



The Intersection Between Human Trafficking and Stalking: The Facts

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How Does Human Trafficking and Stalking Intersect?

Human trafficking, known as modern-day slavery, involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. On the other hand, stalking is a pattern of behaviors in which a predator watches, follows, harasses, and/or threatens someone. Due to the advancement in technology, stalking can also occur virtually.[1] Stalking often co-occurs with other forms of victimization, such as intimate partner violence and human trafficking, and can affect specific populations in unique ways. Offenders may use stalking as a tactic of abuse or while planning to commit another crime.[2] Therefore, human trafficking and stalking intersect in that stalking tactics are regularly used to force and coerce individuals into human trafficking (sex and labor), prevent survivors from engaging in legal protections, and sabotage economic opportunities.[3]

Have you Heard?

- In the U.S., 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men experience stalking at some point in their lifetimes.[4]
- In 2021, 10,360 cases of human trafficking were identified across the U.S. by the National Human Trafficking Hotline; 917 cases were from Texas.[5]
- Anyone can be a victim of human trafficking and stalking; however Native and Indigenous women are at a higher risk of experiencing both.[6]

What are the Consequences?

Trafficking and stalking can be co-occurring and intersecting experiences that greatly impact economic security. Conditions of economic insecurity and inequality create risk factors for trafficking, and in turn, traffickers use stalking behaviors such as surveillance to identify vulnerable individuals and determine how to recruit into labor or sex trafficking. Technology has a role in facilitating, amplifying, and replicating harm, including with stalking and trafficking.[7]

How to Support Survivors?

Many victim service agencies do not serve stalking victims unless they have other victimization experiences, such as partner abuse or human trafficking.[8] While it is important to recognize the co-occurrence and intersection of various types of victimization, service providers must avoid excluding survivors based on this factor, or lack thereof. Employers, policymakers, and citizens alike must be aware of the risk factors and negative consequences associated with both human trafficking and stalking, understand that it can happen anywhere, including corporate workplaces, school campuses, and online, and seek to make these environments much safer for everyone.[7]

Resources

Texas

- Texas Advocacy Project --
<https://www.texasadvocacyproject.org/>
- Texas Human Trafficking Resource Center --
<https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/safety/texas-human-trafficking-resource-center>
- Texas Legal Services Center --
<https://www.tlsc.org/crimevictims>

National

- National Human Trafficking Hotline --
<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en>
- The Stalking Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center --
<https://www.stalkingawareness.org>
- Futures Without Violence --
<https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org>

References

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- [2] Stalking Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center. (2023). Specific Populations & Intersecting Victimization. <https://www.stalkingawareness.org/intersections-with-stalking/>
- [3] Office for Victims of Crime. (2023). The Intersections of Stalking, Human Trafficking and Economic Security. <https://ovc.ojp.gov/events/intersections-stalking-human-trafficking-and-economic-security>
- [4] Stalking Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center. (2023). Stalking Fact Sheet. https://www.stalkingawareness.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/SPARC_StalkingFactSheet_2018_FINAL.pdf
- [5] National Human Trafficking Hotline. (2021). National Statistics. <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/statistics>
- [6] Advocacy Resource Center. (2023). January-Human Trafficking and Stalking. <https://www.arcsaulttribe.com/arc-articles/january-human-trafficking-and-stalking-article-2023>
- [7] Futures Without Violence. (2023). The Intersections of Stalking, Trafficking, and Economic Security. <https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/StalkingTraffickingES.pdf>
- [8] Logan, T. K., & Landhuis, J. (2022). Acquaintance stalking victim experiences of work interference, resource loss, and help-seeking. *International Review of Victimology*, 02697580221125880.

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Resources

- Texas Abuse Hotline (suspicions of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children, adults with disabilities, or people 65 +) <https://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/>
800-252-5400
- Texas Council on Family Violence <https://tcfv.org/survivor-resources/>
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault <https://taasa.org/get-help/>
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-7233
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-4673
- National Human Trafficking Hotline 888-373-7888
- Aging and Disability Resource Center 855-937-2372
- Victim Connect Resource Center 855-484-2846
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 988