



**CRIME STOPPERS
CYBER SAFETY
RESOURCE GUIDES:**

***Human Trafficking
and the Internet***

*We remain committed to our mission
to **solve and prevent serious crime**
in the Greater Houston Area.*



MODERN DAY SLAVERY

Human Trafficking is modern day slavery that involves exploiting a person through force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of forced labor, commercial sex, or both.

There is an inseparable link between Human Trafficking and the Internet. Predators are online looking for vulnerabilities. 79% of minor sex trafficking interactions begin online and ½ of the minor sex trafficking investigations in Harris County in 2019 had coinciding online adds.

TERMS TO KNOW

Bottom Girl: A female appointed by the trafficker/pimp to supervise the others and report rule violations. Operates as the pimp's "right hand."

Grooming: Any form of manipulation used to control or take advantage of another individual. Grooming typically involves befriending and gaining the trust of another individual prior to exploitation.

John/Buyer/Trick: Someone who pays for or trades something of value for sexual acts.

Madame: A woman in charge of coordinating all human trafficking activities, managing finances, and recruiting new victims.

Pimp/Trafficker: A person who controls and financially benefits from the exploitation of another human.

Pornified Culture: A hypersexualized society that causes an increase in demand for the sex industry and human trafficking.

Because 10-14 years old is the target age for online victimization, it is important to know the signs of trafficking and to openly communicate with your student about this.

To mitigate victimization:

- Know the stages of grooming.
- Actively monitor all technology.
- Set clear and consistent boundaries for technology usage.
- Have open, and honest conversations about online victimization, and human trafficking.

Recruitment: This is the first stage of trafficking process where a person is targeted by a trafficker and often involves deception or abuse of power.

Renegade: Someone who is involved in prostitution without a pimp.

Social Media Pimp: A trafficker who grooms and exploits their victim through the internet. They are extremely well versed in the intricacies of social media and typically does not fall into a specific age range.

Identifying Grooming

Stages of Grooming:

- Targeting a Victim
- Befriending/Gain Trust
- Fulfilling a Need
- Sexualizing the Relationship
- Isolating the Victim
- Capitalizing

Online Perpetrator

- Sends repeat messages
- Gives gifts
- Asks if student is alone
- Encourages secretive conversations
- Requests inappropriate pictures
- Manipulates pictures
- Blackmails victim

Suspect Grooming if student:

- Spends increased time online
- Secretive about internet activity
- Secretive about communications
- Switches screens when you walk in
- Uses unexpected sexual language
- Has new items that you did not buy
- Increased volatile emotions

IF YOU BLOCK ME OR DELETE KIK, I WILL EMAIL ALL THE PICS U SENT TO UR SCHOOL.

OKAY WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

IT INVOLVES NUDES. TAKE YOUR BRA OFF AND SHOW ME.

I'M CRYING.

NOPE.

PLEASE IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I CAN DO?

I WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN WE ARE DONE.

JUST 1 PIC?

THERE IS LITERALLY NO OTHER OPTION.

PLEASE GIVE ME ANOTHER OPTION.

I'M GONNA SEND YOUR PICS IF YOU DON'T CHAT ME BACK IN 10 MINS.

A Look at Capitalization:

Trafficking happens at the point of **capitalization**. This is when the victim is no longer in control of their situation and their power has been given to another.

When victims find themselves in this situation, it is hard but necessary to **seek help immediately**.

Victims are often unaware of victimization due to psychological manipulation. Look for changes in behavior in your student and seek outside help if you suspect victimization.

Report Human Trafficking

If you suspect trafficking:

- In a life-threatening emergency, call **911**.
- National Human Trafficking Hotline: **888-373-7888**
- Report Anonymously to Crime Stoppers of Houston: **713-222-TIPS (8477)**
- Report child abuse to Texas Department of Family and Protective Services: **1-800-252-5400**

TALKING ABOUT TRAFFICKING

Ages 2-6:

- Have ongoing conversations about the value of self as well as the value of other people.
- Begin conversations about respecting your body. Make sure to identify private body parts by the scientific name.
- Teach the roles of adults in your students' life. Talk about what is appropriate for a parent to do versus a teach, coach, doctor, etc.

