

## Services Available to Survivors

Once a survivor is identified, there are various support services available including:

- Food/Clothing
- Housing
- Support and Counseling
- State and federal benefits
- Immigration Assistance
- Medical Treatment
- Education
- Life Skills Reintegration
- Court accompaniment and representation

## Barriers to Seeking Assistance

Understanding the mindset of human trafficking victims is important to helping them restore their lives. However there may be many barriers present before a victim seeks assistance.

- Culture & language
- Lack of trust
- Undocumented/fear of deportation
- Fear of law enforcement
- Lack of knowledge of services, rights, and law
- Fear of retaliation from trafficker
- Shame & stigma
- History of emotional, sexual or other physical abuse
- History of running away  
(or current status as a runaway)
- Presence of older boy-girl friend
- Drug addiction
- Gang involvement
- Withdrawn or lack of interest in previous activities
- Psychological victimization
- Trauma bonding (Stockholm Syndrome)

## What You Can Do

If you are a victim of human trafficking and need help, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-3737-888. You will be connected locally to resources you may need in your language of preference. To report suspicious activity directly to law enforcement, call 1-408-918-4960 or email [humantrafficking@sheriff.sccgov.org](mailto:humantrafficking@sheriff.sccgov.org).

## What to Expect When Reporting

You will be speaking to a trained specialist.

Calls to the national hotline are taken 24 hours, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. It is not a government entity, law enforcement, or immigration authority.

You will be asked such questions as: who, what, when, where, etc. You will have a choice to identify yourself and leave callback information or remain anonymous. You may never discover the truth about what you reported but identifying and reporting human trafficking is everyone's responsibility.

## For More Information or To Request Training:

Call 1-408-299-5135



## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Know  
the Red  
Flags

Reporting human trafficking is everyone's responsibility. Can you recognize the red flags?

Educate yourself and potentially save a life.



## Human Trafficking is Modern-Day Slavery

**Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery that is widespread and occurs in the United States, California, and right here in the Bay Area. It is one of the largest criminal industries in the world and the fastest growing. Many victims of trafficking are forced to engage in prostitution, pornography, or exotic dancing. But trafficking also occurs in forms of labor exploitation, such as domestic servitude, restaurant work, sweatshop factory work, or migrant agricultural work. Traffickers do not discriminate; they target the young and old, men and women, and people from all backgrounds.**

**Force, fraud and coercion are the means by which traffickers abuse their victims for the purpose of involuntary servitude, slavery, or debt bondage.**

*Force- Rape, beatings, confinement*

*Fraud- promises of a good job and home, love and companionship, or a better life*

*Coercion- Threats to a person or a family, isolation, psychological abuse, debt bondage; taking passport or ID, depriving person of food or basic necessities.*

### Victims of trafficking can be found in:

- Commercial sex
- Domestic situations (nannies or servants)
- Factories
- Construction
- Panhandling
- Farming or landscaping
- Hotel or tourist industries
- Janitorial services
- Restaurant services



## Myths vs. Reality

**MYTH:** Human Trafficking involves movement from one country to another.

**REALITY:** Human Trafficking need not involve movement.

**MYTH:** Human Trafficking involves young women.

**REALITY:** 80% of trafficking victims are female and 50% are children, but men and women of all ages are trafficked.

**MYTH:** Traffickers are members of criminal organizations

**REALITY:** Traffickers may be part of large criminal organizations, gangs, or drug cartels; human trafficking is the second leading criminal enterprise, second only to the drug trade.

Other traffickers are small business owners and individuals. Some trafficking is done by family members of the victims.

**MYTH:** Trafficking survivors are not U.S. citizens.

**REALITY:** 80% of human trafficking survivors in the United States are U.S. citizens. Most human trafficking in the U.S. occurs in New York, California, and Florida.

**MYTH:** Human trafficking is not taking place in my neighborhood.

**REALITY:** It can and often does. It is hidden in plain sight in our neighborhoods.

## Know the Red Flags

### Lack of Freedom and Control

- Shadowed by someone
- Repeated calls from a “boyfriend”
- Rehearsed answers when spoken to
- Not in control of own money
- Not in control of passport, ID, or license

### Poor Mental Health

- Nervous, subdued, paranoid
- Avoids eye contact
- Fearful of receiving help from Law Enforcement
- Defensive or argumentative

### Poor Physical Health

- Malnourished, exhausted, sleep deprived
- Physical abuse, bruises, cuts
- Tattoos or scarring

## Suggested Screening Questions

**If you suspect you are in the presence of a trafficking victim, and he/she is alone, you may ask the following:**

- Can you leave your job if you want to?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you been hurt or threatened if you tried to leave?
- Has your family been threatened?
- Do you live with your employer?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Are you in debt to your employer?
- Do you have your identification and passport? If not, who has them?

