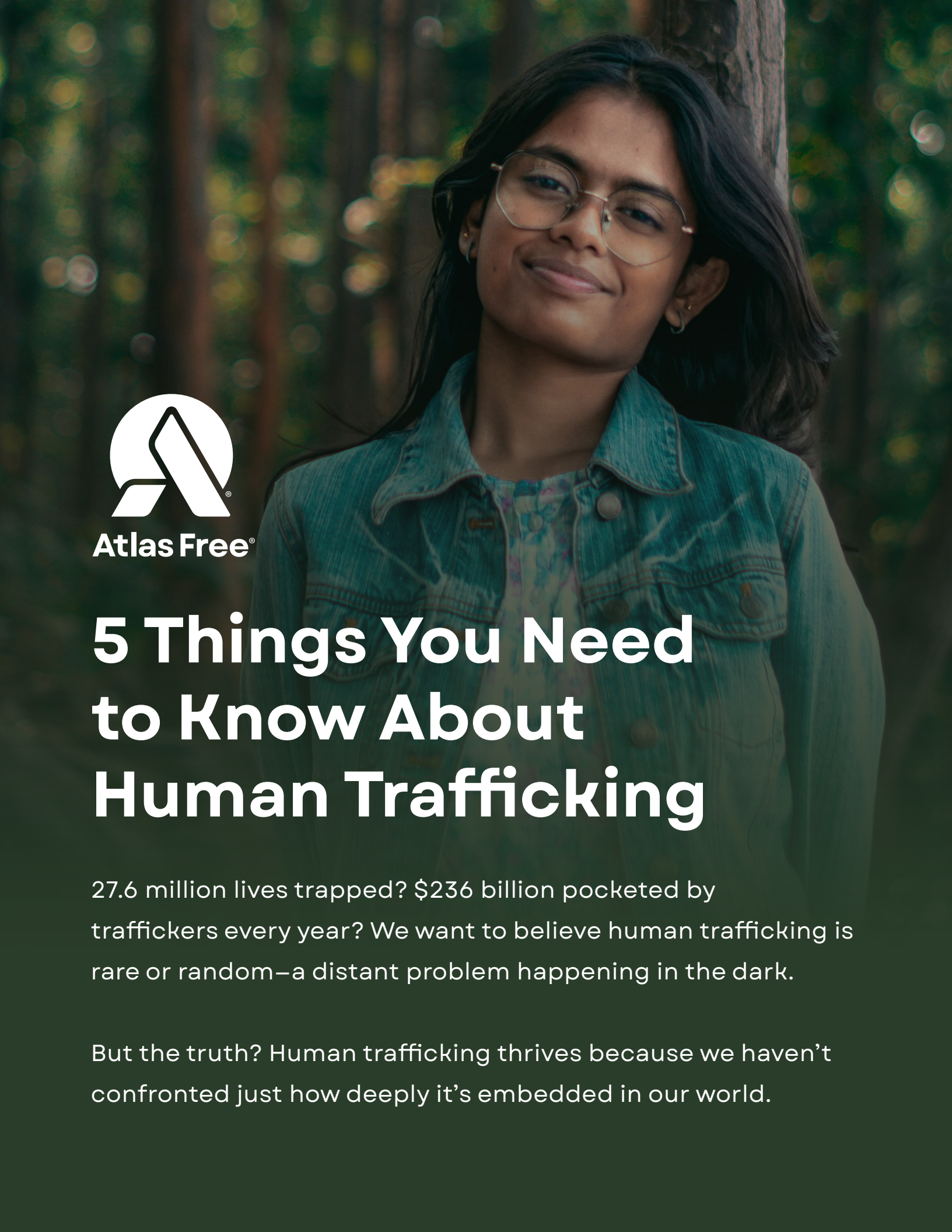

Atlas Free®

5 Things You Need to Know About Human Trafficking

27.6 million lives trapped? $236 billion pocketed by traffickers every year? We want to believe human trafficking is rare or random—a distant problem happening in the dark.

But the truth? Human trafficking thrives because we haven't confronted just how deeply it's embedded in our world.

Atlas Free

5 Things You Need to Know About Human Trafficking

To change the norm, we first need to face it.

In this guide, you'll uncover the hard truths about sex trafficking and learn how to take action. These aren't just numbers—they're lives. And every statistic represents a choice: will we normalize this, or will we fight to change it? Here's what you need to know in 2025:

1 It's bigger than you think.

Human trafficking is a $236 billion industry*, making more profit than Walmart, Visa, Meta, and Amazon—combined. With 27.6 million people trapped**, it's as common as passing a Starbucks or catching a green light on your commute. These aren't just numbers—they're lives.

2 It thrives in broad daylight.

Trafficking doesn't hide in dark alleys or distant borders—it thrives in plain sight, happening everywhere, every day. Globally, one person is trapped in trafficking every second—that's 90 people in the time it takes to brush your teeth.

3 Victims are not always who you think.

While **78% of sex trafficking victims are women and children****, men are also targeted. Traffickers exploit vulnerabilities through coercion, manipulation, and even trusted relationships. Right now, the number of people trapped in trafficking could fill Madison Square Garden 1,380 times. It's happening everywhere—and to anyone.

**Reported net income from 2025 compared to International Labour Organization Profits and Poverty 2024*

***International Labour Organization 2022*

4 Accountability is scarce.

Despite the staggering scale of trafficking, justice remains rare. A major problem lies in the low number of victims identified by governments. Less than 1%*** of human trafficking victims are identified. Right now, 102,027 trafficking victims are identified. Comparing this number to the UN estimate of 27.6 million people trapped in forced labor or sex trafficking, governments are only identifying 0.37% percent of victims, leaving the vast majority without help or freedom.

5 Traffickers aren't slowing down—neither can we.

This system thrives because society allows it. Globally, traffickers rake in $648 million every single day—that's more than the GDP of some countries—all while survivors fight uphill battles to rebuild their lives. We may feel shock and awe when we hear those numbers, but action is the only way to disrupt it. Educating yourself and others, advocating for stronger policies, and supporting organizations fighting trafficking can make all the difference. Joining Atlas Free's Team Freedom ensures survivors receive consistent resources to find safety, healing, and the freedom they deserve. Join the team that's no longer tolerating it.
Click here to make your first monthly gift.

Sex trafficking isn't rare—it's routine. But together, we can rewrite the story.

Give monthly and join the fight.
atlasfree.org

****Reported identified victims of trafficking from the TIP Report 2025 compared to the reported number of victims in trafficking from the International Labour Organization 2022*