

# SAFVIC ON THE SCENE

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**Happy Holidays**  
FROM THE SAFVIC FAMILY TO YOURS!

### TAASA's Diversity Task Force Scholarship Application

The Diversity Task Force is currently accepting scholarship applications for the 2011 TAASA Conference in Austin, TX.

If you are interested in applying for TAASA's Diversity Task Force Scholarship please follow the link below to complete an application.

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/415587/TAASA-s-Diversity-Task-Force-Scholarship-Application>

Deadline for scholarship application submission is January 21, 2011.

Contact Rose Luna at 512-474-7190 ext. 13 or [rluna@taasa.org](mailto:rluna@taasa.org)



## Putting the Brakes On Human Trafficking

By C. Wayne Dawson

Human Trafficking professional Dottie Laster was narrating the radio chat room "Here Women Talk" in September of this year when she received an urgent message from one of the participants: "Do you know how to get someone out of a bad situation?"

That plea came from a nineteen year old woman named Lisbeth, (real name anonymous), whose experiences rivaled "Nightmare on Elm Street". Her mother had forced her into occult sexual ceremonies since she was three, then transferred her legal guardianship at age seventeen to a man thirty years her senior. He sanitized communication over the internet to present himself as a licensed counselor and pastor who would treat Lisbeth for her problems. But instead of providing therapy, he moved her from Texas to Pennsylvania, forced her to dance in a strip club, star in pornographic movies, and submit to him sexually. Lisbeth fell into self-mutilation, depression, and

hopelessness. Her situation was so dark she considered suicide.

Dottie and two private investigators, Vicki Siedow and Jennifer Keyseling, created a plan to rescue the woman, who agreed on one condition: her cat had to come along.

The victim took a walk in a local park, at a time agreed upon with the investigators, but found herself escorted by three traffickers. Suddenly, she bolted from them and ran into Keyseling's waiting car. To avoid exiting past the criminals, Jennifer kicked her vehicle into four-wheel drive and plowed through the park. Then Lisbeth, carrying only a backpack, a laptop, and her kitten was whisked away to the airport.

The girl's abuser attempted to return her back to his control. He told the police that the girl was mentally ill and relied upon him for medical attention, a manipulative response called "grooming the environment" by professionals. The officers stopped the plane the

woman was on until they determined she was leaving of her own free will, and released her. Dottie and the investigators subsequently helped Lisbeth and her cat get the help they needed to start a new life. This was not an unusual experience for Dottie, President of Laster Global Consulting, and Executive Director of Million Kids. Her efforts to combat trafficking began in 1999 when she read about a ship of child laborers abandoned at sea. Angry and wanting to make a difference, Dottie returned to college and won her Masters in International Relations. In 2003 she began her career by leading task forces to combat slavery in San Antonio, Houston, and Orange County, California. After obtaining Department of Justice grants to assist victims and train law enforcement, she was one of a select few



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## National Stalking Awareness Month

This January marks the eighth observance of National Stalking Awareness Month and this year's theme - "Stalking: Know It. Name It. Stop It." challenges the nation to fight this dangerous crime by learning more about it.

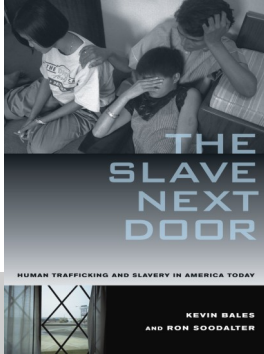
Stalking is a crime in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, yet many victims and criminal justice professionals underestimate its seriousness and impact. The 2009 *Stalking Victimization in the United States* report, published by the United States Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics demonstrates just how common the crime of stalking is with 3.4 million people reporting being stalked in a one-year period. In one of five cases, stalkers use weapons to harm or threaten victims, and stalking is one of the significant risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships.

