Hidden in Plane Sight

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What is the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, AFL-CIO?
What is Human Trafficking?

- Human Trafficking is an exploitation-based crime and does not require movement across borders.

- Trafficking involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.

- Victims are found in legitimate and illegitimate labor industries, including sweatshops, prostitution, agricultural fields, restaurants, hotels and domestic servitude.

- Victims can be men or women, young or old, American or from abroad, with or without legal status.

- Human trafficking is considered the third most lucrative illegal activity on the planet – after the illegal sale of arms and drugs – and its clandestine nature makes it difficult to quantify with precision. In 2017, the UN International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated that some 40.3 million people worldwide were subjected to forced labour and modern slavery.
2013 – AFA Board of Directors Passes Human Trafficking Prevention Resolution

- Flight Attendants are aviation’s first responders and the last line of defense in our nation’s skies. We are uniquely positioned to recognize and report potential incidents of human trafficking.

- With proper training, we can save the lives of countless victims. Flight crews are well positioned, skilled observers in the cabin and can be frontline allies in the fight against this heinous crime.

- The AFA Board passes a resolution committing to ensuring that the airline industry seeks inclusion of training to help identify and stop human trafficking.
AFA Launches Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign

On June 1, 2015, AFA launched a major campaign to support the DOT/DHS/CBP Blue Lightning Initiative designed to prevent modern day slavery. Our mission is to train over 100,000 Eyes in the Skies to uncover this crime that is hidden in plane sight.

The Association of Flight Attendants-CWA then called upon Congress to make the Blue Lightning Initiative a mandatory program for all U.S. airlines through the FAA Reauthorization bill scheduled for action that year.
AFA successfully achieved mandatory Human Trafficking Awareness training when Congress passed the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 and it became law on July 15, 2016.

We continue our work to implement the appropriate training at each airline to ensure we have 100,000 trained Eyes in the Skies to save lives as soon as possible.
Our Work Continues

- **April 2017** - AFA Enters into an official Partnership with the DOT and DHS to become the first labor union to secure a memorandum of understanding.

- The official partnership creates an opportunity to create co-brand prevention materials and bring the Blue Lightning training to thousands of Flight Attendants.

- **January 2018** - AFA Adds the DHS-CBP Blue Lighting Initiative Human Trafficking Awareness Training to Our Online Learning Academy.

- Flight Attendants across the globe now have direct access to materials and training in our campaign to prevent human trafficking.
Where We Go From Here

• While Human Trafficking awareness training became mandatory through legislation, Congress provided no real guidance for its content or duration.

• Training across the carriers we represent ranges anywhere from one slide to that of very robust training modules.

• Recommendations for training standards is needed.

• The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is working with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to develop guidelines for airlines operators to train cabin crews in identifying and reporting trafficked individuals.

• AFA is one of two representatives on the ICAO Cabin Safety Group charged with developing guidelines for cabin crew safety, including training on identification and response to trafficking in persons.
Takeaways

• Cabin crewmembers are uniquely situated and can observe passengers over a certain period of time, allowing us to use our observation skills to identify potential victims of trafficking.

• While on duty, observations should be reported using the appropriate flight deck communications protocol.

• When off duty, Flight Attendants can report suspect activity using on the ground tip lines.

• Flight Attendants should encourage friends and family to educate themselves on the indicators of suspected human trafficking activity and how to report it right away.
For More Information Visit:

www.hiddeninplanesight.org

www.afacwa.org

www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign