**Violence and sexual assault against women in sex trafficking and its prevention**

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Since 2007, Polaris has operated the National Human Trafficking Hotline, which provides survivors of human trafficking with vital support and a variety of options to get help and stay safe. In that time, Polaris has identified more than 30,000 cases of human trafficking, noting the connection between this crime and other forms of violence, including sexual violence. The Polaris theory of change lays out a multi-pronged approach for ending modern slavery. Grounded in data gathered from the lived experiences of survivors, we respond to the needs of victims of human trafficking effectively and immediately; equip key stakeholders and communities to address and prevent human trafficking; and disrupt the business of human trafficking through targeted campaigns. We believe that this holistic model offers the best opportunity for eradication of this crime. Polaris focuses on developing and using data--both survivor-informed and public--to map networks and pinpoint opportunities for disruption. Type-specific interventions directed at trafficking networks identifies vulnerabilities in traffickers’ business models, highlight policy loopholes that need to be closed, and uncover the ways that traffickers exploit and leverage legitimate businesses or institutions in order to develop the most effective prevention strategies.