



School Safety Newsletter

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Free 1 Year Trial of an Award Winning Online Anonymous Student Reporting Tool

Safer Schools Together, www.saferschoolstogether.com

The data was there.... They said. But knowing exactly where, when and how to look for this information is the current challenge that school officials and law enforcement face. We know that data doesn't lie. Tragically, the vast majority of recent school violence cases have had pre-incident indicators leaked online in the form of social media posts or messages to peers. There is well established research that "in 80% of school shootings at least one person had information that the attacker was thinking about or planning the school". Furthermore, in nearly all of these cases, the person who knew was a peer, a friend, schoolmate, or sibling" [Safe School Initiative Report, United States Secret Service and Department of Education, 2002]. This is a massive decision making burden that is placed on a young person whom is close to that threat maker who then must decide whether or not to share this information. Often times worrisome behavior such as school attack planning can go unreported due to the fear of retribution of becoming a target, being labelled as a "rat" or a whistleblower, or even believing that adults won't do anything about the situation. This is a significant hurdle that is present in schools across this nation and depends in large part due to perceptions of safety and connectedness within the overall culture and climate of a school or district.

Schools need to provide students an anonymous way to be able to report safety related and concerning information to the decision makers in our buildings. This is known to be best practice and arises consistently during inquiries into the tragic aftermaths of school shootings. It is known that students aren't utilizing phone tip lines and they have told us that they won't install a reporting app on their smartphones. This is the reason that Safer Schools Together created the first Online Anonymous Student Reporting Tool in North America— PSSTWorld, in 2004. Legislation is catching up, for example both California and Texas require school districts to have an anonymous student reporting tool. In California, PSSTWorld won the Golden Bell Award for being the best school safety initiative. We stand firmly behind the inherent value that this tool brings to a school community and **Safer Schools Together is willing to offer any school district in Illinois a free year activation of PSSTWorld**. It is easy to implement, requires no extra work, and beyond the first year the cost is marginal. You will also receive user manuals, guidelines for responding to tips, and promotional posters and videos. We invite you to let the tool prove its worth. **To set up your free year of activation please email: info@saferschoolstogether.com**

If you are interested in learning more about the most current hands-on social media investigative tools blended with the unique dynamics of threat assessment to ensure the safety of our schools, there is an upcoming **Digital Threat Assessment** training day in: **Chicago on February 3rd, 2017** at Harry S Truman College (1145 W Wilson Ave, Chicago, IL). To find out more and register, visit: <http://saferschoolstogether.com/event/digital-data-collection-threat-assessments-training-chicago-il-february-3-2017/>

For more information about PSSTWorld, Digital Threat Assessment Training, or Worrisome Online Behavior Reports please visit: www.saferschoolstogether.com

*Protecting our
future through
information
sharing*

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Obama Declares January 2017 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

December 28, 2016

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/12/28/presidential-proclamation-national-slavery-and-human-trafficking>

Myths & Misconceptions on Human Trafficking

National Human Trafficking Hotline

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/what-human-trafficking/myths-misconceptions>

To effectively combat human trafficking, each of us needs to have a clear "lens" that helps us understand what human trafficking is. When this lens is clouded or biased by misconceptions about the definition of trafficking, our ability to respond to the crime is reduced. It is important to learn how to identify and break down commonly-held myths and misconceptions regarding human trafficking and the type of trafficking networks that exist in the United States.

Myth 1: Trafficked persons can only be foreign nationals or are only immigrants from other countries.

Reality: The federal definition of human trafficking includes both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals. Both are protected under the federal trafficking statutes and have been since the Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000. Human trafficking within the United States affects victims who are U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, visa holders, and undocumented workers.

Myth 2: Human trafficking is essentially a crime that must involve some form of travel, transportation, or movement across state or national borders.

Reality: Trafficking does not require transportation. Although transportation may be involved as a control mechanism to keep victims in unfamiliar places, it is not a required element of the trafficking definition. Human trafficking is not synonymous with forced migration or smuggling, which involve border crossing.

Myth 3: Human trafficking is another term for human smuggling.

Reality: Smuggling is a crime against a country's borders: human trafficking is a crime against a person. Each are distinct federal crimes in the United States. While smuggling requires illegal border crossing, human trafficking involves commercial sex acts or labor or services that are induced through force, fraud, or coercion, regardless of whether or not transportation occurs.

Myth 4: There must be elements of physical restraint, physical force, or physical bondage when identifying a human trafficking situation.