Stalking can be difficult to recognize, investigate, and prosecute. Unlike other crimes, stalking is not a single, easily identifiable crime but a series of acts, a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause that person fear. Stalking may take many forms, such as assaults, threats, vandalism, burglary, or even abuse, but can also be part of seemingly non-criminal acts like unwanted cards, calls, gifts, or visits. Stalkers fit no standard psychological profile, and many stalkers follow their victims from one jurisdiction to another, making it difficult for authorities to investigate and prosecute their crimes.

Communities that understand stalking however, can support victims, do more to combat the crime, and hold offenders accountable. You can promote awareness and public education about stalking during the annual observance. Learn more by visiting, <http://stalkingawarenessmonth.org> and the Stalking Resource Center at [www.ncvc.org/svc](http://www.ncvc.org/svc).

This article was provided by Rebecca Dreke, Senior Program Associate of the National Center for Victims of Crime

## Featured Book



### The Slave Next Door Human Trafficking and Slavery in American Today

Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter

*"The Slave Next Door exposes slavery in today's American in all its forms, and sounds a call to arms to government, corporations, and private citizens alike."*

-Kerry Kennedy, Founder,  
Robert F. Kennedy Center for  
Human Rights

Available in the SAFVIC Library  
to SAFVIC Instructors only.

## National Human Trafficking Awareness Day January 11, 2011

Set forth by the US Senate on  
June 22, 2007, January 11th  
has been declared National  
Global Human Trafficking  
Awareness Day.

We encourage you to contact  
your local coalitions and take  
action to abolish slavery.

## Featured Agency



### The Central Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking

By Bob Palm, Chairperson

The Central Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking (CTCAHT) was formed in 2003 after Austin law enforcement worked their first human trafficking case and found a lack of collaboration between law enforcement and social service organizations. With the help of the Texas Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs, Austin gathered together representatives from local and state wide non-government agencies. These representatives partnered with law enforcement to create the CTCAHT. The Coalition has been meeting monthly ever since 2003. At the present time the coalition consists of approximately 20 members, both government and non-government partners. Thus through the Coalition a broad array of services can be provided to foreign born victims of human trafficking.

In 2004, the Coalition received funding from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) to allow for services to trafficking victims, as well as for a staff person to serve as the single point of contact and liaison between the coalition and law enforcement. This single point of contact is an integral part in our effective collaboration. With this grant the Coalition has been able to assure prompt response to law enforcement and assuring that each victim receives shelter, protection, knowledge of their rights, and have access to medical care and counseling. Other services available include: food, clothing, furniture and household goods, employment preparation and search, immigration assistance, intensive case management, and transportation. These services are provided until a victim is certified.

Once a victim has been certified, they may be eligible for a special visa, work authorization and government benefits. After certification victims also have the possibility of bringing their children and certain other immediate family members to the United States. There is also the potential to receive financial compensation from the trafficker through a civil process.

The Coalition has developed a Mission Statement which is as follows, "The mission of the Central Texas coalition Against Human Trafficking is to work collaboratively to increase public awareness and identification of human trafficking cases, and to provide identified victims of human trafficking with comprehensive social and medical services."

What is Human Trafficking? According to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, "Human trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transporting, provision or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act or labor, in which the commercial sex act, involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery is induced by force, fraud or coercion."

Estimates vary as to how many individuals are trafficked each year, but current estimates are approximately  
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## Statewide Conference on Violence Against Women

Many Texas law enforcement agencies struggle to obtain adequate funding for high quality training for their law enforcement and telecommunicator professionals - specifically in areas dealing with violence against women.

SAFVIC and TRIPLE are proud to announce the new Statewide Conference on Violence Against Women to be held February 21 – 23, 2011 in Austin, Texas. Participants will be selected from **over 300** agencies located in rural areas of Texas who have an interest in this topic, but may have limited funds and/or access to this type of training. Participants will also be selected from counties with high sexual assault and family violence rates that did not receive VAWA-funded training in FY 2010.