Ages 7-12:

- Teach problem solving skills and discuss what they should do when inappropriate content shows up on their screen.
- Have conversations about the importance of expressing themselves in a respectful way.
- Begin encouraging goal setting to promote healthy relationships and achievements.

Ages 13-18:

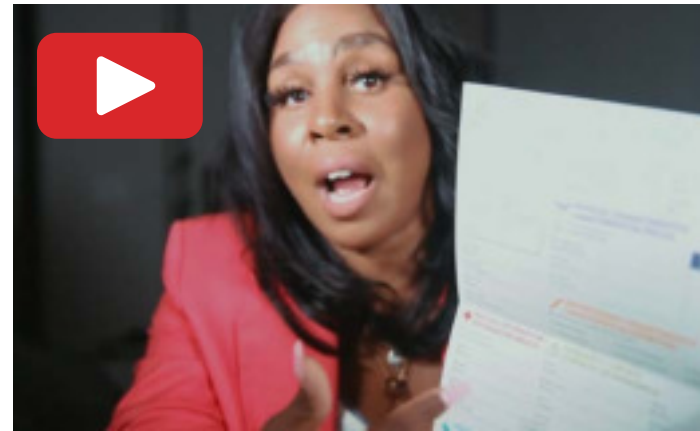
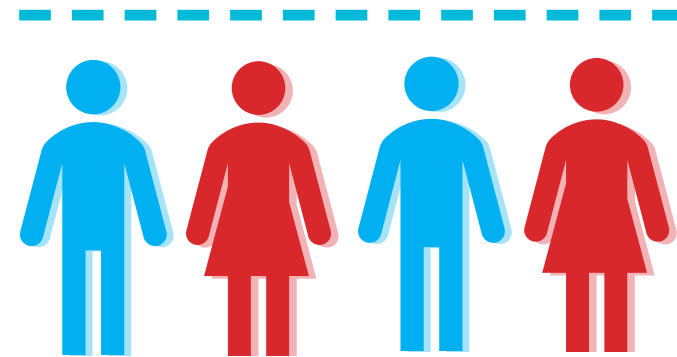
- Have candid conversations about human trafficking.
- Educate your student about the grooming process and what to do if they think they or anyone they know is being groomed.
- Be honest with them about how you feel and what you know. Have consistent conversations about technology usage.

DID YOU KNOW?

79%

of minor sex trafficking begins online.

89% of sexual advances online occur in chat rooms. **1 in 3** runaway youth are approached by a trafficker within **48 hours**. The average age of a young lady being trafficked is **14**. The average age of a boy being trafficked is **12**.



CHILD IDENTIFICATION KITS

In the unforeseen event of a missing child or suspected trafficking scenario, time is of the essence.

It is critical to keep identifying information about your student up to date to expedite the search and recovery process. Listen to native human trafficking survivor and community translator, Dr. Nissi Hamilton tells you how to collect this critical information with our "Child ID Kits". To request a kit, email our Safe Community Program at scp@crime-stoppers.org.

Social Media Monitoring Tools:

Bark (best for social media monitoring: Analyzes text, emails, social media and then sends you concerning content along with suggestions on how to address the situation and talking points. You must have device to install OR the user must accept all push notifications to connect with all social media, text, and email platforms. Stays up to date on language and signs of bullying, suicide, violence, adult content, depression etc so more passive content of concern can be monitored. Options for \$5/month (\$49 annually) or \$14/month (\$99 annually).

Qustodio (best for teens): See what websites are visited, block dangerous content, see communications, protect privacy, manage how and when to be online. Automatically reports activity back to you and has a dashboard where you can view and manager online activity. Free option.

Net Nanny (best for young kids): Limits the type of content and websites your kid can access and allows you to schedule when your child can access the internet and social media. You must have the physical device to install software. Various plans, but the most common option is for a 5-device plan for \$79.99.

Contact Us

We hope that this resource guide is beneficial to you, your family and your community. Please reach out if you have any questions, would like more information or would like to request a presentation.

For a student related presentation requests and questions, contact: ssi@crime-stoppers.org

For parent & community requests and questions, contact: scp@crime-stoppers.org

How to Report



Call 713.222.TIPS (8477)



Use our Mobile App
Download app name: Crime Stoppers Houston



Go to crime-stoppers.org



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