Stopping Human Trafficking:
How State and Federal Powers Work Together

Human trafficking is a serious crime and a violation of human rights. It involves the illegal trade of people for forced labor, sexual exploitation, or other forms of abuse. Both federal and state governments share responsibility in preventing, investigating, and punishing trafficking crimes to protect every person's right to freedom and safety.

Federal Protections
The **Thirteenth Amendment** abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, forming the foundation for federal anti-trafficking laws. The **Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000** defines human trafficking, sets criminal penalties, and provides victim support programs nationwide. Federal agencies such as the **FBI** and **Department of Homeland Security** work to identify and prosecute traffickers.

State Protections
Each state has its own constitution that guarantees personal liberty and safety. Many states, including your own, have passed specific **anti-human trafficking laws** that complement federal efforts. These laws fund victim services, establish state task forces, and mandate awareness training for law enforcement and service providers.

Shared Power
Federal and state governments collaborate to combat trafficking through joint investigations, information sharing, and prosecution. State and local agencies often work with the **FBI**, **DHS**, and **Department of Justice** to rescue victims, gather evidence, and dismantle trafficking networks.

Advocacy for Change
As an advocate, you can support stronger protections for survivors, increased funding for victim services, and education programs that raise awareness in schools and communities. Every voice matters in the fight to end human trafficking.