This conference will create a unique agenda that will cover the basic dynamics of violent crimes against women, as well as in-depth training on human trafficking, strangulation, cyber-crimes, stalking, and many more. Registration, training, and lodging will be free to all selected participants.

Registration deadline is January 7<sup>th</sup>. Space is limited so register early!  
For more information or to register please go to [www.safvic.org](http://www.safvic.org).



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12,000 persons are believed to be trafficked each year, within the borders of the United States. Human trafficking is the second most prevalent organized crime activity in the world just after drugs and tied with illegal arms trafficking. Central Texas with the I-35 corridor continues to be a major trafficking and smuggling route for traffickers.

How are victims trafficked and where may they be found? Individuals may be recruited from their home country to fill false job opportunities or apprenticeship positions, or they may be kidnapped from their country and brought to the United States. Victims can be found in domestic servitude, construction, sweatshops, ranch work, restaurants, and in the sex/pornography industry.

The Coalition also offers free training and information sessions to any interested group or agency. The Coalition has also sponsored six annual conferences geared towards collaboration between law enforcement and non-government agencies. The Coalition, along with law enforcement have developed Public Service Announcements (PSA's), that have aired locally with the hope of identifying additional victims.

If you believe someone is a victim of human trafficking, please call the National Trafficking Hotline 1-888-3737-888, or if you wish to know more about the CTCAHT, visit our website, [www.CTCAHT.org](http://www.CTCAHT.org).

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chosen by the Department to undergo preparation to train police officers about human trafficking.

Now, she heads a firm that educates organizations about the slave trade and how it impacts the workplace. Her clients include law enforcement, universities, attorneys, non-profits, faith-based and private organizations.

Dottie urges everyone who works in any capacity with trafficking victims to undergo professional training, because the crime has an uncanny ability to disguise itself and escape detection.

A police officer, a care giver, or a first responder will often be the victim's best hope for a lifeline and the surest means of stopping a perpetrator. "First, officers need to realize how huge a problem human trafficking is!" she says. Indeed, the facts are sobering:

- Human trafficking, the buying and selling of people into slavery, is second only to the drug trade and the fastest growing global criminal enterprise, according to the US Department of Health and Human Services.
- Dr. Kevin Bales has conser-

vatively estimated that twenty-seven million people live in slavery today, the State Department says that 70% of them are women and children. (Other sources place the numbers much higher.)

- A CIA briefing estimates as many as 50,000 workers are trafficked through the US annually.
- The Texas State Attorney Greg Abbott reports that one out of five people trafficked in the US pass through Texas.

Dottie encountered the last problem recently when she helped a woman named "Kiki" (real name anonymous). Traffickers lured her from Thailand to America with the promise of a lucrative job in a restaurant. After she arrived, however, she was forced into a life of prostitution, disease and mental trauma. Dottie recommended that she apply for a T-Visa, because it would enable her to get temporary residence and medical attention. Local police would not fill out the Declaration of Law Enforcement Officer for Victim of Trafficking in Persons, however, the first step needed to begin her application, even though her community had some of the toughest anti-

slavery laws in Texas. The two turned next to the FBI, where Kiki did everything possible to cooperate: she traveled to Philadelphia at her own expense and met with agents three times to help them build their case. But the bureau deemed her "non-cooperative" and declined to support her application without explanation. She was later put in detention.

Dottie and other members of the Houston Coalition Against Human Trafficking testified before The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education to successfully urge it to make training for law enforcement mandatory by January, 2011. She hopes that this education will emphasize the need to respond to victims' requests to sign the Law Enforcement Officer Declaration for Victims of Trafficking in Persons - a simple 2 page form, even if an officer's findings are negative.

"The police must follow through on this, otherwise the injured party gets cut off from needed support. Too many innocents get arrested, like Kiki, or sent back to their countries where their tormentors can retaliate against them," she says.

