



LOVE JUSTICE
INTERNATIONAL

BEHIND THE SCENES:
A CLOSER LOOK AT
HOW WE STOP HUMAN
TRAFFICKING



There are two main anti-trafficking strategies used around the world. The first is prevention through education and awareness, and the second is rescue. Both of these strategies have certain limitations. The prevention strategy is limited because it is difficult to track impact since we cannot know for sure whether any particular individual was actually prevented from being trafficked. The downside to the rescue strategy is that the damage has already been done, and rehabilitation is extremely difficult. To fight human trafficking, Love Justice International sits right in the middle of these two strategies—using a method we call “transit monitoring.”

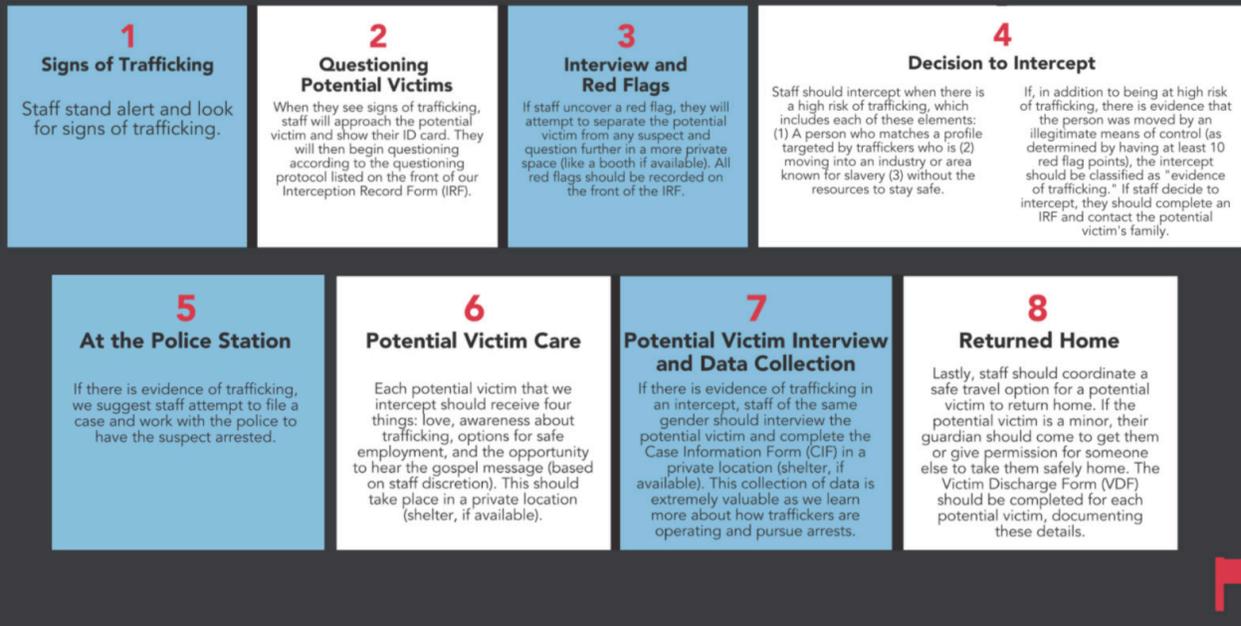


Transit monitoring focuses on identifying and assisting potential victims of trafficking as they’re being trafficked but before they reach the destination where they may be in danger of being exploited and enslaved. We “intercept” someone when we have good reason to believe that they are in the process of being trafficked or at high risk of being trafficked.

Intelligence-Led Investigations

Our objective is not only to intercept victims of trafficking from the flow of migrants around the world but also to disrupt and dismantle the systems and networks that facilitate the trafficking. Through our strategy of intelligence-led investigations, we collect, process, and analyze data from various sources, including victims, to develop actionable intelligence to target these networks with local law enforcement. Dismantling a trafficking network can potentially prevent hundreds of victims from being trafficked.

