

## **Human Trafficking**

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 defines human trafficking as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for:

- Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, and coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or,
- Labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, and coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Trafficking in persons, or human trafficking, is a widespread form of modern-day slavery. It's a crime that involves the exploitation of a person for the purpose of labor or a commercial sex act through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. If a person younger than 18 is induced to perform a commercial sex act, it is considered a crime regardless of whether there is any force, fraud, or coercion. Victims are recruited and lured by traffickers with the false promise of a better life, love, and job opportunities. Later, traffickers use violence, threats, and manipulation to control their victims.

Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise of this century, growing from a nine billion to a 32 billion dollar global industry in a little over a decade. There is no typical trafficker, and it has been shown that traffickers can be parents or other close family members, family friends, boyfriends/girlfriends, employers, smugglers or strangers. Traffickers can be part of an organized enterprise or can work alone.

Brazosport I.S.D. has partnered with [UnBound Houston](#) to bring awareness of Human Trafficking to our intermediate and high school students as well as parents and citizens in our communities. We began in the Fall of 2016 by having UnBound Houston present to our district counselors. This was followed-up in the Spring of 2017 by hosting a parent night meeting and student assemblies at Brazoswood H.S., Brazosport H.S., B\*Success Academy, and Lighthouse Learning Center. The program was expanded in the Fall of 2017 to include Clute Intermediate, Freeport Intermediate, Lake Jackson Intermediate, and 9th grade at both Brazosport H.S. and Brazoswood H.S.



Additional Resources Regarding Human Trafficking:

- [Just Cause Houston](#)
- [Houston Area Council on Human Trafficking](#)
- [Unbound](#)