



Anti Human Trafficking – Collaboration to Follow the Money

Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing crimes - now second only in size to drugs. Funds derived from these crimes are being funneled out to criminal organizations and state actors to fund additional criminal and terrorist activities. Financial services companies (FS – banks, FinTech, payment companies) are unwittingly being used to move these illicit funds. FS and law enforcement (LE) can collaborate to leverage data - to **“follow the money”**.

Proactive, consistent collaboration with LE, FS and other industries – hoteliers, telco, transportation, etc. – can develop more key data to share to rescue victims more quickly, and to ID, capture and convict human traffickers. The BAD guys work together in tight networks to the benefit of each. The GOOD guys can do a better job of proactively collaborating to benefit each industry, community, society, and prevent/rescue victims and convict criminals.

Financial Services companies play a unique role in Anti Human Trafficking (AHT) – as they enable “FOLLOW THE MONEY”.

- Electronic money movement – payment apps, wallets, cards, ACH, etc. - leave an electronic money trail. This data combined with other data types from other industries (above), can be as unique as a fingerprint.
- Electronic money trails can identify people and places involved in new cases, and can augment existing cases to make for stronger prosecution and convictions.
- Prosecutors and LE have said this fact-based data/money trail is a unique and substantial asset. Unlike a victim witness, data has no emotion, it doesn't recant testimony. *Data is just the facts – that can tell an irrefutable story.*
- A data/money trail can lead to swifter prosecution, longer incarceration, and an ability to target criminals much higher in the criminal network.
- AHT information can also help financial institutions to identify these accounts as links to additional types of criminal activities and terrorist finance.



Some data patterns and collaboration methods are proving effective including:

- Topologies of financial transactions: who spent where, when, interaction to other businesses and people, etc.
- Financial transaction pattern algorithms. One has proven to be >80% accurate in identifying financial accounts being used by traffickers.
- Big data analytics of known human trafficking websites, marketplaces, and social media platforms – of current and forensic activities.
- Mutual education – industries to/from law enforcement (LE)– e.g., with FS to LE on new technology in money movement, and LE to FS on how human trafficking patterns and methods change quickly. All industries with each other and with LE on their unique view of the evolution of trafficking criminal activities.



Human Trafficking has hit crisis levels – globally and, in the US.

According to the US State Department: “Child and human trafficking is one of the fastest growing crimes in the world. It is the 2nd largest criminal enterprise, after drugs.”

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 8 million children run away in the US each year. Within 48 hours of hitting the streets, 1/3 are recruited into the underground world of prostitution and pornography”

According to the DOJ: The average age of entry for children victimized into the sex trade industry is 12”

What are next steps?



GOOD guys proactively collaborate and communicate - jump the siloes within and across industries - and across/with law enforcement. Identify or create platform(s) to communicate and collaborate quickly to rescue the victims, and to identify, capture, prosecute, and convict the criminals.

Identify or Build

Identify IF there are existing AHT information sharing group/s within industries (e.g., financial services, hoteliers, telco, transportation, etc.), and by region. Identify law enforcement and civic AHT leaders most able to use this data. If they don't yet exist, Establish AHT information gathering and sharing groups within industries, across industries, and regionally.

Communicate

Set regional and national industry task forces to work with law enforcement to share information in a prescribed, agreed upon method/process/formats. Set communication and information sharing cadence timely enough to rescue victims.

Use this communication and information sharing to exponentialize the learnings within/across these industry groups to LE and vice versa. Criminals benefit when the good guys don't communicate, or we share information so slowly it loses its actionability.

Collaborate:

Establish relationships and processes to proactively collaborate across industries and with LE. Assure all information sharing laws and rules are followed within and across these task forces. Rules vary by state and by nation. The US has specific regulations and guidance to legally enable AHT data sharing, but further clarification is needed. Many countries have little/no information sharing regulations around AHT

Act: If your organization is interested in this discussion and what your organization, industry, existing or new task forces can do – join the discussion. Timely effective action to rescue victims and ID/capture/prosecute/convict human traffickers more quickly, will require the GOOD guys to work together as/more tightly than the bad guys. This will require active engagement and contribution of resources (expertise, people, relationships, funding) to help drive this collaboration between industries – financial, telco, hospitality, transportation, etc. - and law enforcement, in the anti-human trafficking battle. To join the discussion, please email “AHT” to comms@ValkyrieV.com.

