

Human Trafficking Happens Here

What is it?

Human trafficking is modern day slavery. Traffickers use force, fraud or coercion to control and exploit another person for their own financial benefit. Victims are forced to take part in commercial sex acts or labor against their will. Force, fraud or coercion do not have to be proved if a victim is under the age of 18.

Who are the traffickers?

Traffickers can be **anyone**. We have seen cases where family members, intimate partners, employers, and trusted figures like coaches, teachers and elected officials are exploiting others. Traffickers and the Consumers who drive their criminal activity can be anyone. It is important to understand the warning signs.

Every case is unique so the examples included here are general signs to look for.

IDENTIFY TRAFFICKERS

- Can be friends, family and trusted individuals.
- Makes false promises of a better life.
- Offers promises of good work at high pay with no need for ID or legal documentation as part of application.
- No actual job or office that someone can visit.
- Takes away or holds someone else's documents or ID.
- Wears expensive clothes and jewelry.
- Has luxury items with no explainable way of paying for them.
- Encourages others to be part of their dreams and goals.
- Isolates victims from friends and family.
- Fast tracks relationships. Talks about marriage very quickly.
- Uses other's aspirations and fears to control them.
- Has multiple identities or handles on social media.

IDENTIFY VICTIMS

- Victims do not always see themselves as victims.
- Suddenly has luxury clothing, purses, phone or jewelry without a way to pay for them.
- Has expensive hair or nail services done regularly, changing their appearance frequently.
- Has a new tattoo or brand with a boyfriend's name, especially if they are under age.
- Has a new set of friends and is isolated from former friends and their family.
- Carries multiple phones.
- Does not interact with others when in public.
- Does not speak for themselves, someone else does all the talking for them.
- They live where they work.
- Malnourished or signs of physical abuse.