Human Trafficking Fact Sheet

**Know What’s Up**

*Human Trafficking* is defined by U.S. law as the use of *force, fraud, or coercion* to compel a person into commercial sex acts, labor, or services against their will. Common examples include: domestic servitude, forced begging, magazine selling crews, hotel/restaurant work, hair/nail salons, massage parlors, strip clubs, and agricultural work.

Sex Trafficking, one type of human trafficking, is when a trafficker uses *force, fraud, or coercion* to engage someone in a commercial sex act. Common examples of sex trafficking include producing pornography, strip club dancing, or commercial sex acts for money or favors.

*Child Sex Trafficking* is inducing a minor into a commercial sex act. This is, by law, human trafficking, regardless of the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

The average age a girl is first trafficked for sex in the U.S. is 12-14, for boys it is 11-13.

**Recruiting:** Traffickers find victims through social networking and the Internet, but they also recruit at shopping malls, bus/train stations, in neighborhoods, at popular teenage hangouts, and even at schools.

**Online Exploitation** is a tactic often used to recruit victims.

**Sexting** is the sending or receiving of sexual words, pictures, or videos via cell phones, computers, or other digital devices. Sexting may lead to *sextortion*, which is the threat to reveal intimate images to force someone to produce and share additional content or force them into sex trafficking.

**Traffickers often use false promises of:**
- Love: pretend to be in a relationship
- A better life: shelter, protection, money
- Opportunity: a good job or modeling contract

**Red Flags** for Human Trafficking vary by the type of trafficking, but may include someone who:
- Has limited freedom of movement
- Constantly has someone at their side who seems in control
- Is not allowed to speak for themselves
- Appears fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, nervous, or paranoid
- Seems to have changed their habits, behaviors, and activities
- Protects a person who appears to be controlling or abusive
- Works long or unusual hours
- Shows signs of substance abuse or addiction
- Distances themselves from family and friends
- Shares scripted, confusing or inconsistent stories
- Has a new (often older) boyfriend or girlfriend
- Shows signs of poor hygiene, malnourishment, fatigue, physical injuries and/or abuse
- Has few or no personal possessions
- Has unexplained money or possessions
- Has tattoos on their body (possibly their neck or back which is often branding by their trafficker)

**To get help call the**

National Human Trafficking Hotline:
1-888-373-7888
or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733)

**National Runaway Safeline:** 800-655-467
**National Sexual Assault Hotline:** 800-659-2021
**Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** 800-273-8255

**Why don’t victims seek help or leave?**

Isolation: Victims are often confined and isolated from friends and family.

Fear: Victims are often physically abused and they and their loved ones are often threatened.

Shame: Victims often blame themselves, feel hopeless, and don’t see a way out of the situation.

Dependency: Victims may become dependent on drugs and/or develop a trauma bond with their trafficker, both of which makes it difficult to escape.

**No Blame | No Shame**

Victims of abuse, exploitation, and/or trafficking are never to blame!