



VOLUME 1, EDITION 3
February 2018

The HEART Initiative

Fighting Human Trafficking in Montana and Beyond
A Student Organization at MSU
Bozeman, MT



What is *Human Trafficking*?

Human trafficking is **modern-day slavery**. According to the [Department of Homeland Security](#) (DHS), men, women, and children are exploited for labor, sex, organs, and more through **force, fraud, or coercion**. Human trafficking has been identified in every country, **all 50 states**, and in **Bozeman**. Watch [this](#) video by the DHS' Blue Campaign to learn more.



Our 2017/ 2018 Goals

- ❖ Establish a Human Trafficking Community Task Force in Bozeman
- ❖ Raise awareness through trainings and events
- ❖ Hold letter-writing campaigns

CONTACT US

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Facebook.com/msuheartinitiative
Instagram: msuheartinitiative

GET INVOLVED

We meet in **Wilson Hall**, room **1-117** on **Tuesdays** at **7 pm**. All are welcome.

The News

- * A survivor [discusses](#) **new Montana sex trafficking legislation** during an event in Billings on January 11, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.
- * The number of **human trafficking cases** is **increasing** in **Montana**. [Learn](#) how increased identification, community awareness and tips, and sting operations factor into this. MT Attorney General Tim Fox explains, trafficking is the **“fastest growing crime in the world.”**
- * Globally, the **refugee crisis** impacts human trafficking. **Refugee** and **migrant children** are particularly vulnerable to exploitation, as [this article](#) highlights.



OUR MISSION is to **raise awareness**; **support** anti-trafficking efforts and survivors; and use **collaborative** and **interdisciplinary** approaches to fight human trafficking.

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Past Events

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- * National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Organization Spotlight

- * Polaris Project

Connect: Human Trafficking + **Race**

RESOURCES

National Human Trafficking Resource Center **1-888-373-7888**

Human Resources Development Council (HRDC) **406-587-4486**

MSU Diversity Awareness Office **406-994-5801**

UPCOMING EVENTS



Black History Month

The HEART Initiative is working on projects with organizations around campus to celebrate **black history**. We join you in acknowledging the history of inequality and being a part of the change. **Celebrate** and **learn more** about the incredible contributions and leaders that have helped shape



a **brighter future**. Learn more about how race connects to trafficking in this edition of *Connect: Human Trafficking + Race*.

Volunteer Kickoff

The HEART Initiative is working to be more involved and a force for change in our community through volunteering.

Members from The HEART Initiative will **meet February 3** at the **Warming Center**, 2104 Industrial Dr., at **11:20am** to fly signs. Join us to support the value that everyone deserves a warm, safe place to sleep at night.

About the event: **This Saturday**, February 3, the **Warming Center** (a shelter for people experiencing homelessness) is hosting a **Flying Signs Fundraiser**. The Warming Center opened an overflow location at Christ the King Lutheran Church on January 1st to provide shelter for the **increasing number of families** and **women** using the main location.

Volunteers will fly signs in 3 hour shifts, from 9am-12pm or 11:30am-2:30pm. For more information, email Alyssa Hjelvik at vista@thehrdc.org or call **406.585.4879**.

Join Us: Community Task Force

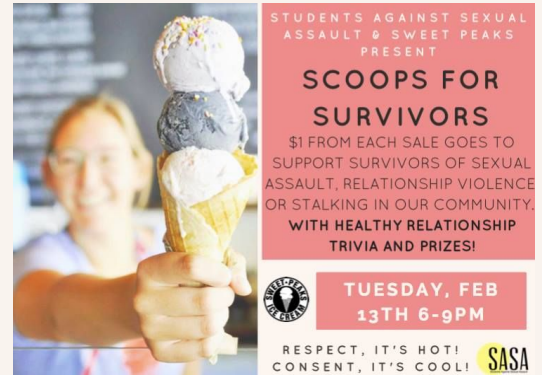
From skier to lawyer, teacher to artist, student to parent, or librarian to doctor, **use your skills** and **voice** to fight human trafficking. We are **collaborating** with **organizations** to form a Human Trafficking Community Task Force in Bozeman.

The **committees** include (1) Community Awareness, (2) Law Enforcement and Prosecution, (3) Survivor Services, and (4) Health and Medical Support.

Email us for more information and **to get involved**.



Support the Survivor Fund on February 13th, 6-9pm at Sweet Peaks!



Organization Spotlight

[Polaris Project](#): This **non profit** is a great resource to learn more about trafficking. It highlights efforts to identify, respond to, report, and educate to combat trafficking.



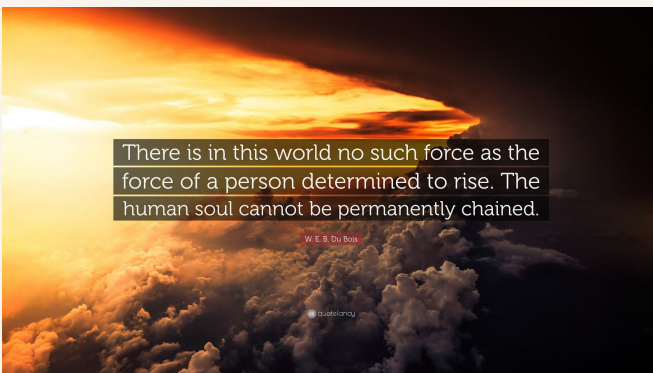
Polaris also runs the National Human Trafficking Hotline. This year alone, there have been **37 calls from Montana**, with 25 of these calls containing high indicators of trafficking and 5 made by survivors. Visit their [site](#) to learn more about these **trafficking statistics** and how to educate yourself on the signs to make a difference.



PAST EVENTS

Yellowstone County Human Trafficking Task Force

On January 25, members of The HEART Initiative attended the Task Force meeting in **Billings**. We learned more about their **four committees** and their **collaborative efforts** to host events and trainings in Billings and across Montana. [Here](#) are **recent trafficking cases in Montana** with traffickers hailing from Bozeman, Flathead County, and Missoula.



National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month Documentary Screenings

From **11am to 7pm** on **Monday, January 22** in the **Procrastinator Theater**, The HEART Initiative screened five documentaries about human trafficking. From **The True Cost** and **Food Chains** to **Girl Rising** to **Born Into Brothels** and **Tricked**, we explored labor trafficking, a gendered perspective of trafficking, and sex trafficking in various parts of the globe. **Thank you** to all who joined! For those of you who are interested in learning more, several of the films are **available to watch on Netflix**.



Thank you to our sponsors for the crucial services they provide in our community and their continued insight and support to strengthen the fight against human trafficking.

Interested in becoming a sponsor or hosting a training? Email us at theheartinitiative406@gmail.com to start the conversation.



Connect:

Human Trafficking + Race

How does human trafficking connect to race? **Racial minorities** comprise a **“large majority of trafficked persons** in the U.S. for the purposes of labor and sexual exploitation,” explains [The Racial Roots of Human Trafficking](#).

Race is connected to human trafficking.

Racial minorities, **especially African American women**, are **“trafficked and exploited at higher rates”** due to factors like poverty, discrimination, and high rates of sexual violence.



[This](#) powerful article by Rachel Lloyd, founder and CEO of GEMS, a large **non-profit** in New York serving **domestically trafficked girls and women**, illuminates the connections between trafficking and race. Lloyd explains that **over 90 percent of the survivors GEMs serves** are “girls and young women of color,” but not only “is the anti-trafficking movement eerily quiet when it comes to issues of race, but it’s also often covertly and sometimes **overtly perpetuating** racial stereotypes and **institutional racism**.”

WEBSITE COMING SOON!



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