

## [Press Release]

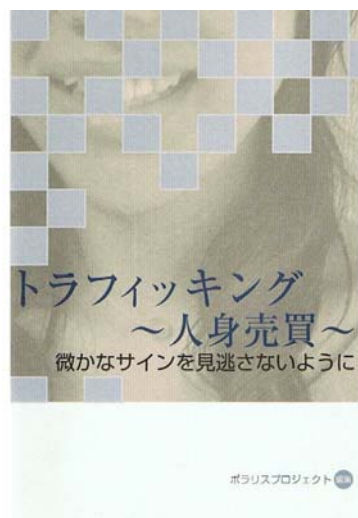


**POLARIS PROJECT**  
FOR A WORLD WITHOUT SLAVERY

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# Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery – Know the Signs

NPO begins free booklet handout



Polaris Project Japan has begun free distribution of a handbook outlining the issues of human trafficking, a growing problem that affects hundreds of women and children who often become victims of sexual violence, prostitution and forced labor.

The handbook, which depicts actual human trafficking cases and brings to light the problems of modern-day slavery, has already been distributed to the National Police Agency, Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department, Kanagawa Prefectural Police Department, Immigration Bureau of Japan, and government-run counseling centers.

In Japan, the number of human trafficking (non-Japanese) victims rose to 117 people in fiscal year 2005, more than double the 57 people in fiscal year 2001, when the National Policy Agency began compiling statistics. Victims of human trafficking are often forced into prostitution by organized crime, held in debt bondage, and have their passport and other identification confiscated, making it difficult to speak out.

Many human trafficking violations in Japan occur under the guise of the adult-entertainment industry or as compensated dating (enjo-kousai) and often go unseen by law enforcement officials. The government's inaction and delays in tackling the issue prompted the U.S. State Department in 2004 to downgrade Japan's status to "Tier-2 Watchlist," the second-lowest of four levels and the only developed nation to be given the dubious rating.

In recent years, the Japanese government has enacted new laws (and subsequently the country was dropped from the Watchlist and given back its "Tier-2" rating), but "human trafficking" is still unknown to many individual citizens, and the definition of what constitutes human trafficking is ambiguous to even law enforcement officials, case workers and volunteers who deal with issue.

In an effort to raise awareness, the Polaris Project encourages everyone – organizations and individuals – to send an e-mail or letter to the above address to obtain the free Japanese handbook.

### 【About the Handbook】

**Author:** Polaris Project (in Yokohama Women's Association for Communication and Networking)

**Consultants:** Kaori Mutoh (Director, Women's shelter Saalaa) 、 Keiko Yamazaki (Counselor, Women's Counseling Center) 、 Genichi Yamaguchi (Lawyer) 、 Dr. Yoko Yoshinaga (Psychiatrist)

**Book Format:** 15 × 21 cm (A5)

**Page Count:** 28 Pages (with an additional 23-page supplemental)

**Contents:** Human trafficking is a crime which the victims cannot easily seek help, and in many cases occurs in our own neighborhood unnoticed. The book reveals the many aspects of the crime and gives vital information for professionals and individuals on how to recognize human trafficking violations, how to seek help for victims and other points of contact.

#### ○ こんな場面を見たことがありますか？



読者の皆さんのなかには、これから述べる光景を、記憶の片隅に見つけることができるかもしれません。これらは何百というケースのほんの一部にすぎませんが、実際に起こっている人身売買事件が私たちの日常生活に現れるほんの一瞬を切り取ったものです。

例：近くのアパートにて数人で暮らしている外国人の女性たち。毎晩夕方になると大きなワゴンがアパートの目の前に横づけされ、次々と女性たちは乗り込みどこかへ行く。

例：ある食料品店では、月に数回大量の食材を買いに、車で送迎されて来る数人の女性がいる。

例：近所のマンションの一室には終日男性が入れ替わり立ち替わり出入りしている。いつも同じ人間が男性たちを連れてくる。

### 【Polaris Project】

Polaris Project is an anti-trafficking organization providing multi-lingual hotlines and counseling services for victims of trafficking. Founded in Washington D.C. in 2002, it opened its Tokyo office in 2004. The group also provides awareness-raising events and workshops for social-service providers and law enforcement.

<Would you like to make a donation?

It's the most direct and important way to and join us in the fight!>

Donation through Japanese Post Offices Account #: 00150-9-370561 Account Name: Polaris Project