

# Human Trafficking

## A Global Problem

### Prostitution. Servitude. Forced Labor.

Each year innocent men, women, and children are exploited in human trafficking schemes.

**Victims of human trafficking may look like many of the people you help.**

**Classical characteristics found in trafficking victims:**

- bruises in various stages of healing caused by physical abuse;
- scars, mutilations, or infections due to improper medical care;
- urinary difficulties, pelvic pain, pregnancy, or rectal trauma caused from working in the sex industry;
- chronic back, hearing, cardiovascular, or respiratory problems as a result of forced manual labor in unsafe conditions;
- poor eyesight and/or eye problems due to dimly lit work sites;
- malnourishment and/or serious dental problems; and
- disorientation, confusion, phobias, or panic attacks caused by daily mental abuse, torture, and culture shock.

**Recognizing the combined signs will help you accurately alert local or Federal authorities for further investigation. For a victim of trafficking, this may save a life.**

**Ask yourself the following questions:**

- Is the patient accompanied by another person who seems controlling?
- Does the person accompanying the patient insist on giving information/talking?
- Does the patient have trouble communicating due to a language/cultural barrier?
- Are the patient's identification documents (e.g., passport, driver's license) being held or controlled by someone else?
- Does the patient appear submissive or fearful?
- Is the patient inadequately dressed for the situation/work he or she does?
- Are there security measures designed to keep the patient on the premises?
- Does the patient live in a degraded, unsuitable place/share sleeping quarters?
- Is the patient suffering from classical characteristics found in trafficking victims?

**Human trafficking is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit someone for labor or commercial sex. Any minor exploited for commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking.**



**Report suspicious activity to local law enforcement or call 866-347-2423 or visit: [www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign](http://www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign)**