I Speak...

Language Identification Guide

This guide assists literate individuals who are not proficient in English to identify a preferred language.

Homeland Security

Blue Campaign

Language Identification Guide for State and Local Law Enforcement

You may encounter individuals who have limited English proficiency (LEP) in the performance of your duties as a law enforcement officer. Such encounters raise both practical issues and legal obligations.

Individuals with limited English proficiency must understand their legal rights and must be able to communicate effectively with law enforcement – whether as victims, members of the public, individuals accused of a crime, or convicted criminals.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires all recipients of federal assistance from any source (for example, the Department of Justice, which provides funds to nearly all police and sheriff departments) to take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to individuals with limited English proficiency.

This “I Speak” guide is a practical way to identify which language an individual speaks. Consult your local agency for your LEP plan and resources, such as over-the-phone interpretation.

If you suspect that a person may be a victim of human trafficking, please call the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Tip-line at 1-866-347-2423 or online at www.ice.gov/tips. The HSI Tip-line is available 24/7 with language capability in over 300 languages and dialects. If calling from outside the United States, please call the non-toll free worldwide number of 802-872-6199.

To get digital copies of this guide or “I Speak” poster, visit www.dhs.gov/humantrafficking or contact the DHS Blue Campaign at BlueCampaign@hq.dhs.gov.

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit men, women or children and subject them into some type of labor or commercial sex act. Any minor exploited for commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking, even if not induced by force, fraud, or coercion.

Trafficking Indicators

- Is the victim in possession of identification and travel documents; if not, who has control of the documents?
- Was the victim coached on what to say to law enforcement and immigration officials?
- Was the victim recruited for one purpose and forced to engage in some other activity?
- Is the victim's salary being garnished to pay off a smuggling fee? (Paying off a smuggling fee alone is not considered trafficking.)

- Was the victim forced to perform commercial sexual acts?
- Does the victim have freedom of movement?
- Has the victim or their family been threatened with harm if the victim attempts to escape?
- Has the victim been threatened with deportation or law enforcement action for non-compliance with directions or activities directed by an individual who seems to have control of them?
- Has the victim been harmed or deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care or other life necessities?
- Can the victim freely contact friends or family?
- Is the victim a juvenile engaged in commercial sex?

I speak …

A

Amharic
አኒ የምናገረው አማርኛ ነው።

Arabic
انا اتكلم العربية

Armenian
Ես խոսում եմ հայերեն

B

Bengali
আমি বাংলা বলতে পারি

Bosnian
Ja govorim bosanski

Bulgarian
Аз говоря български

Burmese
ကျွန်တော်/ကျွန်မ မြန်မာ လို ပြောတတ် ပါတယ်၊

C

Cambodian
ខ្ញុំនិយាយភាសាខ្មែរ

Cantonese
我講廣東話 (Traditional)

我讲广东话 (Simplified)

Catalan
I parlo català

Croatian
Govorim hrvatski

Czech
Mluvím česky

D

Danish
Jeg taler dansk

Dari
من دری حرف می زنم

Dutch
Ik spreek het Nederlands

E

Estonian
Ma räägin eesti keelt

F

Finnish
Puhun suomea

French
Je parle français

G

German
Ich spreche Deutsch

Greek
Μιλώ τα ελληνικά

Gujarati
હુ ગુજરાતી બોલુ છુ

H

Haitian Creole
M pale kreyòl ayisyen

Hebrew
אני מדבר עברית

Hindi
मैं हिंदी बोलता हूँ ।

Hmong
Kuv hais lus Hmoob

Hungarian
Beszélek magyarul

I

Icelandic
Èg tala íslensku

Ilocano
Agsaonak ti Ilocano

Indonesian
Saya berbicara bahasa Indonesia

Italian
Parlo italiano

J

Japanese
私は日本語を話す

K

Korean
한국어 합니다

Kurdish
min azanim Ba Kurdi Qsa bkam

Kurmanci
as zanim eb kurmanji baxvim

L

Laotian
ຂ້ອຍປາກພາສາລາວ

Latvian
Es runāju latviski

Lithuanian
Aš kalbu lietuviškai

M

Mandarin

我講國語 (Traditional)

我讲国语/普通话 (Simplified)

Mongolian

би монгол хэл ярьдаг

N

Norwegian

Jeg snakker norsk

P

Persian

من فارسی صحبت می کنم.

