



THE TORCH

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Photos: Bethany Jarrell Photography



AG Ken Paxton presents his new "Be the One" initiative

Be the One to Stop Human Trafficking

By **Bethany Jarrell**, Texas Eagle Forum Legislative Director

The numbers can be overwhelming. Hearing that there are 27 million slaves to human trafficking in the world today is heartbreaking. We can no longer ignore this horrific crime; it is in our state, our cities, and our neighborhoods.

Texas ranks second in the nation for human trafficking; California is first. Texas alone has over 300,000 human trafficking victims; nearly 80,000 of them are children, and 80 percent are targeted in the foster care system.

To raise awareness about this modern-day slavery, Texas Eagle Forum held an event in Irving on June 28th, entitled, "Be the One." We invited organizations who are raising awareness about those who are enslaved, as well as groups concerned about this issue.

By bringing nearly 50 different groups together to hear from Attorney General Ken Paxton, Erica Greves from Unlikely Heroes, and our own Trayce Bradford, the event offered opportunities for those most passionate about bringing freedom to those

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Texas Eagle Forum's Website

Be sure and check Texas Eagle Forum's website for the latest news from around the state.

Go to texaseagle.org

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in bondage to converse and find out what is currently being done and what could potentially develop during the coming months and in the 2019 legislative session.

At the event, we were able to bridge a gap between legislators in the audience and the front line groups in attendance. According to AG Paxton, most legislators know little about this issue and are not aware who the front line groups are or their needs. And the front line groups don't know who to contact to get legislative help.

Two years ago, the AG's office opened up a Human Trafficking and Transnational Crime unit. In April of this year, the unit shut down Backpage.com, the largest human trafficking website in the world, based in Dallas. The CEO was arrested and jailed, sending a clear message that "we will prosecute." Unfortunately, Backpage is just a drop in the bucket.

AG Paxton discussed his new educational initiative that is being distributed among city officials, law enforcement, and



Rep. Matt Rinaldi (R-Farmers Branch) bows his head as Texas Senator-elect Angela Paxton opens the event with prayer

truck companies. His initiative is called, "Be the One," and it focuses on educating the people who can prevent, recognize, and report human trafficking in their communities and in our state. He said that people need to pay attention and get over their fear of stepping forward to report possible human trafficking incidents.

He also covered the possible legislative priorities for the 2019 legislative session, including strengthening our legal code to enforce stronger convictions for traffickers and seeking help for the victims. Texas Eagle Forum will be contributing as well.

The event ended with prayer for our state, our nation, the victims of human trafficking, and those involved in fighting on behalf of those who cannot fight for themselves. We hope in working together we *can* set the captives free.

NOTE: It will take us all working together as a unified front to bring trafficking to a halt for good! Your prayers for favor, strategy, wisdom, and restoration for every level of this battle are critical.



TEF President Trayce Bradford welcomes the crowd



Erica Greves talks about her group, Unlikely Heroes



"Be the One" Video

The Attorney General's office has produced a 52-minute training video that is available for viewing online at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/human-trafficking.

The video walks the viewers through actual cases prosecuted in Texas, identifies the tools of traffickers and how they are typically utilized to obtain and maintain victims, and equips the viewers with red flags and a reporting protocol.

This free video is also available on request at betheone@oag.texas.gov, and would be an excellent resource for group discussions in schools, discussion groups, and meetings.

How You Can Be the One

Source: www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/human-trafficking/you-can-be-the-one

Report it. It is better to make the call and be wrong than leave someone enslaved a moment longer.

1. If the situation is an emergency or you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911 and alert the authorities. Tell them you think it may be human trafficking or slavery so that it can be routed to the proper investigators. Follow that call with a call to the National Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-3737-888 or report online at Report@PolarisProject.org.
2. Include actionable information, names, descriptions of what you saw, heard, when and where. If vehicles are involved try to include license plate numbers or makes, models and colors.
3. Call as soon as possible after you make the observations. The fresher the information, the more likely law enforcement can take action.
4. Don't intervene yourself. Traffickers can be dangerous. Allow law enforcement to respond.

What To Do If You're Unsure

If you can safely obtain more information, do so. Talk with the individual in a private setting that is non-threatening if you have the type of relationship that allows you to have that conversation comfortably. If you have a concern that such a conversation would put you or that person in danger, then make the call to report instead.

1. Call the National Hotline. 1-888-373-7888 or text "Help" or "Info" to 233733. The hotline is staffed 24/7 with people trained in recognizing and identifying trafficking. They can help you make sense of the information that you have and recommend next steps.
2. Call law enforcement or your local district attorney's office through a non-emergency number and ask to speak to someone who works on trafficking cases. Many of the

larger jurisdictions have specialized law enforcement and assistant district attorneys who can talk through the situation with you.

