

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Identifying victims and reporting suspected cases of human trafficking

Victims Are in Plain Sight

You may encounter a potential victim of human trafficking during the course of your duties. Victims of human trafficking are in our communities. Law enforcement may come across victims during domestic disturbance calls; when responding to incidents at massage parlors, bars, and strip clubs; or even during routine traffic stops. First responders and healthcare professionals may notice signs while responding to emergencies or treating patients at hospitals or doctors' offices. Health and safety inspectors may find victims working in restaurants, in factories, on construction sites, or on farms.

Trafficking victims can be any age, race, gender or nationality, including U.S. citizens

They may or may not have legal immigration status. Victims are found in both legitimate and illegitimate labor sectors; some are lured with false promises of well-paying jobs or even love. Often, they are forced or coerced into domestic servitude, farm or factory labor, or other types of forced labor, or commercial sex (prostitution). Under federal law, every minor induced to engage in commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking.

How Traffickers Operate

Traffickers prey on people with little or no social safety net. They look for people who are vulnerable for a variety of reasons, including economic hardship, violence in the home, natural disasters, or political instability. Traffickers use a variety of strategies to trap victims, including violence or threats of violence, as well as psychological coercion. The trauma can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help, even in highly public settings.

Signs of Human Trafficking

Recognizing key indicators can save a life. This is the first step in identifying victims. Not all indicators listed below are present in every human trafficking situation. The presence or absence of any indicator is not necessarily proof of human trafficking.

If you are law enforcement, please reach out to the Homeland Security Investigations' (HSI) field office or Human Trafficking Task Force in your area to work collaboratively on an investigation, or report a tip. HSI is responsible for investigating human trafficking and arresting traffickers. There may be an organization-specific protocol you should follow to notify your supervisor and engage the proper local authorities. If you are a first responder, please report a tip. Your safety and the victim's safety are paramount. **Unless you are in law enforcement, do not at any time attempt to confront a suspected trafficker directly or alert a victim to your suspicions.**

Labor or Service Indicators

- Was the person recruited for one purpose and forced to engage in some other job?
- Is the person's salary being garnished to pay off alleged debts?
- Was the person forced to perform sexual acts? Is the person a juvenile engaged in commercial sex?
- Does the person work excessively long and/or unusual hours?
- Is the person inadequately dressed for the situation or work they do?

Control Indicators

- Is the person in possession of his or her identification and travel documents; if not, who has control of the documents?
- Does the person appear to be coached on what to say? Are they with someone who appears to be controlling the situation?
- Has the person or their family been threatened with harm?
- Is the person fearful, timid or submissive?
- Has the person been threatened with deportation or law enforcement action?
- Is the person confused, afraid, or do they show signs of mental or physical abuse?
- Can the person freely contact friends or family?
- Is the person allowed to freely socialize or attend religious services?

Living Conditions Indicators

- Does the person lack personal possessions and appear to have an unstable living situation?
- Does the person have freedom of movement? Can the person freely leave where they live? Are there unreasonable security measures?
- Has the person been deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care or other life necessities?

Travel Indicators

- Does the person know his or her final destination? Or how they will get there?
- Does the person know who is meeting him or her at that final destination?
- Is a child traveling with someone who does not seem to be their real parent or guardian?

Medical Indicators

- Does the person have scars, burns, mutilations, or infections?
- Is the person being prevented from or limited in providing his or her medical history?
- Is the person suffering from urinary difficulties, pelvic pain, pregnancy, or rectal trauma?
- Is the person experiencing any chronic back, hearing, cardiovascular, or respiratory problems?
- Does the person have poor eyesight or eye problems?
- Does the person appear malnourished or have serious dental problems?

What You Can Do

1. **Learn the signs.** Order our Indicator Cards, which are convenient wallet-sized cards in 17 languages that list the key signs. You can distribute these cards in your local area to people who may come in contact with victims. Learn more at: www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign.

2. **Report human trafficking tips.**

To report suspicious human trafficking activity or get help from federal law enforcement, call 1-866-347-2423 or submit a tip online at www.tce.gov/tips.

Individuals across the world can report suspicious criminal activity to the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Tipline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. The Tipline is accessible internationally by calling **802-872-6199**. Highly trained specialists take reports from both the public and law enforcement agencies on more than 400 laws enforced by HSI, including those related to human trafficking.

Call the **National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)** at **1-888-373-7888** to:

- Get help and connect with a service provider in your area;
- Provide information on potential human trafficking activity; or
- Learn more by requesting training, technical assistance, or resources.

The NHTRC is a national, toll-free hotline available to answer calls from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. The NHTRC is not a law enforcement or immigration authority and is operated by a non-governmental organization.

3. **Educate yourself and your community.** Take our free, interactive online training to learn more about human trafficking and other indicators you should be aware of, and ask others you know to take the training. Go to: www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign.

4. **Spread the word!** Tell colleagues about Blue Campaign, the many available programs we offer, and how to join us in combating human trafficking. Give a 5-minute “coffee break” training to your co-workers, friends, family, and anyone who is interested. Available at www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign.

