



HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery that 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.

Did you know?

- 79,000+ minors and youth are being trafficked in Texas for sex annually
- There are an estimated 313,000 victims of human trafficking in Texas
- Traffickers exploit approximately \$600 million from victims of labor trafficking in Texas
- 76% of transactions for sex with underage girls are conducted via the internet
- 1 in 3 runaway youth are lured into prostitution within 48 hours
- The majority of child victims are trafficked through coercion, false promises and false job offers.
- Human trafficking is a federal crime and is the second largest criminal industry
- 26% of victims are children
- 55% of victims are women and girls
- Every 10 minutes a women or child is trafficked into the U.S for forced labor
- 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 – about 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 levels, even higher socioeconomic status



VICTIMS

- Anyone can be a victim
- 13 is the average age of a victim
- Approx. 90% of the time, the trafficker is someone the victim knows
- Males and females of all races, ethnicities and socioeconomic levels
- Many young victims are homeless, runaways or victims of abuse
- Many victims are often hidden in plain sight and/or may not realize they are being exploited



EXPLOITERS

- Traffickers can be anyone: males, females, a fellow classmate, friend, family, someone you met online, boy/girlfriend, pimps, gangs, family members, employers, 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
- Act alone or part of a larger network

How to Report a Tip



Call 713.222.TIPS (8477)



Use our **Mobile App**

Download app name: Crime Stoppers Houston



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.

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.



INDICATORS

- Inability to speak to individuals alone
- Submissive or fearful
- Avoids eye contact
- Living with their employer
- Employer holding identity documents
- Unpaid or paid very little
- Sexually explicit profiles on social media
- Excessive cash or sudden appearance of expensive items
- Signs of branding (tattoo, scars)
- Presence of an older boyfriend
- Expresses need to pay off debt
- Prepaid cell phones



RECRUITMENT TACTICS

- Grooming by providing expensive items
- Grooming by fulfilling emotional needs (spending • time, listening, giving compliments)
- Peer pressure
- Using pictures, personal information or anything that might cause fear of embarrassment or getting in trouble with family, school, law, etc.
- Online recruitment through social media (comments on posts, sends private message, etc.)



For Parents:

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

- Teens tend to overshare – post photos, give their locations, share personal information such as cell phone numbers and home address, etc.
- Apps are not only accessible through mobile phones, many can be accessed through any internet-ready devices such as a PC, tablets, game consoles
- Traffickers and predators are masterful at deception and gaining a teen’s trust online first, before meeting in person.
- Be watchful 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



TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN

- Teach children to trust their instincts – if something feels wrong, it probably is. If something seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- Parents can teach children at a very young age about physical touch and what is appropriate or inappropriate. Children should be taught what kind of touch is acceptable, what to do if someone tries to hurt them, and that it is okay to talk about anything that makes them “feel” uncomfortable
- Human sexuality is not openly discussed in many American households, yet the topic is glaringly present in all aspects of media seen by kids and teens on a daily basis. These are difficult waters for a child to navigate alone.
- Discuss various situations at different familiar locations- sports practice, walking to a friend’s house, outdoor festivals, Halloween, at the mall, movie theater, etc.



QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILDREN

- What would you do if a good looking older guy came up to you and said he thought you were pretty enough to be a model?
- Would you give him your phone number?
- Is it ok for a stranger to take pictures of you?
- Have you ever known someone at school that had an older boyfriend?
- Have any of your friends ever talked about getting paid to go on dates?
- Do you know what sexting is?
- Has anyone ever sent you a picture that made you feel uncomfortable?
- What would you do if someone sent you an inappropriate picture of asked you for one?