

## **HUMAN TRAFFICKING: TRADITIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT METHODS DO NOT WORK**

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### Abstract

Traditional law enforcement methods do not work when trying to identify victims of human trafficking. Victims are being missed by law enforcement due to their lack of knowledge on the topic of human trafficking, their lack of compassion for potential victims that appear as prostitutes, massage parlor employees, or gentlemen's club dancers and the historical tendency to exclude others from their investigations. To be successful, law enforcement must re-evaluate their operating methods, educate their personnel through updated training, and foster good working relationships with other agencies to include; non-governmental agencies and the media. Law enforcement must educate their personnel on how traffickers control their victims before conducting sting operations. Officers must be able to look beyond the surface of the initial arrest and probe deeper into the arrested background by asking some simple questions. Agencies must identify non-governmental agencies within their jurisdictional area of responsibility and learn what they can do to assist in the investigations. These types of agencies can provide a sense of security for the victims, which will create trust and help further the investigation. The media is another outlet that law enforcement must include in their investigation after arrests have been made to further the investigation by identifying additional victims.