

# GUIDELINES FOR EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS



## IDENTIFYING AND HELPING VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING

#### Human trafficking is a crime under both Federal and Florida law:

Human trafficking generally involves the use of **force, fraud, or coercion** to exploit a person for profit. Trafficking victims are subjected to sexual exploitation, forced labor, or both. Labor exploitation includes slavery, forced labor, and debt bondage, while sexual exploitation typically includes abuse within the commercial sex industry. If victim is under 18, no force, fraud, or coercion needed.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS A MAJOR CONCERN FOR SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SCHOOLS

#### Overview:

- Trafficking can involve children of all ages.
- School-age children are vulnerable to different forms of human trafficking including forced labor exploitation, involuntary domestic servitude, or commercial sexual exploitation.

#### Statistics:

- An estimated 2 million people are trafficked annually worldwide
- Approximately 14,500 - 17,500 men, women and children are trafficked into and throughout the United States each year
- Twenty seven million people are estimated to be enslaved around the world
- Human trafficking is an estimated 32 billion dollar business.

#### Legal Terms Defined:

- Force - Using violence to control someone
- Fraud - Using lies to control
- Coercion - Using threats to control someone

*School administrators, teachers, and students can play a critical role in the identification of victims of human trafficking in the school environment and in co-and extracurricular activities.*

## IDENTIFYING VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SCHOOLS

Has unexplained absences from school for a period of time (truancy)  
Demonstrates an inability to attend school on a regular basis  
Chronically runs away from home  
Makes references to frequent travel to other cities  
Exhibits bruises or other physical trauma, withdrawn behavior, depression, or fear  
Lacks control over her or his schedule or identification documents  
Is hungry-malnourished or inappropriately dressed (based on weather conditions or surroundings)  
Shows signs of drug and/or alcohol addiction

*Additional signs that may indicate sex-related trafficking include:*

Demonstrates a sudden change in attire, behavior, or material possessions (e.g. has expensive items)  
Makes references to sexual situations that are beyond age-specific norms  
Engages in sexual behavior with peers or others

### REASONS CHILDREN ARE SUBJECT TO TRAFFICKING

- Vulnerability
- Gullibility
- Innocence
- Opportunity
- Wrong Place, Wrong Time
- Peer Pressure
- Demand for Younger Victims

### RECRUITMENT

- Online social media sites
- Chat rooms
- On the street
- At malls, clubs, bars, lounges, parties
- After school programs
- Other girls/boys may recruit

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Ask for help from someone you trust  
Be aware of the issues  
Share information about human trafficking with family and friends  
Become an advocate  
Recognize that no one (including minors) should be bought, sold, or exploited  
Support organizations and buy products that use slave free labor  
Be creative in advocacy efforts  
Ask libraries to have books for children related to trafficking  
Develop/Incorporate human trafficking curricula in classes  
Join or establish a school club to raise awareness about human trafficking

### MESSAGES TO CONVEY

- You have rights.
- You are entitled to assistance.
- We would like to help you.
- Your safety is our priority.
- We can find a safe place for you to stay.
- We will provide you with the care that you need.

## LEGAL STATUS

Foreign born victims can be certified by the US Department of Health and Human Services as trafficked persons. Once certified, victims can access the same benefits as refugees. They are eligible for physical and mental health services, housing, food stamps, educational and vocational programs, as well as legal and translation services. Minors do not require certification. Victims of the severe forms of trafficking may also apply and be granted a T-Visa.

## INTERVENTION

For immediate emergencies, call your local police department or emergency access number.  
You can report and get help for human trafficking from the **National Human Trafficking Hotline (1.888.3737.888)**. For sexually exploited or abused minors call the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's hotline at **(1.800.843.5678)**.