

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.



**Homeland
Security**
Blue Campaign

Report suspicious activity to local law enforcement or call 866-347-2423 or visit: www.dhs.gov/humantrafficking