INDICATORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING »

Recognizing human trafficking is the first step in combating this heinous crime. Learning the indicators and reporting tips helps law enforcement identify victims and connect them with the care and services they need.

The indicators listed below may help you recognize human trafficking, but any one indicator is not necessarily proof of human trafficking.

PHYSICAL:

Does the person…

- Show signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture?
- Appear to be deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care, or other necessities?
- Lack personal possessions?

SOCIAL:

Does the person…

- Work excessively long and/or unusual hours?
- Show sudden or dramatic changes in behavior?
- Act fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid?
- Defer to another person to speak for him or her?
- Appear to be coached on what to say?
- Appear disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, or place of worship?
- Not have the ability to freely leave where they live?

CONTACT THE BLUE CAMPAIGN

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BLUE CAMPAIGN

One Voice. One Mission. End Human Trafficking.®

ONE VOICE. ONE MISSION.

End Human Trafficking.

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING? »

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain labor or commercial sex. Victims can be any age, race, ethnicity, gender, sex, or nationality, and they can come from any socioeconomic background. Human trafficking happens everywhere – across our communities in cities, suburbs, and rural areas.

Any minor (under the age of 18) engaged in commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking according to federal law, regardless of whether there is force, fraud, or coercion.

Human Smuggling *vs.* Human Trafficking

Human smuggling and human trafficking are different crimes.

Human smuggling is the illegal movement of someone across a border. Human trafficking is the illegal exploitation of a person.

DHS WORKS TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) investigates human trafficking cases and supports victim-witnesses.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) provides short- and long-term immigration relief to qualifying victims of trafficking.
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) screen for suspected human trafficking at our borders and ports of entry.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) trains its disaster relief work force and supports the DHS Office of Health Affairs to educate first responders to identify and report suspected trafficking.
- Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC) and HSI train federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and international law enforcement officials.

WHAT DOES THE BLUE CAMPAIGN DO?

- Serves as the unified voice for DHS's efforts to combat human trafficking.
- Educates the public through awareness resources including public service announcements, posters, brochures, and infographics.
- Partners with state, local, and tribal governments, federal agencies, and non-governmental and private organizations to provide training and resources on recognizing and reporting suspected human trafficking.
- Uses social media to communicate with stakeholders and the general public about DHS efforts, how to recognize and report human trafficking, and how to get involved.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

As an individual or organization there are many actions you can take to help raise awareness of human trafficking and work to combat this heinous crime.
Visit dhs.gov/bluecampaign to:

- Educate yourself by viewing our free educational awareness products and videos.
- Learn more about how to recognize and report suspected human trafficking.
- Download and share our free resources in your community and online.

HOW TO REPORT HUMAN TRAFFICKING TIPS

Do not confront a suspected trafficker or alert a victim to your suspicions.

HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS

To report suspected human trafficking, call the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) tip line:

1-866-347-2423

If you think you are being trafficked and need help, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888
(not a law enforcement or immigration authority)