



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Pasco County Commission on Human Trafficking**

*~~Local leaders hold news conference; report efforts to combat modern slavery~~*

**PASCO COUNTY, FL** ---- The [Pasco County Commission on Human Trafficking](#) held a news conference on January 5, 2018 in Land O' Lakes to report on local, state and federal efforts to combat human trafficking. January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month and the International Labor Organization estimates 40 million men, women and children are trapped in this crime of modern slavery. Florida ranked third in the nation in the number of reported cases of human trafficking in 2016, according to the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

Pasco County Commission Vice Chairman Ron Oakley, Shahra Anderson representing U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, U.S. Congressman Gus Bilirakis, State Representative Danny Burgess and Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco discussed legislative, law enforcement and community lead initiatives underway to address human trafficking.

[VIDEO](#) of the full news conference is available here: [facebook.com/PascoCounty](https://facebook.com/PascoCounty).

Human trafficking is a growing problem worldwide and is quickly becoming the second most common criminal act behind drug trafficking. Some key accomplishments of the Pasco County Commission on Human Trafficking include:

- Partnering with the Pasco Board of County Commissioners to pass County Ordinance No. 16-34, mandating that human trafficking awareness signage be placed in restrooms and dressing rooms of sexually-oriented businesses
- Producing three Public Service Announcements, which aired in ten central Florida counties with an estimated audience of more than half a million people
- Training more than 3,000 community members on the signs of human trafficking

Learn more about human trafficking and the efforts to combat this form of modern slavery by visiting the Polaris Project at: [polarisproject.org/human-trafficking](https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking).