



Human Trafficking 101 for School Administrators and Staff

What Is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit a person for labor or commercial sex. Any minor, that is anyone under the age of 18, who is induced to perform a commercial sex act is a victim of human trafficking according to U.S. law, regardless of whether there is force, fraud, or coercion.¹

- Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked in countries around the world – including the United States. Many of these victims are lured with false promises of financial or emotional security; and they are forced or coerced into commercial sex (prostitution), domestic servitude, or other types of forced labor.
- Increasingly, criminal organizations such as gangs are luring children from local schools into commercial sexual exploitation or trafficking.

Human trafficking is different from human smuggling.

Human smuggling involves bringing (or attempting to bring) a person into a country in violation of immigration or other laws. Human trafficking is the exploitation of a person for sex or labor. Human trafficking does not require movement or transport across borders – the exploitation is what makes the person a victim.

1. Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), Pub. L. No. 106-386, § 103(8)(A), 114 Stat. 1470 (2000), 22 U.S.C.A. § 7102(8)(A).

Who Are the Victims? Who Is at Risk?

Victims of trafficking can be any age, race, gender, or nationality, including U.S. citizens.

- Trafficking victims can be men or women, boys or girls, U.S. citizens or foreign nationals. Human trafficking can involve school-age youths, particularly those made vulnerable by unstable family situations, or who have little or no social support. The children at risk are not just high school students – studies show that the average age a child is trafficked into the commercial sex trade is between 11 and 14 years old.
- Traffickers may target young victims through social media websites, telephone chat-lines, and after-school programs, on the streets, at shopping malls, in clubs, or through other students who are used by the traffickers to recruit other victims. In fact, a person can be trafficked without ever leaving his or her hometown.
- Child trafficking can take a variety of forms, including commercial sexual exploitation (prostitution) or forced labor. Those who recruit minors for the purpose of commercial sex are violating U.S. anti-trafficking laws, even if no force, fraud, or coercion was involved.

Did You Know?

- Each year, as many as 100,000–300,000 American children are at risk of being trafficked for commercial sex in the United States.
- The average age a girl enters the commercial sex trade is 12–14 years old. For boys, it's even younger – just 11–13 years old.

Sources: U.S. Department of Justice, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

Main forms of human trafficking globally



Forced Labor:

When a person is forced to work in captivity with little or no pay. Forced labor is well documented in extractive industries — industries that consist of having children remove non-renewable raw material out of the earth such as oil and minerals.



Sex Trafficking:

Forcing, deceiving, or coercing a person to perform a commercial sex act. Sex trafficking can include forms of commercial sexual exploitation in sex tourism, pornography, and strip clubs.



Bonded Labor:

Also known as debt bondage or peonage, bonded labor is often made to look like an ordinary employment agreement at first. However, in the agreement, the worker starts with a debt to repay. This worker finds out later that the debt is impossible to repay, thus making their enslavement permanent. Workers may also inherit intergenerational or ancestral debt in more traditional systems of bonded labor.



Involuntary Domestic Servitude:

Forcing a person to work and live in the same place for little or no pay. Involuntary domestic servitude consists of an individual working in a private residence. This makes inspection by authorities more difficult. Domestic workers often are not given the same basic benefits and protections that are ordinarily bestowed upon workers.



Child Soldiers:

Unlawful recruitment or use of children—through force, fraud, or coercion—as combatants, or for labor or sexual exploitation by armed forces. Thousands of children are currently serving as child soldiers around the world. These children are commonly being forced into sexual slavery, fighting on the front lines, participating in suicide missions, and acting as spies, messengers, or lookouts.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING METHODS

Force:

Victims are sometimes kidnapped and forced into modern-day slavery. In desperate situations, parents will sell their children in exchange for money to support themselves and their other children. In some cases, children are sold to support drug addiction.

Fraud:

Traffickers frequently recruit victims through false advertisements for jobs that promise legitimate jobs. False marriage promises and human smuggling are also common ways human traffickers take advantage of those who are vulnerable.

Coercion:

It is common for traffickers to lure victims by appearing to meet an emotional, physical, or relational need/desire. Traffickers target victims with promises to care for them, when in reality the plan is to exploit them. Female victims are often coerced into human trafficking through men alleging to be a loving boyfriend.

The role of technology

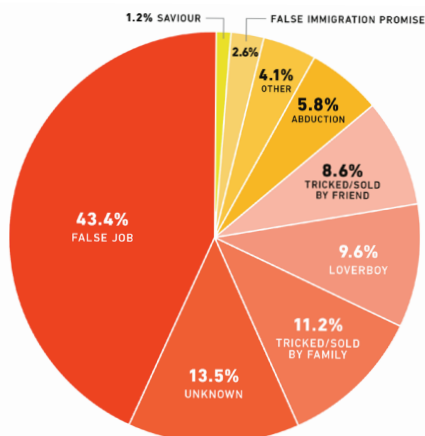
Traffickers are sophisticated in their use of technology to recruit, manipulate, and lure innocent people into dangerous situations.

- The main types of technology used by traffickers are cell phones and tablets, social media platforms and websites or other classified sites where girls are forced to put advertisements online as “escorts”.
- Chat rooms are often used to exchange information about sex tourist locations, while social media is used to “target, stalk, and lure victims as well as to convey, buy, and sell pornographic records of sex trafficking.”
- Traffickers may also utilize biometric data, chips, and global positioning systems.

SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Our mission is to abolish slavery everywhere, forever. HOW? You. Your friends. Your community.

The more we are equipped with the knowledge of human trafficking and how to report it, the more lives we will see set free.



HOW THEY'RE TRAFFICKED

Traffickers use different methods to recruit victims. When we know how they are trafficked, we are given the power to stop slavery before it starts.

KNOWN WAYS A21 SURVIVORS WERE TRAFFICKED GLOBALLY:

1. False Job Advertisement
2. Tricked or Sold by Family
3. Loverboy
4. Tricked or Sold by Friend
5. Abduction
6. False Immigration
7. Saviour

SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

CONTROLLED BY ANOTHER PERSON

They are accompanied by a controlling person, and do not speak on his or her own behalf, but instead defer to another person.

CONTROLLED MOVEMENT

They are transported to or from work, or live and work at the same place. They show signs that their movements are being controlled.

LACK OF EARNINGS

They are unable to keep his or her earnings; it is "withheld for safekeeping." In many cases, the person owes a debt they are working to pay off.

FOREIGN, UNFAMILIAR WITH THE LANGUAGE

They have recently arrived in the country and do not speak the language of the country—or they only know sex-related or labor-related words.

OVERLY FEARFUL, DEPRESSED, AND SUBMISSIVE BEHAVIOR

They are frightened to talk to outsiders and authorities since they are closely monitored and controlled by their trafficker(s). They may be fearful, anxious, depressed, overly submissive, and may avoid eye contact.

SIGNS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE

They may have bruises, scars, and other signs of physical abuse and torture. Victims of human trafficking are often beaten in areas that will not damage their appearance, such as their lower back.

LACK OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS

They may have few or no personal possessions.

BAD HEALTH AND MALNUTRITION

They may have signs of abuse or signs of being denied food, water, sleep, and/or medical care.

LACK OF OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION

They are not in possession of their passports, identification, or legal documents.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

They may show signs of drug use or drug addiction. They can be forced or coerced into drug use by his or her traffickers, or turn to substance abuse to help cope with his or her enslavement.

LACK OF TRUST

They may be distrustful and suspicious. A victim of human trafficking may act as if they distrust any person who offers them assistance or attempts to converse with them.

SIGNS OF DEPENDENCE

They may demonstrate affection, attachment, or dependence toward their abuser.

DECEIVED BY A FALSE JOB OFFER

Their actual job is different from the advertised job they had accepted.

FEELINGS OF BEING TRAPPED

They feel that they are unable to leave their current situation.

*This list is not exhaustive and represents only a selection of possible indicators.

For more information on human trafficking and potential signs of human trafficking, please visit [A21.org/humantrafficking](https://a21.org/humantrafficking).