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### Instructor Training

**Dates:** January 31 - February 2, 2011  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Location:** TRIPLE/TMPA  
Training Facility  
6200 La Calma Drive, Suite 200  
Austin, TX 78752

**Application Deadline:**  
**Monday, January 3, 2011**

The Training & Research Institute for Professional Law Enforcement (TRIPLE) is seeking new instructors to teach the Advanced Child Abuse Investigation training. Instructors must show a true dedication to improving law enforcement's response to child abuse, neglect, and exploitation. An Advanced Child Abuse Investigation Instructor must have a comprehensive understanding of the subject, including benefits to using multidisciplinary teams, and the resources available.

For more information about the Instructor Training and to apply online, please visit [www.acatraining.org](http://www.acatraining.org).



**February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month**  
Please visit Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month online or contact [teenDVmonth@breakthecycle.org](mailto:teenDVmonth@breakthecycle.org) for more information..



Piecing together the tools needed to effectively investigate and prevent sexual assault, family violence, & stalking.

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## SAVE THE DATE

### The 6th Annual Conference on Crimes Against Women

c/o Genesis Women's Outreach



**Dates:** Monday, March 28 - Wednesday, March 30, 2011

**Location:** Sheraton Dallas Hotel - Downtown  
400 North Olive Street  
Dallas, TX 75201

**Registration:** Online at [www.cvent.com](http://www.cvent.com)

**General Registration:** \$350

If you have any questions about if you qualify to attend this conference, please contact Becky Park at [bpark@genesissshelter.org](mailto:bpark@genesissshelter.org) or call 214-389-7773.



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"Even though we were one of the first two states to pass laws against human trafficking, state government must develop a policy that goes beyond law enforcement solutions. The most effective victim identification is done at the local level through small organizations and individuals that victims are more likely to confide in."

Frederick Coward, a former FBI agent and associate of Dottie believes that the Trafficking Victims Prevention Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2003 gives victim's greater leverage over their abusers because it identifies trafficking as a predicate crime under Federal R.I.C.O. laws. This enables prosecutors to seize criminal property and victims to sue their abusers for triple compensatory damages.

Even with these powers, too many victims go undetected. Dottie gave an example:

"A couple from an Austin-area church told me that their daughter worked in a Hawaiian strip club, where she got men to buy her expensive drinks. The club owner al-

lowed them to paw and fondle her. Now the twenty-three year old is having kidney failure from the alcohol she consumed. When her parents asked her to run away, she said she couldn't, her employer would hunt her down and kill her.

Dottie says that this is an example of why today's slavery is different from pre-Civil War days, when masters provided basic food and shelter. "Modern slavers threaten their girls with violence to force them to have sex with ten to twelve customers a day. The pimp does not provide decent living conditions or medical attention. When the girls get sick, he dumps them. But it is not just prostitution; this kind of slavery takes place in restaurants, farms, even dentist's offices. There's always a huge supply of new victims to replace them with."

But Dottie continues the fight for abolition. One of her experiences furnishes peace officers with an example of what to look for in a potential violation of the TVPRA.

"I am keeping track of a local situation that has all the signs

of human trafficking," she says. "A van drives twelve Asian people the same time each day from a house to work in a nearby restaurant, then drives them back after they work thirteen to sixteen hours. They never leave that house except to go to work. If you look inside the restaurant, there's a camera every ten to twelve feet, even though it's an all-you-can-eat buffet. Would you believe it? The house they live in was previously owned by the people whose daughter worked in the Hawaiian strip club! What are the odds of that happening?"

Dottie and Fred consider police officers to be Texas' best weapon in the war on slavery, and would like to serve as their resource.



**HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING & CONSULTING**

Dottie Laster's website may be found at :  
[www.lasterglobal.com/dottie.htm](http://www.lasterglobal.com/dottie.htm)

Fred's website is [www.ISI-Corp.com](http://www.ISI-Corp.com)

C. Wayne Dawson: [geist7@gmail.com](mailto:geist7@gmail.com)