

HUMAN TRAFFICKING



What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is a crime where criminals buy and sell people for forced labor or commercial sex.

Traffickers use violence, manipulation, and coercion, to lure, control, and exploit their victims.

There are an estimated 50 million victims worldwide, of which 12 million are children.

It is second only to drug trafficking as the world's largest criminal enterprise, generating \$236 billion in illicit profits annually.

TYPES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Sex Trafficking – *Someone is forced, deceived, or coerced into performing commercial sex acts*

- **Minors:** Involving minors in commercial sex acts is trafficking, even without obvious force, fraud, or coercion
- **Common settings:** Escort services, illicit massage parlors, truck & rest stops, hotels/motels, strip clubs, sports and entertainment events
- **Digital and online:** Often used to recruit, market, and sell trafficking information

Labor Trafficking – *Individuals are forced to work against their will*

- **Industries affected:** Agriculture, domestic work, construction, and manufacturing
- **Methods of control:** Debt bondage, false job offers, and threats
- **Scope:** Both legal and illegal labor sectors

Familial Trafficking – *A family member exploiting another family member*

- **Perpetrators:** Parents, siblings, grandparents or relatives, caregivers, or guardians
- **Victimization:** Often involves sexual exploitation of children in exchange for money, drugs, or other benefits
- **Common risk factors:** Substance abuse, poverty, normalization and history of exploitation within the family

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

People of all ages, genders, races, backgrounds, and localities. However, vulnerable individuals are increasingly targeted, including:

- People who face social, economic, and political disadvantages due to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or economic status
- Runaway and homeless youth
- LGBTQ individuals and young males are increasingly targeted
- Migrants or people who have recently relocated
- People with a history of substance use or mental health concerns

Traffickers identify and leverage their victims' vulnerabilities to create dependency.

CURRENT TRENDS

- **Digital Platforms and Social Media** – Traffickers target victims and connect with buyers anonymously. Social media is a tool for recruitment, especially among minors and other vulnerable populations. Communication and recruitment through illicit message boards and gaming are also trending.
- **Sextortion** – Recruitment often involves threatens to distribute private and sensitive material if the victim doesn't provide images of a sexual nature, sexual favors, or money.
- **Remote Trafficking** – Control from across state lines and cashless transactions (cash apps, Venmo, etc.) are common.
- **Familial Trafficking** – is prevalent. 90% of commercial child sexual exploitation starts in the victim's own home. Over 1/3 of trafficking survivors experienced familial trafficking.
- **Illicit Massage Parlors** – Disguised as legitimate businesses, this type of crime can be difficult to identify.
- **Large Scale Events** – Human trafficking activity spikes around major events such as sports and political events.
- **Support and Resources** – Inadequate support and resources for survivors can be a barrier for victims wishing to or attempting escape. It can also cause them to re-enter trafficking activity.

SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Signs are often subtle. Look for unusual or unsettling behaviors that lead to a feeling that something is off. No single sign can confirm someone is being trafficked, but several combined signs may increase the odds.

Behavioral Indicators

- Does the person appear scared, anxious, hesitant to speak, or overly submissive?
- For children, does the caregiver exhibit unusual behavior, like neglecting basic parenting duties like not securing a car seat, ignoring signs of distress, etc.?

Control and Dependency

- Does the person lack personal belongings or identification?
- Is someone else in possession of their ID, passport, or important documents?
- Are they with a controlling companion or nervous around law enforcement?
- Are multiple individuals seemingly under the control of one person?

Physical Appearance and Condition

- Are there signs of physical abuse (bruises, injuries) or neglect (poor hygiene, dirty clothes, malnutrition)?
- Do they appear disheveled, overly tired, or dressed inappropriately for the weather?
- Do they appear to be under the influence of a substance, potentially as a means of control?

HOW TO RESPOND CALL 911

For immediate or dangerous situations, call 911. Local authorities can respond quickly to time-sensitive trafficking incidents.

Be a Good Witness! Take note and report:

- **Precise Location** – Highway, exits, & mile markers
- **Number of people involved**
- **Detailed Physical Description** – Gender, age, height, hair color/type, clothing, facial features, & distinguishing traits
- **Vehicle Details** – Make, model, color, license plate

**After calling 911
Submit a tip to the**

**NATIONAL
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE**

**Call:
1-888-373-7888
Text:
BeFree (233733)**