

United Against Human Trafficking: 713-874-0290

Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign: <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>

Sable Kocurek joins CVI



Sable Kocurek is the Assistant Director of Criminal Justice Budget and Administration and directly serves the Crime Victims' Institute in the College of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University. She joined CVI in September 2017 and is responsible for budget, financial operations, purchasing, travel, and fiscal planning. Sable has nine years of progressively responsible experience working within higher education. Sable also serves the Correctional Management Institute of Texas and the College of Criminal Justice. Her work in this capacity encompasses a number of units within the Center. She has a B.S. in Accounting and Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University.



Human Smuggling

The illegal movement of someone across a border

vs.

Human Trafficking

The illegal exploitation of a person

Every year, THOUSANDS of human trafficking cases get reported, but many more go unnoticed...

The Department of Homeland Security created the Blue Campaign to take a stand against modern day slavery and help combat this heinous crime by raising awareness of human trafficking around the country



HOW THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY IS FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Department of Homeland Security created the Blue Campaign to take a stand against modern day slavery and help combat this heinous crime by raising awareness of human trafficking around the country.

JOIN THE DHS BLUE CAMPAIGN

- Visit the Blue Campaign website: dhs.gov/blue-campaign
- Learn more about the signs and indicators of human trafficking: dhs.gov/blue-campaign/awareness-training
- Spread the word—download and share anti-human trafficking materials: dhs.gov/blue-campaign/resource-catalog
- View and share our Public Service Announcement: dhs.gov/gallery/blue-campaign-video
- Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/bluecampaign

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS:

Modern day slavery.

Exploiting a person through force, fraud, or coercion.

Sex trafficking.

- Sex trafficking victims are manipulated or forced against their will to engage in sex acts for money
- Sex traffickers might use violence, threats, manipulation, or the promise of love and affection to lure victims
- Truck stops, hotel rooms, rest areas, street corners, clubs, and private residences are just some of the places where victims are forced to sell sex

Forced labor.

- Victims of forced labor could be found in factories, on farms, doing construction work, and more
- Very often, victims are forced to manufacture or grow products that we use and consume every day
- Through force, fraud, or coercion, victims are made to work for little or no pay

Domestic servitude.

- Traffickers sometimes take a victim's identification papers and travel documents in order to limit their freedom
- Victims of domestic servitude are hidden in plain sight, forced to work in homes across the United States
- They are prisoners working as nannies, maids, or domestic help

Happening everywhere, even in the United States, and victims can be U.S. citizens or of any nationality, age, socioeconomic status, or gender.

Any person under the age of 18 involved in a commercial sex act.

A HIGHLY profitable crime.

RECOGNIZE AND REPORT SUSPECTED HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Federal Law
Enforcement
1-866-DHS-2-ICE

Submit a tip
online at
www.ice.gov/tips

For victim support from the
National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC),
call 1-888-373-7888
or text HELP or INFO to [Befree\(2333733\)](https://www.befree.org)



In the Works...

Look for upcoming publications from the Crime Victims' Institute:

- Harris County's SAFE court evaluation
- Athletes and Sexual Assault
- Travis County, Texas Strangulation Supplement
- Sexual Assault Disclosure

Crime Victims' Institute Advisory Board

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Chancellor

Focus On:

Jessica Fleming

CVI Graduate Research Assistant

Jessica C. Fleming, B.S. began the Master of Arts program in Criminal Justice and Criminology at Sam Houston State University this Spring 2018. She graduated *Cum Laude* in December of 2017 with her Bachelor's of Science degree in Victim Studies and a minor in Accounting from Sam Houston State University. During her tenure as an undergraduate, she was a member of the Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society. Jessica also completed the training necessary to grant her a provisional advocate certificate from the National Advocate Credentialing Program.

To earn her way through her undergraduate program, Jessica worked full time as a quality control associate for a medical products manufacturing company while raising two daughters, ages 5 years old and 10 months old. She is also passionate about advocating for the protection and empowerment of those who cannot protect themselves. Her broad research interests include victimology, violence against women and children, and juvenile victimization.



Upcoming Events



National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month January

National Stalking Awareness Month January

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month February

International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment
San Diego, CA Jan. 28-Feb. 2, 2018

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
New Orleans, LA February 13-17, 2018

International Symposium on Child Abuse
Huntsville, AL March 19-22, 2018

Share your ideas:

We welcome your input. Please send issues or topics you would like to see CVI conduct research on to:

crimevictims@shsu.edu

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