



SA JUSTICE

on earth, as it is in heaven

Support Teams





SA Support Teams exist to connect with and care for women working in the sex industry in the U.S.

Women working in clubs, parlors, and as escorts deserve dignity, respect and care, but the experience of SA Support Teams shows that the majority are vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalized. Team members seek to visit and show care for these women without discrimination or judgement.

SA Support Team members provide a contact point with The Salvation Army where women can seek care and support, including help with exiting the sex industry if they want to. A visible and available presence in parlors and clubs, team members seek to be like Jesus in these environments, connecting and advocating on behalf of vulnerable and disadvantaged women.

★ BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

SA Support Teams are about:

- **Women** who visit clubs and parlors to care, listen, pray, and offer connections for women with the supports of Salvation Army services and communities
- **Baked Goods** as a gift and tool for engagement, leading to opportunities to sit and talk over a cup of coffee
- **Consistency** and regularity of people visiting to build long term relationships with trust
- **Relationships** and familiarity with managers and receptionists to gain access to women working in the clubs and parlors
- **Connections** with other partner agencies and people with common interests in the holistic care of women

★ HOW SA SUPPORT TEAMS OPERATE

Prayer

God raised up The Salvation Army as His movement of holy warriors, fighting for justice for the oppressed. SA Support Teams need to be on our knees before the One who alone can bring about a restoration of justice on the earth. We are called to prayer & action.

Each local SA Support Team has its own prayer support team paving the way and covering the women and the visiting teams in prayer. A network of supporters across the globe also provides prayer cover for this work.

SA Support Teams are involved in:

- **Prayer** for justice and for marginalized women
- **Building relationships** of trust and finding opportunities to share Jesus with those we encounter
- **Being consistent, visible and available** as a contact point for practical help, acting as a link into Salvation Army Services, Programs, Corps and Communities
- **Growing in understanding** of the lives and circumstances of women, and being advocates for them when opportunities arise
- **Developing relationships** for sharing intelligence and developing more integrated approaches to supporting women involved in the sex industry in the U.S.
- **Partnering** to create effective exit strategies assisting women who want out of the sex industry

★ VISIBILITY AND CREDIBILITY

SA Support Teams are always:

- Salvation Army-branded with the identifiable red shield. All SA Support Team members wear a shield and carry SA Support Teams contact cards. Officers wear fatigue uniform.
- Representing and connected into the broader Salvation Army. Team members are the face of The Salvation Army in parlors, and clubs, and behave in ways consistent with the values and behaviors of SA. Our access and acceptance can be based on the goodwill and recognition of the Salvation Army brand
- Making no claim to be qualified chaplains or therapists, or have any social work expertise. Team members are simply women who care, and are aware of other relevant local services, with the contacts to connect people into the broader Salvation Army network and services

★ SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

- A local SA Support Team consists of no less than 2 people.
- No visit occurs without a prayer team and a contact person, aware of where and when a team member will be inside a parlor or club.
- Initial access visits to parlor or clubs always involve 2 people, although a team member may visit a 'known' parlor alone.
- SA Support Team members do not engage with clients of clubs and parlors, only the women we are there to visit.
- We are persistent in continuing to visit clubs and parlors where we are initially denied visiting rights, but leave when asked, and respect the wishes of women not to see us.

★ SA SUPPORT TEAMS STRUCTURE

SA Support Teams are **locally based** outreach ministry teams of Corps or churches.

SA Support Teams are **co-led, administered and resourced** through the SA Justice Department in the Western Territorial Headquarters.

Training, resources, connections, advice and **support** are provided for all teams operating under the 'SA Support Teams' banner.

Human Trafficking Red Flags? What to Look For?

- Evidence of being controlled
- Unpaid for work completed or paid very little
- No passport or other identifying documentation
- Strange tattoos or other branding marks
- Signs of psychological coercion, such as an overly submissive attitude or inability to speak for self
- An abrupt change in attire, behavior, or relationships
- Travel with an older male who is not a guardian
- Excessive work hours - not free to take time off
- Unpaid for work completed or paid very little
- Homelessness/hopelessness
- Active in commercial sex industry or works "off the books" in low-paying job

★ YOU THINK YOU'VE IDENTIFIED A HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVOR?

Ask simple, direct questions such as:

- Are you in a personal or work relationship with a person who physically harms or threatens you?
- Have you been hurt while working on the job either by someone you work for or with?

If they answer yes to any of those questions:

Communicate messages of hope:

- You have rights.
- You are not alone and not to blame.
- You are entitled to services and help.
- We are here to help you.

Things to avoid:

- Do not ask about the person's immigration status,
- Do not make promises you can't keep.
- Do not contact authorities without the person's permission.

Assess safety:

- Are you afraid to go home?
- What would happen if you didn't return to your work site/residence this evening?

NEXT STEPS:

1. If the person is in a medical emergency, **call 911**
2. Call the 24-hour operating National Human Trafficking Hotline: **888-3737-888**, or he/she can text INFO or HELP to us at: **BeFree: 233733**. This hotline can guide you through the process of connecting the person to safety and resources.
3. SA Justice is here to support at all times – we realize this can be complex and challenging work. Please feel free to contact: