

Signs, Indicators and Debunked Myths of Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking Indicators

These are some key red flags that could alert you to a potential trafficking situation that should be reported:

- Living with employer
- Carrying little or no money
- Poor living conditions with multiple people in cramped space
- Inability to speak to an individual alone
- Answers appear to be scripted or rehearsed
- Employer is holding identity documents
- Signs of physical abuse
- Submissive or fearful
- Employment is unpaid or pays very little or is paid “under the table”

Questions to Ask

Assuming you have the opportunity to speak with a potential victim privately and without jeopardizing the victim’s safety because the trafficker is watching, here are some sample questions to ask to follow up on the red flags you became alerted to:

- Can you leave your job if you want to?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you been hurt or threatened?
- Has your family been threatened?
- Do you live with your employer?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Are you in debt to your employer?

Debunking the Myths of Human Trafficking (HT)

- HT can be coerced labor or coerced sex for the profit of the criminal
- Victims can be under the control of a trafficker while appearing to be free to come and go
- HT is a growing problem in the US and world-wide
- Whether a person originally consented to do a job is irrelevant once his or her free will has been compromised



For Help , To Report a Suspicious Activity or Get More Information, contact:
National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888.3737.888
Text BEFREE (233733) or in Immediate Danger Call 911

Information from the *US State Dept. Trafficking In Persons Reports* and the Polaris Project

Is There Human Trafficking in Your Community?
Look beneath the surface to help keep your community safe!
Become aware of the myths, signs, places and persons at-risk

**Trafficking is exploitation and coercion of labor or sex by a criminal.
It's slavery . . . not a choice for making money nor a victimless crime.**

***Persons at risk of being trafficked:* Run-aways, homeless, LGBTQs, migrants, teens with addictive disorders or children from dysfunctional foster care homes.** Some foster children already think of themselves as “meal tickets.” Not only are they vulnerable to exploitation but no one reports them missing. No one is looking for them.

***Popular places for traffickers:* Malls, outside of shelters, near teen hang-outs and on the internet.** Perpetrators want to find minors who seem “down on their luck.” Typically, they lure victims by feigning romantic interest, promising exciting jobs and travel. Labor Traffickers often lure victims who are desperate for a job, into domestic or agricultural work.

Adult Classified Ads like backpage.com, and other **local adult websites** that target sex buyers, are indicators of human trafficking in your community.

Social media, cell phones and gaming devices are being used by traffickers to lure teens. Learn about online safety at netsmartz.org



How to Help: Traffickers often tell their victims that they will be arrested, shamed or deported if they go to the police. **Nonetheless, ask your local police and agencies if there is any trafficking in your community. If there other nonprofits or agencies working on this, join in with them when you can, or support them! If no one else has HT in their sights, offer to help them learn more and then work in coalition with everyone! What may be reported as child sexual assault can be sexual exploitation.** We can help by **looking beneath the surface**, in airports, transportation centers for taxis, buses, ferries or anyplace teens frequent. **Children do not need IDs when traveling** so you may see a child who is being smuggled or trafficked.

Minors involved in prostitution are victims – not criminals!
See if your state has passed Safe Harbor Laws to protect minors!

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