

Understanding the Problem: HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Definitions

HUMAN TRAFFICKING is a form of modern-day slavery that subjects men, women, and children to coercion or abduction for the purpose of exploitation.

WHAT IS COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION?

The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is a type of trafficking which includes any sexual activity involving a child in exchange for something of value, or promise thereof, including money, shelter, food, drugs, etc. CSEC may be street-based 'prostitution', but may also include a minor having a sexual relationship with an older adult figure who provides rent, drugs, or other goods.

If I am younger than 18 years old, what are my rights?

According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, you have these rights:

Survival Rights

Your basic needs are met

Development Rights

Education and experience enable you to grow up into a secure adult

Protection Rights

You are kept safe from harm

Participation Rights

You take part in society and have a voice in decisions

These rights are...

Universal

The same for everyone regardless of race, gender, religion, or politics

Inalienable

All human beings have rights and they cannot be taken away

Indivisible

They are all important and interdependent

Unconditional

You do not have to behave in a certain way to have rights - you just get them by being alive!

ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION

are violations of your rights to survival, development, protection, and participation.

SEXUAL ABUSE HAPPENS WHEN

someone who is older than you takes advantage of you for sexual pleasure. Sexually abusive acts may include penetration, creation of pornographic images, sexual touching, or non-contact acts such as exposure or voyeurism.

SEXUAL ABUSE

Is a violation of your rights to survival, development, protection, and participation.



How do I identify trafficking?



WHEN SOMEONE MAY BE PREPARING YOU TO BE TRAFFICKED OR EXPLOITED:

- Takes an interest in you
- Compliments you
- Pretends to share common interests
- Learns your likes and dislikes
- Buys expensive gifts for you
- Attempts to build trust in your relationship
- Reassures your family
- Secrecy
- Isolates you from friends and family
- Making you dependent on them
- Your employer doesn't pay you in cash or they keep your money; doesn't pay you at all
- Someone doesn't let you go where you please
- Someone makes you feel extreme emotions in order to control you: sometimes they tear you down, calling you names like "trash", while other times they build you up by calling you names like "queen"
- Someone can access and control your phone, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, or email
- Your employer promised you one type of job, but instead makes you do something different
- A person that you trust or the person that you love makes you have sex with other people
- You don't get to choose who you can be friends with

IF YOU THINK A FRIEND MIGHT BE EXPLOITED, HERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK THEM:

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



Okay, trafficking is a big deal in other places. It can't happen to me though... Right?

Did you know...

YOU ARE NOT DEVELOPMENTALLY, legally, or socially able to make the choice to have sex for money, or to become involved in the commercial sex industry.

ONLY ABOUT HALF OF THE ADULTS who abuse children sexually are pedophiles. Most are trusted members of the child's network of social relationships.

THE MAJORITY OF CHILDREN involved in CSEC come from working- and middle-class families.

90% OF ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH trafficked for sexual purposes in the U.S. are citizens of the U.S. Most CSEC victims have run away from home because of abusive situations in their own families.

IF YOU THINK YOU ARE IN A POTENTIAL TRAFFICKING SITUATION,

you should not confront a suspected trafficker or rescue a suspected victim since this may put both your and the victim's safety at risk. Instead, follow these steps:

1. Get to a place where you are safe

2. Tell a trusted adult

Parents, family members, teachers, police.

3. Report the incident



Call 1-888-373-7888 or text "BeFree" to 233733

National Human Trafficking Hotline

Speak to advocates who are available 24/7. All reports are confidential and anonymous. The hotline should be contacted if you are a victim of trafficking or have information about a potential trafficking situation. Anyone can call, including witnesses, potential victims, service providers, and community members. You may call to get help, report a tip, find services, and learn about options.

Call 1-866-347-2423

Homeland Security Tip Line

You can also submit a tip online at ice.gov/tips.

Call 1-800-843-5678

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

Report missing children and child pornography. You can also submit a tip online at report.cybertip.org.

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, call 911

Be Safe:



1. Don't share your passwords

(social media, bank PIN numbers, email, etc.) and avoid posting your location online

2. Keep an eye on your ID documents

if someone asks to hold them for you, say no

3. Identify friends,

community members, and family that you trust

4. Remember that

you deserve to be safe

5. Remind yourself that your worth

is not determined by another person



6. Be careful on social media:

traffickers often use social media as recruiting grounds

7. Come up with a safety plan:

think about who you would call, where you would go, and how you would get there if you found yourself in a situation that felt unsafe



8. Memorize the National Human Trafficking Hotline

number (call 1-888-373-7888 or text "HELP" to BeFree, 233733) and/or the number of a safe adult that you trust