

PLEASE SUPPORT JANUARY'S DRIVE FOR NEW BEDDING FOR FOSTER KIDS!



Click on the logo to watch the video explaining what is needed.

1 set of twin sheets, pillowcase, comforter and a toy or decorator pillow

CLICK PICTURE TO VIEW THE VIDEO

Or you can donate \$75 at [DONATE \\$75 HERE](#) and we'll purchase the bedding for you. Please make a note on your donation so we know what it is for. Make a difference in the life of a vulnerable child.

IMPORTANT ITEMS IN THE NEWS

National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

January has been proclaimed as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Businesses, civil society organizations, communities of faith, families, and all Americans are asked to take part in appropriate programs and activities aimed at identifying and preventing all forms of human trafficking.

Additionally, this Saturday, January 11, 2025, is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, aka #WearBlueDay. Everyone is encouraged to wear blue as it is the international color of human trafficking awareness.

Million Kids Insights: ____

[LINK TO FULL PROCLAMATION](#)

California man sues 3 Asia banks over \$1M pig butchering crypto-fraud scam

A California resident is suing three Asia-based banks over allegations they failed to conduct basic checks that might have prevented crypto scammers from defrauding him of nearly \$1 million.

In a lawsuit filed in a California district court on Dec. 31, 2024, attorneys for Ken Liem claim their client was the victim of a pig butchering scam after being contacted on LinkedIn in June 2023 about a cryptocurrency investment opportunity.

Million Kids Insights: *\$1 million is a lot of money to lose. But so is \$10,000 or \$20,000 so be careful of what are being called "pig butchering scams". Pig butchering scams are frauds that start with a random contact from a stranger who works to gain your trust. They make you believe that you can trust them and that they want to help you make money. The scammers will manipulate victims into investing in fake or risky schemes and the victims ultimately end up losing whatever they have "invested" to the scammers.*

[FINRA](#) offers this advice on what to watch for:

- *Unexpected contact: Never respond to unsolicited messages from unknown contacts, even about seemingly benign topics, especially via text message and on encrypted messaging applications (ie: WhatsApp). (The U.S. Secret Service adds to also be especially wary on social media and dating apps.)*
- *Refusal to participate in video chats or any face to face contact (and you should never trust a profile photo).*
- *They request your financial information.*
- *They give an unsolicited invitation for you to invest in specific financial products.*
- *They offer an unknown or confusing investment opportunity. You can search to see if it is a scam or fraud that has been reported. Use the [FINRA BrokerCheck](#) to see if the promoter is a registered investment professional.*
- *Unfamiliar trading platforms - Who controls the platform? What security measures are in place? How can you withdraw funds if needed? If you don't know the answers to those questions, don't put your assets there.*
- *Exaggerated claims and elevated emotions: Take a closer look at any investment that offers much higher than average returns or is touted as "guaranteed." Fraudsters will also often use their knowledge about you to appeal to your emotions—something like, "Don't you want to have money to send your kids to college?" (The U.S. Secret Service also points out: Warning signs that you are a victim of a scam also include notifications, messages, or websites indicating that you have made large amounts of money in a short time period.)*
- *Sense of urgency about an upcoming news announcement or share price increase: Remember that insider trading is illegal, and you should never trade in shares of a company on the basis of material, nonpublic information.*

If it happens to you, most of all, it is important to not be embarrassed about being a victim. Immediately report the fraud to your local law enforcement agency.

[LINK TO FULL ARTICLE](#)

How human trafficking victims are forced to run 'pig butchering' investment scams

An investment scam called "pig butchering" has cost victims around the world an estimated \$75 billion in just the last four years, and it's not just the targets who are being harmed. The imposters on the other end of the line are often human trafficking victims forced to run the scheme by large crime syndicates in Asia. Ali Rogin speaks with former prosecutor

Erin West to learn more.

