

The following are the Q & A questions that did not have a chance to be answered during the conference. The following answers were provided by Det. Sanchez of the LAPD.

Would it help to have school panels that discuss human trafficking?

Yes, especially at schools catering to at-risk individuals (i.e., continuation schools).

How can hotels be equipped to identify and report human trafficking?

Our experience is that hotels are used by traffickers to carry out their business.

Hotel personnel could be our eyes and ears. They could report suspicious activity, especially if there are minors involved: That will give us probable cause to conduct a welfare check and look into possible trafficking or a rescue. Hotel staff could also flag HT activity with the use of their security cameras, and collect valuable evidence/information on the traffickers, victim or suspected clients (identification at time of check in, or asking unknown guest for information). Hotel staff should be trained to use caution and not confront the traffickers.

How does a civilian get involved in reporting human trafficking and NOT compromise their safety?

Not confronting a street walker, as the trafficker is likely monitoring the interaction. Also, the victim may become hostile toward the civilian, for a number of reasons. A civilian is not trained to identify when they are dealing with the pimps “Bottom” or someone recently recruited. Dealing with a recently recruited victim with a “Bottom” nearby may result in unwanted consequences for the victim and the civilian alike.

In addition, civilians should not confront the trafficker. The best a civilian could do is be a good witness: report what is seen and heard. Most importantly-show up to court. In cases where there is a suspected juvenile involved, the police should be contacted immediately.

Is it ever necessary for a victim to obtain a court document proving she/he was a victim of human trafficking?

No, it may not be necessary to get court records. However, if a person is applying for a visa, then court records may be necessary. The most critical part is for the victim to cooperate in a viable investigation with due diligence. Sadly, those victims that delay reporting an incident run the risk of not receiving the governmental assistance as indicated by the Trafficking Victim’s Protection Act.