




HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

Human Trafficking is a form of modern day slavery. It involves controlling a person through force, fraud or coercion to exploit the victim. Traffickers may recruit, harbor or transport a victim in order to exploit them for labor, sexual exploitation or both.

How to Report a Tip

 **Call** 713.222.TIPS (8477)

 **Text** TIP610 plus your tip to CRIMES (274637)

 Use our **Mobile App**

 Go to **[crime-stoppers.org](https://www.crime-stoppers.org)**

Tipsters will remain anonymous and could be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$5,000.

Did you know?

- Human trafficking is a federal crime and is the second largest criminal industry.
- Traffickers are not always members of organized crime, gangs or drug caters – some are small business owners, individuals or family members of victims.
- Every 10 minutes a woman or child is trafficked into the U.S for forced labor.
- 26% of victims are children: the majority of them is trafficked through coercion, false promises and false job offers.
- 55% of victims are women and girls.
- 76% of transactions for sex with underage girls are conducted via the internet.
- 1 of 6 runaways is likely to become a sex victim.
- Human trafficking victims have been identified in all 50 states.



MISCONCEPTIONS

- Sex trafficking and prostitution are not the same thing – although all child prostitution is human trafficking.
- Not all victims are illegal immigrants – approximately half are U.S. citizens and half foreign nationals.
- Human smuggling and human trafficking are not the same thing – human trafficking crimes do not require any smuggling or movement of the victim.
- Trafficking victims are not all destitute individuals – they come from all income and socioeconomic levels.



Human trafficking is defined as a form of abuse or neglect:

- >> All individuals have a duty to immediately report suspected and/or disclosed abuse or neglect.
- >> Educational professionals must report within 48 hours.



VICTIMS

- Males and females of all races, ethnicities and socioeconomic levels.
- Many young victims are homeless, runaways or victims of abuse.
- The average victim is 13 years old.
- Many victims are often hidden in plain sight and may not realize they are being exploited.



EXPLOITERS

- Traffickers can be males, females, pimps, gangs, family members, labor brokers, employers of domestic servants, small business owners, and/or large factory owners.
- Traffickers use various methods to trap vulnerable individuals such as violence, threats, fraud, coercion, blackmail, false promises, deception, manipulation, and debt bondage.
- Traffickers employ a variety of control tactics, including physical and emotional abuse, sexual assault, confiscation of identification and money, isolation from friends and family, and even renaming victims.
- Traffickers act alone or as part of a larger network.
- Traffickers may systematically target vulnerable children by frequenting locations where children congregate—malls, schools, bus and train stations, and group homes, among other locations.



INDICATORS

- Lives with their employer.
- Employer holding identity documents.
- Unpaid or paid very little.
- Inability to speak to individuals alone.
- Submissive or fearful.
- Avoids eye contact.
- Sudden change in attire, behavior, relationships, or material possessions (e.g., expensive items).
- Owing a large debt and being unable to pay it off.
- Desiring to quit a job but not being allowed to do so.



QUESTIONS TO ASK, IF SAFE TO DO SO

- Can you leave your job if you want to?
- Would you be hurt or threatened if you tried to leave?
- Has your family been threatened?
- Do you live with your employer?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Are you in debt to your employer?
- Do you have your passport/identification?
If not, who has it?



Important reminders for PARENTS:

Traffickers are increasingly active on social media; children are extremely vulnerable due to their increased time online.

- Apps are not only accessible through mobile phones, many can be accessed through any Internet ready devices such as PC's, tablets, game consoles.
- Be attentive for a change in behavior and/or appearance, increased time online, vagueness about new friends.
- Ask your child's school about prevention programs pertaining to online safety and human trafficking.