

OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE

SMALL BUSINESS OWNER



MEET MIGUEL, A SMALL BUSINESS OWNER

Miguel owns a **restaurant**. One of his regular customers asks him if he is aware of the issue of human trafficking. Although Miguel had heard the term used before, he did not know much about it or whether he had anything to offer to help with such a complex issue.

At the next local business league meeting, he asks other small business owners if they are aware of the issue and what they are doing to combat it. He realizes that, collectively, they have a lot to **learn** about how to engage. They decide to reach out to the local anti-trafficking Task Force to request information. .

The Task Force representative, a local service provider director, and a law enforcement official come to share at their next meeting. The law enforcement representative shares what the issue looks like locally, including recent sting operations at hotels, restaurants, and transportation hubs. He shares about the characteristics of the **labor and sex trafficking victims** he has seen, stating that most do not identify as victims and are unaware of the extent of their exploitation or may be afraid to come forward.

The Task Force shared practical ways that the business community, particularly the food service industry, can engage. Miguel learns that traffickers often frequent restaurants looking for vulnerable people, and as a meeting place for victims and perpetrators. Miguel learns the **warning signs**, and how he can have his staff trained with response protocols.

Miguel also learns about **fair trade** and labor exploitation. He plans to become better educated about his supply chain of food and goods and engage local farmers and food producers to educate them about labor trafficking as well. He also makes plans to purchase uniforms for his employees that are made in the USA or with no slavery footprint.

At the end of the meeting, Miguel is ready to engage his restaurant and small business community in many ways to make a difference.

**YOU
CAN
TOO!**

The Task Force ended by sharing that there are many great anti-trafficking efforts already active in their community who need **support**. Miguel considers several ways he could assist those organizations – from offering a percentage of proceeds to an organization, offering free advertising at the restaurant, or catering a fundraising event.

The service provider shared about their work with survivors and the services and programs they offer. They expressed that as survivors graduate from their program and are looking to successfully reintegrate into the community, **job opportunities** are difficult to find. Businesses that can offer an internship, apprenticeship, or job position, are greatly needed.

RESOURCES FOR YOU

According to the US Small Business Administration (SBA), the 28 million small businesses in the United States occupy nearly 34 billion square feet of real estate. Further, small businesses provide 55% of the jobs in the US market. Small business owners bring creativity, innovation, and determination to their communities, which can be leveraged to make a difference in eradicating human trafficking.

As a professional, you can make a big difference with simple additions to what you are already doing every day! Consider the following:

- Learn the signs of sex and labor trafficking. Know what to look for to identify human trafficking of women, men, girls, and boys. Start by earning your Human Trafficking Awareness Badge from Justice U™ at [learnwithjusticeu.com](https://www.learnwithjusticeu.com).
- Sign the AFRJ Business Pledge to End Human Trafficking and discover how, as a business leader, you can help end human trafficking. Sign the pledge today at [afrj.com/businesspledge](https://www.afrj.com/businesspledge).
- Program the National Human Trafficking Hotline (888-373-7888) into your mobile device, post free flyers with the contact information in your business locations, and include a link to [humantraffickinghotline.org](https://www.humantraffickinghotline.org) on your social media pages and website so that you and your customers can quickly report suspicious activity or get help.
- Ask local service providers (Human Trafficking Aftercare programs, Domestic Violence Shelters, Youth Shelters, Foster Care/Group Homes) what their tangible, financial, and service needs are, and determine if your store, employees, or customers could meet those needs.
- Donate unused items to aftercare programs for survivors of human trafficking; designate a percentage of profits from a sale, event, or Small Business Saturday; or allow customers to purchase gift cards to be donated to local service providers.
- Research, to the best of your ability, the labor in your supply chain and make your purchases from trusted manufacturers.
- Engage other business owners in the conversation about what human trafficking looks like in your area and explore ways to partner together in your response, especially by providing opportunities for justice programs and living wage jobs for survivors.



YOU ARE UNIQUELY
POSITIONED TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE.

DISCOVER HOW.

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