Million Kids Insights: *In 2023 alone it was reported that Americans lost \$4.6 billion dollars to these schemes. And much of the scamming is being run by foreign crime syndicates in Asia. With developing technology, there is a good chance at some point that the initial contact for the scam can be done by a machine (they never sleep and can work 24/7). Although machines can be programmed to continue to scam, it is more likely that once a live person responds, it would then be turned over to a human who can begin working the scam. Human trafficking for cyber crimes will continue.*

[LINK TO PBS VIDEO OF INTERVIEW](#)

NIA raids Delhi residence of arrested accused in Lao human trafficking-cyber slavery case

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has intensified its investigation into the human trafficking and cyber slavery network operating in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). The agency conducted a search at the Jamia Nagar residence of a recently arrested accused in South Delhi.

Million Kids Insights: *As our research has been showing, many of the scammers are actually being trafficked themselves and forced into committing the scams. Legitimate looking ads for jobs are posted in newspapers and online. People coming from poor areas, in this case in India, are lured by the offers to make money. So many of the victims say they can't find jobs where they live and especially if they have family who are dependent on them. The job-seekers are taken, or expected to get there on their own, to a location in a different country and in this case it is Laos. Once in Laos, the victims were forced into illegal cyber activities by creating fake online profiles using female identities and targeting people in the US and Europe. Many times the victims' documents are taken away and horrifically abused. One report said that 7 out of 10 women say they have been sexually assaulted, and many of the men end up with broken bones and burns.*

[LINK TO FULL ARTICLE](#)

2 Chinese nabbed for allegedly kidnapping fellow citizens

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) arrested two Chinese men for allegedly kidnapping fellow citizens and forcing them to work in a purported scam hub. The CIDG nabbed the two Chinese in a house inside a private subdivision in General Trias, Cavite (Philippines).

[LINK TO FULL ARTICLE](#)

BI Arrests almost 400 Illegal Aliens in Major Raid on Alleged Scam Operations in Paranaque

PASAY CITY, Philippines—The Bureau of Immigration (BI) successfully apprehended almost 400 illegal aliens during a large-scale raid conducted in Parañaque on Wednesday,

targeting an alleged scam operation. Said individuals were allegedly engaged in illicit activities, including online scam operations targeting victims abroad.

[LINK TO FULL ARTICLE](#)

Thai police say Chinese actor was trafficked to Myanmar to work in a scam operation

BANGKOK (AP) — A Chinese actor who disappeared after traveling to Thailand and was found near the border of Myanmar in an area where online scam networks operate was a victim of human trafficking, Thai police said Wednesday.

Wang told the police that he was lured by a promise of a job casting by a major Thai entertainment company, but instead was taken across the border into Myanmar, where police believe he was put to work in a call scam operation targeting Chinese people, said Senior Inspector General Thatchai Pitaneelaboot.

The area is known as a haven for criminal syndicates who have forced hundreds of thousands of people in Southeast Asia into participating in online scams including false romantic ploys, bogus investment pitches and illegal gambling schemes. Many of the victims are trapped in virtual slavery. There also are allegations of drug trafficking.

[LINK TO FULL ARTICLE](#)

Beware of 'Amber Alert' Scam Targeting Californians

The California Highway Patrol recently issued a warning to residents of the state about a dangerous scam making its rounds. Phone scammers are pretending to be representatives of the Amber Alert system, offering to come to homes to gather personal information under the guise of "registering" children. CHP said they are the only agency allowed to issue Amber Alerts and that no registration is needed.

[LINK TO FULL ARTICLE](#)

Pig Butchering Victim Resources:

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) – [Investment Scams](#)

Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) – [BrokerCheck](#)

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) – [How to Avoid Fraud](#)

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) – [Fraud Resources](#)

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) - [Fraud Resource Center](#)

If you suspect you are a victim of pig butchering, contact your local [Secret Service field office](#).



THAT

Teen Human-Trafficking Awareness Talk

THAT is a four-hour session featuring guest speakers from law enforcement and the community. Its purpose is to equip middle and high school students, along with their parents, with essential tools to maintain a healthy balance between real life and online activities. The discussion will include real-life examples of teens who have fallen victim to sextortion, exploitation, online grooming, and other internet-related crimes.

Saturday, January 11, 2025
10AM-2PM

Location: Ayala Park Community Center
17909 Marygold Ave.
Bloomington, CA 92335
Check In and Breakfast at 9:30AM

Scan the QR code to register
For any questions,
email erogers@sbcsd.org



MILLIONKIDS
Keeping Kids Safe From Predators

FREE ONLINE WORKSHOPS

In conjunction with Children's Fund, Million Kids is excited to announce the upcoming free online workshops (all times are Pacific).

January 13 at 9:00AM - Human Trafficking Investigations (Nancy Aguirre)

January 21 at 9:00AM - Overview of Youth Social Media Trends (Clark Morrow)

January 23 at 9:00AM - Missing Kids, Runaway Youth, and Enticements (Lynda Bergh Herring)

January 28 at 1:30PM - Human Trafficking of Foreign National Individuals within the U.S. (Opal Singleton)

February 4 at 1:30PM - Global CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Materials) (Opal Singleton)

February 10 at 9:00AM - The devastating impact of Fentanyl, and other dangerous drugs on our youth (Tonya Holt)

February 13 at 9:00AM - How well do you know your child? (Lynda Bergh Herring)

February 19 at 9:00AM - Overview of Youth Social Media Trends (Clark Morrow)

February 23 at 1:30PM - Human Trafficking of Foreign National Individuals within the U.S. (Opal Singleton)

Register at the link below to reserve your spot as the workshops do fill up. (It is also important to register so that you receive the Zoom link.)



This Week's Radio Show - Technology and Truth

This week Mark Zuckerberg announced that Facebook and Instagram will ditch fact-checking and will instead relay on community. Million Kids welcomes that decision which is long overdue. In 2020, Million Kids lost tens of thousands of followers on social media because they blatantly and unapologetically asked their followers to support Proposition 20 which would have made child sex crimes violent and serious. Million Kids has always put out extra effort to verify the validity of our research and resources and stand by our position even today, that child sex crimes should ALWAYS be considered violent and serious.

The content moderators for Facebook took issue with our positions and subsequently took down the Million Kids Facebook page for more than two years. The loss for Million Kids was extraordinary as they had developed that following over a period of nearly ten years.

We once again have a Facebook page called IEMillion Kids and also have a private (invitation to be approved) page at Million Kids Supporters on Facebook. This allows us to keep our followers current on the latest changes in combating human trafficking and digital exploitation. We hope our followers will subscribe to our Facebook. We pledge to provide the most accurate and up to date information in combating human trafficking and digital exploitation.

We hope and pray that the days of political and commercial censorship are behind us. And that we can all join forces to ensure that we can "Keep our kids safe from predators".

Join us this Saturday at 3:00 PM on AM 590 (Riverside) or go to

www.AM590TheAnswer.com - search for keyword Opal

Or listen on:

Spotify [CLICK HERE](#)

Apple Podcasts [CLICK HERE](#)

Amazon Music [CLICK HERE](#)

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If you see a news article or release you believe would be beneficial to others, please send a link to: info@millionkids.org.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST ONLINE EXPLOITATION

At MillionKids.org, our mission is to reach, educate and protect the vulnerable including children, teens and seniors from online exploitation.

JOIN THE FIGHT AND MAKE A DONATION TODAY.



Prevention • Education • Intervention • Support

The Million Kids mission is to **PREVENT** child exploitation by empowering every kid, and those who interact with kids, through education on predators and to **INTERVENE** by providing support services to those families and children in crisis.

If you are interested in a presentation, please email us at info@MillionKids.org or call (951) 323-0298.

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Report Human Trafficking:

Riverside County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (RCAHT)

Hotline 1-855-758-FREE (3733)

National Human Trafficking Hotline 1-888-3737-888 or

BeFree Textline Text "BeFree" (233733)

[Spanish Version](#)

Obtenga Ayuda 24/7 Confidencial - 1-888-373-7888

Report Online Sexual Exploitation of Children:

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

Go to [CyberTipline](#) or call 1-800-THE-LOST



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