5. **Visit the Blue Campaign website.** For more training, outreach materials, victim assistance materials, and information on how you can join the fight to end human trafficking, go to: www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign. “Like” us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/bluecampaign. Or, contact us at: BlueCampaign@hq.dhs.gov.



VICTIM
IDENTIFICATION
NGO,
FAITH-BASED GROUP

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Victims May Be in Plain Sight

Teachers, nurses, social workers, faith-based leaders, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are members of communities and are likely to encounter—and identify and help—trafficking victims. You should learn about the signs and indicators of human trafficking. This is the first step toward identifying victims and bringing traffickers to justice, which can help keep your community safe.

Trafficking Victims Are in Our Communities

They can be any age, race, gender or nationality, including U.S. citizens

They may or may not have legal immigration status. Victims are found in both legitimate and illegitimate labor sectors; some are lured with false promises of well-paying jobs, or even love. They may be found in places of worship, schools, homes, hotels, restaurants, construction sites, farms, bus and train stations, airports, neighborhood parks, truck stops and highway rest areas; or in massage parlors, bars and strip clubs. Often, they are forced or coerced into domestic servitude, farm or factory labor, or other types of forced labor, or commercial sex (prostitution). Under federal law, every minor induced to engage in commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking.

How Traffickers Operate

Traffickers prey on people with little or no social safety net. They look for people who are vulnerable for a variety of reasons, including economic hardship, violence in the home, natural disasters, or political instability. Traffickers use a variety of strategies to trap and enslave people, including not only violence or threats of violence, but also psychological coercion. This trauma can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help, even in highly public settings.

Traffickers often operate by:

- Using violence or threatening the person or the person's family members;
- Harming or depriving the person of basic necessities, such as food, water, or sleep;
- Making false promises of love or companionship;
- Making false promises of a good job and home;
- Preventing the victim from attending religious services;
- Restricting contact with friends or family;
- Limiting freedom of movement;
- Controlling the person's identification documents;
- Threatening deportation or law enforcement action; and/or
- Garnishing the person's salary to pay off alleged debts.

Signs of Human Trafficking

By identifying victims and reporting tips, you are doing your part to help law enforcement rescue victims, and you might save a life. You can connect victims to services such as medical and mental health care, shelter, job training, and legal assistance that restore their freedom and dignity. Your safety as well as the victim's safety is paramount. Do not at any time attempt to confront a suspected trafficker directly or alert a victim to your suspicions. The presence or absence of any of the indicators is not necessarily proof of human trafficking. It is up to law enforcement to investigate suspected cases of human trafficking.

- Does the person appear disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, or houses of worship?
- Has the child stopped attending school?
- Has the person had a sudden or dramatic change in behavior?
- Is the juvenile engaged in commercial sex acts?
- Is the person disoriented or confused, or showing signs of mental or physical abuse?
- Does the person have bruises in various stages of healing?
- Is the person fearful, timid, or submissive?
- Does the person show signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care?
- Is the person often in the company of someone that he or she defers to? Or someone who seems to be in control of the situation, e.g., where they go or who they talk to?
- Does the person appear to be coached on what to say?
- Is the person living in unsuitable conditions?
- Does the person lack personal possessions and appear not to have a stable living situation?
- Does the person have freedom of movement? Can the person freely leave where they live? Are there unreasonable security measures?

THE BLUE CAMPAIGN



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Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery involving the illegal trade of human beings for the purpose of exploitation or commercial gain. It is an inhumane act that robs a person of his or her freedom, and it is a crime. Human trafficking is detrimental to our economy, the safety and health of our nation, and the very dignity of our society.

Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked in countries around the world, including the United States. It is estimated that human trafficking is a \$32 billion per year industry, second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable form of transnational crime.

Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to lure their victims and then force them into labor or commercial sexual exploitation. Human trafficking is not the same as smuggling. "Trafficking" is exploitation-based and does not require movement across borders. Under federal law, every minor induced to engage in commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking. "Smuggling" is movement-based and involves moving a person across a country's border, with that person's consent, in violation of immigration laws.

Human trafficking exists nationwide—in cities, suburbs, and rural towns—and in our own communities. Although human trafficking is widespread, many victims go unnoticed. Victims rarely come forward to seek help out of fear of their traffickers, language barriers, and/or fear of law enforcement. For this reason, human trafficking has largely remained a hidden crime.

Until now.

Blue Campaign: Join Us

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is responsible for investigating human trafficking, arresting traffickers, and protecting victims. DHS also provides immigration relief to foreign-born victims of human trafficking.

Blue Campaign is the unified voice for the DHS' efforts to combat human trafficking. Working in collaboration with law enforcement, government, non-governmental and private organizations, Blue Campaign strives to protect the basic right of freedom and to bring those who exploit human lives to justice.

Increased awareness and training will lead to more tips to law enforcement, which results in more victims being identified.

We cannot do this alone. Join us in the fight to end human trafficking.