Reality: Trafficking does not require physical restraint, bodily harm, or physical force. Psychological means of control, such as threats, fraud, or abuse of the legal process, are sufficient elements of the crime. Unlike the previous federal involuntary servitude statutes (U.S.C. 1584), the new federal crimes created by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 were intended to address "subtler" forms of coercion and to broaden previous standards that only considered bodily harm.

Myth 5: Victims of human trafficking will immediately ask for help or assistance and will self-identify as a victim of a crime.

Reality: Victims of human trafficking often do not immediately seek help or self-identify as victims of a crime due to a variety of factors, including lack of trust, self-blame, or specific instructions by the traffickers regarding how to behave when talking to law enforcement or social services. It is important to avoid making a snap judgment about who is or who is not a trafficking victim based on first encounters. Trust often takes time to develop. Continued trust-building and patient interviewing is often required to get to the whole story and uncover the full experience of what a victim has gone through.

Myth 6: Human trafficking victims always come from situations of poverty or from small rural villages.

Reality: Although poverty can be a factor in human trafficking because it is often an indicator of vulnerability, poverty alone is not a single causal factor or universal indicator of a human trafficking victim. Trafficking victims can come from a range of income levels, and many may come from families with higher socioeconomic status.

Monthly Webinars!

First Wednesday of Every Month at 10 am (Except January, July, and August).

Next Webinar

**Wednesday,
February 1, 2017**

Each webinar has a round table discussion at the end. Questions are always welcome!

To participate, you must be a vetted member. For more information please email schoolsafety@isp.state.il.us

Myths & Misconceptions on Human Trafficking (Continued)

Myth 7: Sex trafficking is the only form of human trafficking.

Reality: The federal definition of human trafficking encompasses both sex trafficking and labor trafficking, and the crime can affect men and women, children and adults.

Myth 8: Human trafficking only occurs in illegal underground industries.

Reality: Trafficking can occur in legal and legitimate business settings as well as underground markets. Human trafficking has been reported in business markets such as restaurants, hotels, and manufacturing plants, as well as underground markets such as commercial sex in residential brothels and street based commercial sex.

Myth 9: If the trafficked person consented to be in their initial situation or was informed about what type of labor they would be doing or that commercial sex would be involved, then it cannot be human trafficking or against their will because they “knew better.”

Reality: Initial consent to commercial sex or a labor setting prior to acts of force, fraud, or coercion (or if the victim is a minor in a sex trafficking situation) is not relevant to the crime, nor is payment.

Myth 10: Foreign national trafficking victims are always undocumented immigrants or here in this country illegally.

Reality: Not all foreign national victims are undocumented. Foreign national trafficked persons can be in the United States through either legal or illegal means. Although some foreign national victims are undocumented, a significant percentage may have legitimate visas for various purposes.

Resources Available to Aid in Preventing, Identifying, and Responding to Human Trafficking.

List of resources compiled by The National Center for Campus Public Safety, www.nccpsafety.org/

Blue Campaign (<https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>): An initiative of the Department of Homeland Security, the Blue Campaign works in collaboration with law enforcement, government, non-governmental and private organizations to protect the basic right of freedom and to bring those who exploit human lives to justice. Campus safety officials can find infographics, a document library, free awareness training (<https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/awareness-training>), and Blue Campaign materials and videos; learn to recognize the signs of human trafficking; and access a phone number (1-866-347-2423) to report suspected human trafficking.

National Human Trafficking Hotline (<https://humantraffickinghotline.org>; 1-888-373-7888): This toll-free hotline is available to answer calls from anywhere in the country 24/7 in more than 200 languages. The National Hotline provides human trafficking victims and survivors with access to critical support and services and also seeks to equip the anti-trafficking community with the tools to effectively combat all forms of human trafficking. Their website provides information on TIP, statistics, a resource library, a referral directory, details about various federal anti-trafficking efforts (<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/what-human-trafficking/federal-anti-trafficking-efforts>), and ways to get involved.

Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) Human Trafficking (<https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/humantrafficking/index.html>): OVC has several resources available, including the Faces of Human Trafficking (<https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/humantrafficking/publicawareness.html>) video series, to raise public awareness of human trafficking, the many forms it can take, and the important role that everyone can play in identifying and serving victims. The section for law enforcement (<https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/humantrafficking/lawenforcement.html>) lists several options for referrals, information on building and strengthening human trafficking task forces, and training to build the capacity of victim services and response to human trafficking.

Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office; <https://www.state.gov/j/tip/>): The TIP Office, an office within the Department of State, conducts awareness-raising activities, partners to increase the availability of pro-bono legal resources and tools to combat human trafficking, publishes an annual TIP report, manages a foreign assistance program, provides human trafficking awareness training (<https://www.state.gov/j/tip/training/index.htm>), and has several other resources available on their website.

Polaris (<https://polarisproject.org/>): Polaris is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization that works to combat and prevent modern slavery and human trafficking by working with government leaders to protect victims' rights; building partnerships with the world's leading technology corporations; and assisting communities in identifying, reporting, and eliminating trafficking networks. The human trafficking section of their website includes statistics, subsections on sex and labor trafficking, indicators of TIP, details about victims and traffickers, survivor stories (<https://polarisproject.org/blog/search>) and America's Daughters video (<https://polarisproject.org/resources/americas-daughters-video>), links to related policy and legislation, and other resources.

Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP; <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip>): An office of the Administration for Children & Families, OTIP seeks to combat human trafficking by supporting and leading systems that prevent trafficking through public awareness and protect victims through identification and assistance. OTIP offers information on TIP, victim assistance, training, research, grants, and other resources.



National Gang Center Releases Fall 2016 Newsletter

The National Gang Center (NGC) Newsletter is an educational and informational tool for those engaged in efforts to reduce gang involvement and crime in communities. This publication aims to educate and inform practitioners, researchers, law enforcement, and others with a shared interest in gangs on current trends such as injunctions, significant court decisions, emerging gangs, gang trainings, and strategies being used in communities to deal with gangs.

Just Added - Fall 2016 Newsletter: This issue features articles on improving understanding of and responsiveness to gang-involved girls, success stories of former female gang members, female delinquency and effective programs, resources for human trafficking and policy and programming for girls, and breaking the cycle of violence through the Comprehensive Gang Model and Trauma-Informed Care Public Health Model.

To view the Fall 2016 and previous newsletters, visit: <https://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Newsletter>

The National Gang Center also released a video called, “Why Youth Join Gangs” in June 2014. This video presentation features gang researchers, practitioners, and young people who were previously involved in gangs. Learn about research regarding gang joining, as well as firsthand insights into the behaviors and the circumstances that you might observe when interacting with youth who are at high risk of joining a gang. To view this video, visit: <https://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Video>

The Graffiti Effect

Deputy Kip Heinle, Triad High School SRO, Past President of the Illinois School Resource Officers Association (www.ILSROA.org)

Graffiti on the walls is something that isn't new to schools. Some might think it's no big deal, or it's just kids being kids...no harm no foul. The trouble is it can lead to more issues than just writing on the walls, lockers or bathroom stalls. Graffiti is something that needs to be addressed as soon as it goes up, especially if it's negative writing against the school or a person. Graffiti spreads when students see it's ok to write on the walls and stalls, and nothing is done about it. They continue doing it, and before you know it, you have it all over. If it's removed within a few hours or a day, students won't be able to add to the problem. It's as simple as an SRO buying a magic eraser and wiping down the area or for bigger jobs, where it can't be erased, let maintenance know to paint over it. This also goes for holes in the walls. Once a student sees holes not fixed over time, it lets them know it's OK to pick at it or put another hole in the wall.

As we return, refreshed from Christmas break, many of us are planning our summer break. We are thinking about where we will vacation, which trainings we will attend and looking forward to having days off during the week. We might be recharged and good as new, but how about our school buildings? Hopefully, you were able to make a list of issues at your school, and they were fixed during the break, so your school is ready for the rest of the school year. Just like graffiti, small repairs can mushroom if not addressed swiftly and quickly.

Cameras that aren't working are like that flashlight in our house, squad car, or office that has dead batteries in it. We all have that flashlight and tell ourselves that we will change the batteries or recharge them but we just never get around to it. Then we regret it when we need it most. The day always comes when the lights go out during the school day, or when we are working an activity at night for the school. Working cameras are key to the safety and security of your school. Make it a top priority to have them operational every day. When they stop working let the school know and stress to them, they need to be fixed as soon as possible. In today's world ability to view video is a must. No one wants to be embarrassed by cameras that are not working, especially when the video is needed for an investigation.

As we finish out our school year and long for the days we can relax by the pool, let's not lose sight of our current school year and how important it is to keep up on these simple things. Some people might think they are small, tedious and not important but they are very important. Just because your school building isn't brand new doesn't mean it can't look like it. Take care of the small stuff, so it doesn't turn into the big stuff.