



## A Letter From DA Nancy E. O'Malley

Although most believe that slavery is a thing of the past, the reality is quite different, deeply troubling, and demands immediate action. That is why I am asking you to Take the Pledge. Join me and hundreds of individuals in the fight to end human trafficking. Through promoting greater awareness to inspiring effective action, together there is much that we can do to end human trafficking.

Human trafficking is big business with traffickers generating hundreds of billions of dollars in profits by tricking and trapping millions of victims in horrific situations around the world, including here in the U.S. Traffickers use violence, threats, deception, debt bondage, and other manipulative tactics, to force their victims to engage in commercial sex or to provide labor or services against their will.

Trafficking takes [many forms](#) but is most commonly separated into sex or labor trafficking, and people can be victims of both. Both adults and children are victims. The average age of entry for girls is 12-14; the average age for boys and transgendered youth 11-13. **I'm not saying that sex trafficking will happen to everybody's child, but it could happen to anybody's child.**

Many people don't realize that human trafficking occurs in the United States with both citizen and non-citizen victims. Though many believe human trafficking occurs only in foreign countries, 83% of all confirmed sex-trafficking victims in the United States are from the United States. According to the National Human Trafficking hotline, California has the highest number of human trafficking reports. The FBI has also identified California as one of 13 national trafficking hot spots.

These national statistics mirror what the Alameda County District Attorney's Office (ACDAO) Human Exploitation and Trafficking (H.E.A.T.) Unit sees every day. Since the passage of California's Human Trafficking Statute, from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2019, the H.E.A.T. Unit has prosecuted 727 human traffickers on sex trafficking related charges, with an 81% conviction rate. In addition, we have filed numerous labor trafficking related cases since 2010 when I became the District Attorney. In the last 18 months alone, 13 cases involved more than 725 workers, who were victims of labor trafficking, totaling \$8.7 million dollars in restitution. A 2012 report by then California Attorney General Kamala Harris states that the ACDAO has successfully prosecuted 46% of all human trafficking cases in the State, with an 81% conviction rate.

Effective January 1, 2017, Senate Bill 1322 passed, which prohibits law enforcement from arresting and prosecuting minors for engaging in commercial sex acts. I was the only district attorney in the state in support of this watershed legislation, which recognizes that youth who are sold are victims and should be treated as such by the criminal justice system. ACDAO was ahead of the curve and created the SafetyNet Program back in 2011 to ensure that exploited youth are protected and don't fall through any more cracks in the system. From January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2019, I am proud to report that we have seen, supported, and created 5583 Safety Plans for our exploited children.

I've always said that it takes a village to rescue those who are trafficked and hold those who exploit them accountable. You are that village. By taking the pledge, our village grows stronger and those in need of protection grow safer. Please stand with me, along with all of our partners in California and across the country, to end human trafficking in all its forms.

### Take the Pledge! Join the Fight!

Nancy E. O'Malley  
Alameda County District Attorney