Polish

Mówię po polsku

Portuguese

Eu falo português do Brasil
(for Brazil)

Eu falo português de Portugal
(for Portugal)

Punjabi

ਮੈਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਬੋਲਦਾ ਹਾਂ।

R

Romanian
Vorbesc româneşte

Russian
Я говорю по-русски

S

Serbian
Ја говорим српски

Sign Language (American)

Slovak
Hovori slovenskáy

Slovenian
Govorim slovensko

Somali
Waxaan ku hadlaa af-Soomaali

Spanish
Yo hablo español

Swahili
Ninaongea Kiswahili

Swedish
Jag talar svenska

T

Tagalog
Marunong akong mag-Tagalog

Tamil
நான் தமிழ் பேசுகிறேன்

Thai
พูดภาษาไทย

Turkish
Türkçe konuşurum

U

Ukrainian
Я розмовляю українською мовою

Urdu
میں اردو بولتا ہوں

V

Vietnamese
Tôi nói tiếng Việt

W

Welsh
Dwi'n siarad Cymraeg

X

Xhosa
Ndithetha isiXhosa

Y

Yiddish
איך רעד יידיש

Yoruba
Mo ńsọ Yorùbá

Z

Zulu
Ngiyasikhuluma isiZulu

Agrupación Lingüística	Variante Lingüística	Frase en español	Frase en lengua
chichimeo jonaz	chichimeco jonaz	yo hablo chichimeca	ikáuj úza' ér~í
mazateco	mazateco del norte	yo hablo mazateco Hablo la lengua de Santa María Chilchotla	Cha'ña enná Cha'ña énn nda xo
maya	maya	Yo hablo maya	teen k-in t'aan maya
mixe	mixe bajo	Yo hablo mixe	Madyakpiëch ayuuk
	mixe alto, de Tlahuitoltpec	Yo hablo mixe	Xaamkëjxpët ayuujk ëts nkajpyxypy
mixteco	mixteco del oeste de la costa	yo hablo mixteco	Yuu kain se'en savi ñu ñundua

Agrupación Lingüística	Variante Lingüística	Frase en español	Frase en lengua
náhuatl	náhuatl de la huasteca veracruzana (se entiende junto con Ve racruz y San Luis Potosí)	yo hablo náhuatl	Na nitlajtowa náhuatl
tojolabal	tojolabal	yo hablo tojolabal	Ja´ke´ni wala kúmaniyon tojol-abál
triqui	triqui de la baja	yo hablo triqui	‘unj a’mii xna’ ánj nu’a
tseltal	tseltal (variante unificada)	Yo hablo tseltal	Te jo’one ja k’op te bats’il k’op tseltal
tsotsil	tseltal (variante unificada)	Yo hablo tsotsil	Vu’une jna’xi k’ opoj ta bats’i k’op
zapoteco	zapoteco de la planicie costera	yo hablo zapoteco	Naa riné’ diidxazá
chinanteco	chinanteco del sureste medio	yo hablo chinanteco	Jnea lo’n jujmií kiee ’ dsa mo’ kuöo

A - pg. 3
Amharic
Arabic
Armenian

B - pg. 3
Bengali
Bosnian
Bulgarian
Burmese

C - pg. 4
Cambodian
Cantonese
Catalan
Croatian
Czech

D - pg. 5
Danish
Dari
Dutch

E - pg. 5
Estonian

F - pg. 5
Finnish
French

G - pg. 6
German
Greek
Gujarati

H - pg. 7
Haitian Creole
Hebrew
Hindi
Hmong
Hungarian

I - pg. 8
Icelandic
Ilocano
Indonesian
Italian

J - pg. 8
Japanese

K - pg. 9
Korean
Kurdish
Kurmanci

L - pg. 9
Laotian
Latvian
Lithuanian

M - pg. 10
Mandarin
Mongolian

N - pg. 10
Norwegian

P - pg. 11
Persian
Polish
Portuguese
Punjabi

R - pg. 12
Romanian
Russian

S - pg. 12, 13
Serbian
Sign Language
Slovak
Slovenian
Somali
Spanish
Swahili
Swedish

T - pg. 13, 14
Tagalog
Tamil
Thai
Turkish

U - pg.14
Ukrainian
Urdu

V - pg.14
Vietnamese

W - pg. 14
Welsh

X - pg. 15
Xhosa

Y - pg. 15
Yiddish
Yoruba

Z - pg. 15
Zulu

See page 16,17
for selected
indigenous
languages
of Mexico.

Limited English Proficiency Resources

www.lep.gov

"I Speak" is provided by the Department of Homeland Security Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL). Special thanks to the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, for inspiration and permission to use their "I Speak" guide as the initial source. Permission may be required for the use of Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services information other than as included in this booklet.

DHS Blue Campaign

www.dhs.gov/humantrafficking

Email: BlueCampaign@hq.dhs.gov

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