



HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACT SHEET

Definition:

Human trafficking is when an individual, under force, fraud, or coercion, is made to perform commercial sex acts or forced labor, or when the individual induced to perform sex acts is under 18 years old.



POSSIBLE SIGNS OF A TRAFFICKING VICTIM

It is important to note that victims of human trafficking often display many of the signs below. With the exception of the first sign, there is not one sign in particular that flags someone as a human trafficking victim.

An individual who:

- ▷ Is under 18 and engaging in commercial sex work
- ▷ Displays fearful, anxious, or submissive behavior
- ▷ Shows signs of poor hygiene, malnourishment, or fatigue
- ▷ Lacks freedom of movement or is heavily monitored
- ▷ Shows signs of physical or sexual abuse
- ▷ Has been recruited through false promises concerning the nature & conditions of his/her work
- ▷ Is unpaid or paid very little for his/her work
- ▷ Has a large amount of debt that he/she is unable to pay off
- ▷ Is dressed inappropriately for the climate or his/her age
- ▷ Lacks control over money, identification, or phone

HIGHLY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

While human trafficking can affect anyone, there are some vulnerabilities that create a higher risk for human trafficking. More vulnerable populations include:

- ▷ Foster care youth
- ▷ Runaway/homeless youth
- ▷ Foreign nationals
- ▷ Individuals with disabilities
- ▷ Individuals with a history of trauma or abuse
- ▷ Individuals with a history of substance abuse & addiction
- ▷ LGBTQIA+ individuals
- ▷ Low-income individuals