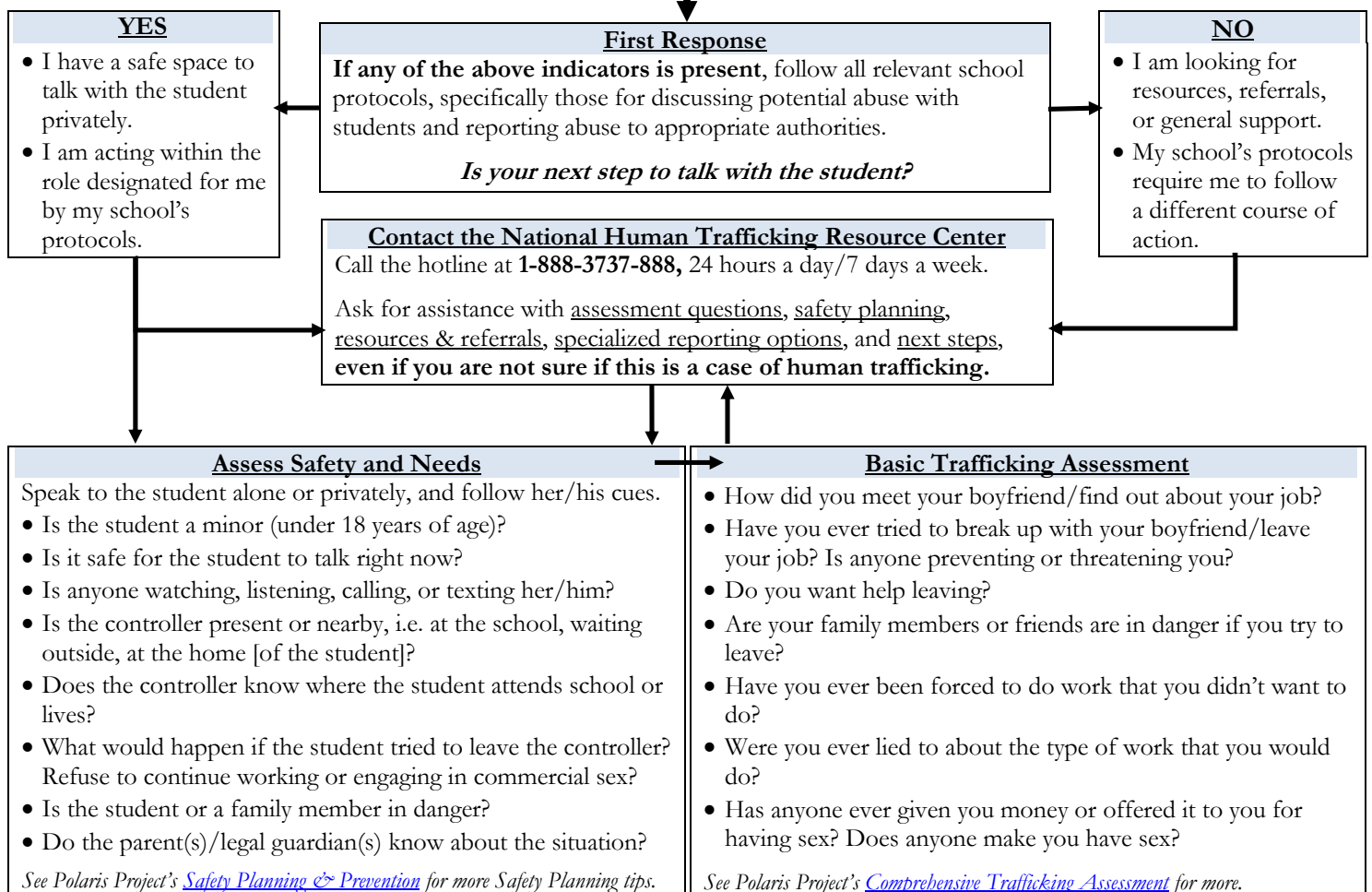
Tools for Educators | National Human Trafficking Resource Center

This tool is designed to help educators identify the risk factors and indicators of human trafficking in their students and to offer guidelines on how to respond and access resources. **Disclaimer: This protocol does not substitute for internal or mandated reporting requirements and does not guarantee safety. For emergencies, please contact 9-1-1.**

Red Flags & Indicators

- Exhibits changes in behaviors or school participation, i.e. spike in truancy; or performs severely under grade level.
- Student's family shows signs of frequent migration, periodic homelessness, disorientation, uncertainty of surroundings.
- History of homelessness or running away from home.
- Reveals signs of abusive or inattentive caregivers, such as untreated illness or injury, bruises, or scars.
- Displays heightened sense of duty or obligation to family, has unreasonable or inappropriate chores or duties.
- Works for little or no pay, or the employer keeps identification documents and/or confiscates wages.
- Accumulates debt to employer while at work or recruited for work with promises of easy money.
- Exhibits sexual behavior that is high risk and/or inappropriate for his/her age.
- Has an explicitly sexual online profile via internet community or social networking sites.
- Involved in relationship with an older man, receives frequent gifts, may be picked up from school by controller.
- Engages in sexual activity in exchange for money or anything of value (can include clothing, food, shelter, other goods and resources). No force, fraud, or coercion necessary if the student is under 18.
- Knowledge of the commercial sex industry. Uses lingo: "The Life," "The Game," "Daddy," for boyfriend, "Track" or "Stroll," refers to dates as "Johns" or "Tricks."

Consult Polaris Project's [Red Flags & Indicators](#) for a complete list.



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