# HUMAN TRAFFICKING STOPS WITH ME

**YOU** are in a unique position to identify and help victims of human trafficking. Very likely, **YOU** are the only person a victim meets outside of their trafficking situation. **Educate yourself and seize the opportunity to connect victims to *freedom*.**

[**Definition**] Trafficking in persons includes a) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by **force, fraud, or coercion**, or in which the person induced to perform such act has **not attained 18 years of age**; or (b) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

(United States Department of State, Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, public law – TVPA 2000)

## VICTIM RECOGNITION: Red flags.

*< Look Beneath the Surface >*

- Evidence of **control**:
  - Not allowed or able to speak for themselves.
  - A third party insists on being present and/or translating at all times.
  - Victim is not in control of their documents or money.
- Signs of physical or sexual **abuse**, restraint, confinement, or torture.
- **Demeanor** - fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, nervous.
- Inability or **fear** to make eye contact.
- Lack of health insurance – (trafficker) is **paying with cash**.
- Lacks knowledge of community/whereabouts/address; claims of just visiting.
- Exhibits a loss of sense of time or space.
- **Isolation** - freedom restricted; not allowed to leave home or work.
- **Reluctant** to give information. Resisting help. Exhibits unusually anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement. Fear that disclosure will lead to arrest, deportation, retribution from trafficker, juvenile detention, etc.
- Lacks legal **documentation**.
- **Inconsistencies** in story/injury.
- May appear malnourished. Lacks consistent health care.
- Under 18 and engaging in commercial sex = Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST). Specific indicators include: appears younger than stated age; slang language: “Daddy” referring to older boyfriend, “the life”; “dating” older, controlling man; branding tattoos (man's name/initials on neck/back); high number sexual partners; STIs; frequent UTIs.
- Trafficker will often pose as family member.

If you think you have encountered a victim, find out how to proceed.

amsa
American Medical Student Association

TRAFFICKING HOTLINE
1-888-3737-888
CALL FOR CONFIDENTIAL HELP & INFO 24/7

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## MESSAGE: How to communicate.

- **Separate victim** from any accompanying person.
- Create a **safe, private environment**. Victims are conditioned not to trust you.
- Use an **uninvolved interpreter**.
- Communicate **respect** and **value** (avoid judgment or victim blaming).
- Use **approachable** tone and body language. Be sensitive.
- Be **clear** - explain who you are and correct any misconceptions about your role.
- Ensure victim knows they are not a criminal and will not be arrested.
- Remember:
  - ➔ Many victims do not self-identify as "human trafficking victims."
  - ➔ The victim is likely conditioned by their trafficker not to trust you.
  - ➔ Canned stories are common. The true story may not emerge immediately.

►This is extremely difficult for the victim due to victim mindset, fear, shame, self-blame, the threat of violence or criminalization, Stockholm syndrome, etc. ◄

## SCREEN: Questions to ask.

- How safe do you feel right now? Are there times when you don't feel safe?
- Have you been physically harmed in any way?
- Is anyone forcing you to do something you do not want to do?
- Can you leave your job or situation if you want?
- Are you paid for the work you do?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Do you ask permission to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- How many hours do you work every day/week?
- Have you or your family been threatened if you leave your job?
- After arriving in this country:
  - ➔ Were you expected to pay back a debt?
  - ➔ Are you doing what you were told you would do?
  - ➔ Was your identification/documentation taken from you?

## RESPOND: What to do.

- ✔ Call the NHTRC. Give information about the situation & ask for direction.
- ✔ Clearly communicate to victim that you are here to help and that they are legally granted safety and assistance. (TVPA 2000)
- ✔ **If you can do nothing else, discretely give victim the NHTRC #. Help is available.**

**NHTRC**

REPORT TRAFFICKING

**1-888-3737-888**

National HT Resource Center.
Confidential, 24/7 help and info.
Report a tip, access resources, receive referrals. Interpreters available.
nhtrc@polarisproject.org

For more information: **www.amsa.org/humantrafficking**