

NC Human Trafficking Commission

Human Trafficking in the COVID-19 Pandemic A Discussion

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Local Government

canons.sog.unc.edu/human-trafficking-in-the-covid-19-pandemic/

Coates' Canons: NC Local Government Law

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Human Trafficking in the COVID-19 Pandemic

Be aware as we interact with residents during our work with the public.

The equation of human trafficking involves three types of participants:

- People who are **vulnerable**
- People who exploit vulnerabilities to **arrange and profit** from the trafficking
- People who are **customers**

People Who Are Vulnerable



Systemic
Racism feeds
Human
Trafficking

Economic and
social vulnerability
overlap with risk of
exposure to
COVID-19

People who arrange and profit

OPINION

Sex traffickers at massage parlors are evading shelter-in-place orders

As traffickers adapt to COVID-19 orders, authorities must adapt, too.



A Dallas Police vice officer inspects the outside of Jade Spa, one of the longest-running disk massage parlors in Dallas. (Tom Fox / Staff Photographer)

By Rachelle Keyhan
2:50 AM on May 3, 2020



Traffickers are highly adaptable to changing environmental conditions.

People Who Are Customers

- Sex buying is still happening – and because trafficked people in prostitution have less bargaining power than ever, it is likely to put them in ever more dangerous positions.
- Remote, web-based sexual services and pornography may also be trafficking – which means trafficking hasn't necessarily slowed down just because in-person commercial sex may be happening less frequently.

Polaris: “Sex Trafficking Is Still Happening – and May Be More Violent Than Ever”

COVID-19 Examples

- 1. New vulnerabilities to be exploited**
 - ✓ Financial stress
 - ✓ Unstable housing
- 2. New strategies for recruiting or marketing victims**
 - ✓ More time spent online
 - ✓ Abuse by landlords
- 3. New risks of exposure**
 - ✓ Physical working conditions and resources of victims



COVID-19

Judicial System

Jasmine McGhee

NC Department of Justice



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Law Enforcement

Carl Wall

State Bureau of Investigation



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Direct Service Providers

Christine Long

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Migrant Farmworkers

Nancy Hagan

NC Human Trafficking Commission

Caitlin Ryland

Legal Aid of NC

Resources to Share

The HTC compiled a resource list that is specific to the impact of COVID-19 on anti-human trafficking work.

See materials for this meeting at www.htc.nc.gov

Discussion

HTC members are invited
to make comments.

Thank you!

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sog.unc.edu -> “human trafficking”