

# AHAVA KIDS

Your love is their last, best hope.

# Ahava Kids

Much of Human Trafficking  
is a commercialized subset of  
Domestic Violence,  
especially within  
Immigrant Communities.

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Ahava means “Love”

A 501(c)3 Not-For-Profit human rights organization  
based in Connecticut.

Our mission is rescue and care for victims of human trafficking  
in the United States and throughout the world.

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## US Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000

“sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion , or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age”; or “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt ,bondage, or slavery.”

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## Connecticut

§ 53a-192a. Trafficking in persons: Class B felony.

(a) A person is guilty of trafficking in persons when such person commits coercion as provided in section 53a-192 and the other person is compelled or induced to (1) engage in conduct that constitutes a violation of section 53a-82, or  
(2) work.

(b) Trafficking in persons is a class B felony.

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Human trafficking is a covert crime that is often misidentified as other, lesser crimes.

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Challenges faced by victims of trafficking / domestic violence:

- Not recognized as victims, let alone victims of domestic violence.
- Lack of self awareness/identification
- Lack of access to services
- Lack of awareness of their rights – to immigration status on a federal level, to protections at the state and federal level

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## Challenges faced by Ahava Kids:

- Lack of awareness surrounding the issue of human trafficking
- Lack of immediate and safe housing for victims
- Lack of community cooperation for the restoration and empowerment of victims
- Lack of funds for victims' needs: medical, housing, therapy, re-identification, etc.

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Three dangerous dynamics:

1. Victims face enormous barriers.
2. Victims are living in entrapped domestic situations.
3. Victims are vulnerable to crimes of human trafficking.

This combination of factors has created a black hole of victimhood with virtually no means of escape.

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## Recommendations:

- Safe house for victims in Connecticut
- Training for law enforcement, criminal justice, and first-responder / emergency medical professionals
- Recognize that victims of trafficking are in fact a commercial subset of domestic violence victims which may necessitate amending Connecticut's statute

# Ahava Kids

AhavaKids.org

Phone: 860-760-0370

Toll Free: 877-417-2504

Fax: 860-339-5065

P.O. Box 498, Old Saybrook, CT, 06475-0498 USA

Raymond Bechard: [Ray@AhavaKids.org](mailto:Ray@AhavaKids.org)

Erin Albright: [eyalbright@gmail.com](mailto:eyalbright@gmail.com)