Step by Step Interception Protocol



Step 1: Signs of Trafficking

A "sign of trafficking" is a suspicious behavior or questionable scenario our monitors are looking for. The red flags our staff look for depend upon the location they are monitoring as well as the nature of trafficking that is prevalent in that country or region. For example, at the Nepal/India border, they may be looking for an older man traveling with a younger woman or girl because there is a history of young girls being trafficked for sex into India. In Malawi, however, our monitors may be looking for more young boys or men who are being trafficked for labor. The signs of trafficking differ depending on the context.

Strategic areas where we monitor include border crossings, bus stations, train stations, airports, ferries, ports, etc.

When our staff do notice a sign of trafficking, they stop the suspected trafficker and potential victim for an interview to further determine if trafficking is occurring.

WHEN TO INTERCEPT



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The goal of Transit Monitoring is to intercept actual or potential victims of human trafficking.

Human Trafficking is moving someone into slavery. **Slavery** exists when a person does not have the power to refuse work.

The goal of Transit Monitoring is to intercept actual or potential victims of human trafficking, by convincing them not to go, or by involving the parents (for minors) or police. All intercepts are classified in two ways:



1

High Risk of Trafficking exists when **(1)** a person who matches a profile targeted by traffickers is **(2)** moving into an industry or area known for slavery **(3)** without the resources to stay safe. If all three of these criteria are met, the case is classified as High Risk. Otherwise, you should not intercept.

2

Evidence of Trafficking exists when a person is placed at High Risk of Trafficking through an ***illegitimate means of control***:

Illegitimate Means of Control

Includes deception, false promises, lies about the destination, false or forced marriage, abduction, threats, drugging, debt bondage, witchcraft, forged or falsified documents, enforced confiscation of identity documents, separating a minor from guardian without consent.



If a person is High Risk AND there is evidence that they were moved by an **illegitimate means of control** (at least 10 red flag points), the intercept should be classified as Evidence of Trafficking. These cases require a CIF to be filled out.

Step 2: Questioning Potential Victims

To ensure we investigate each possible intercept thoroughly, we have developed a questioning protocol that includes a list of red flags we look for to identify a potential victim and determine if trafficking is taking place. These red flags can be verbal (denying, lying, and making excessive claims), nonverbal (averting their gaze and avoiding eye contact), or visual (people who look nervous or seem to be in a hurry to cross the border).



Each red flag has been carefully determined through data we've collected from interviews with victims and traffickers, police and case reports, and other information from our investigations team and various informants. In addition, we employ machine learning, a cutting-edge form of artificial intelligence, to weight these flags. Because of this technology, our transit monitors know which red flags are indicative of evidence of trafficking and which ones simply warrant further investigation.

Each staff member is trained to identify, question, and assist potential victims. When they see signs of trafficking, staff will approach the potential victim and show their ID card. They will then begin assessing the situation, using the questioning protocol provided.

How Does Trafficking Happen?

Evidence of human trafficking exists when illegitimate means of control are used to move a potential victim toward a situation where he or she will be vulnerable to slavery. These illegitimate means of control include:

- **Deception**
- **False promises**
- **Lies about the destination**
- **False or forced marriage**
- **Abduction**
- **Threats**
- **Drugging**
- **Debt bondage (forced labor)**
- **Witchcraft**
- **Forged or falsified documents**
- **Enforced confiscation of identity documents**
- **Separation of a minor from a guardian without consent (child trafficking)**

It's important for us to understand that in many parts of the world, there is a hierarchy of human value. These different systems around the world (e.g. caste systems in Asia) have various ways of determining who is valuable and who is not in society. Selling someone becomes a viable financial opportunity for an individual who has grown up in a society that doesn't value that particular type of person. It's also difficult for most of us to comprehend that in many trafficking situations there is a desperation of poverty that makes millions of people more vulnerable to these types of deception.

Step 3: Red Flags and the Interview Process

If staff uncover a red flag during the questioning protocol, they will attempt to separate the potential victim from any suspect and then question further in a more private space like a booth (pictured).



All red flags and the elements of high risk that must be present for an intercept to be valid are recorded on the Intercept Record Form (IRF) provided for our monitors.

This form tracks very clearly whether the situation is meeting our requirements for “when to intercept.” It also helps monitors determine when an intercept is “high risk of trafficking” and when there is “evidence of trafficking” through the identification of red flags. The IRF also helps our staff collect more basic information about the intercept and who was involved, and it invites them to record more intricate details about the narrative of each particular intercept.

To assist in the ease of interviewing potential victims, we normally require our teams to include both males and females so that we can respond to each unique situation. For example, when questioning a young girl who could be a potential victim, it is much better for a female staff member to engage with her than for a male staff member.

Step 4: Decision to Intercept

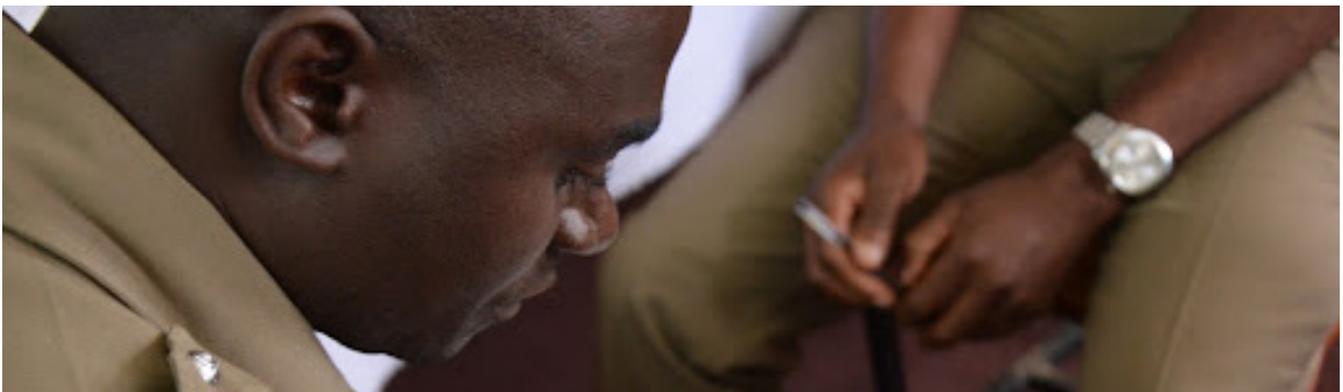
Staff make the decision to intercept when there is a high risk of trafficking, which includes each of these elements: (1) A person who matches a profile targeted by traffickers is (2) moving into an industry or area known for slavery (3) without the resources to stay safe.



If, in addition to being a high risk of trafficking, there is evidence that the person was moved by an illegitimate means of control (as determined by having at least 10 red flag points), the intercept will be classified as “evidence of trafficking.” If staff decide to intercept, they will then complete the IRF and contact the potential victim’s family.

Step 5: At the Police Station

If there is evidence of trafficking, our investigations team will gather intelligence about the suspects and work with the police to attempt an arrest and to file a case. If we are successful, the suspected trafficker will be taken into custody and prosecuted.



However, there are many obstacles that stand between an intercept and a conviction. Traffickers will often threaten the victims or their family members, or they may bribe the victims to withdraw the case. Other times, the victims might just be too afraid of the impact that pursuing a conviction would have on their reputations.

Step 6: Potential Victim Care

Most of the individuals that we intercept are able to return home the same day and don't stay in our shelters. Because our transit monitoring model intercepts potential victims before they reach their final destination, they often have not experienced the deep traumas that are so often a part of human trafficking victims' stories. For this reason, there is not often a need for long-term care.

However, if a potential victim is not able to return to their family (either because it is not safe or we don't have a means of contacting them), we will often collaborate with partners to find a solution for longer-term care.

Step 7: Potential Victim Interview and Data Collection

If there is evidence of trafficking in an intercept, staff of the same gender will interview the potential victim and complete the Case Information Form (CIF) in a private location (shelter, if available). This collection of data is extremely valuable as we learn more about how traffickers are operating and as we pursue arrests.

