

Eliminate Human-Trafficking by discovering the necessary systems to harness technology that promotes real-time reporting and the subsequent protection of vulnerable citizens.

What: Researching the issue of human trafficking, the ways of reporting, those affected, the overall attitude towards the issue in the hospitality industry.

Why: Human trafficking is becoming more and more common, and occurring more frequently within the hospitality industry. Armed with the results garnered from this project I could gain the insight that could lower that number and raise awareness of the issue, potentially saving lives. According to sources, about 300,000 children are at risk of being exploited each year.

Purpose: To gain knowledge to be able to raise awareness that could ultimately save lives. To bring light to the role the hospitality industry could play in lowering the staggering statistics.

Plan: Gather data and information, host focus groups to find out the level of awareness that the individuals in the industry have on this topic and develop a needs assessment of various sample populations.

Expected Results: Research findings can be used to educate members of the hospitality industry and aid in thwarting potential human trafficking incidents

Research methods: I will gather data pertaining to human trafficking through research, as well as gather useful training resources and materials. I will evaluate the methods and effectiveness of the current training; I will contact current hotel professionals for opinions on the usefulness and real-world application of said training. Training can easily fall behind the times; we will evaluate the validity based on current world and United States-specific trends in human trafficking.

Goals:

- To promote awareness of the human trafficking statistics and reality being faced today, specifically within accommodations businesses.
- To help decrease the cases of human trafficking involving accommodations businesses, by way of better research and updated training and education methods for professionals in the field of accommodations.
- To obtain recognition for individual contributions, School, University, and Association
- To receive a modest financial incentive for the time, energy, materials and effort spent on project

Proposed activities: Conduct surveys and focus groups including law enforcement, hotels, and other hospitality resources. Focus on gathering information on who reports the incidents, how many incidents occur daily, what could have been prevented and future prevention tactics, and the different types of trafficking

Required Resources: American Hotel and Lodging Association training materials, available training modules, Qualtricks for access to surveys

Needs and Problems: The American Hotel and Lodging Association has been a long-term educator and supporter of reducing Human Trafficking incidents in lodging establishments. The hospitality industry is becoming a growing hub of human trafficking.



**Over 21,214 cases
reported over the past 7
years!**