



What Parents Should Know About Human Trafficking

As a parent, you try to do whatever you can to protect your children from harm. Many parents and caregivers want to believe that their child will never be trafficked or that risk of it happening to their child is minimal. The truth is, human trafficking happens all throughout the U.S.

Traffickers actively seek minors under 18 years old on social media, in public places and through friends or relatives. Any child can become vulnerable to grooming tactics used by traffickers whose plan is to exploit them.

Traffickers can look like anyone, be a close friend or relative, be any age, gender, and come from any socioeconomic background.

One of the best ways to protect your child is to know the risk factors and the signs associated with human trafficking.

Traffickers target all youth. However, they may look for increased vulnerabilities such as:

- Involvement in the Foster Care System
- Low Self-esteem
- Identifies as LGBTQ+
- History of Abuse or Neglect
- Caregiver Substance Abuse or Criminality
- Homeless or Runaway Youth
- Gang Affiliation
- Seeking Love/Acceptance

Here are some things you can do:

- Know what your children are doing online
- Know who your children are with and where they are hanging out
- Teach your children about human trafficking (sex and labor trafficking)
- Look for physical signs, such as tattoos, bruises, an abusive partner, changes in appearance, etc.
- Maintain open communication with your children and be someone they feel they can come to

If your child becomes trafficked, there are resources to assist recovery and process trauma. This is something that happens to people. It does not define who they are!

FREE & CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT

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📱 24-Hour Mobile Text: (845) 286-4997

💬 24-Hour Web Chat: centerforsafetyandchange.org



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