The CIF is the form that we use to collect much of the valuable data that informs our analysis and investigations teams. We learn about how the potential victim was recruited, how they traveled, where they were headed, and details on each suspect involved. In addition to providing more in-depth information about "evidence of trafficking" intercepts, we encourage staff to fill out CIFs with information about any other cases of trafficking they learn about. These alternative sources can include victims rescued out of slavery, informant reports, interviews with imprisoned traffickers, and news articles about trafficking.

Step 8: Returned to Safety

The Victim Discharge Form (VDF) is completed for each potential victim and documents the discharge process. One of the primary goals of the VDF is to determine if home is a safe place for a potential victim to return. The form has a "Home Situation Assessment" that helps staff make this determination.



We send them home only if they have a safe place to go to and there is no reason to believe that their families were knowingly involved in the suspected trafficking situations. Oftentimes, we are able to contact the potential victim's parents or family members, who are completely unaware that their child/relative has been deceived and placed in a very dangerous situation. When we are speaking with parents, they often insist that we do not allow their child to go anywhere with the suspected trafficker, and if the child is a minor, the parents have the authority to make that decision.

Staff then coordinate a safe travel option for a potential victim to return home. If the potential victim is a minor, their guardian will come to get them or give permission for someone else to take them safely home.

In cases where there is no family to contact for a potential victim, we can involve the police, who have the legal authority to stop individuals from traveling. Our hope, however, is to convince potential victims that they are being trafficked so that they make their own decision not to continue on.

We will also involve local law enforcement when a suspected trafficker is present or there is evidence of trafficking. We work in cooperation with local authorities to make sure that traffickers are stopped and victims are returned safely home.

Educated on the dangers of trafficking

Since we intervene before potential exploitation occurs, the victims are generally not in need of extensive counseling or care but simply a thorough understanding and awareness about human trafficking and safe migration. We do our best to thoroughly educate them about the dangers of trafficking and how to determine if a job offer is legitimate, and we rarely intercept the same person twice.

Beyond the Interception: The Power of Data and Technology in the Fight Against Trafficking

One of the most valuable benefits of our strategy is the data we are able to collect. When you do preventative work to fight trafficking, there is often no tangible data because it involves mostly awareness and education. With rescue efforts, those you are saving might have been enslaved for years, and most of the information about how they were recruited by their traffickers is several years old and may no longer be actionable or relevant since trafficking networks adjust and adapt very quickly.

So where we sit—intervening at the moment of transportation—we have a victim who hasn't been abused yet with FRESH, actionable information about how they were recruited, the job they were offered, the amount of money they were promised, how they traveled from their point of origin, support systems that the trafficker used along the way, the phone number of the trafficker, physical descriptions, and more.

All of this information becomes invaluable in our intelligence-led investigations. We funnel all of the collected data points from each interception into a database we've created, in order to track down traffickers, pursue arrests, and ultimately dismantle trafficking networks and systems across the globe.

This data is largely missing in the anti-trafficking sphere due to the hidden nature of the crime, so not only does it inform and improve our own work, but we are also able to share this information with other anti-trafficking efforts around the world.