3. Call the Department of Public Safety. They have victim advocates who specialize in human trafficking stationed across the state. (512) 424-2211
4. Call Child Protective Services if a child is involved. Tell them you have concerns for trafficking during your intake call or online report. 1-800-252-5400
5. Call the Office of the Attorney General, Human Trafficking Prosecutor at 512-463-1646 or email at humantrafficking@texasattorneygeneral.gov. The Office of the Attorney General has law enforcement officers specifically trained to combat and investigate human trafficking and has conducted sting and rescue operations across the state.

HOW YOU CAN BE THE ONE

- Pay attention to the people in your community, your surroundings, and report **red flag behaviors**.
- Don't wait to call. Make your report timely. Those moments matter.
- Don't approach traffickers yourself. That can place you, the victim, and any future prosecution in danger.
- If the conduct you observe is an emergency, **call 911** and tell them you believe that you have observed human trafficking. Don't worry about being wrong. Your call may be the one that saves a life.
- If it is not an emergency or you need to remain anonymous, **call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-3737-888**.
- Provide **Actionable Information**:
 - Descriptions of cars
 - Descriptions of people
 - When and where you saw the conduct
 - Take a picture if you can safely do so

What's Wrong with Americans?

A new *Wall Street Journal*/NBC News survey has found that 71 percent of all American voters are opposed to overturning *Roe v. Wade*, while only 23 percent are in favor of overturning. Not surprisingly, support for *Roe v. Wade* is overwhelming among Democrats and independents: 88 percent and 76 percent, respectively, but even a majority of Republicans, 52 percent, don't want to see the court ruling overturned. With the numbers shifting in favor of keeping abortion legal, it is inevitable that we will start to see more pro-choice Republican candidates. Even if the Supreme Court did overturn *Roe v. Wade*, that wouldn't make abortion illegal. Instead, each state would be able to determine whether it is legal or not, and from these numbers it is quite clear that probably most states (if not all) would continue to keep it legal.

SOURCE: Freedom Outpost, 7/29/18

NOTE: TEF believes Roe v. Wade is unconstitutional and should be overturned. If the decision is turned back to the states, we will fight to make abortion illegal in Texas.

The Bell Tolls for Channel One News

In 1989, Channel One burst on the scene offering a Faustian bargain to schools across the country. For the use of "free" TV's, many school boards offered up a captive audience of students required to watch commercials for products that included junk food, soft drinks, expensive sneakers, movies, and CD's. Along with the commercials was a ten-minute newscast. Channel One's most recent owner: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt just pulled the plug! Thanks to Channel One, students lost the equivalent of a full week of school each year. Time that could have been spent reading or improving math skills instead of manipulating a captive audience of children. Pat Ellis, Eagle Forum of Alabama, VP-Issues, said "It is my hope legislation will be passed to ensure students never again lose precious academic time in order to benefit corporate interests."

SOURCE: Eagle Forum Press Release, 7/11/18

"Another World Is Necessary"

As hard as it is to believe, after a century of economic and political crimes of vast proportions, radical socialism is on the march again. In Chicago last month, 2,000 dedicated socialists gathered to celebrate their return to political relevance at a Socialism 2018 Conference entitled, "Another World is Necessary." It was billed as "...a four-day conference bringing together hundreds of socialists and radical activists from around the country to take part in discussions about Marxism, working-class history, and the debates and strategies for organizing today." Sessions included, "Socializing with Socialists," "Capitalism and the Gender Binary," and "Rank-and-File Teachers Speak: How We Organized the Rebellion." The event was intended for everyone interested in "overthrowing capitalism," and yes, of course, all the bathrooms were "gender neutral."

SOURCE: End of Day Report, 7/6/18, and socialismconference.org

Eagle Council XLVII

Eagle Forum's 47th annual leadership and training conference, Eagle Council XLVII, will convene on September 27-30, 2018 in Washington, D.C.! Please join us and invite your friends! Eagle Forum has the established history, and its members have the experience, to train up new generations of grassroots activists to ensure that America continues to be a land of individual liberty, respect for family integrity, public and private virtue, and private enterprise. Eagle Council XLVII will provide the training and encouragement to carry out our mission. Cindi Castilla, Dallas Eagle Forum President, says, "*Eagle Council lets me learn from the best and brightest on so many issues. I get new and improved research, talking points, and information to use as we fight for great legislation or fight to stop bad legislation. I am reminded that I fight with other Eagles, never alone. Eagle Council renews my energy as I am surrounded by an amazing group of leaders from across the country.*" For more information or to register, go to eagleforum.org.

Quote of the Month

"Diversity, of course, marches under the banner of tolerance, but is a bastion of intolerance. It enforces its ideological liberalism with an iron fist that is driven by political correctness, the most ingenious (and insidious) device for suppressing freedom of speech and political dissent ever invented."

~ Edward J. Erler, Imprimis,
July/August 2018

Great American Quote

"Every prudent and cautious judge will remember that it is his duty to not make the law, but to interpret and apply it."

~ James Wilson, founding father and a signer of the Declaration of Independence

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