



We support the fight against
Human Trafficking

Dear Flight Attendants and Airline Personnel,

I have been a flight attendant for American Airlines for 30 years and became aware of the issue of child trafficking last summer after traveling in Cambodia. I read the article in Skyword by AA F/A Sandra Fiorini (IOR) and met Deborah Sigmund, Founder of Innocents at Risk, who had begun training flight attendants of the critical role they could play in identifying potential victims and possible traffickers in airports and on the plane. I realized flight attendants could play an important role in stopping the tragedy of Human Trafficking once they knew what to do.

In October of 2009, I invited Deborah on an Airline Ambassador humanitarian mission to the Dominican Republic to explore collaboration. Our team discussed the issue, and because we were alert to what to look for, correctly identified THREE cases of trafficking on our departing flights. (On Delta, JetBlue and US Air) In every case, the flight attendants agreed with our assessment but did not know what to do. We showed them the National Hotline phone number and advised them to alert the pilots. Pilots notified Immigrations Customs Enforcement (ICE) to pay special attention to these individuals in Customs. We were right in every case, and because of the flight attendants action, these children were saved from a life of slavery, pornography or prostitution.

Flight Attendants and pilots can play a key role as eyes and ears for international security efforts, and Airline Ambassadors is pleased to spearhead awareness in the airline industry. We appreciate the support of Congressman Smith, Congressman Pitts and Governor John McDonnell who are helping us reach out to airlines and educate flight crews in support of this international issue. Our goal is to inspire every airline to include a trafficking segment in the Security portion of annual Emergency Procedure Training, and include a Bulletin with the Hotline # easily available in every In-Flight Manual.

Thank you for your support,

Nancy Rivard, President, Airline Ambassadors

Human Trafficking – Our Success stories

Approximately 18,000 persons are trafficked into the United States from over 50 countries every year. It is estimated that 100,000 to 300,000 domestic minors are forced into sexual slavery in the United States annually. Children are trafficked to large urban cities such as New York, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Los Angeles and Detroit, as well as to main tourism destinations including Las Vegas and Florida. The following stories are examples of how flight attendants have made an important difference

American Airlines

-On a recent flight, some backpackers asked flight attendant Sandi Fiorini to help a teenage girl traveling alone. Someone had handed her off to them and she spoke no English. After the plane arrived in Washington, D.C., there was no one that showed up to meet the girl. She had a number to call, but the man that answered became angry that she had arrived earlier than expected. Sandi called the authorities.





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Delta Airlines –

Patty McPeak sat down in the boarding area next to a man a little girl – about 4 years old. Making small talk, she asked how old the girl was. The man said that the girl was about 2 years old- he had picked her up from her mother so wasn't sure. He got very nervous and disappeared for a few minutes and when he returned the child appeared to be drugged. Patty notified the flight attendants and showed them the Hotline number. Pilots called and authorities met the flight.

JetBlue

Daniel Sheth and the Airline Ambassador humanitarian team noticed two teenagers (a boy and girl) who were visibly upset – the girl was crying. They were with a woman who said they were going to New York. Our team watched as the two were handed over to a man on the other side of Customs. When questioned, the kids looked down, but the man said they were going to Boston. Daniel informed the flight attendants who had the cockpit call the Hotline Number.



USAIR

On a flight from Reagan National Airport to Palm Beach, Florida, Deborah Sigmund watched as a man with a little boy ran up to the boarding gate late. "What is the little boy's name?" asked the agent. The man did not know and had to look up the boy's name in a file he was carrying. The man tried to shield the young boy from passengers. Once Deborah made eye contact with the child, she asked him what he was going to do in Florida. The boy looked surprised and replied, "I think I'm going to North Carolina".

What is Being Done

The U.S. government is a leader in the global fight against human trafficking. In October 2000, the U.S. Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which includes the prevention of trafficking, the prosecution of criminals and protection and assistance to victims of trafficking, both in the United States and abroad. The U.S. Department of Justice has prosecuted about 400 cases of trafficking since 2000. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services assists victims of trafficking in the United States by funding service programs and through public information campaigns. The U.S. Department of Labor funds anti-trafficking programs overseas and monitors places of employment in the U.S. to identify abusive labor practices. The U.S. Department of State, through its Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, assesses and reports on the global trafficking situation in its annual Trafficking in Person Report. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has issued over 1500 T visas to identified victims of trafficking.

Airline Ambassadors volunteers are providing airport trainings for flight personnel across the country. **Join us**

HUMAN TRAFFICKING - Recognize it! Report it!

add the DHS Tip Line in your cell phone: **866-347-2423**



Join our Blue Heart Campaign and help protect women and children from Human Trafficking