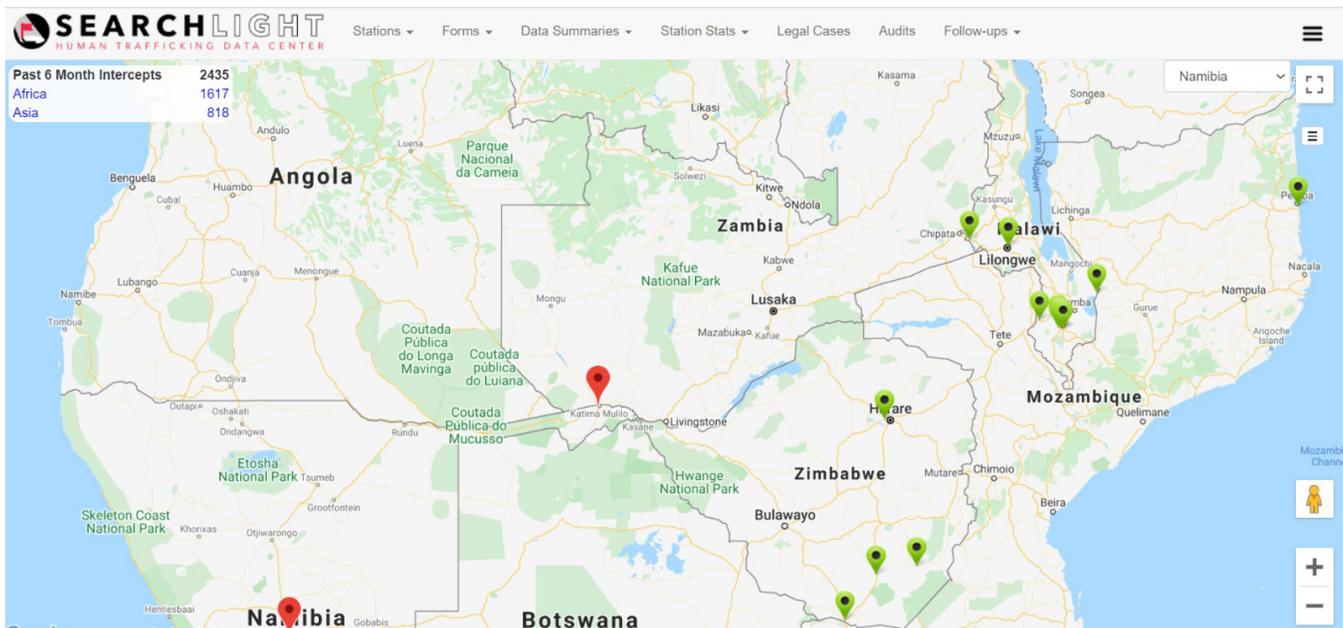
The Problem and How, Together, We Can Address It

The results of a worldwide pandemic and subsequent country shutdowns have left so many individuals desperate and vulnerable to the deception of traffickers. We want to place monitors at every strategic place possible to stand in the gap between freedom and slavery.

Love Justice International is committed to an aggressive plan for growth that will see us double the number of transit monitoring locations by 2024. While we seek the right people, tools, and locations for these transit monitoring stations, the single most limiting factor in achieving this growth is the financial resources necessary to make it happen.

What can you do?

The scope of the problem can be overwhelming. As long as there is a profit to be made, traffickers will deceive and enslave those that are vulnerable. The size of the need demands that each one of us takes action. Love Justice International has staff located across the globe, advocates who passionately volunteer their time, and monitors and investigators who daily risk their lives. Meanwhile, those of us in the developed world have the opportunity to invest our resources in defense of the least of these. By choosing to take a stand in this fight, each one of us is actively empowering vulnerable people to pursue a future of hope and freedom—audaciously anticipating the day when the risk for traffickers exceeds their profits and the prevalence of trafficking is significantly decreased.



Appendix

What is the goal of transit monitoring?

To intercept actual or potential victims of human trafficking

What is human trafficking?

Moving someone into slavery

What is slavery?

Exists when a person does not have the power to refuse work

What is an intercept?

Occurs when a person we believe is in the process of being trafficked or at high risk of being trafficked is returned home safely due to our intervention

What Love Justice form is used to document every intercept?

Intercept Record Form (IRF)

What is a red flag?

Something a person says or does which may indicate or suggest he/she is a potential victim of human trafficking

What is the definition of “high risk of trafficking”?

A situation where (1) a person who matches a profile targeted by traffickers is (2) moving into an industry or area known for slavery (3) without the resources to stay safe. All three criteria are required.

What is the definition of “evidence of trafficking”?

Exists when a person is placed at high risk of trafficking through an illegitimate means of control.

What are the primary indications of “illegitimate means of control”?

Force, deception, false promises, lies about the destination, coercion, false or forced marriage, abduction, threats, drugging, debt bondage, witchcraft, forged or falsified documents, enforced confiscation of identity documents, separation of a minor from a guardian without consent

How many “red flag” points determine “illegitimate means of control”?

10 red flag points



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