Visit the Blue Campaign website to learn about how we can work together and to learn about training, outreach materials, and victim assistance. Go to: www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign. "Like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/bluecampaign. Or, contact us at: BlueCampaign@hq.dhs.gov.

Source: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.



SUCCESS STORIES

Preying on the Vulnerable

At a Halloween party in Oxon Hill, Md., on Oct. 31, 2009, the trafficker met a 12-year-old runaway who asked for his help in finding a place to stay. Instead, the trafficker—a long-time member of the notorious MS-13 gang—forced the young girl into the commercial sex trade the very next day. For more than 3 months, he held her captive, coercing her to have sex for money multiple times a day at a variety of businesses, homes, apartments and hotels in Northern Virginia. Rescuing the victim and successfully prosecuting the perpetrator was the result of collaborative efforts by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations' (HSI) National Gang Unit (NGU) with assistance from the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force, all in keeping with the Blue Campaign mission.

From Trust to Trafficking

In Chicago, from 2008 through 2010, a trafficker recruited and groomed three women from the Ukraine and one from Belarus to become part of his "family." He offered them jobs, a place to live and lured each one into a romantic relationship with him. After gaining their trust, he confiscated their passports and identity documents. Then, he forced them to work long hours, often beating, mentally abusing, extorting and sexually exploiting them. HSI led the investigation in coordination with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and the Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force. Blue Campaign's victim-centered approach ensured that the women received necessary victim assistance services. All four women testified as government witnesses at the trial.

False Promises of the American Dream

Three confirmed victims, along with 10 potential victims, were rescued from a sex trafficking ring operating in Georgia, Florida, and the Carolinas. The victims were enticed from Mexico and elsewhere to travel to the U.S. with false promises of the American dream. Once here, the women were cut off from their families. They were threatened and forced to commit sex acts throughout the Southeast. One victim reported she was routinely beaten by her trafficker. The trafficking ring even allegedly arranged to hold one of their victims' children hostage in Mexico to ensure her compliance as prostitutes in the U.S. The investigation, known as "Operation Dark Night" was lengthy; a true coordinated effort by key players supporting Blue Campaign. Operation Dark Night was led by HSI, with assistance from the FBI; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP); CBP Air and Marine Operations; the Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigations; the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department; the Chatham County Sheriff's Office; the Garden City Police Department; and the Chatham-Savannah Counter Narcotics Team.

Imprisoned in your Neighborhood

The trafficker, a former resident of Georgia and a citizen of Nigeria, traveled to her home country in 2001 and enticed a 17-year old girl to come to the U.S. to work as her nanny. Once here, she abused the girl, beating her for not cleaning well, for not responding fast enough to her crying child, and for talking back to her. A witness to the abuse, a friend of hers, helped the victim escape. The defendant was not deterred and traveled back to Nigeria to lure a second victim, who was subjected to the same treatment and abuse. Eventually, the second victim also escaped. This case was investigated by HSI, the FBI and the State Department's Diplomatic Security Service. It was complicated by the fact that the defendant left the country during the investigation. In a demonstration of the commitment of those supporting Blue Campaign, the defendant was found and arrested at a Houston airport as she tried to re-enter the country. She was prosecuted and convicted on eight counts by a federal jury.

What You Can Do

1. **Get to know HSI in your area.** Call the HSI Tipline at 1-866-347-2423 to get connected to the HSI Special Agents and Victim Assistance Specialists working on human trafficking in your area and build a relationship with them, even before you have a case that can be investigated jointly or you have a victim who needs services. Collaborate to develop leads and share case information and intelligence.
2. **Get to know the task force in your area.** Human Trafficking Task Forces comprise federal, state, local, county, and tribal law enforcement and prosecutors, as well as NGOs providing victim services. Find out whether or not there is a Human Trafficking Task Force in your area by visiting www.hiq.gov. If one exists, establish a relationship and join their efforts.
3. **Learn from a survivor.** Watch our video featuring human trafficking survivors describing their experience and the importance of immigration relief. Show this video to those you work with and encourage them to find out more. Go to: www.uscis.gov/humantrafficking.
4. **Learn more about T and U visas.** For more information about T or U visas, or to watch a video describing the steps in the T and U visa process, or to download helpful Law Enforcement Certification Guides, or to get in touch with USCIS with more questions:
 - Visit www.uscis.gov/humantrafficking;
 - Contact us at 802-527-4888; or
 - LawEnforcement_UTVAVA.vsc@uscis.dhs.gov.
5. **Watch our Roll-Call Videos.** These videos explain the importance of immigration relief and your role in the process. Watch them and ask your department or agency to show them to others.
Go to: www.dhs.gov/Bluecampaign.
6. **Visit the Blue Campaign website.** For more training, outreach materials, victim assistance materials, and information on how you can join the fight to end human trafficking, go to: www.dhs.gov/Bluecampaign.
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VICTIM SUPPORT
Law Enforcement,
First Responders, and
Healthcare Professionals

MAKE THE CONNECTION. CLOSE THE CASE.

Supporting and stabilizing victims to enable case investigations and prosecutions